

Item 9: Recreation Strategy update for LAF 2 December 2010

The last steering group meeting on 22 September reviewed the Action Plan; good progress is being made in most areas as can be seen on attached document. Members of the steering group contributed for their organisation and many ideas were exchanged. The next meeting was to be held on 1 December but it was felt it would be more useful to wait until the National Park Authority and partners had a clearer picture of resources, so this is postponed until February. The Recreation Strategy Team is reduced due to the Manager (Judy Merryfield) reducing hours to half-time working from October; Peter Davey will retire on 21 January 2011, reducing capacity by another 3 days a week. From 1 April, the team will move into the Policy Service and their remit will include Sustainable Tourism as well as Recreation Strategy.

Two of the three Task Groups have been established - to address improving access to water and raising awareness of the health benefits of recreation. A second meeting of the Water Access task groups is planned for 25 November (Geoff Nickolds invited) and Edwina attended the Healthy Lifestyles meeting on 8 September. Carol Parsons has had an initial meeting with Losehill Hall staff to discuss their involvement with young people; a wider group will be held in the New Year as part of the Young Peoples Action Plan being implemented by Emma Martin, Communities Policy Manager. Recreation for young people is likely to be a sub-group of that.

There are many good examples of progress in the action plan update, including the marketing work of Pedal Peak District, reaching out to individuals, groups and schools to offer training and improve cycling confidence. Natural England held a Walk 4 Life national event on 26 September and as part of the Village Games project (funded by the Lottery and Sport England), a very successful adventure outdoor pursuits day was held at Whitehall Centre for families thanks to the Sustainable Development Fund.

Next year's Peak District Walking Festival dates are 23 April – 8 May, with a launch event at Buxton Pavilion again. Other events that might provide opportunities to show what recreation opportunities the National Park has to offer are the 60th anniversary on 17 April; the launch of the opening up of the Monsal Dale; National Trust event at Dunsar Farm 28 & 29 May, and a Polaris mountain biking event based at Bamford 25 & 26 June.

Judy Merryfield
23 Nov. 10