

**NPMP Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday 17 November 2021
10:30 – 12:30
Via video conferencing**

Notes of meeting

Present:

Cllr. Richard Foster – Craven District Council
Anthony Bradley – Dales Farmer Network (Yorkshire)
Lord Shuttleworth – Dales Rural Estates Network (Cumbria/Lancashire)
Adrian Thornton-Berry – Dales Rural Estates Network (Yorkshire)
Jonathan Smith – Dales Tourism Businesses (Yorkshire)
Martin Christmas – Environment Agency
Paul Duncan – 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
Laura Day – Youth representative
Joe Hudson - Youth Representative

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

Others present: Ian Dickie (Eftec)

1. Apologies

Crispin Thorn (Forestry Commission);

2. Natural Capital Accounts for the National Park

Ian Dickie (Eftec) gave a presentation on the final report of the Natural Capital Accounts for the National Park. In discussion, it was noted that:

- It is one of the most comprehensive natural capital accounts developed in the UK.
- The workbooks can be updated by YDNPA staff in future;
- There are still improvements to make to some of the national datasets that are used in the accounts (especially in relation to the condition of peat);
- The accounts provide useful information for engaging with Defra/funders on the scale of the public benefits and the value for money of supporting farmers to provide them

The Steering Group noted that it was a really useful document but would need time to take it in and fully understand the content.

3. Mid-term update of NPMP objectives

Gary Smith presented the mid-term update on NPMP objectives, which included recommendations to amend the wording of a number of them.

The Steering Group decided that they did not wish to change the scale of any of the objectives just because they were unlikely to be achieved. It was important to retain the original ambition – and be open and honest where things had not gone so well. The steering group, therefore, approved only the following changes:

- A8 – amend to include ref to FiPL and change date to 2024
- A9 – amend date to 2024
- B5 – amend figures to 3,000 people
- B9 - amend date to 2024
- B11 – amend date to 2022
- C1c – amend to include ref to Tees-Swale programme
- D1 - amend date to 2024
- E4 – amend date to 2021

Action: *Secretariat to update the current plan and publish a revised version.*

Secretariat to liaise with NE and EA to prepare reports identifying the barriers and potential action that could be taken over the remaining lifetime of the Plan to make progress on objectives C1, C2 and C3.

4. 'Very ambitious objectives' – C1c Landscape-scale nature recovery areas

GS updated the steering group on the achievement of objective C1c, and the landscape-scale work now being undertaken through the £8.5 million *Tees-Swale: naturally connected* programme.

The Steering Group noted that a number of other smaller initiatives are also underway or being developed in the National Park

5. NPMP Annual Forum

GS asked the group for their suggestions around the timing of this year's Annual Forum; Whether there is a particular theme the Forum should focus on; and, any specific suggestions about content, presentations etc.

In discussion, the group suggested that:

- Forum to be held around spring time, but to avoid lambing time.
- Theme could be natural capital/climate change;
- Could have presentations on 'Upskill, Down Dale (Generation Green)', Tourism/accessibility routes – Debbie North;
- The forum to meet in-person given the level of 'Zoom fatigue';
- Potential to involve some 'Upskill, Down Dale' volunteers.

Action: Secretariat to canvas for dates and put together a draft agenda for approval by the Chair and Deputy Chair.

6. Partner updates on NPMP objectives

- A1 – Farming in Protected Landscapes programme up and running; 180 expressions of interest; 10 applications approved; money re-profiled so more will be available in years 2 and 3.
- B2 - Natural England has commissioned YDNPA to undertake a study looking at the added benefit that National Trail designation for the Coast-to-Coast could bring to local communities, the region and as a national and international tourism asset. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the Secretary of State in June.
- C3 – EA has completed surveys of bathing water quality for the River Wharfe at Ilkley. Indicates that sources of pollution include livestock as well as sewage. An announcement will be made in January 2022.
- D2 – The Woodland Trust is committing around £4 million from the Nature for Climate Fund to support the planting of 240 ha of new native woodland in the National Park over the next 4 years.
- D2 – YDMT is working with local communities to plant 28,000 trees this coming winter. Recent donation from the daughter of ‘James Herriott’ will go towards planting up a woodland.
- D3 - YPP successfully bid in partnership with the North Pennines AONB as part of the Great North Bog coalition for Nature for Climate funding. Four sites in the National Park will be restored – Raydale, Greenside, Dent Head and Kingsdale Head Farm – totalling about £1.5million.
- E2 - Tourism value down 49% in 2020. Anecdotally, figures for 2021 are good and suggest things are bouncing back. Dales Tourism Network expect another good year next year but lack of catered accommodation within the National Park is an issue.
- E5 - Upper Wensleydale Railway (Hawes-Garsdale) bid to Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund was unsuccessful for second time. This may provide an opportunity to create an accessible route for cyclists, disabled users etc
- E6 – A new walking festival promoting accessible routes planned to be held at Ravenseat in Spring 2022.
- E7 - YDNPA has taken on another 7 apprentices so far this year (total to 19).
- F1 - Already 91 dwellings approved this year (target of 85). Local Plan update – housing sites being identified; recent consultation on local occupancy and barn conversion.
- F2 – the current Local Government reorganisation is likely to have an effect on what can be achieved in the next two years. Important for local partners to engage with the new structures and influence priorities.

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- F4 - Masts for NYCC's 5G trial in Coverdale have been erected.
- F7 – YDNPA has agreed to fund the cost of a Masters student to carry out a transport study looking at supply and demand.

7. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from 16 June 2021 were approved as a true record and all actions completed.

8. AOB

None.

9. Date of next meeting

Secretariat to arrange Steering Group meeting dates for 2022.

DRAFT