



NIDDERDALE AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE, KIRKBY MALZEARD,

HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2005

Members Present

- Harrogate Borough Councillors: Cllr R Grange
- North Yorkshire County Councillors: H Garnett, K Barnes (substitute)
- Mr B Baxter (Yorkshire Water)
- Mr R Beecroft, Mr D Dickinson (Parish Councils)
- Mr D Gillies (Substitute National Gamekeepers Organisation Moorland Branch)
- Mr M Hoban (Forestry Commission)
- Mr M Lowsley (Ramblers Association)
- Mr R Martin (Environment Agency)
- Ms L Potter (Council for the Protection of Rural England)
- Ms S Schultz (Countryside Agency)
- Mr A Smith (National Farmers' Union)
- Mr M Stanton (Country Land and Business Association)
- Mr T M Wheelwright (Moorland Association)

Officers Present

- D C Allenby (Harrogate Borough Council)
- J Edwards, A McMillan (North Yorkshire County Council)
- P Burgess, S Kettlewell, M Pearson (Nidderdale AONB)

Cllr H Garnett in the Chair.

1. ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Les Ellington and Cllr Stan Beer (Harrogate Borough Council), Cllr W J Fort BEM (North Yorkshire County Council) Neil Redfern (English Heritage), Cllr Paul Richardson (North Yorkshire County Council), Cllr Elwyn Hinchcliffe (Harrogate Borough Council) Bruce Watson (National Gamekeepers Organisation Moorland Branch), Andrew Craven (English Nature), Elaine Stead (Parish Councils), Chris Fowler (National Trust).

Cllr K Barnes was attending as substitute for Cllr B Hoult (North Yorkshire County Council) and Duncan Gillies for Mr B Watson (National Gamekeepers Organisation).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 Cllr Heather Garnett declared an interest in items to be discussed under Planning Matters and at the relevant point would take no part in the discussion.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th July 2005

3.1 The minutes were approved as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 AONB Education Project - (8.0)

Sarah Kettlewell updated members on the Education Project. Rachel Earnshaw from BTCV has been employed to develop the project. A draft copy of part of the pack has been produced and trailed at a teachers day on 9th November. Additional educational resources such as posters and maps are being developed and a travel grant scheme set up.

4.2 Annual Report on Work Programme – (9.7)

Paul Burgess advised that a grant had been given to the Rural Housing Trust for a seminar on rural housing needs aimed at Parish Councils and that Princess Anne is to attend.

4.3 Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund – (13.1)

Paul Burgess reported that the application by Forest Enterprise for access improvements at Stainburn had been approved.

5.0 OUTLINE BUDGET FOR 2005-2006 FINANCIAL YEAR

5.1 Paul Burgess gave a summary of the previously circulated report outlining indications for future AONB spending including details of projects to be continued into 2006 and new projects.

5.2 John Edwards outlined the role of the Area Countryside Officer.

5.3 Richard Grange suggested that Lynne Mee of Harrogate Borough Council was approached to undertake AONB media relations.

5.4 Paul Burgess responded that Lynne Mee had undertaken PR work for the AONB on previous occasions however it was felt that due to her already considerable workload someone with more time to dedicate to the AONB was needed.

5.5 Sarah Schultz enquired about the possibility of monetary input from Harrogate Borough Council for the Countryside Officer position.

5.6 Dave Allenby agreed to look into it.

5.7 Sarah Schultz suggested that North Yorkshire County Council may wish to contribute to the costs of proposed PR consultancy as they would benefit from increased publicity.

5.8 Recommendations: JAC supported the report.

6.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

6.1 Sarah Kettlewell summarised the previously circulated report and gave an overview of the 8 agreed projects.

6.2 Tom Wheelwright commented on para 3.3 of the report and stated that his role was that of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Trustee and not a representative of Nidderdale.

6.3 Michael Stanton voiced his support of the SDF project.

6.4 Richard Martin expressed his concern over SDF hydro power projects regarding their effect on fish movements and requested that the Environment Agency be consulted for future projects.

- 6.5 Sarah Schultz reiterated that the Countryside Agency could not have anticipated the DEFRA moratorium on spending and that the outstanding £15, 000 funding had now been agreed and would be confirmed in the near future.
- 6.6 Recommendations: The report was noted.

7.0 RENEWABLE ENERGY GUIDANCE REPORT

- 7.1 Paul Burgess outlined the circulated report and suggested that a JAC meeting be convened in the New Year to specifically discuss the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 7.2 Andrea McMillan stated that the targets for renewable energy production included in the report were minimums only and that PP22 affords some protection to designated areas. The NYCC renewable energy reports do not represent formal planning guidance but are being taken forward.
- 7.3 Mick Hoban reported that the Forestry Commission were looking into biomass energy production. He thought that the NYCC study was a bit too narrowly focused on planning issues such as the development of buildings to house biomass power stations. DEFRA will shortly be issuing guidance to Government Offices on energy from biomass.
- 7.4 Richard Grange voiced his opposition to the planting of willow as a biomass crop.
- 7.5 Michael Stanton commented that windfarm potential studies should be balanced by investigation of other options including biomass, which offer greater benefits to the local community and have the capacity to provide employment.
- 7.6 Dave Allenby reiterated that the Renewable Energy Targets are currently set a minimum and that to meet increasing future targets up to 23 turbines would be needed in the Harrogate district by 2020.
- 7.7 Roger Martin enquired as to whether windfarms could be grouped together offshore to minimise the impact on the AONB.
- 7.8 Andrea McMillan responded that separate targets had been set for offshore windfarms
- 7.9 Recommendations: The report was accepted by the JAC.

8.0 FRIENDS OF NIDDERDALE AONB

- 8.1 Paul Burgess reported that the membership of the Friends group had exceeded the expected target of 200 members by the end of the year with 250 members to date and that although the majority of members were from the local area some were from as far a field as New Zealand, Mexico and Lancashire. The 2005 Friends events have been a success and the 2006 events programme is currently being developed. A Quiz night is being organised for the 7th December at the Royal Oak at Dacre Banks and a team from the JAC has been asked to take part.
- A 'Friends' Committee has now been formed and consists of Lesley Emin, Jim Starke, Bob Clay, Douglas Adamson and Ted Flexman. The Committee has requested to be represented on the JAC.
- 8.2 Cllr Richard Grange proposed the inclusion of a representative from the Friends group.
- 8.3 The proposal was seconded by Richard Beecroft.

8.4 David Allenby advised that the proposal would lead to a change in the Constitution and this will need to be ratified by the local authorities

- Re-development of the Timble Inn
(Ref. 6.117.43.FUL)
- Barn Conversion to form holiday cottages
(Ref. 6.129.40.FUL)
- Corporate training centre at Denton Hall
(Ref.6.130.7.R.FULMAJ)
- Barn conversion to bed and breakfast accommodation
(Ref. 6.99.20.C.FUL)
- Creation of livery stables and riding arena
(Ref. 6.60.28.F.FULMAJ)

9.0 PLANNING MATTERS

- 9.1 Paul Burgess reported on planning applications commend on by the JAC since July:
- 9.2 Paul Burgess also outlined 2 planning applications for consideration by Members.
- Temporary site compound at Hansons Quarry
 - Shower Unit in existing portacabin at Hansons Quarry.
- 9.3 The JAC accepted Paul Burgess's advice to the effect that the JAC should not object to the applications.

10.0 REPORTS FROM PARTNERS

- 10.1 Mick Hoban (*Forestry Commission*). The England Woodlands Grant Scheme is now complete and work is to be undertaken alongside the AONB to promote the scheme.
- 10.2 Sarah Schultz (*Countryside Agency*). Natural England development should be complete by October 2006. A chief executive has been appointed and regional managers are currently developing functional structures and a draft rural strategy which is to be ratified by the chief executive. Working groups are looking at protected landscapes and workshops are taking part in November. GRANTS: Final bids in by 31st December.
- 10.3 Roger Martin (*Environment Agency*). SPROUT project. Strategic Planning for the River Ouse, Ure and Tributaries looking at flood defences and habitat enhancement is now up and running and could be linked to work of the AONB.
- 10.4 Michael Stanton (CLA). Changes to the Common Agricultural Policy and payment regimes will have a major effect on the countryside due to diminishing grant payments.
- 10.5 Dave Allenby (*Harrogate Borough Council*). Local Development Framework. Comments on land use policies can be made via the LDF website and need to be in by 18/11/05.
- 10.6 Bob Baxter (*Yorkshire Water*). Summary of activities within the AONB. A bridle and cycle way has been opened up providing a circular ride at Beecroft and Timble. Alterations are taking place at Swinsty with the car park being developed to allow parking by horse boxes. Improvements are underway at Blubberhouses with the creation of disabled parking bays and an easy access route to the reservoir to encourage less abled users.
- 10.7 John Edwards (*North Yorkshire County Council*). Countryside Service restructuring. The restructuring is based on local boundaries with Countryside Officers covering the Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern areas. Countryside Rangers have now been appointed to undertake rights of way maintenance and improvements and to manage volunteers. Their area of work will broaden in the future and may provide opportunities for joint AONB NYCC projects.

- 10.8 Mike Lowsley (*Ramblers Association*). Expressed an appreciation of the improvement works undertaken by Yorkshire Water and disappointment at the Knabbs Ridge development.
- 10.9 Tom Wheelwright (*Moorland Association*). The amended Common Agricultural Policy will de-motivate farmers and lead to livestock de-population which will have a negative impact on the moorland of the AONB.
- 10.10 Linda Potter (*Council for the Protection of Rural England*). 'Mapping Tranquillity' publication is being published imminently. Similar project could be undertaken for the AONB by the Friends group and add to the protection of the area.
- 10.11 Paul Burgess (*Nidderdale AONB*). The Annual Conference is being held on Saturday 12 November at the Mechanics Institute in Kirkby Malzeard from 10 – 12 all are welcome.

Meetings in 2006.

16/2/06	Extraordinary meeting to consider draft Regional Spatial Strategy (am)
23/3/06	Spring meeting (am)
12/7/06	Summer Business meeting (am only)
20/7/06	AONB Site Visits (all day)
00/10/06	Autumn meeting
11/11/06	Annual Conference