

Peak District National Park Authority – Meet the CEO Roadshow Community Feedback

Venue: Warslow, The Greyhound

Date: 12 March 2025

NPA/Authority – the Peak District National Park Authority

Issues raised

What is the Authority doing to support young people? We currently have an internal training academy programme supporting career growth and work experience in the sector, encompassing student placements, formal traineeships and apprenticeships. This can be applied via pre-existing educational studies (such as college or university) or as separate roles which would be advertised. We have also recently embarked on a ‘Youth Voice’ initiative aiming to provide a regular opportunity for young people to input into our strategic conversations, for example as a contrast to our existing more mature Member demographic. The Green Leaders volunteering programme and Ambassador Schools also offer avenues into engaging with the work of the National Park at primary and further education levels.

Recent financial pressures have directly impacted on some of our more structured education provision with schools and some of these services will close from 2025, with associated redundancies. An ‘Engagement Manager’ post will be retained to explore how some of this work could be continued in other forms if alternative funding streams become available. This may likely involve partnerships, and one such example is a National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) bid currently being developed around our existing trails network.

Overall, the Authority does not have a formal educational remit and it is not our role to support local services in the community.

[Planning Policy] Can the Authority educate people regarding the purchase of smaller areas of land and protecting the landscape, buyers seem to be unaware of restrictions and responsibilities? The Authority has no involvement in private land sales, auctions etc and would not currently have the resources to develop specific communications or advice in this area. We will review the options of providing some general information via our website to assist buyers.

Visitor management concerns: Please see comprehensive responses to issues such as litter, parking and camping in previous Roadshow notes available on our website. Phil Mulligan has also recently taken part in a live phone-in on *BBC Derby* on a number of these concerns and this is still available: [Peak District National Park CEO answers your questions - BBC Sounds](#)

The 2025 National Park Visitor Guide has also recently been launched and this covers many of these issues, with specific advice, in detail: [Welcome Guide: Peak District National Park](#) Copies – which are free – are available for communities to display, please contact us on media@peakdistrict.gov.uk

The Authority has been focused on these issues for some time, along with the many stakeholders required in tackling these complex challenges. The priority of the National Park Management Plan is to create an 'area management' style approach, but also back this with a clear evidence-base of accurate and timely data.

It is the Authority's intention to pilot this approach in the areas currently most affected by increased visitor footfall, such as around Castleton/Hope Valley.

We have written to local MPs, the regional Mayor and parish representatives to confirm that members of our senior team have met with key local partners, initially to understand the constraints and opportunities of the measures that may be required.

Once realistic, appropriate and workable ideas have been agreed with these key partners we will then look to meet with wider forums and community representatives to explore the potential solutions, which could also be extended into other areas. This could include contacting Parishes to understand which areas may be suitable for temporary 'pop-up' car parks to reduce pressure on more formal locations that may be operating at capacity. However this will also consider the landscape and habitat impacts on such sites.

This will also work in parallel with a 'visitor charter' which is currently being developed by the Authority in discussion with Members.

Programmes such as Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) are helping to create more sustainable and resilient access to areas such as Thors Cave, to limit damage to the landscape and guide responsible visiting. The wider area around Thors Cave is not owned or managed by the National Park Authority.

It is necessary for the Authority to charge for car parking as this supports not only maintenance and litter collection at these locations, but also public toilet provision and caring for our accessible, multi-user trail network that receives hundreds of thousands of visits annually. The main Hartington car park is owned and managed by Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Issues of anti-social behaviour (e.g. drug misuse) and criminality at any local sites are a matter for the police.

Dog poo collection: The National Park Authority is not generally involved in civic/municipal litter collection such as 'dog poo' bins, which require specialist services. [please see above re general responsible visiting information].

How does the Authority engage with Parish Councils? The Authority hosts 'Parish Days' based at our Bakewell HQ, provides a Parishes Newsletter and Parish Clerks receive copies of all press releases and statements, plus other newsworthy information such as Local Plan consultations and additional community planning matters. Training days are also held. Authority officers often attend Parish meetings in person.

Planning function:

At present, around 85% of planning applications to the Authority are actually approved, and due to the necessary and appropriately strict parameters of development within the National Park – to protect the very qualities we all enjoy - it is unlikely that all applications received will be accepted. In some cases, proposals are simply not suitable or do not meet national statutory or local guidance, or are not commensurate with local plans and policies.

We are now more enabling than we have ever been in our Planning Service and staffing levels, training and development needs have been heavily invested in to better levels of capacity and following significant workforce losses after the pandemic. Our pre-application service is also

available once again and is encouraged. Due to the sheer number of applications we receive we cannot visit Parishes in person to discuss individual cases, and there remains an opportunity to do this formally as part of our public planning committee process.

We recognise elements of our website may not be as user-friendly as possible and this is being looked into.

27 March 2025