

Peak District Local Nature Partnership Interim Board Meeting

Wednesday 6th February 2013

Minutes

1. Introductions and Apologies

Present: Geoff Nickolds (PDNPA – Chair), Alison Pritchard (Consultant in Public Health), Anne Robinson (Friends of the Peak District), Penny Anderson (Penny Anderson Associates), Tom Moat (Natural England), Neil Moulden (Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service, Rural Action Derbyshire), Jane Marsden (Thorpe Farm, Hathersage), Jane Chapman (PDNPA), Peter Dewhurst (University of Derby, Business Peak District, Visit Peak District), Harry Bowell (National Trust), Rhodri Thomas (PDNPA), Karen Shelley-Jones (PDNPA – minutes).

Apologies: Martin Hoffman (Wheeldon Trees Farm, Director of EQM Community Interest Company), Paul Roden (Losehill House Hotel).

GN welcomed Harry Bowell to the Interim Board.

2. Matters Arising:

Minutes of last meeting and action points.

Action Points re-minuted and/or amended:

- ***KSJ - To circulate amended version of the LNP constitution with the minutes of this meeting.***
- ***AP – To summarise relevant priorities from the Derbyshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy, plus any salient points from other authorities. This to be agenda item at the next meeting.***
- ***AR – To summarise relevant points from the South Yorkshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy.***
- ***KSJ – To send round a link to the LNP webpage plus a PDF of the LNP newsletter.***

3. Information and Update

National & Regional

- GN is attending the Ministerial meeting on 11th February.

Suggested comments/issues to raise with the Minister:

HB - What does he want LNPs to do that's different – what is the vision for delivery?

HB - We are doing a lot already through partnership working, what is the need for a LNP on top?

NM – Focusing existing resources on collective issues, formalising existing partnerships and drawing in new partners.

PA – Coordination and organising delivery costs money, there is a lot of work required to collaborate and engage with partnerships which would benefit from seed corn funding. (Further discussion under item 7 Funding opportunities)

- JC attended a national LEP meeting last week, a paper on LNPs was presented at the end of the meeting but there was no discussion.
- GN and KSJ are attending the fourth regional networking and evaluation meeting run by Ursus Consulting Ltd on 25th February.
- KSJ summarised discussion responses from the three previous regional meetings, generally under the following topics:
 - Governance structures
 - Resourcing and finances
 - Names for partnerships
 - Geographic boundaries and mismatch with other strategic partnerships
 - Number of existing partnerships and organisations
 - Concern over loss of biodiversity focus.

Main discussion items:

4. What difference can we make – landscape-scale delivery

A lively discussion took place, centred around four maps showing: habitats; major landowners; major projects/initiatives; recreation provision. Opportunities were discussed for using the current interest (and funding) around cycling to link with a project promoting and enhancing the natural environment. It was generally agreed that there was a lot of existing work taking place in the Dark Peak, and that additional efforts should focus on the White Peak and/or South West Peak.

JC & KSJ to outline ideas for project opportunities and circulate to the group.

5. Geodiversity Action Plan

RT presented a paper outlining a brief for the production of a Geodiversity Action Plan for the Peak District. It was approved by the interim Board and agreed that a working group was required to steer the project and ensure delivery of a GAP in 12 months. Resources would be required for somebody to produce the GAP.

PA made the point that once the GAP is produced it needs to be incorporated into other projects.

PA suggested including other RIGS groups and involving the National Trust as they have some internal experts.

A Task and Finish Group was set up comprising RT and TM.

- ***TM to ask Natural England nationally for advice/funding.***
- ***NM to complete a funding search for opportunities to fund the production of a Geodiversity Action Plan.***
- ***RT & TM to bring a more detailed proposal to the next meeting.***

6. Communication Strategy

NM had sourced some online examples/templates for producing a communication strategy. JC pointed out that the PDNPA communication strategy is for a single organisation, not a partnership.

A Task and Finish Group was set up comprising NM, AR & JC.

- ***NM, AR & JC to bring a communication strategy draft to the next meeting.***

A future partnership forum was discussed, it was agreed that 22nd May was too soon.

- ***KSJ to produce a second (Spring) newsletter to update the wider partnership and ask for involvement.***
- ***KSJ to produce edited notes of Interim Board meetings for the website, and email the Interim Board when these are available.***

7. Funding Opportunities

PD identified large pots of money which are earmarked for growth/education projects but which may be relevant to the LNP. Examples are: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Employer Ownership of Skills Round 2.

TM – Natural England has funds for access and Green Infrastructure.

- ***All to add detail to the funding spreadsheet KSJ had previously circulated.***
- ***KSJ to look into setting up an online repository for sharing documents.***

8. Any Other Business

RT gave an update on ash dieback, and a potential seminar/meeting planned to be held in the Peak District later this year.

AR asked if this meeting could have a wider remit on forestry management in the light of the Government's response to the Independent Panel on Forestry's Report.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th April 2 - 5pm in Bakewell.

