

Item 6

Report to the Peak District Local Access Forum 26 March, 2011 The Future of the Forestry Public Estate in England

1. We had an Access Sub Group meeting of the Forum on 10th March. The attached paper I drafted was supported and is brought to the LAF meeting today for consideration and approval please.
2. We also agreed it was vital to log our views with Defra and remain vigilant even though the consultation on disposals was stopped after strong concerns were expressed nationally.
3. We also thought it vital to ask about the Terms of Reference for the Working Party to be established, the membership of that and further consultation on the outcome and recommendations. Hence the draft letter to Defra for approval to be sent in Edwina's name as Chair.
4. It seems crucial to record our interest given that the Forestry Commission will have a greatly reduced budget and less ability to manage its holding in the next 4 years.
5. We are asking officers at the Peak District National Park Authority, through their liaison with Forestry Commission colleagues, about scope to improve and secure access arrangements and routes in existing holdings and to be informed of any disposal plans in future.
6. We were also concerned as to who would be able to monitor and enforce any sales conditions imposed on sales in future with reduced resources.
7. I was also asked to write to Claire Herring as co-ordinator of the East Midlands Chairs meeting which I am attending on Edwina's behalf on 17 March and will report back when I know what other LAF's in the Region think and are doing, and Claire O' Reilly who is sharing with the Chair and Vice Chair ahead of the Derby and Derbyshire LAF in May.

John Thompson

12 March 2011