



NIDDERDALE AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL, BIRSTWITH
ON FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2007

Members Present

- Harrogate Borough Councillors R.Grange, N.Simms
- North Yorkshire County Councillors: Mrs H Garnett, B. Hoult, K. Barnes
- Ms S Schultz (Natural England)
- Mr A Smith (National Farmers' Union)
- Mrs L Potter (CPRE)
- Mr C Henderson (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade)
- Mr M Lowsley (Ramblers Association)
- Mr D Dickinson, Mrs E Stead (Parish Councils)
- Mr T Wheelwright (Moorland Association)
- Mrs L Emin, (Friends of the AONB)
- Mrs M E Stead, (Parish Councils)

Officers Present

- P Burgess, M Pearson (Nidderdale AONB)
- D Allenby (Harrogate Borough Council)
- J Edwards, G Megson (North Yorkshire County Council)
- Mr J Pacey (Environment Agency)
- Ms R Earnshaw (BTCV)

Cllr H Garnett in the Chair

1. CHAIRS INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

- 1.1. The chair gave an account of progress with bids from North Yorkshire for LEADER funding.

2. ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

- 2.1. Apologies were received from Cllr M Atkinson (Harrogate Borough Council), Cllr P Richardson (North Yorkshire County Council), Mr M Foulger (Yorkshire Water), Mr M Stanton (CLA)

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 3.1.** No declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY 2007

- 4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July were agreed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1. There were no matters arising.

6. NEW AONB BUSINESS PLAN AND CONSTITUTION

6.1. PB introduced the report and asked Members to consider paragraphs in the report relating to membership and the role of the executive.

6.2. On membership, it was noted that Hambleton District Council's representative had not attended for meetings for several years. Consultation with Government agencies including Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and English Heritage have resulted in agreement that their representatives will in future attend meetings of the Technical Officers Group rather than the JAC. Natural England will remain on the JAC.

6.3. It was agreed that the amended Constitution needs to be approved by the local authorities..

7. REDUCING FLOOD RISK IN RIPON – HOW LAND MANAGEMENT CAN HELP

7.1. The Environment Agency's Jeff Pacey gave a presentation on the background the Ripon Multi Objective Project, and Marian Wilby went on to explain her role in helping farmers and landowners to develop land management practices designed to reduce flooding in the Lave and Skell catchments.

7.2. In the debate that followed, Members asked for clarity about the data underlying the effect of land management on flood risk mitigation, and about dredging rivers and the lack of bankside maintenance that could be contributing to the problem .

8. A NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN OR THE AONB

8.1. PB explained that the plan is being reviewed and various changes will be made but not to everything. New policies and action plans will be formulated to reflect new priorities. It will reflect Natural England priorities such as climate change, health access and diverse audiences.

8.2. The next step is to create a small group to review the plan and approval is being sought to progress the review.

8.3. Members asked for the task to be kept in proportion so that implementation of existing programmes can continue.

9. SOURCE TO CITY PROJECT

9.1. Rachel Earnshaw described BTCV's work, including their role in managing the AONB's Young Ranger Project.

9.2. Source to City is a Heritage and Landscape National Lottery bid project, which links communities in the AONB connected by water to communities in urban areas to the south of the AONB. The project will focus on the reservoirs and water industry heritage, and is aimed at young people and linking education institutions as well as community groups.

9.3. The reservoirs have a significant impact on the landscape and are important for wildlife as well as providing recreational value for people. There are also historical elements such as social and cultural history.

- 9.4. It is to be a three-year project running from November 2007 to October 2010, which will engage through websites, linked to the national curriculum. They will be made interactive to allow people to experience the landscape.
- 9.5. Yorkshire Water has expressed support for the project and plan to use the material to be produced by the project to use with their own educational work.
- 9.6. Members sought clarification on a number of points including the possibility of visits to water treatment works, and about the potential for Yorkshire Water funding for the project.

10. OUTLINE BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 10.1 Sarah Schultz explained that there will be some reduction in AONB budgets due to constraints on Natural England's budget. It was pointed out that, although Members appreciated Natural England's position, continuing uncertainty is making forward planning extremely difficult.
- 10.2 A discussion took place on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Members praised work carried out by NYCC.

11 PLANNING MATTERS

- 11.1 Members expressed concern about policies in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy.

12 REPORTS FROM PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

- 12.1 DD noted that the Darley Parish Caretaker Scheme has been a success, but the threat of little or no funding in the coming financial year may mean that the project will have to be terminated.
- 12.2 SS reported that Natural England's Regional Director is to visit the AONB on a fact-finding mission on 10th December
- 12.3 CH reported that Nidderdale Business Association has produced a new brochure on the Natural Beauty of the Dales.
- 12.4 Leslie Emin gave an update on the Friends of the AONB.
 - Current membership stands at about 500 Friends.
 - Since the last JAC the Friends have taken part in several events including Bird watching, assisting on the AONB stand at shows, wildlife gardening.
 - Mark Exelby won the Friends Farm award.
 - The committee met three times and had a think tank to review the last three years. A document has been produced which summarises the next three to five years.
- 12.5 JE reported that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been formally adopted by NYCC.
- 12.6 CF reported that visitor numbers were up by 12% and are at record levels. Visitor spend is down, as are international visitors. Currently developing a management plan due in March 08.
- 12.7 LP reported on CPRE comments on Green Belt policy