

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

25th July 2006

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**1. ENGAGEMENTS**

Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chief Executive has been involved in the following:-

(a) Events

- Hosted a visit from the Director of the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA), Paul Hamblin.
- Attended the Great Yorkshire Show as a guest to the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward to discuss the future relationship of local government with the Regional Development Agency.
- Along with a number of members attended the official opening of Yoredale at a ceremony performed by William Hague MP.

(b) Meetings

- Along with the Chairman, met with officials from the Yorkshire Dales Society.
- Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership.
- The fourth meeting of the CNP sponsored Prosperity and Protection Project.
- An evaluation meeting with officers from Yorkshire Forward to discuss the lessons learned from the Craven Integrated Rural Development (CIRD) Project.
- Officers from the Lake District National Park Authority to discuss the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's approach to partnership working.
- Craven Local Strategic Partnership.
- The District Auditor to discuss the implementation of the Probity in Planning recommendations.
- Along with the Chairman, the quarterly meeting of ENPAA.
- Along with the Chairman, the ANPA general meeting.
- Officers from English Heritage to discuss a project examining the socio-economic value of the historic environment in National Parks.

2. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION**Compulsory Member Training for Planning Committee**

At its meeting in November 2000, the Authority established a requirement that Members who wished to serve on the Planning Committee should attend one compulsory training date per year. Planning is a rapidly changing area of responsibility for Members, and an annual briefing session was felt to be necessary.

The Authority decided that Members who did not undertake the training would not be eligible for continued membership of the Committee.

Standing Orders advise as follows:

To give Members the best chance of being able to attend, the training session is repeated about one month later, on a different day of the week.

Each year, since this requirement was introduced, a few Members have not attended either session. In order to avoid them remaining ineligible to serve on the Planning Committee any longer than necessary, a further repeat of the event has been organised.

Whilst it is recognised that a Member may have a good reason for non-attendance, nevertheless, running the same event three or more times is obviously time-consuming and an inefficient use of resources.

Officers have generally delivered most of the briefings, and therefore the primary cost has been in terms of officer time.

However, this year, we engaged external trainers, at a cost of £1,000. There are both financial and practical difficulties in organising a further repeat session.

The purpose of raising this matter now is to seek Members' views on how we can better manage this process to avoid the need for additional repeat training sessions.

Where additional sessions are held without the original speakers, and without the input and debate generated by other Members, they are of less value than the scheduled events. Therefore, some Members are less well informed than others.

This raises a number of questions.

- 1) Should the Authority try to arrange further repeats, with external speakers, perhaps for one Member, notwithstanding the costs incurred?
- 2) Given the costs and workload implications, should Members who miss compulsory training be entitled to expect further repeats to be arranged immediately, so that they remain eligible to serve on the Planning Committee?
- 3) Alternatively, should non-attendees remain ineligible for a set period of a month or more, both as a deterrent and to give a reasonable opportunity to schedule a further repeat?

Recommendation

Members' views are sought.

3. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE

a) Membership of the Authority

Following the recent local elections all those members on the Authority who were up for election to their respective District or Parish Councils were re-elected to those Councils.

The members concerned were Messrs Butcher, Heather and Lis from Craven District Council and Messrs Dalton and Fenten who were standing for re-election to their Parish Councils and then subsequent selection for submission to the Secretary of State.

All members have now been re-appointed to the Authority.

b) ANPA AGM

At the recent meeting of the ANPA AGM, held in Skipton, Tony Hams (Chair of the Peak District NPA) and Caerwyn Roberts (Chair of Snowdonia NPA) were re-elected as Chair and Deputy of ANPA.

**DAVID BUTTERWORTH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Background documents: None
15th July 2006