

Notes on the North York Moors National Park Authority Northern Area Parish Forum

Charltons Community Centre

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7:00pm.

The Parish Councils or equivalent which constitute the Northern Area are as follows:

Aislaby	Great Ayton
Borrowby/Newton Mulgrave/Scaling/Roxby	Grosmont
Castleton	Guisborough
Commondale	Kildale
Danby	Little Ayton
Easby	Lockwood
Egton	Sneaton
Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby	Ugthorpe and Hutton Mulgrave
Glaisdale	Westerdale
Goathland	

The attendance at the meeting in total was some 10 people. These included 5 NPA staff, some 3NYC councillors two of whom sit on the NPA and 2 members of Parish Councils, myself and the member from Castleton. There were very apologies for absence from PC's or equivalent and there was comment from the NPA team that the Parish Council or equivalent representation was very low. Once the minutes of the meeting are published by NYMNPA, exact numbers and representation will be available.

Dealing with the items on the agenda in order:

1. Welcome

This was given by Ian Nicholls, Director of Services NYMNPA. He chaired the meeting as Colin Williamson, Northern Area Forum chair and Northern Area Parish Council Member of the NPA did not attend.

2. Apologies

There were a couple of apologies from PC's for non-attendance. Some members of the NPA had sent apologies as they were unable to attend.

3. Notes of the Previous Meeting

No questions were raised in this section, and the notes from the last meeting which had been pre-circulated were accepted. Please see attached copy.

4. Introduction of Ben Platt, Ranger Area Manager – North

Ben had only started on Monday and so just gave a brief resume of his background. This was central and local government mainly in disaster recovery planning.

5. Presentation on the update to Danby Lodge Moors Centre.

Please see the attached briefing note, item entitled National Park Centre Improvements. The visitor numbers to Danby Lodge for the Summer of 2024 were up by 3000 on the equivalent period last year. There are a number of new attractions and events planned including an external arts trail and a Christmas craft fair on 16th 17th November.

6. Coast to Coast Update. This was given by Bernie McLinden, Project Officer Coast to Coast.

Some key points from this interesting presentation were:

- The Coast-to-Coast designation as a National Trail should be completed in October 2025. This will cover the whole trail from St Bees Head to Robin Hoods Bay.
- A major upgrade of signing is underway to provide consistent signage throughout the walk. The signs for our part of the walk are expected imminently and will be erected as soon as they arrive.
- There has been major work to the path in our area around Falling Foss, Littlebeck and Maybeck over the last 12 months. This is now largely complete with only a section near Littlebeck requiring stone delivery by helicopter. This should take place in late November but is weather dependent.
- I raised the point of the crossing of the A169 still being staggered despite the recent route amendment. The response was that the aspiration was to move the route to a straight crossing but at the moment there are objections from the landowner. This is being pursued to resolve the issue.

7. Update on National Park Authority Business by Colin Williamson. This was given in his absence by Ian Nicholls. See attached briefing sheet issued at the meeting

8. Suggestions from Forum Members on any new items to discuss at future meetings

- Planning updates.

9. Any other business

- None

9. Date and Time of next meeting 1st April 2025, venue TBA.

Andy Harrison
3rd October 2024



North York Moors
National Park

Northern Area Parish Forum

Wednesday, 2 October 2024 at 7pm

Charltons Community Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Notes of the Meeting held on 10 April 2024 (Circulated previously)
4. Introduction of Ben Platt, Ranger Area Manager - North
5. Danby Lodge Update (Lucas St John, Commercial Manager)
6. Coast to Coast Update (Bernie McLinden, Project Officer Coast to Coast)
7. Update on National Park Authority business by Colin Williamson, Parish Member.
8. Suggestions from Forum Members on any new items to discuss at future Parish Forum Meetings
9. Any Other Business
10. Time, place and date of next meetings:

Tuesday, 1 April 2025 at 7pm and Thursday, 25 September 2025 at 7pm

Notes:

1. The Authority allows the recording and reporting of public meetings but asks that any party wishing to do so informs the Authority in advance of the meeting.

Recording and reporting that disrupts the meeting is not allowed. Persons expressly refusing consent, children and vulnerable adults cannot be filmed or photographed.

The existing rules relating to confidential and exempt information, defamation, Data Protection and Public Order apply.

The Authority accepts no liability whatsoever for the recording and reporting carried out by other parties.
2. Tea/coffee will be available at the beginning of the meeting.
3. Please contact Judith Seaton if you have any other queries.
4. Judith Seaton should be notified of any apologies on 01439 772586 or j.seaton@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Very New.



North York Moors
National Park

Northern Area Parish Forum

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10 April 2024 at Danby Lodge

Attendees: **Parish Councils:** Andy Harrison (Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby PC), David Chance (NYC), Ron Kirk (Great Ayton), John Jeffers (Easby PC). **Officers:** Ian Nicholls (Director of Corporate Services), Lucas St John (Commercial Manager), Paul Fellows (Head of Strategic Policy), Naomi Green (Ranger Area Manager – North), Judith Seaton (Executive Support Team Leader). **Members:** Colin Williamson (Chair), Clive Pearson, Heather Moorhouse. **Public:** Stephen Larkin (Danby resident and Community Earth Project), Andrea Brew (Commondale Resident/CEP), Debbie Swales (Revival North Yorkshire).

1. Colin Williamson, as Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Jim Bailey, Tom Hind
3. Notes of the meeting held on 3 October 2023 were agreed.
4. Matters arising: any queries for Highways can be forwarded via the Authority. A discussion was held on the use of the portal to report potholes (dangerous potholes classed as 40mm depth x 300mm width), but orders can take up to 3 months.
5. Community Earth Project question: How many times have Parish Councils asked Elspeth Ingleby for advice before/after her presentation to the Forum. What will be the impact on nature recovery of their new duty to conserve/enhance biodiversity?
Response: Contact has been twice before the presentation on verge management. All public authorities in England must consider what they can do to conserve/enhance biodiversity. The NYMNP is available to offer any advice to Parish Councils and should contact e.ingleby@northyorkmoors.org.uk for this.
6. Revival North Yorkshire – Debbie Swales, Director, gave an illustrated presentation on the work of Revival North Yorkshire and asked for any volunteers who can help. More information can be found on the website [Revival North Yorkshire – Community Interest Company](#)
7. Danby Lodge Update and Car Park Strategy – Lucas St John gave a presentation on the new play area construction taking place at Danby Lodge discussion on linking Danby station with signage for paths. The work on car parks highlighting Newton under Roseberry, EV charging (use of solar). Discussions were held relating to the use of Blue Bank car park by motorhomes and problems with littering. The Authority is hoping to improve the car park within the limits of a SSSI with permanent signage, more warden patrols and introducing charging but this will not be until next year due to workloads.

8. Design Code – Paul Fellows presented on the consultation for the new Design Code for the North York Moors with a video clip of one of the NYM villages – more clips to be placed on the website. There will be drop-in sessions, attendance at Parish Council meetings on request and other ways of contributing to the consultation. Ways will be considered to include those not comfortable with the use of technology and taking in to account age demographic.
9. Members of the Forum were provided with a printed Authority update. Colin Williamson updated on the following:
 - Linking Levisham Project – visit by Kevin Hollinrake MP
 - Esk Valley REconnect project
 - Levisham landslip monitoring
 - Importance of Health and Safety policy, training and risk assessments for the Authority
 - New playground at Danby Lodge
 - Authority headquarters building and rangers depot no longer fit for purpose and in poor condition – a new build is being developed to serve the Authority requirements for the future at a lower cost than repair of existing premises.
 - Defra core grant £4.3million – Authority has a budget in excess of £14million due to successes in gaining external funding for projects. An additional £500k has been allocated to each National Park from Defra.
10. Any suggestions for new items to discuss at future meetings to be emailed to j.seaton@northyorkmoors.org.uk
11. There was no other business.
12. Next NAPF meeting on 2 October 2024 – suggested venue of Sunnyfield House, Guisborough (not available).

Parish Forum Update October 2024

General update

Following the General Election in July, Steve Reed, MP for Streatham and Croydon North has been appointed Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. He has set out five priorities for Defra:

- Cleaning up rivers, lakes and seas.
- Creating a roadmap to move Britain to a zero-waste economy.
- Supporting farmers to boost food security.
- Ensuring nature's recovery.
- Protecting communities from the dangers of flooding.

Mary Creagh MP has been appointed Minister with responsibility for landscapes. We and other National Parks are engaging with the new government to explain the potential of National Parks and call for action from government in relation to our powers and resources. In particular we are looking forward to new guidance for relevant authorities (including parish councils) on the new duty to 'seek to further' National Parks' statutory purposes.

On Planning, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is Angela Rayner who has responded to a joint letter sent by National Parks England to seek engagement with the government on planning policy relating to National Parks. Consultation on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework has just ended, and the National Park Authority has responded to proposed changes to national policies on housing, onshore wind turbines and increases in planning application fees.

We are also seeking a further extension to grant funding to farmers through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) programme. Over the last 3 years many farmers have benefitted from the scheme. Defra published a blog post featuring FIPL projects in the North York Moors in August - <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/23/fipl-spotlight-improving-water-quality-in-the-north-york-moors/>

We welcome applications from farmers, especially those new to FIPL, in the final few months of the scheme before it comes to an end in March 2025.

National Park Centre Improvements

We have been making significant investments in both of our National Park visitor centres. In June, Danby Lodge received a significant boost when the "Danby Den" playground was opened to visitors, young and old alike. It is an accessible playground that incorporates many features of the National Park in its design, which includes two slides and a double zip wire. The feedback has been extremely positive and visitor numbers have increased. A new Arts Trail is also being opened at Danby Lodge later this month. At Sutton Bank the first Changing Places toilet in the National Park has now been installed. This facility will give visitors enhanced accessibility by providing essential equipment like adjustable benches, holsts and extra space for caregivers.

We have recently gone out to expressions of interest to food and beverage operators to run the catering operations at our Centres. These will be assessed in the Autumn with an outcome expected in November with new licences granted in early 2025.

ReConnect & Moor Connected

We are recruiting for staff to lead our ReConnect project on the River Esk. This is a 5-year National Lottery Community Fund project connecting people and nature through a wide range of events, volunteering, citizen science, education and practical habitat management activities. Project partners include Groundwork, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Yorkshire Marine Nature partnership. Work will commence from April 2024 and we're really keen to involve parishes and local communities so get in touch if you would like to know more.

We're also finalising a major project submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund later this autumn. The Moor Connected project aims to connect nature and communities by using local public rights of way, national trails, watercourses, and sustainable travel routes to create and enhance nature corridors across the North York Moors.

Local Tourism Business Support

The Local Business Tourism Contribution is open to individuals, businesses and voluntary groups to support projects which will highlight the North York Moors National Park's special qualities. The funding is intended for new activities which will benefit the wider community and area as a whole – also working with new partners, targeting new markets, developing new products/packages or new business start-ups. Projects should increase awareness of the North York Moors National Park and use the areas local distinctiveness to the benefit of visitors. If you would like to discuss an application, please contact our Community Engagement Officer at tourism@northyorkmoors.org.uk.

Roseberry Topping

For many residents and visitors to the National Park, Roseberry Topping is an iconic location for a walk and climb. Over time its popularity has seen the footpaths struggle to cope with extensive erosion and scarring now visible. The National Park is working in partnership with the National Trust to restore and upgrade 10 paths around the Topping. In July work commenced on the restoration of the main path to the summit with over 100 bags of stone airlifted into position. The work is progressing well and the main path will re-open in late October. Work on the remaining paths is scheduled for 2025 and 2026.

Fly Camping

Sadly, there were further reports of fly camping in our National Park over the summer. One incident left an acre of conservation woodland badly damaged as a result of an illegal campfire and other incidents of littering and destruction to fencing have been reported. We urge all parishes to be alert to hot spots in their area and to report incidents to the appropriate authorities so we can respond accordingly. The National Park Authority is looking at an awareness campaign to target this anti-social activity.

Property

We have recently submitted an application to North Yorkshire Council for a new combined head office and ranger depot in Helmsley. Planning permission has also been granted to convert our current headquarters into apartments. We have published a set of frequently asked questions on our website explaining more about the reasons for our ongoing property work <https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/about-us/the-authority/plans-for-new-national-park-building/frequently-asked-questions>