

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

25th July 2006

FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Appended to this report is a report from the following member who has represented the Authority:

Appendix – Jerry Pearlman who represented the Authority at a meeting of the Association of North Yorkshire Councils held in Skipton on 10th May 2006.

RICHARD PARKIN
SECRETARIAT OFFICER

Background documents: None

12th July 2006

ASSOCIATION OF NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCILS

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2006 – SKIPTON

In a previous report about my attendance at this Association, I commented that it seemed to duplicate other meetings. This particular meeting was exceptionally informative and interesting but also depressing.

There was a thematic series of reports and discussion. I came away very depressed because it seemed to me that so many matters which are socially important to North Yorkshire, are suffering as a result of stringencies imposed by Central Government.

For instance, we had a major presentation on practice based commissioning (of health services) and its integration with community planning. I should mention that the meeting was chaired by Councillor John Blackie, who has a considerable interest and knowledge of this matter. Effectively, what is happening is that medical practices are being asked to have a loose form of partnership in groups. Whether this will result in truly better services to patients still remains to be known, although this major change seems to be welcomed by some GP's but not by others.

My pessimism increased as I heard about "Children's Change Agenda" and the additional work that needs to be done, but once again, one felt that insufficient resources were available locally or from Central Government.

Politically appointees to the National Park will probably be familiar with these matters but hearing them all mentioned at one meeting was very depressing.

Nevertheless, I have the feeling that North Yorkshire was going to do its best, although it was clear that the representatives of Scarborough Council were not happy about the general benefits accruing to them. The Chief Executive of the County Council gave what may be described as a robust response.

There was also a pessimistic report about the Arts Council in the County and although much money is being spent and there are notable achievements e.g. Richmond Georgian Theatre, there does not seem to be member input across the Board.

On this occasion I thought that it was a meeting well worth attending and there was also an assurance that the two National Parks would figure more actively in their reports and considerations.

Jerry Pearlman