

NPMP Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 13 March 2024
14:00 – 16:00
Via MS Teams

Notes of meeting

Present:

Adrian Thornton-Berry - Rural Estates (Yorkshire)
Angela Jones – Westmorland & Furness Council
Cllr Yvonne Peacock – North Yorkshire Council
Crispin Thorn – Forestry Commission
David Butterworth – Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Grace Richardson – Youth Representative
Jim Beary – Farmer Network (Cumbria/Lancashire)
Jim Walker – Cumbria Tourism Businesses
Jonathan Smith – Yorkshire Tourism Businesses
Lord Shuttleworth – Rural Estates (Cumbria/Lancashire)
Neil Heseltine - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority;
Paul Duncan - Natural England

Secretariat: Gary Smith (GS); Josie Wilson (JW)

1. Apologies

Andrew Leeming (York & North Yorkshire LEP); David Sharrod (YDMT); Karen Horrocks (Yorkshire & Humber Office for Health Improvement & Disparities); Sarah Tunncliffe (Historic England)

2. Results of first public consultation (inc. youth representation feedback)

GS presented the summary report on the results of the first public consultation. The consultation ran for a period of 6 weeks from 15 January - 26 February, with over 1,100 people completing the survey. This compares favourably to a similar consultation carried out in 2017 for the current Plan, which attracted 650 responses. 50% of those who responded indicated they live and/or work within the National Park.

Overall, the top 6 priorities were:

- Help nature to recover by creating, restoring and connecting important habitats
- Protect rare and threatened species
- Reduce pollution and improve the water quality in rivers and streams
- Increase natural carbon stores (woodland, peatland, soils)
- Help younger people to live/work in the National Park.
- Maintain rights of way, and improve options for cycling etc

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Residents' top 6 priorities were similar to the overall results but included:

- Reduce the impact of second homes and holiday lets; and
- Support upland livestock farming and land management.

Young people (18-34's) and those from minority ethnic backgrounds shared the same top 6 priorities as the overall result but in a slightly different order – with 'reducing river pollution' and 'helping younger people to live/work in the National Park' ranking higher.

GR gave a summary of the report shared from the two on-line discussions held with both current and former members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's youth volunteering programme. This highlighted three issues:

- That younger people do not have the same opportunities as previous generations;
- The interconnected challenges of a lack of access – to education, housing, employment, transport etc;
- Barriers to accessing the National Park and wider countryside for young people in the surrounding urban centres.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The survey responses are an important part of the evidence for the Plan, and will need to be taken into account in developing and setting objectives. It is the purpose of the Partnership to assess/balance the evidence and the views of different sections of society.
- The need for more/better information for urban audiences to remove barriers and encourage responsible access to the countryside/National Park.
- The interconnectedness of the issues (e.g. tourism can provide the demand to retain services, transport links, employment etc)
- The significant challenges – especially for younger people – around employment, transport, affordable housing.
- The opportunities to take action to meet multiple priorities (e.g. green employment opportunities for young people would also help nature recovery/climate resilience).
- In terms of the new national targets, a simple exercise to consider the top down (national) vs the bottom up (Management Plan) targets would help show if there are any major challenges.

Action(s): *Publish results of the consultation on the National Park Authority's website;
Incorporate the results of the consultation into the six Evidence Reports;
Feedback the results to a wider group of stakeholders at the Annual Forum.*

3. Update on Government changes

DB presented the paper on the recent Government announcements. The [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) was published on 31 January. It set out

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proposals for 10 new national targets, to which all Protected Landscapes will be expected to contribute.

All Government Departments; agencies and other advisory bodies; local authorities and parish councils; as well as water companies; National Grid; Network Rail; and Regional Electrical distribution companies will all have a greater part in accountability to help achieve the new objectives in the next Management Plan.

4. Drafting Groups

GS presented the paper on the 'drafting groups' setting out the proposed arrangements and membership of each group.

In discussion it was noted that:

- There was a need for expertise on housing;
- Representation – particularly for those Groups dealing with the new national targets – would need to be at an appropriate level to be able to make commitments

An advert will shortly go out to try and recruit 1 or 2 young people for each of the groups.

Actions: *All - Suggestions for membership of drafting groups back to GS by 5 April.*

Chair/Deputy – to sign off final drafts before publication

5. Evidence reports

GS introduced the paper. The evidence reports are still a 'work in progress' and the intention is to publish them towards the end of April to provide material for the Annual Forum in May. The reports will need to be updated to include the results from the public consultation; the new Government targets; and the expected responses from a number of the members of the Partnership.

Action: *All to provide last comments/suggestions to GS by 31 March.*

6. Annual Forum

It was agreed that the Annual Forum would be held on the afternoon of 7 May at Settle Victoria Hall. The Forum would be a chance to engage with a wider audience of organisations: share the results of the public consultation and evidence reports; and seek input on priorities for action.

In discussion, it was noted that:

- There should be an opportunity to present the young people responses;
- The Forum needs to be engaging and interesting – break-out groups to discuss detail of the challenges.

Action: *Secretariat to confirm timings and send outlook appointment to the Partnership.
Secretariat to confirm agenda/format with Chair/Deputy Chair.*

7. Partner updates on NPMP objectives

- [Swaledale and Wensleydale Environmental Farmers Group](#) – good attendance with lots of younger farmers. Discussed green finance opportunities.
- [Cumbria Tourism](#) has launched their 2024 business tracker survey to gather real-time information about the challenges and expectations businesses are facing now. The [survey](#) closes Friday 22 March.
- [Westmorland & Furness Council](#) - funding to restore or improve bus routes and services reconnecting communities and boosting access to public transport. Recent news release [here](#). Also getting £129m over 10 years to improve connectivity.
- Forestry commission – 10 posts across the country being advertised for [Agroforestry Woodland Officers](#).
- North Yorkshire Council – [Second Home Council Tax](#) rise from 2025 announced. Consultation on [Home to school travel](#) open until 12 April. Significant implications for Dales communities.
- DB has met recently with 3 of the 5 candidates for Mayor of the Y&NY Combined Authority. Active Travel England – the Government department responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around. Final conversations at moment regarding pilot in all 10 national parks.
- A weekly Saturday service between Rochdale and Ribbleshead via Manchester Victoria will be run by Northern Rail during the summer [Yorkshire Dales Explorer](#).

8. Minutes from previous meeting

All actions achieved.

9. AOB

Nothing raised.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 12 June 2024 at YDNPA Office, Bainbridge.