

Peak District Local Nature Partnership
Interim Board meeting
01/11/2012

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), Janet Bellfield (Natural England – standing in for Tom Moat), Karen Shelley-Jones (PDNPA – minutes), Neil Moulden (Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service, Rural Action Derbyshire), Jane Marsden (Thorpe Farm, Hathersage), Jane Chapman (PDNPA), Martin Hoffman (Wheeldon Trees Farm, Director of EQM Community Interest Company), Rachel Gillis (PDNPA).

Apologies: Tom Moat (Natural England), Peter Dewhurst (University of Derby), Paul Roden (Losehill House Hotel).

2. Background Information and Update

Karen ran through some slides to update the meeting on the background to LNPs and current thinking from Defra.

Questions/comments:

GN – Are there any Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the Peak District?

JC – Yes there are 6 which cover different parts of the Peak District, the National Park Authority (NPA) liaises with these via Business Peak District.

JB – Could LEPs provide a source of funding for LNPs?

JC – Potentially, they have recently been given funding from Government.

NM – We should focus partners' resources together rather than seeking new funding.

Rachel outlined the new National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and the role of the independent advisory group. The advisory group oversees delivery of the NPMP by various partners, not just the NPA. There are approximately 120 actions to be achieved over the next few years, which are bundled into 'Signature Projects' to help focus efforts.

Questions/comments:

AR – What is the difference between the NPMPAG and the LNP Board roles?

RG – The AG oversees delivery of the whole NPMP, whereas the LNP board would be focused on key issues.

PA – The LNP issues are broad, i.e. incorporating health; the groups would have two different functions but need to feed into each other without necessarily being hierarchical.

JC – The LNP Board is an interim one over the next 12 months to tease out some of these issues of where there is overlap.

Karen presented the final slide which depicted a potential position and function for the LNP (interim) Board.

Questions/comments:

AP – What is the Local Access Forum (LAF)?

GN – The LAF was formed as a result of the CRoW act (2000), it monitors performance and advises the NPA on public access and rights of way, with a particular current focus on motorised access issues.

PA – Climate change fits in many areas of the NPMP, both linked to the natural environment and energy/transport etc.

MH – Is there anything missing from this structure?

JC – The element of local community engagement which we would want to address through an annual partnership networking event.

AP – Likened the LNP board to Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

NM – How do we meaningfully engage with so many LSPs? It may be best to focus on one, perhaps the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales one (Neil and Jane both attend HPDD LSP).

3. Composition of the Interim Board

The existing group was thought to be a useful starting point, which will need to be adaptable as it develops.

JB – Should it have a LEP representative?

JC – Paul Roden from Business Peak District (BPD) provides the LEP link and Peter Dewhurst is also a BPD representative.

NM – Should we complete a cost-benefit analysis of trying to engage with all the LEPs – is this a viable prospect?

RG – BPD Concordat has key priorities as a basis for conversations with the LEPs about priorities for the Peak District.

AP – Will be changing jobs soon to work for the Local Authority. Elaine Michell will be the new public health representative on the Health & Wellbeing Board and could become a future member of the LNP board.

JC – Under-represented parties are Parish Councils, Local Authorities and NGOs.

JM – Sits on her parish council so appropriate to act as representative.

GN – To approach Harry Bowell (NT), to sit on the Interim Board.

PA proposed GN as Chair, there was no opposition, GN accepted.

NM offered himself as vice chair and was accepted.

4. LNP Constitution

Suggested amendments were made to the draft constitution.

KSJ - To circulate amended version for further comment.

5. LNP Priorities & Workplan

There was a discussion on whether the LNP concept had a finite lifetime. JC pointed out the reference to LNPs in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The first 12 months of the Interim Board would need to deliver the 6 month workplan as submitted to Defra in the LNP status application:

- Set up a LNP Interim Board and hold an initial board meeting to finalise governance and terms of reference; determine the working relationship between the LNP Interim Board and National Park Management Plan Advisory Group; agree working relationships and 'memorandum of agreement' with neighbouring LNPs; agree and establish resourcing priorities and ways of meeting those needs.
- Identify key Natural Environment and related business and health & wellbeing priorities which would benefit from a strengthened policy/strategy base, better integration of existing delivery or new delivery mechanisms (e.g. issues around water quality and supply including low-flow of rivers, diffuse pollution, flood-risk management, biodiversity,

moorland management and landscape/amenity have emerged as important themes from the capacity-building stage).

- Set up LNP structure - standing and task & finish groups - to reflect priorities.
- Complete a communications plan (including establishing liaison mechanisms with other bodies and fora, a strategy for engaging under-represented sectors, and setting up a LNP website).
- Support the development of a Geodiversity Action Plan.
- Identify ways of supporting community groups and plan a wider partnership launch event.

AP – To pull out the relevant priorities from the Derbyshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy ready for the next meeting.

JC – To pull out the NPMP priorities ready for the next meeting.

KSJ – To pull out the key Natural Environment White Paper actions/priorities.

Suggestions for work priorities:

Landscape scale delivery through developing Nature Improvement Area(s)

PA – Nature Improvement Area (NIA) in the South West Peak, and/or White Peak. Need to complete opportunity mapping – what is there already, what are the constraints, what do we want to achieve and where? – start with biodiversity, then add in health, recreation, business etc.

PA – need to identify what initiatives are already happening/planned and what the visions/objectives are. A ‘gap analysis’ can then be undertaken.

NM – Needs discussion with Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust etc to find out what they are doing and where their priorities lie.

PA – Suggested contacting universities to find out what Masters/PhD theses are available.

PA – Potential funding through the Water Framework Directive.

GN – Could we use existing initiatives in the Dark Peak as match funding?

KSJ – To collate existing data for biodiversity opportunity mapping.

KSJ – To collate existing information for initiative mapping of existing projects.

PA – To contact CEOs of relevant NGOs (NT, WLTs, RSPB etc) to find out any additional priorities.

GN – To provide PA with contact details for Bob Marsden (Catchment Sensitive Farming), and Chloe Palmer (Rivers Trusts).

Geodiversity Action Plan

It was agreed that this was important but unsure how to progress. PA offered professional expertise through Penny Anderson Associates.

Community event/LNP forum

JC – An annual partnership event should be arranged for next year.

KSJ – Suggested linking in with International Biodiversity Day on 22nd May.

6. LNP Communication Plan

AR – We need to keep everyone up to date on what is happening, in order to maintain momentum and keep people engaged.

KSJ – To update the LNP webpage and email out to the LNP contact list to inform them of this meeting and what is happening.

NM – Suggested using a template communication strategy to map our approach, we need consistency in brand and messages. Use of social media should also be explored.

NM – To find a template to produce a communication strategy and send to KSJ.

KSJ – To update draft LNP brochure and turn it into an E-newsletter. Change ‘why be involved in the LNP’ to ‘why the LNP is important’. To be uploaded to NPA website and circulate links to wider partnership

7. LNP Funding

We need to focus on an area in which we need to work rather than spreading our efforts thinly.

Need to identify gaps in delivery, and then see what funding may be available.

KSJ to circulate a spreadsheet of funding opportunities to the Interim Board.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

Next meetings: late January, April, May partnership event.

KSJ – To circulate a Doodle Poll of potential dates.

9. Any Other Business

PA offered meeting space in Buxton.

JC updated the meeting on Ash Dieback and PDNPA response.