

# STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP

## Minutes of the meeting of 23 July 2015 held at Thorpe Farm

### **Present**

**Members:** Jacque Bevan, Jean Hodgkinson, Jane Marsden, John Dalton, John Horscroft, Neil Porter, Dianne Atkinson, Michael Longworth, Bill Gordon, Henry Folkard

**PDNPA:** Mary Bagley, Rebekah Newman, Mailys Cochard

**Apologies:** Stella Mcguire, Jean Monks, Julian Dunk, Andrew McCloy

### **Refreshed Management Plan**

Prior to the meeting Rebekah had circulated a number of draft outline papers relating to each of the sections, Landscape, People, Connections, Resources in the Vision, along with an Introduction and a short opening scene setting piece on the Spirit of Stanage.

### Spirit

There was some discussion as to whether the Spirit of Stanage piece should be freestanding or whether selected sentences should form a preamble to each section and/or be presented within quotation marks as if written by for example a climber or volunteer or local person.

There was also a suggestion the Plan might conclude with a piece of poetry.

### Format

The final draft should emerge as a concise document, supplemented as necessary by a free standing Action Plan which might be cross referenced within the Plan, but published only via the web site.

It was agreed that the suggested framework should form the basic structure of the Plan and that Rebekah should have freedom to let the final draft evolve in the writing as seemed best whilst the document was taking shape.

The following were among the general and the specific points made during discussion:

- the distinction between an aim and an ambition should become apparent in the writing;
- targets had to be measurable;
- it was crucial that functions routine to the proper running of North Lees, and demanding of staff time, should be adequately reflected in the Plan;
- there should be a sense that the Plan was something owned by everyone;

- on overview the draft documents as circulated had been well put together;
- expression of ambition should be stronger, leaving a clear sense of where we wanted to get to

### Landscape

- there should be more on farming within the landscape section since this was absolutely central to the delivery of agreed landscape objectives;
- for cultural heritage the proposed LIDAR survey was high priority and would be integral to informing subsequent priorities;
- 'historical investigation' might be a better way of describing any below ground surface examination than 'archaeological dig';
- the word 'all' should be removed in the reference to 'access to all areas' and a phrase like 'areas of interest' substituted;
- in measuring performance of the camp site it was important to reflect social purpose as well as economic aspects.

### People

- there needed to be more in the recreation section, and this should include more on opportunities for education;
- North Lees was important to a wide range of different groups of people eg the elderly as well as the under-represented, and targets were as important for, for example, the former as well as the latter;
- the citing of people engaged in visitor surveys was important in ensuring data on the full range of different users was adequately captured.

Rebekah mentioned in passing that the newly arrived pods on the camp site were proving an instant success, and were already being heavily booked.

She reported she had a meeting scheduled next week regarding Bells Box which would address matters of detail as well as principle. The facility was available to all Scout and Guide Groups, not St Andrew's alone.

### **Update on Vivat Trust**

PDNPA had been informed late last week that the Vivat Trust had gone into receivership. The full implications of this for the Authority had yet to unravel.

It was felt that paradoxically this might provide a significant opportunity for the future management of North Lees both in terms of business opportunity and public usage. The premises were in very good repair at the moment, but it would be necessary to maintain some form of occupancy / heating to keep things in good order.

It was stressed that it had long been a cardinal principle of the Forum that North Lees should never be fragmented. The Hall was an integral part of the Estate and whatever the outcome of the collapse of the Vivat arrangement, the Hall itself must not be treated as being distinct from the rest of the Estate.

## **Forward Agenda**

1. Detailed comments on the documents already circulated to be with Rebekah by the end of July.
2. A revised draft would be circulated for written comment around mid August at the same time as it was sent round internally within the Authority.
3. The second revision would be presented to ARP Committee at their 18 September Meeting. It would be helpful if one or two Members of the Forum could attend and speak.
4. External consultation would be co-ordinated with an Open Meeting of Stanage Forum late October

A further Steering Group meeting would be required to finalise arrangements for the annual plenary Forum. This was arranged for 2.00pm on 1 October at Thorpe Farm.

The format for the plenary Forum would be a number of short – five minute – illustrated presentations from a range of people whose voluntary effort contributed to the well being of Stanage, but should also include a similarly short presentation on resources from Sarah Fowler.

The date of the plenary Forum was set for 31 October, subject to availability on the Memorial Hall.

## **Hathersage Gala Mountain Bike Race**

Following an event at the recent gala, which had been successful but had not been authorised to use some parts of North Lees, it was agreed an alternative route should be proposed and that some financial contribution towards the upkeep of North Lees, perhaps via the Gala Committee, should be sought.

## **Review of Steering Group Membership**

It was noted that some Members of the Steering Group had not attended any of its recent meetings. The Secretary was asked to confirm with them their intentions. If they were no longer intending to represent their particular interest group, alternative nominees should be sought.

At the same time Jean Hodgkinson, along with the Secretary, was asked to review the Constitution, and suggest any amendments that seemed appropriate with the effluxion of time. Any such amendments should be put to the plenary Forum for ratification.

## **Next Meetings**

**Steering Group: 2.00pm on Thursday 1 October at Thorpe Farm**

**Plenary Forum: 2.00pm on Saturday 31 October at the Memorial Hall,  
Hathersage**  
(to be confirmed)