

WESTERN PARISH FORUM MEETING NOTE

Held in Haweswater Room at The Westmorland Hotel (Tebay Services) on Monday 16 April 2018 from 7pm-9pm

Parish Attendees:

Casterton	Enid Hastings & Ken Humphris
Crosby Ravensworth	Ginny Holroyd
Dent	Graham Dalton
Firbank	Gordon Chivers
Ireby & Leck	Andrew Makinson & Kathryn Hyde
Killington	Ian Dawson
Kirkby Stephen	Alex Birtles
Mallerstang	John Prentice
Mansergh	Bert Metcalfe & Lizzie McKinnon
Nateby	Sarah Middleton
Orton	Kyle Blue & Margaret Longworth
Ravenstonedale	James Richardson
Sedbergh	Jim Atkins
Shap	Jean Jackson & Patrick Neaves
Smardale & Waitby	Rosemarie Lees & Adele Roche

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) - Sonia Hutchinson

YDNPA Representatives:

Ian McPherson	Parish Member (Secretary of State appointee)
David Butterworth	Chief Executive
Kathryn Beardmore	Director of Park Services
Peter Stockton	Head of Sustainable Development
Julie Payne	Committees Officer
Sam Parfitt	PA to CEO & Chairman

Nick Cotton Member (Cumbria County Council appointee)

Ian McPherson (Chair of the Western Parish Forum) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Authority staff and members who were in attendance.

Planning Application database (Sam Parfitt)

Parish Councils are consulted on planning applications via the Clerk receiving a link to the Authority's website of any applications received for that Parish with paper copies being posted to any clerks who are not on email.

A demonstration was given for how members of the public can search for details of planning applications in their Parish. <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/living-and-working/planning/planning-applications>.

The majority of councilors present were familiar with the database and how to find applications. Copies of plans can be posted upon request to any Councils who do not have facilities to print them - contact the planning department: planning@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Casterton PC asked if training was being organised to assist Councils in assessing planning applications. Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) confirmed they are in the process of putting together a training course which will be offered to Councils to assist them understand the planning process. This will be tailored to include policies specific to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Attracting Families (David Butterworth)

One of the objectives of the National Park Management Plan is to *promote the National Park as a high quality place to live and work, so as to attract new 'low impact' businesses with high quality jobs, and increase the proportion of young adults and people of working age living in the National Park*. This objective is consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and as part of the Authority's 2017-18 Action Plan, Members of the Authority approved an action to work with District Councils and other partners to promote the National Park as a place for working age households to live and work.

Over the course of the year, the delivery of this project – alongside other actions e.g. to increase new house-building and support the local economy — has developed into a wider initiative to attract families to the whole of the National Park.

David explained the challenges being faced regarding the socio-economic position of rural communities in the National Park. The National Park has the capacity to absorb more people and more development. The population needs to stabilise or grow in order to sustain existing infrastructure and help deliver new services.

There are a number of opportunities that could be explored and the NPA and District Councils are responding to the challenge by developing a more joined up approach, with the overall aim *to halt and then reverse the decline in the number of younger people (18-44 year olds) in the National Park*.

The District Councils and National Park are developing objectives to include:

- Creating more new dwellings in a range of tenures (affordable, community self-build, local occupancy, open market etc).
- Bringing a proportion of second homes back into permanent residential use, and reducing the overall proportion of second homes.
- Working with Parish Councils on specific local initiatives to attract younger people to live within the area.
- Increasing the number and quality of jobs.
- Accelerating the roll-out of hyperfast and superfast broadband, and mobile telecommunications.
- Retaining local schools.
- Branding campaign to promote the area as a place to live and work.

Progress so far:

The YDNPA has approved 70 out of 71 barn conversion applications. Local Authorities are looking to purchase and develop allocated housing sites. Discussions have taken place with housing providers to encourage them to build in rural areas. A community led project is taking place in Arkengarthdale to develop for 4 houses for rent.

Officers have met with Cumbria County Council to discuss the potential role of the NPA in the developing Borderlands initiative. A project covering the South of Scotland, Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham counties and aimed at tackling the principal challenge facing the area-population growth and specifically the need to attract more working age people to the area to improve productivity and to grow the economy in the Borderlands economic area. The areas of particular interest to the National Park are superfast connectivity for Broadband.

YDNPA is continuing to provide funding to help communities to roll-out B4RN hyperfast broadband, which is due to include Sedbergh.

Working with secondary schools to raise awareness about careers in the NPA.

Working on the 'Great Places Project' with South Lakeland & Craven District Councils, along with the Lake District NPA to examine how to maximise the cultural aspects of the area. Key outputs achieved include collation of existing arts and culture research and rural demographics to inform creative clusters; a research commission which is currently out to tender and seed funding allocations are also currently being planned

Sustainable Development Funding approval for Dales Tourism Network to do some 'low key' work to develop publicity materials and use social media to promote the NP as a place to live/move to. Officers have also met with Marketing Lancashire to develop our relationship with that body.

Met with the CEO of 'the Pub is the Hub' to develop the role that might be played by the local pub in the future viability of local communities in the Park. This is a national organisation based in Harrogate who develop local pubs beyond the primary purpose to improve their viability and retain the service. Examples include pubs becoming local bakeries, village shops; children's play areas, community cafes, community allotments, libraries, IT hubs, pub theatres, and farmers markets.

Wildlife Grant Scheme (Peter Stockton)

The YDNP is developing a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an ambitious project. The focus would be similar to a previous scheme – The Parish Wildlife Project, which a number of Parishes were involved in. If the bid is successful the project would run from 2020-2023. In the meantime, Parishes are asked to consider:

- if it's something a parish would be interested in (subject to owning a piece of land that may be suitable);
- what are the sort of things that you think you would need, ie money; advice, equipment, manpower.

If any parish has a specific site or project already in mind then please contact the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer: Tony.Serjeant@yorkshiredales.org.uk advising of site location and a person to contact.

Upper Eden Community Plan (Alex Birtles - Kirkby Stephen Town Council)

The Upper Eden Community Plan was published in 2008. It was established as a collaborative project involving 17 parishes in the Upper Eden area together with members of the local community and a range of local organisations and groups. The purpose of a Parish or Community Plan is to reflect the concerns and aspirations of local people with a view to informing and influencing local and national government policies, actions and provision of services. A Community Plan gives everyone a chance to say what they think about social, economic and environmental issues affecting the community and how they'd like to see the area improved.

Some of the achievements from the 2008 plan have been:

Establishment of East Cumbria Broadband Forum

Upper Eden Neighborhood Development Plan (a bespoke housing policy for the area)

The Upper Eden Community Interest Company (formally Upper Eden Community Plan Group) taking over the Kirkby Stephen Tourist Information Centre to run a community-led Upper Eden Visitor Centre.

The Plan is now going through the process of being refreshed so it is fit for the future, recognising significant changes at a local, regional and national level since it was originally published.

The new Plan is going through a consultation period with all members of the Upper Eden Community being encouraged to participate in the public consultation.

For further details on the Plan contact Kirkby Stephen Town Council or the Project Officer: Kellie Bradburn-Sims: upperedenbusiness@gmail.com

Peter Stockton explained that both Eden and South Lakeland District Councils have their own Plans which the National Park uses to assess planning applications. Once the Eden Local Plan is

adopted it will be recommended for adoption by the YDNPA. Government is already reviewing national planning policy which will have implications for the existing National Park Local Plan (adopted in December 2016 which applied to 'old' National Park area). The NPA would need to think carefully if one Plan would recognize spatial difference across the whole of the National Park in the future.

Secretary of State Parish Member Election Process (David Butterworth)

Parish Councils have received notification of the process and timetable for electing a parish representative to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to represent that part of the South Lakeland & Eden district whose parishes fall within the National Park boundary.

At present, the Member for this part of the Park is Ian McPherson (Sedbergh Parish Council). His tenure is due to end on 3rd May when he will have been in post for 4 years. Ian confirmed Sedbergh PC will be re-electing him a Parish Councillor, which means he will be eligible for re-election to the YDNPA.

Parish Councils and Meetings are invited to put forward a candidate – the closing date for receipt of nominations is 11 June. If there is more than one nominee, a Hustings meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 June at 7pm, at Ravenstonedale Community Centre. An election is then held amongst the 27 Parish Councils and Meetings before the name of the successful candidate is submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

Julie Payne (Committees Officer) is the contact for any queries on the election process.

National Park Management Plan (Peter Stockton)

The Management Plan is prepared every 5 years and is produced by a 'Steering Group' made up of 16 key organisations. Each area of the plan has been subject to scrutiny by different drafting groups and it is now in the next consultation stage. A powerpoint presentation which highlighted the objectives of the plan is available on the Parish Forum webpage. Copies of the consultation document were available at the meeting and it can be assessed on the Authority's website (draft plan).

Now is the time for people to comment on any issues of interest within the Plan. The new Plan is expected to be adopted by the National Park Authority in September 2018.

Questions

Ireby & Leck PC asked who to approach regarding maintenance of a Green Lane. Kathryn Beardmore explained the legal duty with rights of way and the fundamental issue at the moment is that Lancashire County Council has yet to give delegated authority to transfer responsibility of maintenance for the Lancashire part of the National Park to YDNPA. Until that is confirmed, Lancashire CC remains responsible.

A question was asked if the National Park has any statutory responsibility for repairs to field barns. It was confirmed there is no legal duty. In some cases there may be an issue if the barn was listed (only 10 out of 4000 within the National Park are listed) or if the barn was within one of the two Barns & Walls Conservation Areas (Arkengarthdale & Littondale).

Mansergh PM are receiving conflicting information from Cumbria County Council which is delaying emergency repairs to Rigmaden Bridge following damage caused by storm Desmond. Cllr Nick Cotton offered to follow this up with Cumbria Highways on Mansergh PM's behalf.

The meeting concluded at 9pm.