NIDDERDALE
Area of
Outstanding Natural
Beauty

NIDDERDALE AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT DARLEY MEMORIAL HALL, DARLEY,

ON THURSDAY 23RD MARCH 2006

Members Present

- Harrogate Borough Councillors: Cllr L T Ellington, Cllr M Atkinson, Cllr S Beer, Cllr R Grange, Cllr N Simms
- North Yorkshire County Councillors: Cllr B Hoult, Cllr P Richardson
- Mr B Baxter (Yorkshire Water)
- Mrs E Stead (Parish Councils)
- Mr A Craven (English Nature)
- Mr C Henderson (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade)
- Mr M Hoban (Forestry Commission)
- Mr M Lowsley (Ramblers Association)
- Mr C Fowler (National Trust)
- Ms S Schultz (Countryside Agency)
- Mr A Smith (National Farmers' Union)

Officers Present

- D C Allenby (Harrogate Borough Council)
- J Edwards (North Yorkshire County Council)
- P Burgess, M Pearson (Nidderdale AONB)
- I Hall (Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust)

Cllr L.T Ellington in the Chair

1. ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

1.1 Apologies were received from Mr N Redfern (English Heritage), Cllr H Garnett (North Yorkshire County Council), Mr T Wheelwright (Moorland Association), Mr B Watson (National Game Keepers Association), Ms L Potter (CPRE), Cllr E Hinchcliffe (Harrogate Borough Council), Mrs L Emin (Friends of Nidderdale AONB), Mr R Beecroft (Parish Councils), Mr M Stanton (Country Land and Business Association).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2.1 Michael Lowsley declared an interest in item 5.2 Rights of Way

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2006

3.1 Bob Baxter requested that 7.3 paragraph 2 be amended to read "Miles Foulger reported on research by Yorkshire Water on hydroelectric project feasibility. The company may invest in hydro projects where it is seen to be cost effective and in proximity to the national grid for connection".

3.2 Following this amendment the minutes were approved as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 (4.3) Paul Burgess updated the committee on the progress of the proposed Farm Conservation Advisor post. A meeting between the Farming Wildlife Advisory Group and North Yorkshire County Council has been arranged and the project is expected to be moved forward in the near future. A project specification was circulated.

4.2 (7.1) Michael Lowsley reported that the Ramblers Association would be commenting on the Regional Spatial Strategy as it is felt that the AONB should fall wholly into the Remoter Rural Area sub region.

4.3 (7.3) Cllr Beer requested that the protection of Dry Stone Walls be tabled on the next agenda.

5.0 BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE AONB.

5.1 Paul Burgess summarised the previously circulated report and welcomed comments from Members before mid April. Some areas of work such as the conservation volunteers, Friends group, LINK education project and the resident and visitors' newsletters are to continue, however, the promotion of local food, transport and cycle ways and tourism will take a lower priority as they are being dealt with by other organisations. The key priorities being taken forward are Promotion of the designation – to continue to promote an understanding of the AONB designation, Farmland Conservation - increasing the uptake of Farming Schemes in the AONB by promoting the schemes and by providing advice, support and help with grant applications to farmers and landowners and Public Rights of Way – developing and improving the PROW network throughout the area.

5.2 Andrew Craven endorsed the AONB focus on Farmland Conservation and as a Natural England Officer expressed an interest in being involved in the project.

5.3 Mick Hoban reiterated that a close partnership between the Forestry Commission and the AONB is essential as the England Woodland Grant Scheme and the Higher Level Scheme are closely linked.

5.4 Sarah Schultz reported that she is to work closely with Andrew Craven to develop the proposal for the creation of the Farmland Conservation Advisors position and that the funding application has been approved.

5.5 Bob Baxter reported that Yorkshire Water would support the proposed ROW network development and work closely with the AONB to deliver improvements.

5.6 John Edwards reported that huge improvements to the ROW networks had already been made with 77% of the network now being classed as easy to use. Although funding from North Yorkshire County Council is unlikely for this financial year it may be possible in the future.

5.7 Sarah Schultz stated that she would like to see PROW moved up in the Service Delivery Plan as Natural England has a strong focus on recreation. It was also suggested that the AONB comment on the Outdoor Recreation Policy and ROW Improvement Plans being developed by North Yorkshire County Council.

5.8 Cllr Beer stated that the current approach to ROW works is disjointed and needs to be more consistent.

5.9 Elaine Stead put forward the argument for a ward by ward funding package/work programme.

5.10 Members were in support of the development of a funding package/work programme between the AONB, NYCC and Natural England.

5.11 There was some discussion regarding the work of the AONB in relation to Sustainable Development work being undertaken by NYCC and HBC.

5.12 Paul Burgess responded that the focus was on ensuring that both bodies were undertaking work within the AONB.

5.13 Some members expressed concern that the AONB was moving away from promoting local foods.

5.14 Paul Burgess responded that local producers would still be promoted through AONB newsletter and websites.

5.15 It suggested that the AONB should work more closely with Nidderdale Plus.

5.16 Recommendation: The JAC supports the report

6.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

6.1 Paul Burgess and Isobel Hall outlined the previously circulated report.

6.2 Sarah Schultz thanked Isobel and requested a written review of the 05/06 projects to be used to guide work/projects for 06/07.

6.3 Mike Lowsley enquired how the JAC could comment on design guides and suggested that the AONB take the lead on renewable energy guide lines.

6.4 Dave Allenby reported that the Equine Development Design Guide will need to go through Local Government Planning Consultation which would include all interested parties.

6.5 Paul Burgess reported that an Equine Design Guide working group would be set up.

6.6 Recommendation: The JAC agreed the report.

7.0 CONSTITUTION

7.1 Paul Burgess summarised the report and recommendations.

7.2 Cllr Grange requested that clause 2.1.2 of the Constitution, which states that:
'In nominating representatives, the local authorities will give priority to elected Members serving wards/electoral divisions within the AONB.' be strengthened.

7.3 Cllr Hoult, Cllr Richardson and Michael Lowlsey all supported the inclusion of members from outside of the AONB.

7.4 Elaine Stead reiterated that politics should play no part in the membership of the JAC and that members should provide a link between the JAC and residents of the AONB.

7.5 A number of members requested that a letter be sent to all relevant Local Authorities requesting that they change their nomination processes to ensure that elected ward members from within the AONB are given priority.

7.6 Both Paul Burgess and Dave Allenby reiterated that the JAC does not have the power insist that Local Authorities change their nomination processes.

7.7 A vote was taken with 5 votes for and 4 against changing the constitution.

7.8 Clause 2.1.2 of the constitution to be changed to 'In nominating representatives, Local Authorities should give nominations in the first instance to elected members serving wards or divisions within the AONB'.

7.9 Dave Allenby requested that Paul Burgess write to Peter Jordan at Harrogate Borough Council and his equivalents in the other Local Authorities to inform them of the JACs' request.

8.0 FRIENDS GROUP

8.1 Paul Burgess gave a verbal report on the current status of the Friends group. Membership stands at 286 with donations of £3,300. The second newsletter has been circulated to all members. The 1st AGM was held at Sawley on 20th March and 2 new members were voted onto the Committee – Brian Wood and Alison Bowers.

9.0 PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 Outcomes of consultations at previous JAC meeting.

- Development of Livery stables at Denton - refused due to the impact of car park.
- Broadband Mast at Thruscross – application permitted
- Residential conversion of Yorkshire Water agricultural buildings – refused.
- 2 new Raydomes at Menwith Hill – observations sent.

9.2 Current Applications

- Askwith Woodland – development for shooting and war game use – currently under consideration.
- Installation of 9m high domestic wind turbine near Kirkby Malzeard – no objections as no adverse impact on the landscape.
- Pateley Bridge Car Park panel – objections due to impact on landscape and lack of mitigation proposals.

10.0 REPORTS FROM PARTNERS

10.1 Bob Baxter *(Yorkshire Water).* A feasibility study is underway for footpath improvements and access work in Washburn. YW have approached Harrogate Borough Council to form a partnership to tackle dog fouling at YW sites. The Forestry Design Plan is continuing and work to reinstate wetland features at Timble has been completed with funding from the AONB Enhancement Scheme.

10.2 Mick Hoban *(Forestry Commission).* Grant Schemes have been successful in the AONB. Improvement work has taken place on a SSSI on the Swinton Estate. A Sustainable Woodland Management training session has been organised in partnership with AONB with funding from the Sustainable Development Fund. Discussion are continuing on future woodlands and an Agregates Levy Sustainability Fund grant is being used to improve access at Stainburn.

10.3 Michael Lowsley *(Ramblers Association).* A national initiative has been launched to encourage individuals to take responsibility for surveying rights of ways and access on a 1km section of an OS map.

10.4 Chris Henderson *(Nidderdale Chamber of Trade).* The Chamber of Trade is continuing to work closely with the AONB and a Nidderdale Business and Community Directory has been published

10.5 Dave Allenby *(Harrogate Borough Council)*. A Cabinet Members meeting has been arranged to discuss the change of grants in the AONB.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12th July, Venue to be decided.