

# STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP

## Minutes of the Meeting of 26 March 2015 held at the Memorial Hall, Hathersage

### Present

**Members:** Jacque Bevan, Jean Hodgkinson, Stella Mcguire, Julian Dunk, Jean Monks, John Dalton, Diane Atkinson, John Horscroft, Henry Folkard

**PDNPA and Attendee:** Mary Bagley, Rebekah Newman, Bill Gordon, Catherine Bowmer (Interpretation Manager)

**Apologies:** Jane Marsden, Adam Long, Neil Porter

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

In welcoming everyone to the meeting Jacque circulated a draft of a briefing, which had very recently been prepared, for the Royal Visit on 30 April. Those present endorsed the draft, and accepted that it might be edited before going forward.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The use of the word 'All' at item 6, on Sheepwash Bank, was queried.

Recollections of a very hurried discussion varied, but it was agreed to amend 'All Members' to 'Some Members.'

2.2 The name Henry Folkard had been omitted from the list of Attendees.

With these amendments the Minutes were accepted.

2.3 The car sticker acknowledging a £15per annum donation to North Lees was now available from the Camp Site, the Castleton Visitor Centre or via e-mail from [parking.permits@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:parking.permits@peakdistrict.gov.uk). It would also be marketed at Hollins Bank over the Easter holiday. Monies received would go to a budget heading specific to North Lees. The colour would be changed each year

Further availability via the social media, the BMC and the Outside shop at Hathersage would be explored. It was stressed that marketing should be directly linked to Management Plan objectives.

It was hoped availability of the sticker would in turn help to limit parking on verges.

### 3. Update on developments

3.1 All the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area work at North Lees had been completed on schedule.

3.2 A 'what is going on at Stanage' page had been added to the PDNPA web site.

3.3 A paper by John Barnett on the archaeology of North Lees would also be added.

3.4 The concession at Hollins Bank had been let to a pizza / hot drinks van.

3.5 A recent Derbyshire Alert e-mail drawing attention to farm crime was noted.

3.6 There was serious concern over reports of sheep being killed by dogs, despite repeated efforts by PDNPA and representatives of user groups to explain the problem to dog owners. Various examples of effective approaches were cited – the Paws on the Moors leaflet, a Sheffield Moors Partnership leaflet and a BMC video which had used humour to good effect. Effective communication should focus on how to enjoy the National Park and the countryside carefully and properly with a dog.

**Action:** Rebekah agreed to circulate links or copies of these initiatives.

3.7 After debate on how best to replace the Standedge Pole there was a preference for mounting a larch pole in a metal collar. The collar might be engraved with a simple

inscription consistent with its function, recorded as long ago as 1550, as a boundary marker.

**Action:** Jean H to chivvy an Outseats resident who had agreed to talk to Hallam University about designing and making a collar. John H to talk likewise to contacts All to consider inscription and share ideas

3.8 It was confirmed that there would be a fence on Sheepwash Bank. However its line had been reviewed, and some fencing elsewhere had actually been removed. Its retention would be reviewed in 2017 after the High Level Stewardship scheme which prompted its erection had expired. Some Members remained implacably opposed to its intrusion, and urged that the PDNPA Member representative should seek to challenge Derbyshire County Council Members who were reportedly responsible for a policy banning cattle grids. Cattle grids were seen as a more amenable solution here, and indeed elsewhere within the Sheffield Moors Partnership area where the negative impact on landscape by a number of new fences was cumulative. There was an important principle at stake.

**Action:** Stella to challenge DCC Members.

#### **4. Interpretation**

Catherine Bowmer introduced and led this item.

4.1 From a variety of options for media interpretation it was critical to decide what was appropriate for North Lees. There was a story to tell about North Lees and various locations and topics were of interest. An audit of what was, or had been, in place was circulated.

4.2 Four zones were proposed ranging from no signage at all to sites where fuller interpretation could be appropriate. After discussion there was complete agreement that there should be no signage at all on moorland areas (ie above the road), which should be regarded as one zone, whilst the Hollins Bank / toilet block area and camp site should be the only locations for any significant (if appropriate) signage.

4.3 Whilst there was also agreement that only one intermediate zone, rather than the two proposed, was necessary, it was less easy to find consensus on what was appropriate within this middle zone either in terms of what should be signed, how it should be signed or what every feature within it should properly be called – ie should one refer to the mill pond or Paper Mill Dam. Stella offered to investigate what was known of the history of this feature and circulate the information.

4.4 In summary there were two principle concerns, the first about anything which intruded in the landscape and the second about disturbing the opportunity for people to look at and make their own deductions about what they saw and interpreted in the landscape before being given an instant answer through their mobile phone (assuming they had one) and a Q R code on eg aspects of cultural heritage, ecology – and what else?

4.5 A discrete positioning of small QR code displays in limited positions within the middle zone was suggested as one way forward, though this might also be limited to an indicative map at Hollins Bank. Some Members nonetheless remained very wary indeed of anything at all outside Hollins Bank. There was always the option for anyone who was inquisitive to enjoy a little research when they got home.

4.6 After a round the table reflection some Members who were opposed to panels in the middle zone were happy with the idea of QR discs, whilst others felt were they were sited would be the critical fact. The point was made that QR discs would encourage young people who related widely to new modes of communication to feel

more involved in the history and opportunity of North Lees and encourage their interest in it. While some were undecided, others remained fundamentally opposed. **Action:** Anyone who wanted to reflect further on interpretation, and particularly on the use and extent of use of QR codes, might circulate their views by e-mail.

## **5. Forward Agenda**

The next three meetings would be themed on Access, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage and be field based, starting from Hollins Bank car park at 10.00am. The agreed dates were:

### **Access: Tuesday 28 April: 10.00am at Hollins Bank**

**Action:** Rebekah to circulate access proposals prior to meeting and invite Charlotte Gilbert to represent horse riders.

John H and Rebekah to offer Terry a lift

### **Wildlife: Tuesday 19 May: 10.00am at Hollins Bank**

### **Cultural Heritage: Tuesday 23 June; 10.00am at Hollins Bank**

The **July** meeting would, depending on availability, be in the Memorial Hall at a date to be arranged after 15 July.

**Action:** Rebekah to arrange a date

## **6. Royal Visit**

6.1 Arrangements for the visit by the Earl of Wessex on 30 April 2015 were outlined. The visit is in three parts:

- a meeting with representatives of the Peak Local Access Forum, British Mountaineering Council and Mountain Rescue below Stanage;
- North Lees Hall and a visit to the roof terrace with representatives of the Vivat Trust, the Carr family (resident at the Hall that week) and the National Park's Cultural Heritage Team. Meeting with farm tenant;
- Meeting representatives of the Stanage Forum, Sheffield Moors Partnership, Derbyshire Duke of Edinburgh Team and other National Park Officers and members at the Campsite where the Earl will present several 'Outstanding Contribution' awards.

6.2 Five key messages will be:

- the significance and value of National Parks;
- our collective commitment to Stanage-North Lees;
- the importance of working together to achieve our ambitions for Stanage-North Lees;
- the principle of 'Ours to Care For';
- the impact Stanage-North Lees has on peoples' lives.

6.3 Henry and Adam to represent the BMC at Hollins Bank.

Jacque, Jane, Jean H, Neil and possibly one other to represent the Stanage Forum and their own interests at the Campsite reception.

## **7. Any other business**

There was no other business