Note of online [Zoom] Autumn Parish Forum

7pm on Wednesday 25 October 2023

Chaired by Neil Heseltine (Chair YDNPA and Parish Member)

Parish Attendees	
Austwick	Kate Smith
Beamsley	Chris Wray
Burton cum Walden	Jane Ritchie
Ravenstonedale	Scott Thornley
East Witton	Richard Wells
Gargrave	Martin Banks
Grassington	Louise Close
Grassington	Rob Charlton
Ireby	Carol Howard
Kirkby Stephen	Phil Dew
Kirkby Stephen	Adrian Waite
Mallerstang	John Prentice
Mansergh	Peter Robinson
Orton	Paula Thornley
Orton	Kyle Blue
Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh	Beverley Rutter
Rylstone	Debbie Burton
Stirton with Thorlby	Karen Darvell
West Witton	Alyson Jones

YDNPA Reps
David Butterworth - CEO
Gary Smith – Director of Conservation & Community
Tony Serjeant – Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer
Kathryn Beardmore - Director of Park Services
Liz Appleton Hall –Parish Member
Libby Bateman –Parish Member
Allen Kirkbride –Parish Member
Rebecca Eslick - Committees Officer
Sam Parfitt - PA to CEO & Chair

Neil Heseltine welcomed everyone to the meeting

Nature Recovery in the National Park - Tony Serjeant, Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer
The Yorkshire Dales National Park contains 86,000 ha of UK 'Priority Habitat. The Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan identifies a vision, targets and objectives for a better functioning ecological network comprising:
Limestone Country; Moorlands, Freshwater (rivers, streams, wetlands); valleys and woodlands.
Tony Serjeant's presentation is available on this clip
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4C4sPxHsuQ

For any Parishes requiring more information on this topic, please contact tony.serjeant@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Sharing good practice and innovation by Parish Councils:
The Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre – Introduced by Libby Bateman (Parish Board Member and Champion for Cultural Heritage). with presentation by Scott Thornley on the evolution of the Centre and its success as a thriving community asset. The Centre was a former United Reform Church/High Chapel which closed as a place of worship in 2006. The parish worked in partnership ensure the building remained in community use. The presentation is available on this clip:

https://youtu.be/hyhtCY_wTtY

Replacing plastic usage in farming - Karen Darvell, Stirton-with-Thorlby PM
Karen highlighted the issue of finding discarded bale wrap on farmland and whether there are any alternative products which farmers can use which are more environmentally friendly. Some farmers burn their plastic which is an environmental issue and also illegal.
It was acknowledged there is still some work to do but unfortunately bale wrap can't be biodegradable as it needs to keep air in and water out.
The plastic can be recycled, examples given of drums and fertiliser bags being made into fence posts and garden furniture. Farmers require a receipt for farm assurance purposes to confirm that recycling has been done. The vast majority of farmers use Solway Recycling which will collect and recycle from hubs across the dale, collected without cost. Allen Kirkbride advised of another firm in the northern area **J Warren ABP,** who will collect plastic as and when required so it doesn't build up.
It is evident that farmers need to be more careful with discarding plastic. Salt lick boxes were another example of getting left out and ending up in water courses.

National Park Management Plan 2025-29 – update - Gary Smith, YDNPA
Gary highlighted it's the most important document for the national park which also guides the Development Plan. It's a legal document as set out in the 1995 Environment Act.
First public consultation will be in January but currently waiting to hear Government's plans on national targets which will be added into the Management Plan – expectated to hear by Christmas.
Parishes will be consulted on what they feel are the big issues now. Current Management Plan is available on the website https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/12/NPMP-2019-24-updated-Nov-2021.pdf
It is expected the Plan will have more emphasis on Climate Change and Nature Recovery. There will be plenty of opportunities for Parishes to feed into the Plan and it will be a standard item on future Parish Forum meeting agendas. Annual Forum will take place in April/May.

Gary's presentation is available on this clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRO-XDWe8VM

Ideas for future Forum meetings
Kyle Blue (Orton PC) commented that one of the developments in the National Park that has the biggest impact is farm buildings and development of farms. He feels more care should go into their planning and made reference to the Yorkshire Dales Design Guide which seems to be largely ignored. The Guide sets out very well how a building should be designed. Could a planner attend a meeting to talk about these developments and why farmers are not adhering to the guide. It was acknowledged that there are instances where renewables could also be incorporated into the design.

Jane Ritchie (Burton Cum Walden) subsequently requested Proposed Planning Free for All (affordable housing) be added to the next Agenda.

Meeting finished at 8:45pm