



NIDDERDALE AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PATELEY BRIDGE

ON THURSDAY 17TH JULY 2008

Members Present

- Harrogate Borough Councillors: R Grange, M Atkinson, N Simms, C Hill, I Galloway
- North Yorkshire County Councillors: H Garnett (Chair)
- Mr C Holm (Natural England)
- Mr A Smith (National Farmers' Union)
- Mrs L Potter (CPRE)
- Mr M Soley (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade)
- Mr M Lowsley (Ramblers Association)
- Mr C Hawkesworth (Pateley Bridge Town Council)
- Mr D Adamson (Friends of Nidderdale AONB)
- Mr C Fowler (National Trust)

Officers Present

- P Burgess, L Fox (Nidderdale AONB)
- G Megson (North Yorkshire County Council)
- C Iley-Christie (North Yorkshire County Council)

Guest Speakers

- Diane Parsons, North Yorkshire County Council
- Colin Speakman, The Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company
- Pippa Pemberton, Nidderdale AONB Historic Environment Officer

Cllr H Garnett in the chair.

Cllr H Garnett opened the meeting and gave a short report on the work of the AONB over the last year. The report highlighted the uncertainty over recent months surrounding funding for the AONB from Natural England. Cllr Garnett also congratulated Sarah Schultz of Natural England on her promotion and although absent from the meeting thanked her for her help and support to the AONB. Cllr Garnett explained that she is hopeful that the Yorkshire Dales bid under the Leader programme will be successful in bringing in extra funds and thanks were given to the AONB Team for their continued hard work.

Cllr Garnett handed over to Paul Burgess to open the meeting fully and move on to the first agenda item.

1. ELECTIONS

1.1. PB explained that members of the JAC were required to elect members for the following positions:

- Chair of the JAC
- Vice Chair of the JAC
- Parish Council Representative on the JAC Executive
- Special Interest Group Representative on the JAC Executive
- Harrogate District Strategic Partnership Representative
- Yorkshire Dales Leader Management Group Representative – PB gave a brief background explanation to the Leader Programme. He explained that the funding is from the EU and it is funding to help support rural areas. If successful it will result in £300,000 being available each year across the Yorkshire Dales for a five-year period.

1.1.1. Cllr Atkinson asked whether or not the representatives on the above groups could be a HBC councillor and PB explained that it could be any member of the JAC.

1.2. Elections for Chair

1.2.1. Two nominations were received. Voting slips were passed round and the result of the vote was Cllr Garnett seven votes and Cllr Simms five votes.

1.3. Elections for Vice Chair

1.3.1. One nomination was received. Cllr Simms was proposed to take this role and members of the JAC agreed this.

1.4. Elections for Parish Council and Special Interest Group Representatives.

1.4.1. Chris Hawkesworth was proposed as the Parish Council Representative. This was agreed by the JAC.

1.4.2. Tom Wheelwright was proposed as the Special Interest Group Representative. This was agreed by the JAC.

1.5. Elections for Harrogate District Strategic Partnership Representative

1.5.1. Chris Hawkesworth was proposed as the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership Representative. This was agreed by the JAC.

1.6. Elections for the Leader Management Group Representative

1.6.1. Cllr Garnett was proposed as the Leader Management Group Representative. This was agreed by the JAC.

2. ATTENDANCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

2.1. Members of the meeting introduced themselves.

2.2. Apologies were received from Mr D Dickinson (Parish Councils), Mr T Wheelwright (Moorland Association), Mrs S Midgley (British Horse Society), Mr M Stanton (CLA), Mr D Allenby (HBC Officer), Cllr L Ellington (HBC Councillor).

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1. No declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2008

4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th April were agreed as an accurate record and were signed off by Cllr Garnett.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1. Funding Update 11.3

PB explained that the settlement has now been received from Natural England for 2008-09 and it is the same as the settlement for 2007-08. Natural England have committed to a three year funding programme meaning that the same settlement will roll forward for the next two years. They are unable to increase the settlement to include inflation so the budget will reduce each year.

Douglas Adamson asked what the implications of this would be as this will equal quite a large drop in the budget by year three. PB explained that the budget is manageable but it will be hard as there will be less cash available for projects.

5.2. Parish Caretakers 11.1

PB explained that one of the casualties from the budget cuts is the Parish Caretaker Scheme. All Parishes have been informed that they can apply to the Sustainable Development Fund for Parish Caretaker Funding and 9 applications have been received to date.

PB added that if the Yorkshire Dales Leader bid is successful the longer-term prospects look good to support parishes.

6. **NYSP – NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

6.1. A presentation was given by Diane Parsons of North Yorkshire County Council.

6.2. The presentation explained the New North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Strategy to be published on the 21st July and which can be viewed on the NYSP website at www.nysp.org.uk.

6.3. The delivery mechanism for the strategy is the new Local Area Agreement and delivery will be monitored quarterly by six thematic partnerships. The Strategy contains a number of targets some of which the AONB can help to deliver on.

7. **THE DALES & BOWLAND COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY**

7.1. A presentation was given by Colin Speakman, Director of the Dales & Bowland CIC

7.2. The presentation explained the reasons behind setting up the CIC and they are doing to provide public transport services to link rural areas across the Yorkshire Dales. It was explained that the services they have set up have been a great success but closer working is required with local authorities to keep the services going. Longer-term commitment is required for funding in order to be able to make the most of the services.

7.3. Cllr Hill commented that she was very impressed by the enthusiasm of Colin Speakman and his colleagues and Douglas Adamson praised them for their tremendous hard work.

8. **NIDDERDALE AONB HERITAGE STRATEGY**

8.1. A presentation was given by Pippa Pemberton, Nidderdale AONB Historic Environment Officer.

8.2. The presentation explained the work currently being done to produce a heritage strategy for the AONB. Pippa explained that the work is about bringing partners together and working together to preserve the heritage of the AONB.

8.3. Chris Fowler commented that the presentation made it clear how much work is actually being done already, in many different ways, to preserve the heritage of the AONB. He requested a copy of the presentation.

9. **MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – PROGRESS**

9.1. PB updated the JAC on progress with the management plan. He explained that the purpose of the report issued to JAC members is to inform them of the management plan review process.

9.2. PB explained the Clare Iley-Christie of North Yorkshire County Council had been instrumental in putting the report together and that the report will shortly be submitted to Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment so that they can consider the report and make their comments. The deadline for comments is the 21st August.

9.3. Concerns were raised from several members of the JAC that various objectives were missing from the report in particular relating to heritage, employment and sustainable recreation. CH commented that he felt there was important wording missing from the report and he was very concerned that things would be missed if the report was not checked thoroughly. CI-C explained that this scoping report is simply a snapshot and the next report will be much more detailed. PB

emphasised that sections on both heritage and recreation will be included in the management plan.

- 9.4. Cllr Garnett suggested that all members of the JAC have a detailed look at the report and put their comments forward by the 21st August as part of the consultation. The report is to be sent out again to all members of the JAC to ensure that everyone has seen it.

10 PLANNING MATTERS

10.1 PB outlined the major planning applications in the AONB. These included:

10.1.1 An application for the development of an existing dairy farm at Askwith to create 13 new houses on the site, 6 of which would be affordable, and also create a new dairy farm on the outskirts of Askwith. This was refused by HBC.

10.1.2 An application has been resubmitted for a medium security hospital at Forest Moor following a judicial review of HBC. A consultation on this application will run through into August.

10.2 Due to the extent of the Forest Moor Application it was recommended and agreed that rather than discussing the application in detail at this meeting a further meeting of the JAC Executive Body should be convened. Any one with any interest in the application is free to attend this meeting.

10.2.1 CH explained that the previous Forest Moor application had been discussed at Pateley Bridge Town Council but not all the documents were made available. It was requested that all documents should be made available at the JAC executive meeting along with details of other possible uses for the site in order to make an honest decision. Cllr Garnett and PB both said that they would ensure full documentation was available.

10.3 Cllr Atkinson raised the issue that Parish Councils often think that the AONB has commented on a planning application when in fact the AONB is not generally consulted. PB explained that due to a lack of time and staff the AONB is unable to comment on all planning applications in the AONB and so this is delegated to HBC. The JAC is only consulted on large-scale applications and the AONB produces guidelines for certain issues such as equestrian development.

10.4 A discussion then took place regarding planning issues in general and an apparent lack of understanding from HBC towards the AONB. It was felt that HBC don't have a full understanding of what the AONB does or what the requirements of rural areas are with regards to planning and development. It was proposed by Cllr Garnett that the JAC take the first step towards correcting this by doing some research into the ways other AONB's deal with planning issues and then taking this information back to HBC. It was felt that if the JAC can help HBC understand the AONB policies and rural issues then the JAC should help.

10.4.1 Cllr Garnett also explained that PB is going to be spending some time each month with the planning Officers at HBC discussing planning applications. It is therefore hoped that this might help to address some of the issues discussed.

10.4.2 Cllr Garnett told the JAC that any further thoughts on how to deal with the above issues would be welcome.

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

11.1 LP on behalf of CPRE – Has been informed that a planning application was submitted for the stables at Warsill and it was passed in house. CPRE were not consulted and so the application is now with enforcement.

11.2 ML on behalf of the Ramblers Association – Detailed proposals have been sent out for the bridge across the River Wharfe at Burley in Wharfedale. Please could all comments be returned as soon as possible, but definitely by the end of August.

11.3DA on behalf of Friends of Nidderdale AONB – Friends of the AONB is thriving with about 500 subscribers. They are entering a new era on financing due to budget limitations from the AONB but their charitable status helps with funding from other sources. They may be able to bid for funds to support the AONB. They are supporting the Young rangers programme and hope to extend the Farm Awards Scheme. The highest number of pledges given by subscribers is the desire to shop locally and buy local produce, which shows support for local businesses.

11.4MS on behalf of Nidderdale Chamber of Trade – Is hoping to go round and meet the members to find out what they feel needs doing or what they would like to do. Any comments would be appreciated for members of the JAC.

11.5CF on behalf of the National Trust – The World Heritage Plan is now out for public consultation and is available on the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Website. Visitor numbers are down 8% on last year but this is due to the radical shift in Easter. The actual figures for May and June are up 5/6%.

11.6CH on behalf of Natural England – Thanked the JAC for his invitation to the meeting as he has now taken over from Sarah Schultz on the JAC and is also doing LDF work for Natural England.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

12.1.1 The dates of future meetings were agreed as follows:

- Thursday 23rd October 2008
- Thursday 26th March 2009
- Thursday 16th July 2009 – To be confirmed when dates for the Great Yorkshire Show have been decided.

PB introduced the arrangements for the afternoon field visits and the meeting was then closed.