



NIDDERDALE AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PATELEY BRIDGE

ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2008

Members Present

- Harrogate Borough Councillors: R Grange, L Ellington, M Atkinson, N Simms (Chair)
- North Yorkshire County Councillors: B Houlton,
- 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 S Midgley (British Horse Society)
- Mr M Stanton (CLA)

Officers Present

- P Burgess, L Fox (Nidderdale AONB)
- D Allenby (Harrogate Borough Council)
- J Edwards, G Megson (North Yorkshire County Council)

Guest Speakers

- Laurie Norris, Regional Policy Advisor, National Farmers Union
- Helen Ovens, Rural Business Facilitator, Yorkshire Forward
- Neal Topham, Land Management Team Leader – Craven and Nidderdale, Natural England

Cllr N Simms in the chair.

1. ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr H Garnett (North Yorkshire County Council), Mrs L Emin (Friends of the AONB) to be substituted by Mrs E Stead, Mr C Fowler (National Trust).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1. No declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2007

- 3.1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th November were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1. PB apologised for the late distribution of the minutes.

4.2. DD asked PB for feedback on items 12.1 and 12.2 from the minutes.

4.2.1. 12.1 – PB explained that the AONB is still awaiting news on the financial settlement and so is unable to provide any further information at this time as to whether the AONB can continue to fund the parish caretaker scheme.

4.2.2. 12.2 – PB explained that a visit was made to Scaife Hall Farm at Blubberhouses, where the owners Mr and Mrs Ryder have started to sell their own lamb to local restaurants and to the public via a box scheme. This was followed by a visit to Bolton Abbey Estate and then to Tom Ramsden at Low Lindrick farm. PB felt that it was a good opportunity for Natural England's Regional director to see what was going on.

4.3. PB updated the JAC on the LEADER project – a meeting was held on Tuesday 15th April and an action group were formed to complete the next phase, which is to complete work on the Local Development Strategy. Further details are available from PB.

4.4. Paragraph 6 – the plan is to constitute the JAC executive at the July AGM.

4.5. Paragraph 10.1 – a bid has been submitted to Natural England for the coming year but still awaiting a response to get an accurate idea of where we are.

5. FARMING & THE FUTURE IN THE UPLANDS

5.1. A presentation was given by Laurie Norris, Regional Policy Advisor for the National Farmers Union.

5.2. The presentation focused on livestock farming in the uplands and explained the difficulties that face these farmers.

6. THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – GRANTS FOR FARM DIVERSIFICATION AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6.1. A presentation was given by Helen Ovens, Rural Business Facilitator for Yorkshire Forward.

6.2. The presentation focused on the Rural Development Programme, which makes funding available to help people in rural communities. The funding is available for agriculture, forestry, food and the wider rural economy and allows for assistance with projects such as rural business start up, rural enterprise investment programme and land skills.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – NEW TARGETING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1. A presentation was given by Neil Topham, Land Management Team Leader for the Craven and Nidderdale areas, from Natural England.

7.2. The presentation focused on the environmental stewardship schemes available to farmers and the arrangements for targeting these agreements.

8. 2008/09 SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

8.1. PB sought approval from the JAC for the work programme for the coming year.

8.2. PB began by outlining the priorities set out in 2006 and explained what has already been done to meet these priorities.

8.3. PB then moved on to outline the planned work for the coming year. This included the following:

- Continued support to the conservation in farmed landscapes
- Begin to implement grant aid from YDMT by planting 40ha of native woodland in the coming year.
- Looking at new visitor facilities in the AONB.
- Heritage skills training aimed at specific groups such as young offenders and 14-16 year olds that are not following the standard academic route.
- Development of a health project in conjunction with Primary Care Trusts.
- Peatscapes Project – peat land restoration projects in conjunction with the YDNPA and the North Yorkshire Moors.

8.4. Question: Concern was raised Cllr Hoult about action under TR4 in the service delivery plan. He asked whether the AONB had been involved in the changes to funding mechanisms and changes to public transport mechanisms? PB answered that there is a good working relationship between NYCC and other groups such as the YDNPA and Sustainable Travel Partnerships. These groups are trying to work constructively to find a solution to the lack of funding for leisure transport.

9. MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – PROGRESS

9.1. PB updated the JAC on progress with the management plan. He explained that the plan is moving forward and there is a great deal of support from NYCC who are helping with the project and helping to keep it in perspective.

10 PLANNING MATTERS

10.1 PB outlined the planning applications in the AONB.

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

11.1 ES on behalf of Parish Councils – the parish councils are looking for funding to support the parish caretaker scheme but funding from the AONB would be very helpful.

11.2 ES on behalf of Friends of the AONB – this is one of the most successful schemes of its kind, now having approximately 500 members. Current funds stand at about £7000 and the gift aid is about to be reclaimed. The Friends will be helping to support the AONB Young Rangers scheme as they are short of funding. The Newsletter is about to be distributed. The AGM will take place in May and Roger Clark will attend. Various Friends events are planned including a visit to Mark Exelbys farm in June.

11.3 SS reported that the financial settlement has still not been agreed but it is likely to be better than expected. The majority of the bid is likely to be funded with a few slight adjustments. The priority is funding for posts and projects are not a priority however funding for parish caretakers scheme is trying to be negotiated. £66000 is expected for the sustainable development fund and it is hoped that there will be some flexibility built in to this so that SDF funding can be used for some projects. It is hoped that grant offers will be out by the end of the month.

11.3.1 A discussion took place between SS and LE regarding the parish caretaker scheme. LE highlighted how much the scheme is appreciated by local communities and how successful it has been. LE explained that parish precepts have been increased to cover some funding of the scheme but stressed the importance of the funding from the AONB to keep these precepts down. SS was pleased to hear that the scheme is being partially funded from precepts and explained that the funding from the AONB was to get the scheme up and running and could provide no certainty of future funding. LE added that he was concerned about the future of the scheme if funding was withdrawn.

11.3.2 SS updated the JAC on Natural Englands review of relationships with AONB's. This was being discussed at a meeting on the 17/04/08 and it will be rolled out to AONB's in May for comments. The new relationship will then be officially launched in July.

- 11.3.3 SS – Natural England's new manifesto is being launched in May and this is likely to be a stakeholder event.
- 11.3.4 SS – has been promoted to the post of Team Leader for Access and Recreation to start in May 08. Will continue to work with the AONB at the moment but future work will be split up.
- 11.4 TW on behalf of the Moorland Association – the association is coming to grips with a new burning code. Also working hard on fire plans for all the moors in the AONB in a joint project with other organisations such as the YDNPA and the fire brigade.
 - 11.4.1 TW also raised the problem of cyclists on bridleways and their lack of care for other users after someone has recently been knocked over. TW asked what could be done about this? PB suggested a meeting on site at Wath to discuss this specific issue.
- 11.5 GM explained that Richard Flinton is now the new director of Environment at NYCC.
- 11.6 ML on behalf of the Ramblers Association – planning was approved for a new bridge across the river at Burley in Wharfedale but this approval has now lapsed. Currently undergoing re approval, which is at the design stage. The next stage is to have a meeting and an AONB representative will be invited.
- 11.7 MS on behalf of the CLA – thanked the presenters for their presentations and explained that this is a very timely issue for farming. He thanked them for highlighting the grants available.
- 11.8 LP on behalf of CPRE – about to launch a litter drop campaign. LE asked if information could be distributed to the Parish Councils.
 - 11.8.1 Pub in the Hub scheme – LP interested to hear of the grants available from Yorkshire Forward as this scheme involves putting the closed post offices into the local pubs.
 - 11.8.2 LP reported on further complaints relating to Middle Farm, Warsill. Further stables have been built, dry stonewalls have been removed, machinery has been dumped in the fields and there are three caravans on site. A lengthy discussion took place on this issue.
- 11.9 DA – several conservation area appraisals have been approved for consultation and more are programmed in for the coming year.
 - 11.9.1 Four more wind turbines are to be erected on Knabbs Ridge in May. The output of these each wind turbine is 2MW and so this meets the districts current target of 15MW. The next target is 17MW in 2010 and 70 MW by 2021.
 - 11.9.2 Consultation starts next week on the core strategy for the LDF. An outcome is expected by the end of the year and this will contain important aspects for the AONB.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 12.1 The date of the next meeting was changed to avoid a clash with the Great Yorkshire Show. The next meeting will therefore be on **Thursday 17th July – venue TBC.**
 - 12.1.1 LE felt that the AONB should attend the Great Yorkshire Show. PB explained that they have in the past but felt that it was not the right audience. PB to look into the feasibility of attending the show and the possibility of sharing a stand with another organisation.