



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday 17 March 2016, 10.00 am

Pateley Bridge Council Chamber

1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes

1.1 Attendance:

Harrogate Borough Councillors: Cllr. Nigel Simms, Cllr. Christine Hill, Cllr. Stanley Lumley, Cllr. Christine Ryder
North Yorkshire County Councillors: Cllr. John Fort
Harrogate Borough & North Yorkshire County Councillors: Cllr. Margaret Atkinson
Caroline Bradley (British Horse Society)
Chris Fowler (National Trust)
Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)
Chris Hawkesworth (Parish Councils)
Francis Dawson (Parish Councils)
Paula Newsome-Smith (Nidderdale Plus)
Stephen Ramsden (CLA)
Andrew Smith (NFU)
Graham Spooner (AONB Volunteers)
Tim Thom (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
Keith Tordoff (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade)
Keith Wadd (Ramblers' Association)
Tom Wheelwright (Moorland Association)

1.2 Speakers:

Dr Anita Glover
Dr Tim Thom

1.3 Officers:

Dave Allenby (HBC)
Mary Jones (AONB)
Julia Casterton (NYCC)
Paul Burgess (AONB)

1.4 Apologies:

Cllr. Michael Harrison (HBC & NYCC)
Peter Wells (Ramblers' Association)
Heather Garnett (Friends of the AONB)
Liz Small (NYCC)
Jules Marley (CPRE)

1.5 Substitutes:

Keith Wadd attended the meeting as a substitute for Peter Wells
Julia Casterton attended the meeting as a substitute for Liz Small

2.0 Declaration of Interests

2.1 No interests were declared.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015

3.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

4.0 Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 There were no matters arising.

5.0 Progress achieved in 2015-2016, and a Delivery Plan for 2016-2017

5.1 PB referred the committee to the circulated report, and highlighted some successes and some areas where the expected progress had not been achieved.
Successes in 2015-16 included: a successful grant application to Biffa for funding of the Pollinating Pathways in Washburn Valley project, and Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership projects such as the Sand martin wall, NiddFest and Whole Farm Plans.

5.2 Targets that were not met will go forward into the coming year's delivery plan, including Biodiversity offsetting, delayed due to the lack of a Government legislative framework, work on the conservation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Progress on Rights of Way improvements have been adversely affected by the reorganisation at North Yorkshire County Council.

6.0 Humberstone Bank Farm

6.1 Lisa Harrowsmith reported on the process of re-letting this environmentally-sensitive 800Ha farm on Pockstones Moor.

7.0 Invasive Non-Native Species

7.1 Dr Anita Glover reported on her research into invasive species and how to prevent their spread.

8.0 The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

8.1 Dr Tim Thom, Northern Regional Manager for YWT, and a new member of the JAC, gave an introduction to the Trust's work across the whole of Yorkshire.

9.0 Planning Matters

9.1 PB referred the committee to the table of planning issues covered by the JAC Executive. He noted that the Equestrian Design guide is being replaced by a new farm and equestrian building design guide is being developed and will become a Special Planning Document in the Harrogate District Local Plan.

10.0 Reports from Partners

10.1 Gouthwaite Reservoir Board: CH reported that the town of Knaresborough is concerned that Gouthwaite Reservoir is overflowing at peak times causing flooding in the town. A proposal has been made to keep the reservoir at a maximum of 50% capacity.

10.2 Country Land and Business Association: SR reported on concerns about fracking extending under protected areas and possibly affecting those farms and dwellings that rely on natural springs for their water supply.

10.3 NYCC: JC reported that the North Yorkshire and York LNP are to recruit for a project officer to work 50% in North Yorkshire and 50% in the East Riding.

10.4 Nidderdale Plus: Paula Newsome-Smith reported that the new Community Office has opened and has a thriving volunteer team to give local advice, tourist information and to assist with the library.

10.5 National Farmers' Union: AS reported that the Yorkshire Post has been publicising problems with dairy prices and the late payments.

- 10.6 Yorkshire Water: LH reported on collaboration with the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership at Scar and Angram and work at Gouthwaite to contain invasive species.
- 10.7 Harrogate Borough Council: DA reported that rural housing supply for the next four years is being planned now.
- 10.8 National Trust: CF reported that visitor numbers last year equalled or just exceeded previous years despite the wet summer. Brimham Rocks has a problem with overcrowding on bank holidays and a long-term solution is being sought. For the Easter period 'no parking' signs will be placed on the road verges. CF also reported that he will be retiring in June.
- 10.9 Moorland Association: TW reported that the wet weather has affected the heather burning season this winter.

11.0 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Best wishes were passed to Dave Allenby on his forthcoming retirement after many years' service for Harrogate Borough Council on the JAC.

Dates of JAC meetings in 2016

21 July (Study Tour)
15 September (AGM)