

North York Moors National Park

c/o Local Access Forum Secretary,
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YORK
YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 1 June 2010.

PRESENT: J Bateman, Mrs C Cussons, P Hay, Mrs J King, Lady E Kirk, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Peacock, S Scoffin, Mrs N Taylor, G Winn Darley

Apologies: J Batt, J Cavana, P Cody, Mrs C Cook, D Leyshon

Officers in attendance: Richard Gunton (Director of Recreation and Park Management), Bernie McLinden (Head of Park Management), Fiona Farnell (Forum Secretary)

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

18/10 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2010, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

19/10 Matters Arising

The Director informed the forum that Natural England had not yet carried out a full environmental impact assessment on this area as yet.

20/10 Review of National Park Management Plan

The Director informed Members that a stakeholder meeting was to be held to discuss the Management Plan and that two members from the forum be nominated to attend.

Resolved:

That Norma Taylor and Muriel Mitchell attend the stakeholder consultation event relating to the development of a new National Park Management Plan.

21/10 Web Site Scrutiny

The Director informed the forum that the decision had been made to move the website to the National Parks joint portal. It was possible that this would mean a new design; however no formal decisions on the design had been made.

A Forum member asked why the change was being made when the feed back was good. The Director informed the forum that the site was now dated and that the feedback rating was in decline.

22/10 **New media in accessing the countryside**

Amanda Peacock gave a presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Forum Members had a discussion and the following points were made:

- Kiosks in visitor centres would be a step forward and could reduce the need to print leaflets.
- Some technology when going into the countryside may be required but a lot of the equipment mentioned today takes away from the mystery/adventure of discovering the countryside.
- A lot of the technology mentioned is aimed at the high end of the market.
- Social media sites are acceptable forms of distributing countryside events.
- Geocaching is a good way of giving people an experience and please to hear National Parks are doing them.
- Podcasts are more widely used by the older generation. Young people prefer Facebook.
- A lot of the Park does not get a mobile phone signal.
- Map reading skills are being lost due to the new technology available.

The Chair concluded that there were some good and not so good reasons for new media in accessing the countryside and thanked Amanda for her presentation.

23/10 **Natural England, England Access Forum and Regional Access Forum**

Steve Scoffin referred to the Natural England letter and expressed his view.

Forum Members then had a long discussion about the letter and the different forums.

Forum Members decided to make the following comments:

- Withhold comment about regional coordinators as at present Yorkshire and Humber do not have a regional coordinator. However this forum has an effective link at present with the England Access Forum and therefore possibly a regional coordinator is not required.
- England Access Forum needs a link to the Local Access Forum but this Forum by chance has an active link in Steve Scoffin who attends the England Access Forum.
- Still need a national body for all issues not just single issues.
- England Access Forum is doing too much work through same ways. Using the Secretary of State is an option.

24/10 **Local Transport Plan 3**

Members made the following comments:

- Each forum member could complete a questionnaire.
- A strong response should be sent regretting no acknowledgement to public rights of way in the county or the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Shocked that the report is all about management and maintenance rather than improvement and change.
- Believe that there is a much better service than previously.
- No mention of traffic free cycling
- Viable transport links from the south of the county are poor.

Members agreed to complete the questionnaire individually.

25/10 Coastal Access – consultation on proposed regulations setting out procedures for making representations about any objection to Natural England’s Coastal Access Reports

The Director confirmed that the Forum were not required to make a response.

A Forum member noted that it was a short time scale to respond and that the CLA were very concerned.

Resolved:

That the consultation be noted and that a response to the consultation from the LAF is not required.

26/10 NYM Fire Restrictions Statutory Review Consultation Outcome Report

The Director informed the Forum that some of the boundaries had been redrawn and that the Authority had no adverse comments to make.

A Member noted that the restrictions applied until 2999.

27/10 Green Exercise Group

Resolved:

That the paper be noted

2/8/10 Report back from the National Park Authority

Steve Scoffin updated Members on the following:

- The new Director of Planning is Chris France.
- A new team of Conservation apprentices would soon be starting in the northern part of the park, funded by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.
- LEADER had given grants out amounting to £660,000 this year.
- Customer Service Excellence the successor to Charter Mark had been achieved by the Authority.
- Moorsbus appeared to be going well but would have to wait until end of the season for this to be confirmed.
- Cuts from Defra and Central Government could see a reduction in the budget but nothing confirmed to date.

29/10 Venue and agenda for 7 September meeting

The Chair informed the Forum that it was hoped that Andy Wilson (Chief Executive) would be able to join the forum for lunch and the site visits in the afternoon and that the afternoon site visits would be based on disability access issues.

30/10 Items for future meetings

- Stakeholder working group in rights of way
- Volunteer research in recording rights of way
- National Park Management Plan
- National Park Authority Performance Assessment

31/10 **Any other business**

The Chair informed the Forum that it was felt that the current branding of the forum was outdated and that new branding ideas would be brought to the next meeting.

Members asked if the Secretary could speak to North Yorkshire County Council about their representative on the forum who lives a considerable distance from the park boundary.