



Peak District Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting

Friday 21st February 2014 10am - 1pm

Boardroom, Aldern House, Bakewell, DE45 1AE

Minutes

1. Introductions and Apologies

Present: Jane Chapman, Penny Anderson, Zahid Hamid, Anne Robinson, Neil Moulden, Karen Shelley-Jones, Chris Dean (for item 3).

Apologies were received from Geoff Nickolds, Tom Moat, Peter Dewhurst.

Neil Moulden chaired the meeting in Geoff's absence.

Zahid Hamid was welcomed as a new member of the Board.

This was a disappointing turn out for the meeting, hopefully due to this being half term week. Nonetheless there were some very useful and stimulating discussions.

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

The minutes of the last meeting in September were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Geodiversity Action Plan

Rhodri and Tom have met to discuss this, but no further progress has been made.

All present agreed that the production of a Geodiversity Action Plan was important but not urgent.

- Tom/Rhodri to pursue

Communication Plan

No further progress had been made on this.

- KSJ to refresh the communication plan and draft a workplan to be discussed at the next board meeting

Evaluation of LNPs

The first Defra funded (£101,888) LNP evaluation has not yet been published although the second evaluation is underway (Jane, Penny, Geoff and Karen had all recently been interviewed as part of this).

3. Moors for the Future funding bids (Chris Dean)

Chris Dean gave a presentation on two funding bids which the Moors for the Future Partnership is progressing: LIFE Nature for MoorLIFE 2020 and a phase 2 HLF bid for the community science project.

The LNP Board agreed to provide a letter of support for the community science bid.

4. Project Updates - South West Peak, White Peak Rivers, Ash dieback, Cycling, Dark Peak NIA

South West Peak

Karen had provided a highlight report in advance of the meeting, and updated the board on some key issues:

Evidence of Need

Jane provided an update on the current direction of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) which indicates that the SWP is likely to be given high priority for targeting (rather than the whole Peak District).

- JC/Sue Fletcher to provide information on the current situation with NELMS to KSJ.

Size of Landscape Partnership area

HLF used to set a very strict maximum of 200 km²; they have subsequently relaxed this and have recently funded a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) at over 500 km². The proposed South West Peak Landscape Partnership area is 354 km². Project partners have frequently discussed potential to reduce the size of this area, but no coherent way of doing so has yet been agreed upon. HLF are keen that LPS' draw heavily upon the National Character Area profiles, plus we have a detailed Local Character Assessment which we are using as baseline evidence (which gives us the 354km²). Karen is to produce a short argument for why we need to include the whole area and test this with NE advisors and HLF West Midlands.

Funding

The amount of funding that the partnership is bidding for has yet to be finalised, but this is strongly linked to the size of the area, as HLF would like to see that their investment is making a difference – the larger the area the more money is needed to make a difference. The partnership also needs to be able to attract significant match funding. Although HLF will technically fund up to 90%, the average intervention rate is 68%.

White Peak Rivers

The River Lathkill Project is aiming to restore perennial flow to the river - evidence suggests that the river suffers the dual problem of Magpie Sough intercepting groundwater from the Lathkill catchment so that the river is fed less water at its source (Lathkill Head Cave and nearby springs); and water draining from the river into the underlying Lathkill Sough. The proposed solution is to put a control structure in both soughs to raise water levels. Specifications have been drawn up and costed for Magpie Sough, and exploratory work to locate an appropriate access shaft to Lathkill Sough is being done. Roadshows have been held at Over Haddon, Monyash and Youlgrave, and with Derbyshire Caving Association/Peak District Mines Historical Society, to engage people in the project. A sub-group has drawn up ideas for community engagement, education and interpretation, and issues of liability, lead organisation, consents and scoping an Environmental Impact Assessment are currently being progressed. An initial

meeting has been held with Heritage Lottery Fund and they gave a very positive response to the project, stressing the importance of community engagement and of not underestimating costs (current cost estimates are around £700,000 - £1m). The next application deadline is May.

Ash Dieback

Although external funding has not been secured, a meeting with key landowners has been held to explore whether there is an interest in a co-ordinated approach to monitoring and trialling management to mitigate the impacts of Ash Dieback in SAC woodlands, and whether progress can be made within existing resources. There is universal interest in such a co-ordinated approach and monitoring methodologies are currently being developed, potential monitoring plots identified and resource implications assessed. Danish Forestry student Louise Roum has been leading much of this work. There has been a case of Ash Dieback in non-planted Ash in southern Derbyshire but no signs as yet in the Peak District.

Cycling

The National Park cycling strategy is now out for consultation. Board members are urged to view the consultation at the link below and provide comment as they see fit (deadline 21 March).

<http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/about-us/have-your-say/consultations/wider-peak-district-cycle-strategy-consultation>

Cycling and expansion of the Pedal Peak District project is part of the package of intervention projects being presented to Local Enterprise Partnerships for future funding for the Peak District. The LNP role is to ensure that there is a positive benefit from the focus on cycling, and that any potential negative impacts are mitigated.

Dark Peak NIA

The NIA has one more year of Defra funding, all actions are on target.

5. LNP structure and working groups

Penny presented a paper on a proposed nature conservation sub-group which was discussed.

It was proposed to establish three geographically-based nature conservation sub-groups (Dark Peak, White Peak, South West Peak) which would discuss priorities and raise these via Penny with the LNP Board for approval/influence/promotion. All agreed that work in the South West Peak was being progressed through the landscape partnership; therefore the White Peak and Dark Peak should be prioritised.

- Penny to feedback to the nature conservation NGOs and bring a proposal for sub-group role, relationship and responsibilities to the next LNP board meeting (Penny to lead on White Peak, Jane to lead on Dark Peak).

Penny proposes producing a State of Nature in the Peak District report which could form part of the communication plan for the LNP.

- Jane to request to carry forward LNP budget into next financial year to support the production of a State of Nature in the Peak District report.
- Karen to scope production of a Value of the Natural Environment prospectus.

6. Dialogue with LEPs and other partnerships

Geoff is chairing a consortium of partnerships comprising Local Nature Partnership, Business Peak District, Visit Peak District and Peak District Partnership which has taken advantage of a grant to local authority partners from the Local Government Association to contract two consultants to produce an 'Enterprise Peak District' proposal for an economic strategy to present to Local Enterprise Partnerships, starting with D2N2, then Stoke & Staffordshire and South Yorkshire.

- Jane to circulate the Enterprise Peak District proposed package of interventions for LEPs.

7. Defra LNP account manager

The LNP has been assigned a Defra 'account manager' as a pilot for six months; this is John Kilner who works within EU and UK Biodiversity Policy Delivery. Jane, Geoff and Karen are having a teleconference with John next week.

The board requested that the following questions be asked of John:

- Can he support the MFF LIFE bid within Defra?
- What is he going to do for LNPs within other Government departments?
- When will the first and second LNP evaluation reports be published?

8. LNP Partnership event

The board agreed that two separate events were required:

- 1) A strategic level meeting with LEPS, BPD, VPD, HWB, PDP to assert the strategic role of the LNP, inform other partnerships what the LNP board has been doing and what it can offer them. This should be held as early as possible (spring?)
- 2) A wider partnership event aimed at NGOs, community groups etc to update them on what the LNP is doing and to seek feedback from them on what their priorities are and what they would like the LNP to do. One role for the LNP could be in providing guidance on issues for communities to consider when producing neighbourhood plans. This event could be held in November when we will have heard from HLF on the SWP bid, and Penny hopefully will have written the State of Nature in the Peak District report.

- Jane to find out from Adele Metcalfe what existing guidance there is for neighbourhood planning

9. Dates of next meetings

Next meeting will be in June.

- Karen to set up a Doodle poll – all to complete a.s.a.p. in order for a mutually acceptable date to be agreed quickly and confirmed in calendars.

10. Any Other Business

The board discussed an approach concerning the detail of a development proposal in the High Peak. It was agreed that the LNP role was to comment on more strategic matters rather than get involved in specific details.

- Karen to review the duty to consult as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (Town and Country Planning Act) and insert in refreshed LNP terms of reference.