



Peak District Local Nature Partnership Interim Board Meeting

Wednesday 3rd July 2013 10 am – 1 pm

Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

MINUTES

1. Introductions and Apologies

Present: Geoff Nickolds (PDNPA – Chair), Anne Robinson (Friends of the Peak District), Neil Moulden (Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service, Rural Action Derbyshire), Jane Chapman (PDNPA), Peter Dewhurst (University of Derby, Business Peak District), Paul Roden (Business Peak District), Tom Moat (Natural England), Rhodri Thomas (PDNPA), Karen Shelley-Jones (PDNPA).

Apologies: Alison Pritchard (Consultant in Public Health, DCC), Penny Anderson (Penny Anderson Associates), Jane Marsden (Thorpe Farm, Hathersage), Harry Bowell (National Trust).

2. Minutes of last meeting, action points & matters arising

Geodiversity Action Plan

A Geodiversity Action Plan (GAP) is needed to cover the Peak District in order to link up the work and action of different interest groups. Sheffield Area Geology Trust has previously put forward some suggestions.

JC has some money to put into this work.

NM met with a representative of the National Stone Centre in Wirksworth recently who expressed an interest in the LNP and a GAP.

TM has spoken to Jonathan Larwood at NE regarding funding for GAP work, and is awaiting a response.

It was suggested that there may be potential to apply for World Heritage Site or Geopark status which may draw in extra interest. Involving the quarry companies would also be important.

- ***RT to set a new date for a GAP project meeting, and invite Jonathan Larwood and National Stone Centre.***
- ***RT & TM to bring a more detailed proposal to the next meeting.***

Eco-tourism courses

PD met with Jim Dixon and Rachel Gillis (PDNPA) to discuss a series of joint initiatives including: representatives of PDNPA to join the University of Derby Industry Advisory Board, with possible appointments as visiting fellows, this would enable direct input to eco-tourism degree course content.

The University is also developing links with Botswana Accountancy College and the large elephant reserve in the Okavango Delta, providing opportunities to make links between educational establishments and National Parks.

Potential links are also being explored with a large number of universities in China.

GN remarked on the unveiling of the Croatian roundhouse (a Kažun) at Parsley Hay to mark the accession of Croatia to the EU.

Health & Wellbeing Boards

NM met with Julie Hirst and is meeting with 2 locality managers of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to discuss shared objectives, so should be in a position to bring some information to the next meeting. The CCGs are in the early stages of establishment so now is a good opportunity to seek to influence their agendas.

PD commented that there is a lot happening around the health & wellbeing agenda in the Peak District but it is fragmented, and needs pulling together. Is there an opportunity for investment from one of the LEPs?

Communication Strategy

- **KS-J to flesh out the detail of the communication strategy – with the Head of Communication at the PDNPA, and invite Maureen Eastgate to the next board meeting.**
- **KS-J to add the Churnet Valley Masterplan document to Basecamp.**

3. LNP Board representation

It was noted that Martin Hofman had unfortunately resigned from the board due to personal reasons, leaving a space to fill. Suggestions included a representative from the Stoke and Staffordshire LEP; Sue Prince (or a suggestion from Sue); a business rep from JCB or Severn Trent Water.

- **KS-J to add the LNP Terms of Reference document to Basecamp.**

4. South West Peak projects

GN, KS-J and RT updated the board on discussions to date around developing a landscape partnership project in the South West Peak, with sustainable farming at the heart, and taking on board other natural environment priorities of water, grassland and farmland waders. The project would need to encompass rural economic issues, health, recreation, skills, local communities and cultural heritage as well as biodiversity issues.

JC suggested that the Warslow Moors Estate could be used as a model for rural business and good practice.

TM suggested that we could line up the SWP as a new Nature Improvement Area (NIA), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is only one route for possible funding, there may be others.

JC noted that the local food industry, farm diversification and connections with the natural environment are likely to be of interest to the LEP.

Two initial project scoping meetings have taken place, and a workshop of broadly natural environment people is planned (probably 25th July) to develop thinking further. A second workshop will take place in the late summer/early autumn with landowners.

KS-J has written a brief for a workshop facilitator (for the first workshop only). Comments on this in terms of defining workshop objectives are welcomed from the board, these will feed into the workshop planning meeting with the appointed facilitator.

HLF recommend that applicants submit smaller project bids in advance of a large Landscape Partnership application. This could form part of the workshop discussions – what projects could stand alone and which should be included in the landscape partnerships scheme. KS-J suggested a project on invasive species which is already largely worked up between PDNPA, Trent Rivers Trust and others.

- **KS-J to circulate the facilitator brief to the board for information.**
- **ALL to feedback any comments for workshop development asap.**
- **KS-J to send workshop invitation to the board.**

5. White Peak Projects

Rivers

Officers and members of PDNPA, plus other organisations are involved in discussions around the drying up of the River Lathkill and Bradford. A detailed study by Professor John Gunn has attributed this to the sough from Magpie Mine which drains a large quantity of water from the Lathkill and diverts it into the Wye. Further work is needed to understand the implications of blocking the sough and determine costs and responsibilities. There are a number of other old mine soughs in the Peak which may be at risk of collapse, the implications of some may be residential flooding.

Ash dieback

AR has drafted a project funding bid to go to Defra on assessing the value of, and monitoring ash woodlands in the White Peak; the potential implications of ash dieback; taking forward sustainable woodland management; ecosystem services implications etc.

- **AR & JC to finalise draft ash woodland project bid and provide to Jim Dixon to take to Defra.**
- **AR & JC to send copy of ash woodland project bid to GN to take to Forestry commission meeting tomorrow.**
- **AR to circulate final version of ash woodland project bid to the board.**

Cycling

There has been no announcement of the outcome of the cycling project bid. PR suggested approaching the LEPs for funding if the bid is unsuccessful.

PD mentioned a series of 'Cycle to the Cinema' events taking place on the Sheffield side of the Peak. See link: <https://www.facebook.com/CycletotheCinema>

L'Eroica vintage bicycle festival is set to come to the Peak District in 2014, as is the Tour de France.

6. Relationships with other partnerships

Other LNPs and LEPs

GN & JC met with Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire LNP (LD&NLNP) to discuss the respective LNPs. LD&NLNP gave a presentation to D2N2 LEP which was well received. D2N2 see Sherwood Forest and the Peak District as of value for being nice places to live and visit.

GN & JC are meeting with representatives of the Stoke and Staffs LEP on 17th July to discuss ways of working together, it would be useful to have a business person there to represent our interests and talk the language.

TM – LEPs have to produce a growth plan, and also a plan for RDPE money (the latter by September 2013)

JC – Sheffield City Region Growth Plan call for evidence has gone out, JC and AR are drafting a response on behalf of the LNP, Business Peak District etc.

- **KS-J to find out from Sue Lawley what is happening with the Staffs LNP.**
- **TM to send electronic copy of the LD&NLNP presentation to D2N2 round to the board.**
- **JC to seek figures on jobs, growth etc for Staffordshire Moorlands area.**
- **PD to circulate the press release relating to LEP money from Europe, RDPE etc.**
- **TM to send a model to JC of 'environment hooks' for LEPs.**
- **JC to contact Andrew Pritchard regarding an invitation to the D2N2 consultation event on 22nd July.**

Catchment Partnerships

GN summarised Defra's call for over 80 catchment partnerships to be set up around the country following successful pilots which included the Dove. A small amount of funding has been made available to these partnerships.

See EA pages on catchment based approach here:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/131506.aspx>

And govt press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-health-gets-16-million-boost>

It was agreed that the LNP needed to provide the strategic framework for catchment partnerships to work within, and to ensure a coordinated approach.

7. Partnership Event

PD suggested a joint showcase day for the LNP, LEPs, Business Peak District, Visit Peak District, Peak District Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Boards. Each of these have similar agendas and all depend upon the natural environment of the Peak District to a greater or lesser extent, it therefore makes sense to link together and put on a shared event.

- **NM, PD & KS-J to set up a task and finish group to deliver a Peak District partnerships event in October.**
- **PD to check availability of the Buxton Dome for a Peak District partnerships event in October.**
- **KS-J to send round a Doodle Poll for October dates for a Peak District partnerships event.**

8. Dates of Next Meetings

- **KS-J to email board and find best date for board meetings in September and November.**

9. Any Other Business

Duty to consult

PDLNP had been approached by a planning officer at East Staffordshire Borough Council concerning any cross-boundary issues.

The board briefly discussed the duty to consult LNPs on strategic planning matters. It was agreed that the PDNPA would be the lead party on general planning matters, and any strategic issues of note would be raised with the LNP board.

TM informed the board that Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils had promised to provide planning support to the LD&NLNP.

- **TM to see if there is a paper from the LD&NLNP on planning support from the County Councils.**

Woodland Biodiversity Project

AR reported back from the Woodland BAP group meeting that the FC Woodland Biodiversity Project Officer had enquired after the LNP and whether the LNP can offer support/be an advocate of individual projects. Some clarity is required on the relationship between LNP and BAP.

University of Derby Eco-pods

PD reported that the University of Derby has commissioned the construction of some pilot eco-pods in Buxton. These are a carbon-positive temporary structure which do not require connection to any resources, but if connected to the grid can contribute power.