

**NPMP Steering Group Meeting
Tuesday 24 November 2020
14:00 – 16:00
Via video conferencing**

Notes of meeting

Present:

Adrian Thornton-Berry – Dales Rural Estates Network (Yorkshire)
Lord Shuttleworth – Dales Rural Estates Network (Cumbria/Lancashire)
Jonathan Smith – Dales Tourism Businesses (Yorkshire)
Jane Langston – Eden District Council
Crispin Thorn – Forestry Commission
Martin Christmas – Environment Agency
Paul Duncan – Natural England
Stuart Masheder – Natural England;
Cllr. Richard Good – Richmondshire District Council
Dan Hudson – South Lakeland District Council
David Sharrod – Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
David Butterworth - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Neil Heseltine - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Secretariat: Gary Smith (GS), Peter Stockton (PS), Josie Wilson (JW)

1. Apologies

Anthony Bradley – Dales Farmer Network (Yorkshire); Jessica Goodfellow - Dales Tourism Businesses (Cumbria/Lancashire); John Pedley - Dales Farmer Network (Cumbria/Lancashire)

2. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Steering Group elected David Sharrod (YDMT) as their Chair. Accordingly, Neil Heseltine (Chair, YDNPA) was automatically appointed as the Deputy Chair.

Action: Secretariat to arrange pre-briefing meetings for Chair and Deputy Chair for future meetings.

3. 'Very ambitious objectives' – new housing (Objective F1).

GS introduced the paper that been provided to the Steering Group, setting out some of the issues and options for achieving the objective (F1), including Local Plan policy, land

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availability; viability; lack of large commercial developers; and Housing Association activity. In discussions,

- In discussions it was noted that there are a number of planned housing developments on the boundary of the National Park. These are important in providing housing opportunities for people working in the Park.
- District Councils on the Steering Group support the need for housing.
- Question as to whether more could be done through Community-led schemes – SLDC already promoting this.
- GS mentioned that the DCs sit on the 'Attracting Younger People' group and that the partners are in discussion about the potential to develop a more joined up programme of housing development as the basis for a bid for funding to the Local Enterprise Partnerships. Steering Group supported this idea.

Action: GS to advise the 'Attracting Younger People' group of the Steering Group's support for developing a bid for funding for new housing in the National Park.

4. Water Quality (Objective C3)

Martin Christmas gave a presentation on the current state of water quality in the National Park. Key elements raised were:

- The 2019 ecological status for a majority of the river units in the National Park is now 'good'.
- The National Park is the area of Yorkshire that has seen the most improvement in ecological status over the last 4 years.
- The objective (get at least 90% of all rivers achieving 'good ecological status' by 2027) is ambitious. There is still a long way to go, with increasingly low confidence that this can be achieved across the whole of Yorkshire.

5. Dark Skies (A2)

GS revealed that the National Park had been awarded Dark Sky Reserve status by the International Dark-sky Association. This reflects a huge amount of work and fantastic support from Parish Councils/Meetings and local businesses. The news is embargoed pending confirmation that the North York Moors NP has also achieved Reserve status. A press release will be issued shortly. YDNPA will be launching a grant scheme to help businesses that want to change their existing lighting, and running a Dark Skies festival again in February 2021.

6. Local Plan 2023-2040

PS introduced the paper, updating the Steering Group on the development of the new Local Plan. Some key points:

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- 60 written and 60 on-line responses have been received.
- A lot of support for the proposed option of building 70 homes per year (but a substantial minority think no houses should be built).
- Support for *aiming* for zero carbon development but recognising that, in practice, low carbon development is likely to be more realistic within the constraints of the National Park.

The next stage of consultation will focus on housing and will be published in January. This will be followed by further consultations, including on barns policy, housing viability and the Authority's local occupancy strategy.

A question was raised as to the extent that 'key workers' were being considered in the development of policy options.

7. NPMP Annual Forum

It is proposed that the next Forum be held in January 2021 by video conference. A doodlepoll had been sent out recently for Steering Group members to complete. Suggestions for potential items for the forum were discussed:

- Future of farming/land management, including ELM, Dales Woodland Strategy and nature recovery
- Prospects for Tourism in 2021
- Dark Skies [link to tourism]

Action: *Secretariat to chase up doodlepoll responses and confirm date for annual forum. **Date confirmed as the afternoon of 20 January 2021***

Secretariat to confirm final agenda/format with Chair and Deputy Chair.

8. Group membership – Younger voices

Neil Heseltine presented the paper seeking views from the Steering Group on the creation of two places on the group to represent the views of younger people. The Steering Group unanimously supported the initiative.

Action: *Neil Heseltine and David Butterworth to report to the National Park Authority seeking approval to add two younger people to the Steering Group.*

9. Partner updates

- Forestry Commission - Phytophthora ramorum affecting larch and sweet chestnut. 10 sites within Yorkshire reported to have the disease. FC working with landowners to try and contain the disease.
- [Dales Tourism](#) website doing well with promoting and supporting local businesses.

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- Natural England – has recruited a Nature Recovery Network Senior Adviser to work with partners on the development of Nature Recovery Networks and the delivery of nature recovery more widely. Liam O'Reilly, starts on 4 January 2021.
- YDNPA – Landscape Character Assessment on-line interactive map now available on the [website](#).
- Many of the objectives relating to education and engagement have been badly affected by Covid and may have to be looked at next year
- [Tees-Swale: naturally connected](#) Programme is now up and running. Sixty farmers already signed up to carry out habitat improvement works in the first 2 years.
- A new Dales Woodland Strategy for 2020-30 has been approved by the Dales Woodland Forum, and will go to the NPA meeting in December for adoption.
- An Interactive Habitat Map (D6) will hopefully be available on the YDNPA website by the end of December.
- Economic development projects (E8) – plans have been approved for new development at Linton Camp and Langcliffe Quarry (the latter being led by Craven District Council), which should create around 70 new jobs..
- Long distance routes (B2) – work towards the Coast-to-Coast route becoming a National Trail is moving forward.

10. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from 10 June were approved as a true record with one amendment, which has been corrected.

11. AOB

None.

12. Date of next meeting

Meeting dates for 2021 are:

- 16 June 2021(10:30 – 12:30)
- 17 November 2021(10:30 – 12:30)