

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



Venue: Hathersage, Stanage Memorial Hall

Date: 30 April 2024

NPA – National Park Authority

Please be aware feedback briefings will not include information on personal, individual or private business queries or specific planning applications (unless of wider community interest).

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.

Management Plan / NPA role / Rewilding

In response to broader questioning, Phil Mulligan explained the purpose of the National Park Management Plan and how we work with stakeholders, more detail of which [can be found online](#). 'Rewilding' and our vision for all other conservation activities have been drawn together into a National Park 'Nature Recovery Plan' which is due for publication later this year. This will be available as a public document online.

Grouse shooting, upland management and wildlife crime activities – [please see existing information online](#)

In response to specific questions on this matter raised at the event:

- The NPA has no role or remit in the monitoring of wildlife crime activities and any alleged cases would be a matter for the police to investigate
- Legislation, guidance and any licensing remains a matter for national government and is not devolved to a regional, National Park level
- We do however, work with stakeholders in supporting work against wildlife crime such as rewards for information leading to information on criminality, and funding equipment such as monitoring cameras and satellite tags with other partners and the police
- Sport shooting has not taken place on NPA-owned and managed land since the early 1980s, however the majority of the National Park sits within private ownership
- Whilst the NPA engages with landowners regarding the potential impacts of burning as a management tool, it remains a lawful activity where undertaken in line with legal requirements. It is acknowledged this is not always the case in the National Park, however such breaches are a matter for Natural England to pursue and not the NPA.

Planning support

The NPA has invested a further 25% into the planning service in the last year or so, and has also reinstated the pre-application advice service (closed temporarily during the pandemic). Significant staff resources have also been deployed, with most roles now up to pre-Covid capacity. An improved, online submission service for reporting potential enforcement cases is also due to go live this summer. Currently, levels of approved applications are at over 80%.

Sustainable transport / Renewable energy

The National Park Authority itself is not a transport provider nor a designated transport authority, with these roles typically undertaken by the private sector, commercial and local authorities in the region. We do however, work with a range of local partners to support pilot projects and initiatives to encourage sustainable and active travel. The NPA has also

previously hosted a regional sustainable transport symposium. In 2023, the NPA welcome a dedicated sustainable transport officer to our policy team.

We are already working with Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA) and they have recently received additional funding. Any new services at this time are likely to come through either the County Council or commercial operators. The Authority doesn't have a specific budget for a new Hope Valley Explorer pilot service. Working with partners, there may be opportunities for new upgraded active travel routes, but there is an embargo on a possible funding source for this.

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.

Campervan use and traffic management

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.

The Authority can only enforce matters such as penalty charges relating to car parks which we own and manage.

Dogs

The NPA (and other stakeholders) are aware of increasing issues with dog ownership and the use (or not) of leads in sensitive and legally required areas. In recent weeks we have created [new online guidance](#) and this has also been shared with local tourism businesses. Increased signage can have landscape implications and experience from ourselves and other colleagues is that this has only limited success. Our social media posts regularly include messaging on the need to have dogs under relevant control.

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