



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

11.00 am, 13 July 2023, Darley Memorial Hall

1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes

1.1 Attendance:

Cllr. Andrew Murday (NYC)
Joanna Wright (Parish Council rep)
Jan Arger (CPRE)
Keith Wadd (Ramblers Association)
Richard Dimon (Natural England)
Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)
Stephen Ramsden (CLA)
Paul Trewitt (Parish Council rep)
Sheila Miller (Parish Council rep)
Richard Bruce (Nidderdale Plus)
Graham Spooner (AONB Volunteers)
Tom Wheelwright (Moorland Association)
Chris Wood (National Trust)
Jon Parker (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)
Clive White (Darley Beck Curlew Project)

1.2 Officers:

Liz Small (NYC)
Iain Mann (AONB)
Kelly Harmar (AONB)
Matt Trevelyan (AONB)

1.3 Apologies:

Justin Scully (National Trust)
Heather Garnett (Friends of Nidderdale AONB)
Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister (NYC)
Sue Welch (Parish Council rep)
Tracey Rathmell (NYC)

1.4 Substitutes:

Chris Wood for Justin Scully

1.5 Update on JAC Executive:

AM noted that Joanna Wright has volunteered to join the JAC Executive and has therefore been co-opted onto the Executive until the autumn elections. AM further noted that at least one current Executive member intends to stand down this autumn, so JAC Members are encouraged to consider volunteering for the Executive at the autumn elections.

2.0 Declarations of interest

2.1 No interests were declared.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023

3.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record (proposed by TW, seconded by JA).

4.0 Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 *River Nidd water quality*

IM noted that this issue is now also being raised by North Yorkshire Council members at their committee, so is likely to have an increased political profile. AM explained the citizen science water sampling work that is being undertaken to measure the health of the river, linked to the proposal for bathing water status at Knaresborough, with 40 points being sampled.

Climate Action Plan

IM noted that the climate action plan presented at the March JAC was circulated to members and there had been no further comments. The plan is being taken forward with actions incorporated into this year's Business Plan.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

IM noted that North Yorkshire Council were announced by Defra as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS, meaning that the process can now formally begin. LS explained that the aim is to complete the Strategy by March 2025; and that NYC are still awaiting some further technical guidance from government about how LNRS will link with Local Plans.

5.0 2023/24 Business Plan

5.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to outline to JAC Members the AONB team's 2023/24 work programme.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to note the planned actions in the 2023/24 Business Plan and feedback any comments to the AONB Manager.

IM highlighted the work planned by the AONB team for 2023/24, noting the effort the team is putting into the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, farm conservation advice, nature recovery work and responding to climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges. IM also noted the great importance of volunteers in helping to deliver conservation work in the AONB.

Members asked questions about the A59 road realignment project, for which the AONB team is delivering the off-site mitigation for biodiversity and landscape:

- IM explained that there is a specific project fund set aside by NYC to pay for works to deliver the off-site mitigation (included staff costs), although he noted that the costings for this were estimated in 2020 which was prior to the recent significant inflationary cost increases. The AONB will use its best endeavours to deliver the off-site mitigation within the current funding. The JAC, however, though a recent planning consultation response, has sought assurances from the Local Highways Authority that it will ensure all of the environmental obligations of the scheme are delivered, even if this requires further funding.
- IM set out the biodiversity net gain process, where landowners who wish to become part of the scheme will enter into a long-term legal agreement in order to secure the required biodiversity gains.
- IM will seek information about timescales for local road closures and the overall scheme.

Members also discussed woodland creation and the importance of ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place, in order to not compromise other conservation objectives and to seek a balance with food production.

Action: IM to seek information from the Local Highways Authority about A59 scheme timescales.

6.0 Nature Recovery Opportunity Mapping

6.1 Kelly Harmar, the AONB's Biodiversity Officer, gave a presentation on the AONB's approach to identifying opportunities for nature recovery conservation, how this will lead to a Nidderdale AONB Nature Recovery Plan and also how this will fit with the overall North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The opportunity mapping identifies priorities for four main habitat types: moorland, woodland, wetland and grassland. Kelly explained that the work is not to tell landowners what they should do on their land but rather to set out what the best conservation opportunities are for those who wish to implement them.

7.0 Farming in Protected Landscapes work on Curlew conservation

- 7.1 Matthew Trevelyan, the AONB's Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, and Clive White, the manager of the Darley Beck Curlew Project, gave a presentation on the initiative to survey and then work with farmers and land managers to conserve Curlews in the Darley Beck area as an introduction to the afternoon's site visit.

8.0 Any other business

- 8.1 There was no other business.
- 8.2 The formal part of the meeting closed and was followed by an afternoon site visit to see the Darley Beck Curlew Project.
- 8.3 The date of the autumn JAC meeting is Thursday 5 October at 10.30 (venue tbc).