



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday 23 March 2017, 10.00 am

Pateley Bridge Council Chamber

1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes

1.1 Attendance:

Harrogate Borough Councillors: Cllr. Nigel Simms, Cllr. Stanley Lumley, Cllr. Christine Ryder, Cllr. Tom Watson

North Yorkshire County Councillors: Cllr. John Fort

Harrogate Borough & North Yorkshire County Councillors: Cllr. Margaret Atkinson, Cllr. Michael Harrison

Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)

Chris Hawkesworth (Parish Councils)

Caroline Bradley (British Horse Society)

Heather Garnett (Friends of the AONB)

Paula Newson-Smith (Nidderdale Plus)

Andrew Smith (NFU)

Francis Dawson (Parish Councils)

Heather Garnett (Friends of Nidderdale AONB)

Ros Evans (Nidderdale AONB volunteers)

Justin Scully (National Trust)

Stephen Ramsden (CLA)

1.2 Officers:

Andrew Bainbridge (NYCC)

Julia Casterton (NYCC)

Rita Mercer (YDRT)

Paul Burgess (AONB)

Alice Crosby (AONB)

Mary Jones (AONB)

1.3 Apologies:

Kathryn Daly (HBC)

Keith Tordoff (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade)

Dennis Tarter (Ripon Cathedral)

Liz Small (NYCC)

Graham Spooner (Nidderdale AONB volunteers)

1.4 Substitutes:

Ros Evans was substitute for Graham Spooner and Julia Casterton was substitute for Liz Small.

2.0 Declaration of Interests

2.1 No interests were declared.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016

3.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

4.0 Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 Local Plan for Harrogate District: (item 6)
Following the discussion at the last meeting Harrogate Borough Council have produced a draft of a separate AONB policy which will be included in the growth strategy section of the plan. The definition of a major development will be assessed on a case by case basis. The draft will be out for consultation in a few weeks.

5.0 A59 Kex Gill Realignment

5.1 Andrew Bainbridge gave a presentation summarising the problems with the A59 at Kex Gill which led to a long-term closure of the road due to a landslip. Geotechnical consultants have advised that there remains instability both to the sides of the valley and under the road. The County Council are therefore considering a diversion to the road and have commissioned an options appraisal. A steering group made up of NYCC officers, Mouchel and Councillors John Fort and Christine Ryder has been formed. The most realistic option for realigning the road is to the north of the valley, which is in the AONB and is in the vicinity of three SSSIs and a SAC. It is hoped the work could be done within three years. In mitigation, the road in the valley would be completely removed.

6.0 The Wild Watch

6.1 Alice Crosby, the new AONB Project Officer gave a presentation on the HLF-funded £350,000 Wild Watch project. The Wild Watch aims to check a list of 50 rare plants and animals in Nidderdale AONB over the next four years. The data will be gathered by both volunteers and professional ecologists to power models developed by cutting-edge science which will enable the planning of future work programmes to aid the recovery of wildlife. The species list was circulated to those interested. The presentation is attached.

7.0 Natural Nidd Action Plan

7.1 Rita Mercer from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust gave a presentation on the Natural Nidd Action Plan. The Dales & Vales Rivers Network (DVRN) is the Yorkshire Dales equivalent of a national network of river catchment partnerships established by Defra in 2013. DVRN is developing catchment actions plans and the AONB has been working with the network on a plan for the Nidd from the source of the river in Upper Nidderdale to the confluence with the Ouse at Nun Monkton near York. The presentation is attached.

8.0 Progress achieved in 2016-2017, and a Delivery Plan for 2017-2018

8.1 Paul Burgess summarised the report circulated in advance of the meeting giving an assessment of end of year progress against targets delivered by the AONB team during 2016-17. A delivery plan for 2017-18 had also been circulated in advance of the meeting.

9.0 Summary of planning application responses

9.1 Paul Burgess tabled a report summarising the JAC's response to planning applications since the last meeting.
It was noted that Gary Bell the head of planning at HBC is happy to meet with Parish Councils if they wish to discuss the way planning applications are being determined. Concerns were raised about inappropriate security lighting and surfacing of properties in rural locations. Additionally illegal signage is proliferating in the AONB. PB agreed to investigate both issues and to write to NYCC.

10.0 Reports from Partners

- 10.1 National Trust: JS reported on the development of the Skell Landscape Partnership with Nidderdale AONB and other partners, involving the National Trust in a partnership scheme which is a new way of working for the Trust. Additionally the scheme covers the entire Skell catchment so involves land outside the Trust's land holdings. The biggest risk to the Studley Royal Estate is flooding and silting; £20M has been spent in last 20 years to remove silt from the site. The scheme also involves water quality and access improvements, and restoration of heritage assets in the Skell valley. The bid to HLF will be submitted in June. The Estate had its busiest year ever last year, from June onwards. It is the fifth-busiest NT property. Infrastructure investment is a big challenge. Fire and emergency plans are now in place.
- 10.2 Yorkshire Water: LH reported that a £8.6M scheme to alter the spillway at Gouthwaite is in progress.
- 10.3 Friends: HG reported that upcoming AGM will include reports on the Prince's Countryside Fund grant, and the Biffa Pollinator Pathways project, with a speaker from Buglife attending.

11.0 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Francis Dawson was stepping down as a Parish Councillor, and was thanked for his long contribution to the JAC and his parish.
- 11.2 Dates of future meetings: Study tour 6 July 2017, AGM 21 September 2017