Item 8

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 9 December 2025

Donations Schemes

Purpose of the Report

1. To report to LAF the outcome of further investigation of opportunities to raise additional external funds to support management and maintenance of Rights of Way through a donation scheme.

Recommendation

2. Seek LAF views and comments on a proposed donation scheme.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

   - Corporate Plan Objective 28:
     Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area.

   - Corporate Action Plan:
     6.2 Further investigate opportunities to raise additional external funds to support management and maintenance of rights of way through a donation scheme.

Background

4. At Audit and Review Committee on 26 November 2024, Members recommended an action plan which include the action, to further investigate opportunities to raise additional external funds through a donation scheme e.g. 'Donate-a-Gate', that could be developed jointly with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

5. Officers identified a number of different schemes operated in the UK and abroad, as well as our own donation schemes. Those considered in more detail were:

   - The Lake District Foundation sponsorship scheme run on behalf of the Lake District NPA which raised £39k in 2022/23:

     https://www.lakedistrictfoundation.org/map-of-furniture/

- The Three Peaks Project, operated by YDNPA, was set up to ensure the area is maintained and improved in the long term via the generation of a sustainable income to help pay for its upkeep.

  All money raised goes directly into looking after the public rights of way in the area through our dedicated Three Peaks Ranger – whose job it is to look after the routes in this area.

  This has raised the annual target figure (currently £25k) for a number of years now (£27,282 in 2023/24) and has also recently attracted two legacies totalling £61K

  https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/things-to-do/get-outdoors/yorkshire-three-peaks/donate/

Conclusion

6. There appears to be an opportunity to raise additional funding through a scheme based on the Lake District Foundation model, which would potentially appeal to a different audience to that of the Three Peaks Project.

7. The views and comments of the LAF will be used to guide future delivery of any donation scheme developed and established.

Background Papers
Audit and Review Committee 26 November 2024
Performance Review of Delegated Statutory Highway Duties

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2024/11/Item-5-Performance-Review-Delegated-Statutory-Highways-Duties-1.pdf

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2024/11/Item-5-Annex-Report-from-Delegated-Statutory-Highways-Duties-Review-Group-2.pdf

Alan Hulme, Head of Park Management November 2025