

NPMP Steering Group Meeting
Friday 29 November 2019 – Key Centre, Middleham
10:30 – 12:30

Notes of meeting

Present:

Carl Lis - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Chair)
David Butterworth - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Cllr. Richard Good – Richmondshire District Council
Anthony Bradley – Dales Farmer Network (Yorkshire)
Jonathan Smith – Dales Tourism Businesses (Yorkshire)
Crispin Thorn – Forestry Commission
John Pedley – Dales Farmer Network (Cumbria/Lancashire)
Jane Harrison – Dales Rural Estates Network

Secretariat: Gary Smith, Peter Stockton, Josie Wilson

1. Apologies

Lord Shuttleworth – Dales Rural Estates Network; Adrian Thornton-Berry – Dales Rural Estates Network; Jane Langston – Eden District Council; Lydia Dixon – Natural England; Dan Hudson – South Lakeland District Council; Martin Christmas – Environment Agency; David Sharrod – YDMT;

2. The Coast to Coast Route (Objective B2)

DB presented the report on the Coast to Coast route on behalf of Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services.

- The strong link between National Trails and designated landscapes is highlighted in The Glover Review. The Conservative Manifesto includes a commitment to make the Coast to Coast a National Trail.
- Natural England will make the final decision on National Trail Status.

General discussion on the amount of overseas visitors using the route; the popularity and the economic benefit.

Action: *DB meeting with Natural England in the New Year and will report back to the Steering Group in due course.*

3. Dark Skies Reserve (Objective A2)

GS presented the report on the progress of the application for Dark Skies Reserve status on behalf of Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services.

- The application is seeking letters of support from key partners (County/District/Parish Councils) and organisations.
- The application will be submitted in July 2020.

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RG mentioned that Hudson House, Reeth were keen to be involved.

Actions: YDNPA to write to all Steering Group Members in March 2020 to seek formal letters of support on behalf of their organisations to help the application.

KB to contact RG with information regarding the Dark Skies Festival for 2020.

4. Landscapes Review

DB presented the report on the Landscapes Review (Glover report). Proposals include:

- A step change in the role that National Parks play in nature recovery;
- A strengthened legal status for National Park Management Plans;
- A role for NPMP's in guiding future payments for public goods through the Environmental Land Management Scheme;
- Making National Parks more accessible to a wider range of people;
- Elevating the current socio-economic duty into a 3rd statutory purpose;
- The establishment of a National Landscapes Housing Association;
- A new National Landscapes Service;

General discussion on the proposals mentioned in the report.

5. Bus Services (Objective F7)

GS presented the report on bus services seeking advice from the steering group on how to take forward this objective (to determine the demand from local communities and visitors to and within the National Park).

- The steering group agreed that they want to promote the delivery of this objective but none of the SG members have expertise or responsibility for transport services.
- Suggestions to take forward the development of the specification for the study included: 6th Form Colleges; Friends of the Dales; Community Hubs;
- Discussion on how the study will be funded. It will require more than the YDNPA involvement.

Actions: DB to write to FotD to seek their input;

DB to write to County Councils to remind them of the objective in the NPMP, and ask how they will take it forward.

6. Farm and Estate Open Days (Objective B11)

GS presented the report on Farm and Estate Open Days on behalf of Helen Keep, Senior Farm Conservation Officer, updating the steering group on the progress of this objective.

- YDNPA has agreed to offer some funding; Further funding/sponsorship will be sought;
- AB and JH had attended the Farming and Land Management Forum the day before where the report had also been discussed;
- JH agreed that the CLA and NFU were happy to spread the word once details had been decided;

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- The working group will continue to develop and plan proposals for 2020;

7. **NPMP Website**

GS updated the steering group on the new look National Park Management Plan [website](#). Each objective has its own page on the website and includes the following information:

- A definition of 'technical' terms;
- The rationale behind the objective;
- Lead organisation / co-ordinator;
- Supporting organisations;
- Links to more detailed documents; web pages; organisations;
- Estimated cost of delivering the objective and any funding shortfall;
- Links to other related objectives;
- List of ecosystem services to which the objective makes a contribution;
- Trade-offs.

The website pages still have a few technical features to iron out with regards to design and layout, but these will be rectified in due course.

Action: *Steering Group members encouraged to take a look at the new [website](#) and feedback with any comments on the content, design and layout which they feel would enhance the final version.*

8. **Partner updates on objectives**

Forestry Commission – Woodland Carbon Guarantee – link to guidance from [Forestry Commission](#) and simple overview of [‘how it works’](#).

Dales Rural Estates Network – JH on behalf of Adrian Thornton-Berry (ATB) asked what had happened to the idea of an annual meeting between the Estates and YDNPA. DB explained that such a meeting had been agreed. He had asked Dorothy Fairburn/ATB to arrange the first one (because YDNPA doesn't have the contact details for all the Estate owners), but this had never been done. YDNPA would still be very happy to meet if something was arranged.

YDNPA – The updated Landscape Character Assessment (Objective A3) will be complete by February and include the new area of the national park.

Defra has extended its pilot scheme to fund restoration of traditional farm buildings in 5 National Parks. Scheme now open until March 2020.

TeesSwale Project – National Heritage Lottery Fund bid will be submitted in March 2020.

NUCLNP developing ideas for a Curlew Conservation project. Paper going to NUCLNP Board on 6 December. The initial proposed NHLF bid is worth £4.8 million.

4 new apprentices (E7) appointed at the National Park Authority as part of the *Westmoreland Dales Landscape Partnership* project.

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Agreements now in place to reduce the road haulage (D4) from Swinden quarry by 50% as part of the permission granted to extend the extraction timeline.

Discussions with Craven District Council regarding new woodlands. (D2)

'Our Common Cause' – a £3 million NHLF bid led by the Foundation for Common Land for a project to enhance the wildlife and heritage of Commons – Bid was submitted in November and the decision will be announced in March 2020.

9. Annual Forum

Discussion on this afternoon's annual forum. Steering group members to be visible at the front of the room. Reminder about the sensitivity of the pre-election period.

10. Minutes from previous meeting

All actions completed or discussed at this meeting. No actions outstanding.

11. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held in early June 2020.

Action: *Secretariat to send a doodlepoll with suggested dates.*