Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 14**

17 December 2024

Report of the Chief Executive

Engagements

Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chief Executive has been involved in the following: -

Media

- Interview with an Editor at BBC Countryfile ahead of a 75th anniversary of National Parks episode of Countryfile broadcast.
- Interview with BBC Look North on the unveiling of a blue plaque at Malham YHA to recognise the work of John Dower. This took place during the event to mark the 75th anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act; and the 70th anniversary of the designation of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Interview with BBC Radio York on the morning of the unveiling of the blue plaque at Malham YHA.

Events

- A National Lottery Heritage Fund roadshow event looking at new funding opportunities in Protected Landscapes.
- 75th anniversary of National Parks event at Malham where a blue plaque was unveiled to commemorate John Dower: the author of the report which led to designation of national parks.
- Chaired a Europarc Atlantic Isles (EAI) Farming in Protected Landscapes Webinar
- Along with the Deputy Chair, an EAI event entitled ‘Protected Landscapes 2030 - Fitter for the Future – Our evolving landscapes in the 21st Century’.
- SMT Awayday at Marrick Priory
- Attended the Remembrance Day Service, held in Leyburn, on behalf of the Authority.
- Along with the Chair, attended and presented an update on the NPA at the annual volunteers’ meeting.

Meetings

- Along with the Chair, the NPMP Partnership Meeting.

- Hosted two update webinars for staff where the following were discussed: CEO updates on recent developments with Government; presentations were also made on the following: The Ups and Downs of recruiting and engaging with young people on the Management Plan drafting groups (Caroline Hall); Staff Benefits (Vikki Thomas and Nicola Prince); details on the electrification of the vehicle fleet, (Alan Hulme) and a summary of Europarc Youth Council activities (Hermione Pocock).
- A day with the Senior Historic Environment Officer looking at archaeology and built environment issues in the Park.
- Chaired two National Parks Active Travel England (ATE) Capability Fund meetings.
- Discussion with UK CEOs on the future of the UK Communications Unit.
- A meeting of the Senior Leadership Team with the new assessor from Investors in People (IIP), to discuss the context of the assessment.
- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Policy Forum.
- Chaired a meeting of the UK Access Officers to discuss future Access Policy.
- Meeting with David Hall - Regional Director (North Region) NFU.
- A meeting of the Garsdale/Hawes Member Steering Group.
- A meeting of the English National Park Officers Group which discussed: individual updates from CEOs; NGO meeting update/feedback/next steps; the 'Great National Parks Plan'; Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Connections; Post NPUK conference – debrief and any actions; Post National Parks Partnership - Big Ideas - debrief and any actions; Practical items – LURA guidance, Comms, future ENPOG meetings and NPUK Lead CEO.
- Two NPE Board meetings which discussed: NPE update; Spending Review; Key asks on LURA latest guidance; New legal 'Power of Competence'; Finance update; Q2 Management Accounts; Risk Register; Operational update on summary of activities; Paul Hamblin Memorial Award; NPE Strategy consultation; NPE strategic approach and operational considerations to new Govt.
- An introductory meeting with NPE's Policy and Public Affairs Officer.
- A meeting of the Senior Management Team with colleagues from North York Moors NPA to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- Liaison meeting between the CEO, Chair and Deputy of both the North York Moors NPA and YDNPA.
- The annual Autumn Parish Forum webinar – attended by representatives from 25 Parishes within the National Park. The meeting discussed: NYC School Transport policy proposals; National Park Management Plan (NPMP) update; Local Plan including local energy projects; update on Coast to Coast walk; Developing an Active Travel Plan for the Yorkshire Dales and the provision of electric charging points for village and community infrastructure support.
- The Authority's full Staff Meeting. The meeting heard an update from Jayne Butler: Executive Director of NPE and staff were consulted on the initial NPMP draft objectives.
- Chaired the annual National Park UK Access Officers AGM/Workshop held in the South Downs NPA which included the following: Appointment of Coordinator;

Coordinator's update; New national access policy; Active Travel report; Miles without Stiles; Rights of Way Mapping; Net Zero and ORN update.

- Chaired a meeting of UK Access/Transport officers and ATE to discuss the current joint project and future working.
- An update meeting with national officers from ATE to discuss future working.
- A 6 monthly review meeting with the Chair.
- An EAI meeting. Agenda items included: Governance update; Finance update; Annual accounts, Event review; Europarc Conference; Europarc Board; Advocacy and mentoring scheme for younger people.
- Business continuity training session.
- A meeting with the Director of Strategy and Regulation at Yorkshire Water to discuss current issues.
- Along with the Chair, attended a NPMP Partnership Meeting where the following were discussed: Draft objectives and Report on the decline of water quality.

Issues for Member to Note

I'm pleased to report that, following our recent assessment against the Investors in People (IIP) framework, we have successfully achieved **Silver** level. It's the first time the Authority has been assessed as being at this level. A full report will be available at the Finance & Resources meeting taking place earlier today (17 December).

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

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