

## **Peak District National Park Authority – Meet the CEO Event Community Issues Feedback**

**Venue:** Bakewell Quakers Hall

**Date:** 23 May 2024

**NPA** – National Park Authority

*Please be aware feedback briefings will not always include information on personal, individual or private business queries or specific planning applications.*

The following responses are based on questions raised at the above meeting with Peak District National Park chief executive, Phil Mulligan. This briefing note responds to the most frequently raised issues and isn't intended to cover all questions raised. Specific queries may be followed up directly with attendees.

You may also wish to review previous event briefing notes, which may cover additional topics of interest.

***A number of individual planning case matters were raised, but this bulletin is not intended to address these***

### **Renewable Energy**

The Authority fully recognises the current climate crisis and climate change is one of the four key pillars of our latest National Park-wide Management Plan (2023-28). Whilst the National Park clearly has a pivotal role to play, planning and development considerations (inc. renewables) must also take account of the Peak District's Special Qualities. Documents like the Local Plan – the next iteration due for consultation later this summer – sets this out and decisions are based around the guidance within these comprehensive strategies. Authority Members broadly take a favourable approach to renewables, where this doesn't conflict with the Special Qualities as described above. Options like the pre-application advice service are there to help support potential plans in their early stages.

### **Monsal Trail use and proposed railway reinstatement**

The National Park Authority is aware of and closely monitoring developments regarding proposals for the reinstatement of a railway to the route known as the Monsal Trail. Whilst no formal submission of plans has yet taken place to the Authority, there remains a number of elements that the plans would need to meet even for initial consideration of such a reinstatement for this route; including viable provision of an alternative to the opportunities provided by the existing Monsal Trail. The Authority recognises the significant tourism, health & wellbeing and access benefits of the Monsal Trail and indeed are shortly due to announce further investment in a 'Changing Place' facility at Millers Dale at the heart of the route. This follows on from heritage, restoration, food & drink, interpretation and EV charging projects that have been undertaken at the same site over the last few years. The route continues to welcome 100,000s of visitors annually.

### **Traffic Management – *please also see previous roadshow briefing notes***

We are aware that the increasing use of motorised campervans for overnight or prolonged stays and general day traffic volumes in the area is a cause for concern among some residents. The NPA itself does not have a highways jurisdiction and therefore has limited individual or traffic management enforcement powers. These issues are routinely raised with both the police and

county council and any further action such as road closures, regulation orders or other highway management would be a matter for multi-stakeholder consultation, including the NPA. Where our rangers have an opportunity to engage with campervan owners or those involved with dangerous or anti-social parking, we inform them of the good practice and responsible behaviours expected and alternatives available in the area. The NPA backs campervan use which is respectful of local communities including owners taking an active role in supporting the economy of the area where personal circumstances allow. Unlawful activity will always be reported to the relevant enforcing body by officers from the NPA, including the police where necessary.

The NPA recognises that the planning and development process may have a role to play in either temporary or long-term solutions to capacity for large volumes of campervans in specific communities, and any such application(s) will be assessed on the case-by-case basis of existing policy and where it may provide a pragmatic alternative to highway use.

A new permitted right has been introduced which allows for pop up campsites. The permitted development right allows for the temporary use of land as a recreational campsite for up to 60 days per calendar year without requiring full planning permission.

### **Tourism promotion**

The NPA does not undertake any form of commercial advertising for the purposes of general tourism or 'destination marketing', with the specific exception of facilities that we directly own and manage, such as bike hire or accommodation. These assets are an important revenue stream to the wider activities of the NPA, alongside our core government grant which has reduced in real terms by between 40-50% over the last decade. Overall destination marketing of the region is a role of the Local Visitor Enterprise Partnership (LVEP), Visit Peak District & Derbyshire. The vast majority of content on the NPA's social media channels reflects the projects, programmes and activities we undertake in caring for the area, with occasional references to events and activities taking place within the region which are of cultural interest or align with activities with which we are already involved. Our annual welcome guide combines a wide range of information about responsible visiting, key locations to support those actions and where appropriate, selected tourism events that are in line with our statutory purpose to support 'understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities' of the National Park.

### **Quiet Lanes**

Information was requested by attendees regarding the NPA's position to adopt and implement regulations regarding reduced speed limits and user restrictions. Officers from our Planning department will explore this further and liaise directly with interested parties.

### **Public transport**

Attendees provided a comprehensive selection of suggestions and proposals regarding public/sustainable transport and officers will consider these where it is within the NPA's role and remit to do so. Advertising at bus stops and any other additional signage within the public domain must be considered in the wider landscape context and may not always be appropriate.

**04.06.24**