

Local Nature Partnerships – exploring the possibilities for your organisation & the Peak District

Health, Wellbeing and Recreation

Workshop Report



12:00 – 14:30

Monday 19th March 2012

Over Haddon Village Hall

Facilitated by Mandy Sims for
Clearer Thinking

**Clearer
Thinking**
Facilitation & Environmental Training

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Workshop objectives

By the end of the workshop we will have:

- A better understanding of the proposed Peak District Local Nature Partnership (LNP);
- Explored how your organisation could benefit from being involved with the Peak District LNP;
- Identified how this could be beneficial to the natural environment;
- Been updated on the next steps planned for the Peak District LNP bid to the Government.

Agenda

The final workshop agenda was as follows:

Time	Session
12:00	Arrival and lunch
12:30	Welcome & introductions
	Celebrating the natural environment of the Peak District – <i>Matthew Hutson, DofE Award Scheme</i>
	A bit about Local Nature Partnerships and the ideas for the Peak District
	Shared priorities and possible benefits of working together
	How could your involvement best benefit the natural environment?
	Keeping involved / what next?
14:30	Workshop closes
	Optional guided walk in Lathkill Dale

Attendees

The workshop was attended by:

Name	Organisation
Alison Pritchard	Consultant in Public Health, Derbyshire Primary Care Trust
Andrew McCloy	Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport
Chris Priestley	Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Elizabeth Barnicott	Natural England
Geoff Nickolds	PDNPA member
James Creaghan	Public Health lead for Adult Obesity and Physical Activity
Janice Burley	Health Walks Leader
Judy Gould	Recreation Strategy Team Manager, PDNPA
Julie Hirst	Public Health Specialist and PH lead for Peak District
Karen Carpenter	Environmental Health, Derbyshire Dales District Council
Lesley Stevens	Policy Officer & Local Strategic Partnership lead
Tracy Litchfield	Health Trainer Co-ordinator, Amber Trust
Matthew Hutson	Duke of Edinburgh Awards - speaker
Manhar Taylor	Mosaic Community Champion
Thakorlal Laad	Mosaic Community Champion
Steve Routledge	Amber Trust
Jane Chapman	Head of Environment & Economy, PDNPA
Karen Shelley-Jones	Ecologist (LBAP Coordinator), PDNPA
Rhodri Thomas	Natural Environment Team Manager, PDNPA

Apologies were received from:

Chris Nightingale (High Peak Borough Council), Edwina Edwards (Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport and Local Access Forum), Tim Braund (DDDC), Karen Wheeler (Derbyshire HCFT), Howard Griffith (DDDC), David Black (Medical Director Derbys PCT), Zahid Hamid (Mosaic Project Officer).

Arrival and lunch

The attendees arrived and registered, and partook of the buffet lunch. Mandy Sims and the PDNPA team informally met and greeted all arrivals.

Welcome & introductions

Jane Chapman, Head of Environment & Economy at the PDNPA, welcomed everyone to the workshop, gave a brief introduction to Local Nature Partnerships, and introduced Mandy Sims who would be facilitating the afternoon.

Mandy outlined the housekeeping essentials, and ran through the workshop agenda and objectives. She introduced the 'Concerns and Unknowns' flipchart, inviting contributions to it at any time.

Celebrating the natural environment of the Peak District

Mandy introduced Matt Hutson, from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme as the keynote speaker of the event.

Matt outlined briefly the work of DofE, and in particular its role in the Peak District. He gave details about the number of young people that DofE brings to the Peak District, in many cases stimulating repeat returns. He talked about DofE's vision to be even more inclusive and to provide opportunities to even more young people. Matt effectively showed a link between the sectors of health & wellbeing, recreation, and the natural environment in his inspiring talk.

Matt took a number of questions and gave full and helpful answers.

A bit about Local Nature Partnerships & the ideas for the Peak District

Karen Shelley-Jones gave a short presentation about the background of Local Nature Partnerships and the current thinking from Defra as to their purpose and role. The key slides presented are shown below:

Local Nature Partnerships – What?

“A diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations brought together at a local level to create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making”

How?



Local Nature Partnerships – The Story So Far...

- June 2011 – NEWP announces LNP concept
- Opportunity to apply for ‘capacity building’ funding
- Dec 2011 - June 2012 – capacity building phase
 - Biodiversity
 - Businesses
 - Health, wellbeing, recreation
 - Community/voluntary groups
- March - May 2012 – Application to Government for LNP Status
- Summer 2012 – First LNPs announced
- Late 2012 – Ministerial event for first tranche of LNPs



Local Nature Partnerships – Purpose

Drive positive change in the local natural environment:

- Take a strategic view of challenges and opportunities and identify ways to manage the natural environment as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy

Contribute to achieving Government environmental objectives locally:

- Include the identification of wildlife corridors, whilst addressing local priorities

Become local champions:

- Influence decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes, through working closely with LAs, LEPs and Health & Wellbeing Boards



Local Nature Partnerships – Expectations

- Bring together a wide **range of sectors** and interest groups to agree and **align priorities**;
- Develop a shared **strategic vision** and set **ambitions**;
- Have a good picture of the local natural environment;
- Be sufficiently **influential** and **knowledgeable** to raise the profile of the natural environment and its services;
- Engage in and influence **strategic decision making**;
- Involve and **empower local people and communities**;
- Have a good overview of activity in the area, **build on, galvanise, co-ordinate and integrate**.



Local Nature Partnerships – Locally



Local Nature Partnership – Local Benefits

- LNPs are likely to be included in biodiversity, planning and economic policies.
- Opportunity to make clear connections between ecosystem services and people.
- Fantastic green space accessible to many.
- Achieving Local Nature Partnership status could support work already ongoing to develop and deliver major initiatives.
- It could build on this success by forging even stronger links between the private sector, voluntary organisations and government bodies, to secure new resources and stimulate work by partners to deliver on agreed priorities.



The Natural Health Service

‘Safe, green spaces may be as effective as prescription drugs in treating some forms of mental illnesses’
Faculty of Public Health & Natural England

‘Access to nature can significantly contribute to our mental capital and wellbeing’
Faculty of Public Health & Natural England

‘90% of people who took part in Mind green exercise activities said that the combination of nature and exercise is most important in determining how they feel’
Scottish report, Mind

‘We all tend to feel better in the natural environment – so why are we working so hard to destroy it? The NHS needs to make the most of our wonderful, free natural health service.’
Dr Michael Dixon, Chairman, NHS Alliance

‘The natural environment is the great outpatient department where we can go for healing.’
William Bird, GP – Berkshire West Primary Care Trust



Karen then took questions of clarification but there were no **Unknowns or Concerns** to log onto the flipchart.

Shared priorities and possible benefits of working together

Mandy introduced this session by acknowledging that if an LNP is to work, there must be some shared priorities of areas of work between Natural Environment and Health, Wellbeing & Recreation (recognising the overlap but also the differences between Health/Wellbeing and Recreation.)

The whole group divided into four smaller groups working around tables. They had a short discussion around the following question:

What do you think are the priority areas for health, wellbeing and recreation for the next five years?

Each group generated thoughts, with the emphasis on a 'broad brush' approach, and wrote their ideas onto post-its – with a maximum of six, to encourage 'broad brush' thinking.



In turn, each group placed their post-its onto a double flipchart, with a spokesperson reading them out to the whole group. As subsequent groups repeated this, they were encouraged to sort and cluster similar ideas.

The combined post-its were as follows:

Priority Areas for Health, Well-being and Recreation for the next 5 years

Mental Health	Get more people more active more often	Spread the load away from the 'hot spots'	Accessibility
Progression from leisure walks	Lifestyle (alcohol, obesity, activity)	Education	Equal access
Early Years' interventions	Get people out of their cars	Achievability	NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training) – young people
Older People – integrated care	Facilities for elderly people	Sustainability	Sustainable travel and transport
Reduce inequality (health, social)	Engage with more people from disadvantaged / specific needs groups from urban areas	Lifestyle, mental health, obesity-Information	

Following this, Mandy revealed a slide showing the PDNPA team's estimation of the broad priority areas for the natural environment sector for the following five years:

Natural Environment Priorities

- Halt biodiversity loss (species and habitats).
- Large-scale conservation to improve, enlarge and link habitats.
- Involving more people in biodiversity issues so they are aware of the value of nature and what they can do to help.
- Reducing pressures on the environment from key sectors: Agriculture; Forestry; Planning & Development; Water Management.
- Improving our knowledge.
- Mitigating against and adapting to climate change.
- Working in partnership to achieve shared aims and objectives.



Back in small groups, there was further discussion about possible similarities and overlap between the two sets of priority areas. The groups wrote these onto bright post-its and placed them on the flipchart.

They were as follows:

Reducing pressures [on the environment] – spread the load	Involving more people in biodiversity issues to avoid erosion in popular areas – show new places. Education about why work being done. ON YOUR DOORSTEP	Climate Change – get out of the car – exercise nearer to home?	Exercise (green gym)
Supporting 'NEETS' to get out, learn skills, socialise and make a difference	Project involvement	Education	Volunteering
Working with education providers to access the environment	Training	Improving knowledge (promotion, education, information)	Unite sectors through a common theme i.e. protecting natural resources such as water
Publicity (outreach) in areas (communities) outside the Peak District. Idea – twin with an urban community to draw people into Peak District	Natural mechanism with LSPs – shared vision / action		

Mandy introduced the second part of this session, explaining that, with a Peak District LNP being in an embryonic stage, there was an opportunity to shape how it would work and what it might do. In small groups again, attendees were asked to discuss the following two points from the standpoint of how an LNP could best support or link to their organisation's work:

- *The subjects or topics an LNP should focus on*
- *The way an LNP might operate*

Each group was given a flipchart divided into two, with the headings as above. They wrote their ideas directly onto them, and then, with insufficient time to generate a 'Master list,' each group fed back their most salient point.

The flipcharts of the four groups are summarised below (one group numbered their ideas and this is replicated here):

The subjects or topics an LNP should focus on	The way an LNP might operate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and education. • Involving local people, extending networks. • Raising awareness of health issues via the environment – how reconnecting with the outdoors can help. • Engaging with existing partnerships. • Sustainability / climate change mitigation – especially bringing in local communities (e.g. water). • Volunteering opportunities. – especially for young people. • Advocacy role – e.g. strategic planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong links with current partnerships e.g. through LSP. • Public involvement / users? – How will local communities be involved? • Sub-group of PDNP Management Plan, including the likes of Wildlife Trusts etc.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessibility. 2. Using the outdoor environment as a therapeutic tool for mental, physical and spiritual improvement. 3. Nutritional aspects – growing suitable food to sell locally. 4. Cleanliness and maintaining environment – how we work to achieve this. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once decisions have been made i.e. mental health, physical health aspects, form focus groups and appoint link workers to give /receive information. 2. Singing from the same hymn sheet. 3. Supporting the cause – not just financial i.e. policy and procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding! • Themes – Access; access to the area; access within the area; access awareness; nature awareness. • Water. • Education. • Volunteering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is in charge / co-ordinating? A champion? • A meeting structure – turning meeting into action. • Who is involved and where from?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising for wide audience on the value of the natural environment to everyone. • Community values – manifested in small actions such as litter picking etc. • Engendering respect for others and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin / support / lead agency should be PDNPA. • But independent chair would be beneficial. • Explore ways in which different LNPs can share expertise in overlapping areas more efficiently.

How could your involvement best benefit the natural environment?

This shorter session was about identifying in what way the involvement of the Health, Wellbeing and Recreation sectors with a Peak District LNP would bring benefits to the natural environment. Mandy acknowledged that many people present have a concern for, or an interest in, the natural environment and may already within their work bring benefits to it. The group was asked to focus on whether involvement with an LNP could extend those benefits or add value to existing ones. They were reminded that an LNP would be likely to work at a strategic level, so any benefits would be likely to relate to information on a certain subject; knowledge and expertise; or experiences and learning etc.

This session was treated as a snowballing exercise, as follows. The group divided into pairs and discussed the question: ***What could your organisation bring to a Peak District LNP?*** The pair then wrote their joint responses onto card.

Each pair then joined with another pair, shared what they had written, then refined their ideas to select their joint top three responses.

Initial ideas were as follows:

What could your organisation bring to a Peak District LNP?

Expertise and knowledge of using outdoor environment for therapeutic use to improve mental, physical, spiritual wellbeing.	Promotion of LNP to prospective clients.	People with an interest in nature and wellbeing to use the area.	Mosaic – has been about access – could also be about volunteering.
PCT commissions health and well-being projects that involve LNP.	Influence within our (council) organisations to bring about changes in how we work or policies (corporate planning).	Partnerships i.e. influencing strategic vision/actions.	Communities – Community consultation – engagement, information sharing with view to development of joint projects, with skilled support from public and voluntary sectors, and private?
Community – personal development skills, knowledge of local environment e.g. more local walks provided by Local Authorities, rangers, wildlife trusts, including training to encourage independence.	Mosaic – Bringing awareness and educate about the benefits of visiting the Peak District.	Mosaic – partnership with a proposed LNP.	Mosaic – raising awareness of a healthy environment.
DofE – Access to young people and parents nationally.	DofE – National charity.	DofE – Expertise in environmental and outdoor education.	DofE – Recognised ‘achievement record’.

Refined and new ideas were as follows:

Link between young people and more mature people (Mosaic and DofE) in mentoring and skill sharing and joining together in volunteering activities.	(Mosaic and DofE) - Common language and communication.	(Mosaic and DofE) – Cross fertilisation of ideas and knowledge.	Community Transport – provides physical access for community groups, especially youth and elderly and disabled – to the natural environment.
Recreation – skills sharing, benefits, local knowledge.	Evidence – health, Biophilia.	Volunteering.	

Keeping involved / what next?

Karen explained the next stage of the process and let attendees know about the webpage and online survey. She announced the date of a cross-sector event as the 3rd May.

Attendees were asked to 'sign up' to indicate whether they would like to be kept involved and informed about the Peak District LNP progress – **all who attended indicated that they did wish to be kept informed and involved.**

Attendees were also asked to suggest the names (and contact details if appropriate) of individuals / organisations not present who they felt should have been.

Rhodri Thomas, PDNPA, offered an optional walk in Lathkill Dale, which a few attendees were pleased to accept.

Jane thanked everyone for their kind involvement and all contributions to the workshop.

The workshop ended at 14:30.