

NPMP Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday 8 June 2022
14:00 – 16:00
Via video conferencing

Notes of meeting

Present:

Adrian Thornton-Berry – Dales Rural Estates Network (Yorkshire)
Anthony Bradley – Dales Farmer Network (Yorkshire)
Cllr. Richard Foster – Craven District Council
Crispin Thorn - Forestry Commission
Dan Hudson – South Lakeland District Council
David Butterworth - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
David Sharrod – Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
Joe Hudson - Youth Representative
Laura Day – Youth representative
Martin Christmas – Environment Agency
Paul Duncan – Natural England

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

1. Apologies

Neil Heseltine - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; Lord Shuttleworth – Dales Rural Estates Network (Cumbria/Lancashire); Jonathan Smith – Dales Tourism Businesses (Yorkshire); Cllr. Richard Good – Richmondshire District Council;

2. Annual Progress Report 2021-22

GS gave a presentation summarising progress on the objectives last year. Overall, there had been positive progress on many of the objectives despite the continued impact of Covid-19. Seven objectives had been achieved, compared to 3 reported in the previous year. In discussion, the following points were noted:

- Very positive progress in relation to housing permissions and completions. The highest number of completions (final figure will be more than 90) since 2022/03 but still a long way to go to meet the objective target of 400 by 2024;
- Woodland figures also show good progress however query whether scrub should be included in the figures;
- The status of objectives C1 (a), (b), (c) and C2 discussed and agreed that C1 should remain as 'some progress' but C2 should be changed to 'little or no progress'.
- Objective F4 should be changed to 'some progress', as the deadline was 2021.
- A question was raised about the arrangements for publicising undergrounding works (re a recent scheme at Raisbeck).

The draft report was approved, subject to finalising the data. The Steering Group agreed that the results be publicised through a press release, quoting Steering Group members.

Actions: *Secretariat to finalise the Annual Report and submit it to the National Park Authority meeting on 28 June.*

Secretariat to publish final report and website progress on every objective.

Secretariat/Chair to produce a press release promoting the work of partners

Crispin Thorn/GS – to agree approach to recording wood pasture and scrub.

GS – to respond to Laura Day about the undergrounding scheme at Raisbeck.

3. **'Very ambitious objectives' – B2 - Coast to Coast**

DB presented the update on the Coast to Coast provided by Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services.

- A report was completed at the end of April, compiled by YDNPA on behalf of, and in collaboration with, the local authorities along the route (Lake District and North York Moors National Park Authorities; Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils), as well as other interested bodies.
- The report has been submitted to Natural England who will then submit their Section 51 report to the Secretary of State this summer.
- The route will remain predominantly a walking route.
- A question was raised about the apparent need for visitor accommodation along the route and a recent decision to refuse planning permission for an Airbnb in Orton.

Actions: *GS to respond to Laura Day about the Airbnb application in Orton.*

4. **Barriers to objective C3 (Water quality)**

Martin Christmas presented the paper on current barriers to improving water quality:

- The last published data (2020) showed that 62% of rivers had achieved good ecological status, up from 47% in 2017. The national average is just 15%.
- There are a number of general programmes and more specific projects currently underway or planned that should have some effect on the ecological status of the Dales' rivers as well as specific projects underway to tackle more localised issues.
- General discussion on how waste water is disposed of, water companies' supplying water, and the use of fertilizers.

5. **Update on Defra's Landscapes Review**

David Butterworth gave an update on the review:

- More than 15,000 responses were received;
- Possibility that the new umbrella body would now be called the 'National Landscapes & Trails Partnership';
- Highly likely that there will be more direction from Government on the outcomes that they want to see achieved in each National Park, including specific targets.
- Funding to be made available this year to all protected landscapes for improving access for disabled people;

6. Annual Forum – Agenda and speakers

GS asked the group to consider the suggestions in Annex A for this year's Annual Forum and whether there was anything else that they might like to see. In discussion, the group suggested that the following could potentially be added:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies;
- Water quality;
- Local Government reorganisation;

Action: Secretariat to agree final agenda with the Chair and Deputy Chair.

7. Partner updates on NPMP objectives

- A5 – Funding secured from Historic England and work now underway for the HER LIDAR project in the newest part of the park;
- B11 – The annual farm and estate 'open day' programme has now started with Anthony Bradley hosting an open day on his farm at Long Preston;
- D4 – Pre-commencement conditions signed off for Horton Quarry so that work can begin on creating a railhead to reduce road haulage;
- D5 - The York Flood Resilience Innovation Programme will provide funding for natural flood management projects in the Richmondshire part of the National Park;
- F2 – first phase of economic development at Langcliffe Quarry is almost complete;
- F7 – A case study on potential demand for bus services to/from the National Park has been commissioned and will be completed by a Masters student this summer.

8. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from 17 November 2021 were approved as a true record. All actions completed other than the report on the barriers to achieving objectives C1 and C2.

Action: Paul Duncan/Secretariat – to liaise on a report identifying the barriers and potential action that could be taken over the remaining lifetime of the Plan to make progress on objectives C1 and C2.

9. AOB

Following a suggestion from Jonathan Smith, the Group agreed to look at developments in achieving objective B3 ('Access for all') at the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat to arrange a report on objective B3;

10. Date of next meeting - 23 November 2022