Notes of Southern Parishes Forum

Held at Grassington Devonshire Institute (Town Hall) on 19 May 2022 (7:00-9:00pm)

Parish Attendees:

Nigel Anderton	Airton
Kate Smith	Austwick
Chris Wray	Beamsley
Richard Jackson	Cracoe
Nigel Shenton	Grassington
Stephen Sykes	Hebden
Chris Moorby	Long Preston
Steve Harris	Long Preston
Pat Berry	Scosthrop

Yorkshire Dales National Park attendees:
Liz Hall (Craven East Parishes appointed Member);
Neil Heseltine Chair of the YDNPA & Craven West Parishes appointed Member;
David Butterworth (Chief Executive)
Gary Smith (Director of Conservation & Community)
Admin: Clare Tamea (Committees Officer), Sam Parfitt (PA to the Chief Executive & Chair)

1. **Welcome and Introduction**
   The meeting was chaired by Liz Hall.

2. **The Landscapes Review – where next?**
   David Butterworth gave a resume of issues arising from the Government consultation, in response to Julian Glover's review of England's protected landscapes (10 National Parks and 34 Areas of AONBs), which considered the future for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England. The consultation was published in January 2022 following on from the report being published in September 2019.
   The Government will now consider the responses from the public to the consultation (approximately 11,500 responses had been received). The consultation had covered:

   Strengthened AONB's – the 44 landscape bodies comprising 10 National Parks and 34 Areas of AONBs working more closely together. Along with Natural England's role being reinvigorated, building on their role as a statutory advisor on England's Landscapes;
   A stronger mission for nature recovery;
   Agricultural transition – options for developing the role of protected landscapes in the new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS);
   A stronger mission for connecting people and places; Managing visitor pressures – whether National Park Authorities should have greater enforcement powers to manage recreational pressures, ie should NPAs and local highway authorities have additional powers to restrict recreational motor vehicle use on Green Lanes;
   Planning reforms are on-going for the country. Affordable Housing will be addressed over the whole country with powers going to Unitary Councils.

Local governance –
Streamlined process for removing underperforming board members; along with greater flexibility over the proportion of national, parish and local appointments; merit-based criteria for local authority appointments; and reduction in board size;
A clearer role for public bodies - should statutory purposes be strengthened so that they are given greater weight when exercising functions? Should statutory duties be made clearer with regards to the role of public bodies in preparing and implementing management plans?

Government will examine the responses and make any legislative changes if necessary.

3. **Potential Impact from differing recycling/waste policies – Beamsley PM**

Chris Wray gave a plea for assistance from the National Park with waste recycling in the Craven area to avoid visual mess when contents of household recycle bins are blown across the landscape and also enquired if the National Park could sponsor recycling centres. David Butterworth explained the statutory duty for waste rests with the County although it has no responsibility for the landscape. Government legislation may force more recycling. New legislation from the Landscape Review could give weight to increased waste recycling. If it's a big enough issue for parishes they need to shout about it to their elected Councillor. A structural shift would be needed from local authorities.

4. **Upper Wharefedale Rural Watch security group (WhatsApp) – Beamsley PM**

Chris Wray gave a resume of the advantages of having a Rural Watch group run on WhatsApp which had been recommended by the Farmers Network group. Beamsley Parish has set up its own group for information and guidance, organised by two individuals which now has 169 members. There are two groups – one of which contains police reps. The group is built on community spirit and has really helped the police - good results with vehicle thefts – particularly as there is a lot of crime across the border. If anyone wants more details on the group please contact Liz Hall: Liz.hallconistone@gmail.com.

5. **Update on YDNPA Projects**

Gary Smith gave an update on projects being undertaken in 2022-23.
Farming in Protect Landscapes (FiPL) - £1.3 million direct investment in England over the next 3 years – transition for farmers to be paid for public goods in readiness for Environmental Land Management Schemes being introduced in 2024. All paperwork is available on the YDNPA Website: https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/farming/farming-in-protected-landscapes/. Farmers are encouraged to apply for funding.
Grow Back Greener/White Rose Forest – funded by The Woodland Trust. The YDNPA aims to encourage landowners and farmers to plant trees that enhance the National Park's landscape. This fund covers the North Yorkshire part of the National Park. Contact details for the Woodland Team are available on the NPA Website: https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/trees-and-woodlands/
Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected – covers Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and is the biggest nature recovery project in England. The aim is to give farmers the skills to develop habitats and raise people's awareness of these areas.
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership – Lottery funded with the aim of unlocking hidden heritage of the area with lots of community projects. The 'Friends of the Lakes' are leading on this with YDNPA being the accountable body for the finance.

Dark Skies – Following the designation in 2020 we are now in the phase to demonstrate that we want to carry on. All monitoring results show we can retain the status. A dark skies festival had 5000 attendees – hopefully the event will carry on. We are working on making lighting better – talked to PCs and local businesses where lighting is not up to scratch. Audits on lighting have been undertaken and now getting work in place.
A formal monitoring report will be submitted to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) in January – we don't expect to lose designation status.

6. Local Plan

Gary Smith gave an update on progress with developing a single Local Plan for the whole of the National Park. There have been a series of public consultations on the new Plan - specifically what level of housing to be built and where; and development of barns. An options draft – headlines on what the policy should be will come out to public consultation during the first week of June (6-8 week consultation period). It will be sent to all Parish Councils/Meetings for consultation. Currently looking at suggested housing boundaries. Potential housing sites likely to be published in October. There have been quite a lot of housing sites put forward but many are not viable due to unsuitable location, ie site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

A question was asked on 20mph speed limits. It was explained that the YDNPA have no policy as its not within their remit. Garsdale Parish Council are pursuing restrictions on speed and noise by motorcycles. It is for individual parishes to make their own judgement. Long Preston PC wish to reduce speed around the village green. This would rest with NYCC – the PC could pursue this with their local representative on the County Council.

7. Ideas for future Forums

The Chair confirmed there will continue to be 2 meetings per year; one face to face and one by video conference.