



# North York Moors

## Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,  
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 7 June 2011.

**Present:** J Bateman, S Borman, P Cody, Mrs C Cook, G Dawson, P Hay, Mrs J King, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Peacock, S Scoffin, Mrs N Taylor

**Apologies:** J Batt, Mrs C Cussons, Lady E Kirk, Mrs M Lanigan, G Winn Darley

**Officers in Attendance:** Richard Gunton (Director of Recreation and Park Management), Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Sue Wilkinson (Education Manager), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

---

**Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book**

---

### 16/11 Minutes

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 17/11 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 18/11 Education outside the Classroom – verbal by Sue Wilkinson

The Education Manager gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments:

- As part of the teaching are children being made aware of where food comes from?
- Is citizenship forming part of the curriculum?
- Face to face is probably more efficient than teacher packs.
- Are health and safety rules stopping activities taking place?

The Education Manager answered as follows:

- Farming and food are taught together.
- Citizenship appears in the teacher pack which includes the colour coded arrows for public rights of way/access.
- Teacher packs are put on the website for ease of access

- The education service provides risk assessments for the activities provided and therefore schools are happy to take part.

#### 19/11 **Results of Prioritisation and Progress with Business Plan**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Recreation and Park Management. A powerpoint presentation was given, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Director noted that; the Authority was in the early stages of developing the Business Plan which would be linked to the Management Plan, with both being ready by December 2011. The Prioritisation exercise had taken place. Members of the Authority were now undertaking the same exercise, which the Senior Management Team had already completed. Consultants had been engaged to assist with some detailed analysis on budgets; at present work was being carried out on 'income streams', the Planning System – looking at making the planning service full cost recovery. Members of the Authority will be having a seminar after the AGM in June, a Special Authority meeting after Planning Committee in July, with detailed financial implications going to the Authority meeting in September. The Director also noted that North Yorkshire County Council had made no financial contribution to the public rights of way work and therefore strong representations were being made to try to recover some of the cost.

The representative Member from the Authority noted that the prioritisation exercise that the Members had been asked to complete was very hard to do as some work of the Authority had to be put as a low priority which did not sit comfortably with many Members. A Member noted that the Authority had some statutory duties. This was confirmed by the Director, however some work had to be put as a low priority even it is was a statutory duty.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

#### 20/11 **Osmotherly Youth Hostel update on Proposed Sale – verbal by Richard Gunton**

The Director of Recreation and Park Management. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Director noted that the Authority only found out about the sale of the youth hostel by chance. Back in the 1980's the Authority funded a large proportion of the purchase and refurbishment of the building and therefore not to be consulted about the sale was disappointing. The sale guide price was £500K. A number of meetings had been held between the Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of the Youth Hostel Association, who remains adamant that the property must be sold. However if with the help of the Authority, the occupation level reaches 50% then the organisation may reconsider the sale. The Western Area Parish Forum reacted strongly to the news of the sale and are trying very hard to promote the youth hostel.

The Director added that until recently block bookings had been placed by a 'children's initiative' and therefore walkers had been unable to book accommodation; staff from the Authority were working with the hostel to assist with promotion.

Members made the following comments:

- If a field could be found nearby, opportunities would be available to promote to the equestrian sector.
- Could Countryfile be contacted to promote it?

- Duke of Edinburgh expedition organisers could be targeted to use the hostel
- If a drying room is available, ramblers would be more keen to use it.
- Are smaller rooms available, as many people now do not like the idea of sleeping in a room with people they do not know, but still want the youth hostel experience.
- If secure storage for bikes could be provided, then mountain bike groups could also be targeted.

#### **21/11 Update on National Park Authority Business – verbal by Steve Scoffin**

The Member noted that all items to be covered had been covered already in the agenda and the discussions that followed.

#### **Reports for Information**

##### **22/11 Minutes from Yorkshire and Humber Region**

A Member asked if a letter had been written to Richard Benyon. The Director noted that this had yet to be done and apologised for the delay.

##### **23/11 Richard MacDonald report – Catriona Cook**

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting as two key Members were unable to attend this meeting.

##### **24/11 Items for Future Meetings**

- Volunteering and Voluntary Rangers including site visits (September)
- Richard Benyon letter
- Richard MacDonald report
- Malton to Pickering cycle route
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review

##### **25/11 Other Business**

LAF Members were potentially invited to a conference on the 'Interpretation of Heritage Assets). An email with further details would follow in due course.

The Member of the Authority informed Members that a meeting of the North East Regional LAF had taken place yesterday, at which it was noted that the independent panel tasked with looking at forestry were to visit three forests, of which one was to be in Northumberland (Kielder). An invitation was not to be given to all forums, however the Chair of the North East Region would be attending and was happy to give a regional response. Kielder had been chosen as a productive forest. A Member noted that individual responses could be given on the Defra website.