**Notes of Autumn Parish Forum Webinar**

**Wednesday 6 November 7-9pm 2024**

Chaired by Derek Twine – Chair of YDNPA

25 Parishes in attendance:

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| Austwick PC | Kate Smith |
| Aysgarth and District PC | Peter Windle |
| Bainbridge PC | James Peacock |
| Beamsley PM | Chris Wray |
| Buckden PC | Jane Way |
| Burton-cum-Walden PC | Jane Ritchie |
| Caldbergh with East Scrafton PC | Roger Harrison-Topham |
| Carperby PC | John Amsden |
| Casterton PC | Ken Humphris |
| Clapham-cum-Newby PC | Maria Farrer |
| Conistone with Kilnsey PM | Liz Appleton-Hall |
| Crosby Garrett PM | Richard Sewel |
| Dent with Cowgill PC | Andrew Povey |
| Embsay with Eastby PC | Judith Benjamin |
| Garsdale PC | Jack Butterworth |
| Kirkby Stephen Town Council | Maurice Hall |
| Mallerstang PM | John Prentice |
| Mallerstang PM | Val Vamplew |
| Mansergh PM | Peter Robinson |
| Marske and New Forest PC | Naomi Meredith |
| Muker PC | Raymond Calvert |
| Orton PC | Kyle Blue |
| Reeth PC | Beverley Rutter |
| Rylstone PM | Debbie Burton |
| Sedbergh PC | Kevin Lancaster |
| Sedbergh PC | Janey Hassam |
| Tebay PC | Margaret Longworth |

YDNPA:
Derek Twine (Chair)
David Butterworth (CEO)
Gary Smith (Director of Conservation & Community)
Elliott Lorimer (Director of Park Services)
Rob Ashford (Access & Recreation Team & Projects Manager)
Sam Parfitt (Executive Assistant) & Rebecca Eslick (Committees Officer) – admin support

Allen Kirkbride (YDNPA Board Member – Parish representative)
Cllr Yvonne Peacock (North Yorkshire Council - Upper Dales division) in attendance to hear the discussion on NYC school transport policy.

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Derek Twine welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the presenters. He advised the meeting would be recorded. [The recording can be viewed HERE]

**2. NYC school transport policy affecting Upper Swaledale & Arkengarthdale**

Bev Rutter of Reeth Parish Council raised concerns on behalf of parents on the implications of a new NYC home to school travel policy. The policy is proposing secondary school pupils travel to their nearest school rather than former catchment. Parents consider that the roads from Upper Swaledale to either Kirkby Stephen (B6270) or Barnard Castle are considered unsuitable to travel in winter weather. Parents would prefer to choose which school their children travel to. Mr Rutter referred to the National Park Management Plan objective to protect and enhance rural services and sought support from the YDNPA with their appeal to NY Council.

David Butterworth read out an update from Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director at NYC which explained the policy is in its early stages. The Council are committed to monitor the process after the next round of the school's admission process. Councillor Peacock is sympathetic to the concerns of parents and offered her support. A number of other parishes present felt the policy needed re-thinking as it is having concerning consequences for many rural schools.

Ms Rutter asked if the YDNPA could send a letter to the Leader of NYC expressing their concerns. The Chair said he would be happy to do this and thanked her for raising the issue.

**Action**: NPA to write to Leader of NYC to express the concerns highlighted by a number of Parish Councils with regard to the policy.

**3. National Park Management Plan update** – Gary Smith

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation (link in heading above).

**4. Local Plan** – Gary Smith

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation (link in heading above).

Consultation No.7 – Preferred Housing Development Sites (2024) containing a revised set of 23 preferred sites (for 370 houses) was published for informal consultation on 16 September. The consultation closed on 29 October.
National Park Authority will decide the final content of proposed Local Plan, including the final list of housing sites at its December NPA meeting.

'Publication version' of the Local Plan will be published for formal representations in February 2025. The Plan and all representations will be submitted to Government for examination by a Planning Inspector in the Summer of 2025.

In answer to a question Gary Smith highlighted that renewable energy projects will be supported through the Local Plan. Developers will be expected to deal with energy efficiency. The Plan will also support small scale community-led projects which help to meet local needs.

**5. Update on Coast to Coast Walk** – Elliott Lorimer

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation (link in heading above).
Kyle Blue gave a plea for C2C update meetings to be held in venues closer to the route, i.e. Barbon or Orton Village Hall. **Action**: **EL** to note

Raymond Calvert enquired when stacked pallets on White Mossy Hill would be removed as they may be a hazard to sheep. **Action: EL** to follow up with Ranger/C2C Project Officer.

**6.** **Developing a Active Travel Plan for the YDNPA** – Rob Ashford
Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation (link in heading above).

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is embarking on a new project to improve active travel opportunities in and around the National Park by developing an Active Travel plan for the area.

The Plan will focus on identifying, prioritising and developing safe and accessible walking, wheeling, cycling (and where suitable, horse-riding) routes into and around the National Park. It will also focus on key connections across the National Park, linking up communities, and improving connections with gateway towns on the fringes of the National Park.

A press release issued on 5 October asked the public to suggest active travel routes they would like to see included in the plan. Submit your travel route suggestions on the interactive map here

Active travel routes could include:

- New active travel routes you would like to see developed
- Improving or extending existing active travel routes
- Improving or creating a crossing point across a busy road
- Active travel routes linking towns, settlements and villages

The closing date for suggestions is 22 November 2024. The results will help prioritise future active travel projects if funding becomes available.

**7. Provision of Electric Charging Points: village and community infrastructure support**
Richard Sewell of Crosby Garret PC explained their Village Hall Committee is looking into the feasibility and cost of installing an EV charging in the village. Elliott Lorimer gave an overview of the number of charging points within the 10 car parks the National Park own. David Butterworth had sought advice from Westmorland & Furness Council. W&F Council has received £4m of Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding which supports local authorities in England to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents. The funding is primarily for residents without off-street parking but where there is a sound commercial reasoning, a minority of the charge points can primarily benefit other users. Unfortunately, the LEVI funding is not currently available for community assets.

However, the PC (and others in the area) might consider getting in touch with Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) as they have been working with a number of Parish Councils to support installation of EV infrastructure and they may be able to signpost to grants.

In addition, Zero Carbon Cumbria are offering grants up to £50,000 for community buildings, and this includes installation of EV charge points. Although it's a sharp deadline of 24th November 2024. https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/what-we-do/community-buildings

Community Energy England have further information on funding for EV infrastructure for community assets. The website is updated regularly as new grants/funding become available. https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/funding-opportunities-2

Westmorland and Furness Association of Local Councils are holding an engagement session on EV infrastructure on 27 Nov at 7:30 via Teams. This will be hosted by CALC and with James Hulme, W&F EV Programme Lead, presenting and leading discussion.

The Powering our Communities Fund is a grant fund for local community based projects with the aim of supporting a just energy transition by enabling communities to take part in the development and delivery of community energy projects. The funding is now closed but is expected to open up for further grants in 2025. https://www.enwl.co.uk/future-energy/community-and-local-energy/apply-for-funding/

Parishes can contact Helen Seagrave (Community Energy Manager) at Electricity North West https://www.enwl.co.uk/funding

**8. AOB**

The next round of meetings will be held in Spring – in person (North, South & West). The Chair reiterated that he welcomes contributions to the agenda from Parishes at these meetings. Either questions or sharing information.

The meeting finished at 9pm