



Peak District Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting

30th June 2015 9:30am – 12:30pm

Boardroom, Aldern House, Bakewell DE45 1AE

Minutes

1. Introductions and Apologies

1.1. Present

Neil Moulden (Chair)
Jane Chapman (PDNPA)
Rhodri Thomas (PDNPA)
Sarah Bird (Co-ordinator)
Anne Robinson (FoPD)
Jon Stewart (NT)
Ginny Hinton (NE)

1.2. Apologies

Penny Anderson
Peter Dewhurst (University of Derby)
Paul Roden (Business Peak District)
Alison Pritchard (DCC)
Zahid Hamid

2. Minutes of last meeting and action points; matters arising

2.1. Health and wellbeing

Alison not present to update

Action: SB to get update from Alison

2.2. State of Nature Report

Penny not present to update, work will ongoing with completion ideally in the Autumn; there are issues with PDNPA data that need sorting.

Report on Inspiring Generations – the role of quality greenspace Action: JS to circulate

Karen is pulling together data for the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for the

Southwest Peak, which might have potential to feed in to the report Action: SB to check with Karen

2.3. 'Valuing England's National Parks'

Anne has circulated this with updates

2.4. Natural Capital/ D2N2

The D2N2 Natural Capital project has now decided that it will not include the Peak District. **Action: SB to double check this.**

It has not been confirmed who from Natural England will sit on this LNP Board and the D2N2 Board.

Jane and Neil attended a meeting on behalf of the Board with Lowland Derbyshire LNP and D2N2 on 15/07/15. **Action: Jane and Neil will feedback.**

There is a draft framework in development for data held by LNPs and the Natural Capital Investment Plan through work from the Northern Upland Chain LNP. The Board is supportive of this and would welcome some National guidance.

2.5. Dark Peak NIA

There is no funding for future development; Moors for the Future have taken on the role of carrying the NIA mantle. NIA areas are still a priority for agri-environment, particularly for the Facilitation Fund*.

*Fund for facilitating co-operative agri-environment schemes, minimum 4 farms/ 2000 ha, annual payment for 5 years. PDNPA White Peak put in a bid (Chatsworth, Haddon, river valleys e.g. Lathkill) but it was not successful. Farmers in the Hope Valley were considering putting in a bid, but no bid has been submitted.

2.6. South West Peak

Future Farmscape project has contracted a consultant to work with farmers and conservation bodies. Karen Shelley-Jones has held training workshops for partners.

3. Open discussion of Board representation and new Chair

Agreed discussion of Board representation should occur after a wider discussion on the purpose of the LNP and work plan for 15/16.

Organisations represented at present [Board]	Organisations/ individuals suggested for representation
Peak District National Park Authority	Farming community
Peak District National Park Membership	Hope construction
National Trust	RSPB
Natural England (Interim)	DWT
Penny Anderson Consulting/ wider biodiversity groups	Moorland/ upland
University of Derby	Amenity/ recreation
Derbyshire County Council H&WB	Peak Park Parish Forum
Friends of the Peak District	Local Access Forum
Business Peak District	
Derbyshire Dales CVS	

Geoff will no longer sit on the Board as he is no longer a National Park Authority member.

Discussion on whether we choose a new Chair from the existing group or someone else; agreed someone else, unless members not present at this meeting would like to put their names forward. Discussed and agreed that we should advertise for a new voluntary Chair, as opposed to head hunting. This approach has worked well for other forums.

Discussion around the type of person the Board would like for the new Chair – high profile, dynamic, advocate for nature. Need to define the role.

Action: JC and SB to adapt and circulate the Advisory Group Chair profile for consideration.

4. Overview of Nature Peak District work plan 2014/15 and work plan 2015/16

Agreed that while some tasks are still ongoing, the work plan 2014/15 is now an historic document. Agreed need a facilitated session and possibly a wider audience on future focus (see section on Future Focus for the LNP).

The LNP vision is in the constitution **Action: SB to circulate constitution.** May need to come up with a strapline that is shorter than the vision.

Action: SB to check other LNP websites for visions, strategies etc.

What can we do to add value to what is already happening?

How best can we promote our success? E.g. the South West Peak

5. Feedback from annual LNP meeting with Minister in March (and any other meetings attended)

Action: SB to get update on LNP meeting from ZH.

Agreed there should be an LNP email update once a month with links to documents and summaries.

Action: SB to produce a monthly email update and forward any more urgent information to Board members.

LNPs in the Yorkshire region hold regular meetings Action: JC to send date of next to AR, AR to attend National Park Management Plan Advisory Group was attended by PA, JS attended meeting on 08/07/15 representing the LNP. Need to decide who will attend in future once we have a new Chair.

6. Wider Partner meeting/ State of Nature launch

To be dealt with at a future date when more is known about the possible completion of the report, and the future direction and constitution of the LNP Board.

7. Brief project update, future direction of BAP projects

NT has a new strategy: 'Land, outdoors and nature' Action: JS to circulate.

Action: All to contribute to a full list of projects for future updates; send to SB.

There is currently a PDNPA strategic review. Going forward there will be a focus on three major plans/ strategies – National Park Management Plan, Landscape Strategy and Local Development Framework.

7.1. Moors for the Future

Still waiting to hear the outcome of the MoorLIFE bid, although signs are positive.

7.2. Dove restoration project (NE and Trent Rivers Trust)

A document has been produced for liaising with stakeholders, e.g. fishing clubs, regarding proposed actions, e.g. weir removal.

7.3. Ash Dieback

Monitoring project: 100 plots within the SAC, across a range of landholdings are being monitored for impacts physically and on future management plans. There will be monitored either all on a 5 yearly basis, or 1/5 every year rotationally.

Update: confirmation that it is now present in the Peak District (not to be discussed until joint press release with NE).

7.4. Eastern Moors Partnership

The partnership will take on the long term management of Burbage moors from Sheffield Council by the autumn, with the option to incorporate the woodland in 5 years' time after the end of the woodland grant scheme.

7.5. White Peak Grasslands

Meeting held in wb 29/06/15 about the project.

7.6. Birds of Prey

Hen Harrier day will take place in the Goyt on 09/08/15. There are no breeding pairs in the PD this year as far as is known. Peregrine are not doing very well at the moment, but numbers for Short-eared owl and Merlin are holding up. This is the 5th year since targets for breeding pairs were set, but these have not been met.

7.7. CSS

The new Countryside Stewardship Scheme was launched in July, with interested parties needing to show expression of interest by 15/07/15. On 09/07/15 there was an event for farmers held in Bakewell.

7.8. Waders project

Funding specifically for this project has come to an end and there is no longer a dedicated project officer. Staff time from PDNPA and elsewhere has been allocated to maintain links with landowners and continue surveys. Surveys in the Dark Peak have been carried out this year to assess presence in 'hotspots'. There is a specific wader project proposed within the South West Peak Partnership.

7.9. Invasive non-native species

Being run by SB whilst Fran Horsford is on maternity leave. Himalayan Balsam is being controlled along the Manifold and Dove through contractor time, volunteers and some staff time; continuing the headwater-down approach.

8. Communications Plan

See Action below – to be included in the work plan workshop.

9. Geodiversity strategy/ Geotourism (RT on behalf of Albert Benghiat)

Albert Benghiat from the East Midlands Geological Society has volunteered to conduct a feasibility assessment of the potential for Geopark status of the Peak District. He is aiming to complete a report to present to the Board at the autumn meeting, to see if the LNP will take on championing the project. Through this Albert is producing a framework for a Geodiversity Action Plan. There will also be a conference in November on Geotourism, inviting people from the tourism sector.

10. Date of next meeting

The workshop to continue discussion on the future direction of the LNP will be on 30th July 2015 at 10am.

11. Future focus for the LNP

As mentioned, it was agreed that there should be a facilitated session looking at the future direction of the LNP, what the LNP's role will be/ what the LNP can do that will add value, and come up with a short- and long-term work plan, and communication plan. All members present volunteered, so it was agreed that it should be started at the meeting.

Notes from this session are on the next page.

Nature Peak District will: (what we want to see/ outcomes)

- Maintain the extent and quality of the natural world – ecosystem function and species richness
- Halt the decrease in biodiversity
- Engage people with the natural environment, more people will care for, and understand what good looks like
- Help integrate economic and environmental objectives (an economy that enhances the environment)
- Show visually what a thriving, inspiring landscape looks like in the 21st century
- Stress our role in looking forward

Aspirations:

White Peak:

- Threatened plateau grasslands – protect and enhance
- Daleside grasslands management
- Dales woodlands – creating new life and future-proofing
- Associated iconic species – wood warbler, meadow cranesbill, dipper, water vole, otter
- Quarry opportunities for nature in restoration – design and access
- Restore/ ensure water quality and quantity

Dark Peak:

- Viable populations of black grouse, birds of prey and waders on restored moorland
- Be the place of choice to see the above
- Best practice and exemplar moorland management
- Showing how access and conservation can work
- Expand clough woodlands
- Restore the inbye and moorland fringe – important for curlew (curlew recovery programme)

South West Peak:

- Ensure SWPP and LNP principles and aims are aligned.

These are notes from the discussions that were had at the meeting, with the approach of 'what we want to see', 'what can the LNP do'.

We will follow this up at the workshop meeting on 30/07/15.