

Item 12 (any other business)

Report to the Peak District Local Access Forum 26 March, 2011 Peak District Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

1. I attended the Recreation Strategy Strategic Management Group Meeting on 24 February and the minutes of the meeting are attached with thanks to Carol Parsons for prompt and thorough notes. It was a helpful review meeting chaired by Judy Merryfield and established good links and contacts on key issues. I have set out below key points for consideration by the Forum.
2. There are concerns re staff and funding resources both at the Authority and for funding partners which will inevitably affect delivery of the work programme for the Peak District. This will be kept under review as the actions are reviewed and updated. Contacts at Natural England will become clearer as staff appointments in the new structure are made, but withdrawal by them from delivery and different ways of doing things were noted. The Outdoor industry is struggling and Centres are sadly closing.
3. Co-ordinating information on health walks is vital and being pursued and future Health and Wellbeing Boards will be important.
4. I stressed previously expressed LAF concerns regarding the resources for the second purpose of National Parks following recent reviews by the Authority of its Vision and budgets.
5. Jane Chapman referred to someone interested in joining the Forum in future and I asked her to let Mike Rhodes have details.
6. The review work being done for the National Park Management Plan with a public consultation from April to June 2012 was explained by Jane who referred to the draft vision framework – attached. **I said I thought this should recognise much more the importance of recreation and tourism and I would seek comments from this Forum meeting.**
7. There is LAF involvement in Task Groups on Health (Edwina) and Water (Geoff Nickolds). **Would anyone on LAF be prepared to join the Group promoting activities for Young People?**
8. Progress on Pedal Peak District was explained and welcomed.
9. **How should we tackle the response to monitoring action on the Recreation Strategy? Should I circulate to Forum members with a cut off date before letting Judy have information?**
10. An Annual Partnership meeting is planned in late May/early June (possibly at Hollowford, Castleton in June). **Should Edwina and I attend on behalf of the Forum?**
11. The next meeting is planned for 21 September, 2011.

John Thompson

12 March 2011

RECREATION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Strategic Management Group Minutes

Aldern House, Bakewell Thursday 24 February 2011, 10:00 – 12:00

Present: Jane Chapman, (PDNPA), Gill Chapman (VPD), Hazel Ainsworth (NE), Margaret Blount (Derbyshire Sport), Carol Parsons (PDNPA), Judy Merryfield (PDNPA), Paul Ball (Peak Pursuits and chair of IOL), John Thompson (vice chair LAF)

1. Welcome, introductions Judy welcomed John Thompson as vice chair of the Local Access Forum to the meeting. Apologies: Tim Brooks, DWT Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) Geoff Lomas (Yorkshire Water) Richard Taylor (DCC)	
2. Minutes of the last meeting – actions	
Minutes agreed. Large scale events – Geoff was passed onto local contacts for NE and they will all try and get together to progress. Guidelines not progressed yet. Other updates will be covered further on in the agenda.	ACTION: HA JM
3. Resource implications of public sector spending review	
<p>PDNPA – Peter Davey has now left and Judy has gone down to 2.5 days, Carol's post is 2 days so our capacity to deliver the strategy is reduced. 30% cuts 2011/12 may impact on visitor services. Expected cuts across the board over the next four years will lead to more of an 'influencing' than doing organisation.</p> <p>VPD is trying to fill its funding gap. There is a bid in to Visit England for £300k for 2011/12 but still awaiting the outcome. Marketing plans for recreation on hold. The Peak District is one of the key tourism destinations the government wants to promote.</p> <p>Jane advised that six relevant Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) cover the Peak District – an initial couple of meetings with businesses held. Potential for a business led funding bid to the regional growth fund – where focus is on rural jobs.</p> <p>HA - NE are changing the way they are doing things – withdrawing from delivery but advice function will remain eg Walking for Health (WFH) will go to another host body reducing from 80 to about 20 people nationally to cover core insurance, accreditation, identity, research, etc. Local delivery won't be affected. Transition from April until November led by Department for Health 'Knowledge in Action' leading on the transition. Health and wellbeing boards are being set up. 65,000 people participate nationally in WFH schemes – other activities could be offered to them. Rob Gornall will move from a county role to national. Mary Hague (PCT) has bid for £5k for each Derbyshire LA to deliver WfH or other activities.</p> <p>National Nature Reserves divestment - Defra will retain the freehold but NNRs will be managed independently (may be taken over by mutual ownership, for example by existing staff).</p> <p>NE will continue to manage national trails.</p>	GC

<p>Dave Parker is currently within a NE selection process.</p> <p>Paul asked if there was any opportunity for his industry walk leaders to help deliver health walks, possibly as individuals' progress; it was suggested PB contacts health authority after 1 April. Delivery is not affected as there are walk leaders in place who are partnership funded who support volunteers who lead the walks. Public health budget not known as this moment. PDNPA can provide information for the walks coordinator network as to where the easy access walks are; also promote via Active Derbyshire website. MB agreed to send leisure centre contacts.</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing Boards are forming for the end of the PCTs in 2014 which it would be good to influence.</p> <p>PB - Outdoor industry is struggling and centres are closing. Heads of Outdoor Centres (Peak region) is meeting to discuss sharing resources. VPD proposal to produce outdoor activity strategy to raise profile of outdoor centres, each centre contributing a small amount of money. A lot of centres under review (including White Hall) and awaiting decisions. Opportunities for private sector to step in and for centres to diversify. Working practices vary widely across the different sectors – private, public and charities; time might be right for closer working to avoid duplication, increase options and raise standards.</p> <p>JNT - Local Access Forum (LAF) resource implications are different. Support and finance from the PDNPA will continue. Concerns re funding for recreation and perceptions over reducing importance of second purpose and about PDNPA having more an enabling role; also high expectation on private sector and volunteers. These concerns have been voiced by the chair to Jim Dixon and chair of the NPA. Jane raised whether there should be medical representation on the LAF? <i>(she has a contact who is interested)</i></p> <p>Derbyshire Sport is ok at the moment, funded by Sport England until 2014 and local authorities although they are waiting to see what the impact on local authorities' leisure services and delivery around sport and recreation agenda will be.</p> <p>Yorkshire Water update (by e-mail): The car park and picnic site at Ramdsen resr Car Park in the Holme Valley has had a make over and is now much more inviting to customers. Langsett resr Flouch, Digley resr Quarry and Winscar resr Broad Hill car parks have had capital investment to improve the surface and facilities, layout and vehicle circulation as appropriate.</p> <p>We are hoping that in the new financial year we will be able to undertake maintenance to the wheelchair accessible route around Damflask resr to bring it back up to standard, lost due to use and passage of time. This will also support the YWS run coarse fishery with wheelchair and easy access to the water.</p> <p>The YWS recreation team is keen to maintain current facilities and the investment of the past at its site and that will be the focus in the coming year. Grounds care maintenance contracts are being reviewed and amended as required for the car park and picnic site, for re tender in 2011-12 year.</p> <p>YW have improved their website over last few month to include downloadable walks.</p> <p>YWS hope the review of services in the PDNPA do not impact on the contract arrangements they have in place for the 'ranger' support given by Gordon Danks and his team at Langsett as they wish to continue into the 2011-12 year.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>JM/CP MB</p> <p>JNT</p>
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<p><i>(- this will not be affected by current review)</i></p>	
<p>4. Update on National Park Management Plan</p>	
<p>Jane gave a presentation on where we are with National Park Management Plan five year review for the Peak District and the next steps. See draft vision framework document attached which shows four key strategic themes, all of which have equal priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diverse working and cherished landscape • A welcoming and inspiring place • Thriving and vibrant communities • An enterprising and sustainable economy <p>Any comments on this should be fed back to Judy. Public consultation period April – June 2011. Delivery from April 2012. Final plan will be online and continually updated.</p> <p>JT mentioned that tourism is not reflected in this vision wording.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
<p>5. Task groups progress – health, water-based and young people</p>	
<p>Health – one meeting to date – raising awareness of recreation opportunities available in the National Park and how to work with partners to deliver more opportunities to target groups.</p> <p>Water – now chaired by Sue Smith, access officer – 2 meetings held with another on 24 March. It is looking at current provision to maximise opportunities and reduce barriers. In future will involve user groups as well as landowners. Uncertainty over Environment Agency’s future role in recreation and their continuing input to the task group.</p> <p>Young people – linking into existing group and how recreation strategy objectives can be included.</p> <p>John said LAF members have volunteered to be involved in these groups. (Edwina - Health, Geoff Nickolds – Water). Is there a LAF member with an interest in promoting activities for young people?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JNT/CP</p>
<p>6. Progress on Pedal Peak District cycling project</p>	
<p>Carol gave an update on the cycling development project which has been supported by the Department for Transport and Cycling England funding until 31 March 2011. A final report will be available shortly. A small amount of external funding from CTC charitable trust will deliver their cycle champions programme across the Derbyshire area of the Peak District for one year. The PDNPA and DCC are submitting a joint bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund for a cycling project.</p> <p>Capital works have focused on re-opening of the 4 disused rail tunnels on the Monsal Trail (each around 400m long) and improvements in access to the Trail. These works presented significant technical challenges but will result in an outstanding experience for Trail users. Local businesses have already started to take advantage of the opportunities that Pedal Peak District has presented as new cycle hire businesses are being established in the Bakewell and Buxton areas.</p> <p>Over 2010/11 the aim of signing up 1000 people in the target audience was met by the September deadline. The current figure is a total of 2035 people signed up and logging their journeys. Of these 1098 are in our target audience (i.e. participants cycling 1-3 times a month or less). Cycling England has produced some initial findings on the baseline survey of these participants. Of particular note is the number of people taking part with some form of disability (7 per cent) which reflects the work of the project to increase opportunities and access to cycling for all.</p> <p>Pedal Peak District worked with just over 3000 people at cycling training, rides</p>	

and bike maintenance course events between April and September 2010. We have case studies from some of the people involved showing how they have progressed since the project began in April.

Through the main summer months we worked with Visit Peak District on a 'saddle up for summer' campaign. Key highlights include:

- The campaign contributed to 1,425 bed nights being booked in local accommodation providers, with an estimated economic benefit of £160,000
- 119,000 people clicked through to the Saddle up for Summer cycling information on their web site – by far the most visited area of their website
- More than 20,000 people downloaded cycling maps and information
- Development of the Cyclists Welcome scheme with local tourism businesses

Gill highlighted further cycling promotion opportunities. PDNPA and VPD are developing a series of circular mapped rides including local businesses. A leaflet will be available at the launch but .gpx files and .pdf files will be online at www.visitpeakdistrict.com/cycleroutes in due course.

From October 2010 until March 2011 the NPA has been working with Pedal Ready, a cycle training provider, to develop cycling opportunities in the Bakewell and Bradfield areas as a pilot that could be rolled out to other areas of the national park with future funding. Some highlights of this extended community promotion include:

- Widespread interest and support from both local communities
- The setting up of cycling hubs in the Bradfield area to promote the project to local people
- A number of initiatives started in schools in both locations to encourage pupils, staff and parents to go cycling
- A trial of workplace based cycling in Bakewell initially
- Links made with existing cycling projects and initiatives
- Free cycle training and bike maintenance promoted to local communities

7. Annual monitoring of the recreation strategy for 2010/11

Monitoring – all organisations asked to contribute data – Judy will send out reminder with details of what is required

JM/AII

8. Proposals for annual partnership meeting

This will be late May/early June and will include progress after year one and priorities for the future – any ideas or suggestions for guest speaker for this to Judy. Paul suggested Hollowford outdoor centre as a possible venue.

**All
CP**

9. Date of future meeting:

Weds 21 September 9:30 – 12:00 at Aldern House, Bakewell

10. AOB

- DDDC's Arc Leisure Matlock – the new leisure centre which is under construction is having an open day on 11 March 2011, 12-7pm – all welcome.
- New outdoor activities brochure is being produced by VPD with funding from PDNPA - hoping it will be available by launch of walking festival on 23 April at Pavilion Gardens in Buxton when there will be an activity day.
- Rachel Gillis, Head of Policy, will be taking over responsibility for recreation strategy from April; sustainable tourism will also be included. Jane Chapman will still be taking

an interest in this area of work.