

# **STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February 2015 held at the Memorial Hall Hathersage**

### **Present**

**Members:** Jacque Bevan, Jean Hodgkinson, Neil Porter, John Dalton, Jean Monks, Stella Mcguire, Jane Marsden

**PDNPA and Attendee:** Bill Gordon, Rebekah Newman, Mary Bagley.

**Apologies:** Adam Long, John Horscroft, Julian Dunk

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Jacque welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were amended to read 19 January **2015** but were otherwise accepted.

It was reported that consideration was now being given to creating a holistic giving strategy for the whole of the National Park. If such an option became the preferred approach, any strategy for North Lees would be seen as part of that wider strategy as would, for example, the Trails.

A draft of a paper for the September ARP Committee Meeting would be prepared in August. This should reflect any views expressed by the Forum.

The relationship between such a strategy and the Friends of the Peak was queried.

The importance of first meeting with all the special interest groups to establish their priorities was stressed.

It was reported that quite good progress was being made in discussions with the Trustees of the Vivat Trust over North Lees Hall.

### **3. Developing a Management Plan**

#### **Future meetings**

Rebekah proposed some Guiding Principles which would frame discussions she would hold with key stakeholders, and so feed into a refreshed Management Plan. After lively discussion it was agreed a revised text for the Guiding Principles, and connections for Themes, which embraced the consensus that had emerged would be drafted. (These were subsequently circulated under cover of an e-mail from Rebekah on 26 February)

The theme for the next meeting would be people engagement, education and interpretation. Catherine Bowmer would be invited to attend.

A forward programme of meetings would be indicated in the Agenda for the next meeting. There was a preference for afternoons rather than evenings.

Nothing topical was being posted on the web site: there was current activity around Cabin Track where heather seed was being harvested: it would be appropriate for some information about what was going on to be posted.

#### **4. Campsite update**

A press release was issued on 23 January 2015 following ARP Committee's very welcome decision to invest up the £60k in upgrading the camp site. Three Steering Group Members had addressed Committee.

A planning application was being submitted for the erection of four pods, two two berth and two four berth. These would be screened within mature woodland. There were some reservations expressed regarding the larger pods.

Members welcomed the proposed upgrading but cautioned that there should be no attempt to recover costs via increased fees as that would exclude the target client group.

#### **5. Car Park Stickers**

A new design might be preferred for the stickers. These would reflect a donation had been made to the upkeep of North Lees rather than the payment of a parking fee. Specific Management Plan objectives would be tied to the launch of the stickers so subscribers could see how their donations would be spent. Subscribers would be entitled to free parking at Hollins Bank and a reduced rate at the camp site through camp site membership as an acknowledgement of their donation. In discussing the annual rate it was felt that the market would not take over £15, anyhow in the initial year. A lower rate would likely result in higher take up and increased returns. A show of hands demonstrated unanimous support for the £15pa proposal.

#### **6. Sheepwash Bank**

Rebekah said it had transpired that as a measure to keep cattle off the road it would be necessary to fence Sheepwash Bank. Derbyshire County Council had vetoed the alternative option of a cattle grid.

All Members were totally and absolutely against this development which blatantly contravened every guiding principle agreed by the Forum. A similar repudiation of the proposal by the British Mountaineering Council was also recorded.

Members were at a loss to understand how a High Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement on which there had been no consultation could override everything else. In mitigation it was suggested that when HLS expired in 2017 the grazing management of Sheepwash Bank would be reviewed and assessed in the light of the aesthetic and access impact of the fence and any archaeological impacts.

#### **7. Possible uses of Hollins Bank Toilet block**

There was no time to discuss this item.

#### **8. Other business**

There was no other business

Date and time for the next meeting would be circulated.