



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

10.30 am, 5 October 2023, Council Chamber, AONB Office

1.0 Attendance and notification of substitutes

1.1 Attendance:

Cllr. Felicity Cunliffe-Lister (NYC)
Cllr. Nathan Hull (NYC)
Cllr. Andrew Murday (NYC)
Sheila Miller (Parish Council rep)
Paul Trewitt (Parish Council rep)
Joanna Wright (Parish Council rep)
Alec Boyd (National Trust)
Jon Parker (YWT)
Stephen Ramsden (CLA)
Richard Dimon (Natural England)
Andrew Smith (NFU)
Martin Hockey (Ramblers Association)
Richard Bruce (Nidderdale Plus)
Heather Garnett (Friends of Nidderdale AONB)
Lisa Harrowsmith (Yorkshire Water)
Claire Walker (British Horse Society)

1.2 Officers:

Hugh Clear-Hill (NYC)
Nabil Abbas (Skell Valley Project)
Iain Mann (AONB)
Sarah Kettlewell (AONB)
Leanne Fox (AONB)

1.3 Apologies:

Sue Welch (Parish Council rep)
Jan Arger (CPRE)
Justin Scully (National Trust)
Tom Wheelwright (Moorland Association)
Graham Spooner (AONB Volunteers)
Tracy Rathmell (NYC)

1.4 Substitutes:

Alec Boyd for Justin Scully

1.5 JAC membership:

AM explained that Keith Wadd has retired from the role of Ramblers Association representative on the JAC. Martin Hockey has taken on the role and was welcomed to the Committee. AM passed on Keith Wadd's thanks to fellow JAC members and recognised Keith's contribution to the JAC over many years of service.

2.0 Elections

2.1 Nomination for the Chair: JW nominated Andrew Murday and this was seconded by NH. There were no other nominations. AM is the North Yorkshire Council representative on the JAC Executive.

Nomination for the Vice Chair: AM nominated Jo Wright and this was seconded by SR. There were no other nominations. JW is the Parish Councils representative on the JAC Executive.

Other members of the JAC Executive (1): AM nominated Heather Garnett and this was seconded by LH. There were no other nominations. HG is the Special Interest Groups representative on the JAC Executive.

Other members of the JAC Executive (2): AM nominated Paul Trewitt and this was seconded by HG. There were no other nominations. PT is the second Parish Councils representative on the JAC Executive.

JAC delegate to the Knabs Ridge Community Fund Steering Group: Nathan Hull agreed to represent the JAC (nominated by JW and seconded by AM).

JAC delegate to the Greenhow Enhancement Fund Steering Group: Jo Wright agreed to represent to the JAC (nominated by AM and seconded by SR).

3.0 Declarations of interest

3.1 No interests were declared.

4.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023

4.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record (proposed by RB, seconded by AS).

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 *Local Nature Recovery Strategy*

IM noted that NYC have started the LNRS process through establishing a board, an advisory group (which has a Nidderdale AONB representative), holding an initial workshop and setting up a series of working groups.

A59 Kex Gill timescales

IM noted that information was circulated after the July JAC meeting from NY Highways stating that there will not be any long-term minor road closures (including the road from West End), as all the works are away from the existing roads. Overall scheme completion date is 2025. IM also noted that the A59 itself will be closed for a month during October/November, however this is for standard maintenance works and is not linked to the road realignment project.

6.0 Nidderdale National Landscape rebrand

6.1 IM circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

Purpose of report: to set out the final stages of the national initiative to rebrand AONBs as National Landscapes, including the anticipated outcomes from the rebrand and the implementation of the new name and visual identity.

Recommendations: JAC Members were asked to note the report and feedback any comments, including opportunities and risks associated with the rebrand process, to the AONB Manager.

IM set out the background to the rebrand with the Glover Review, the Government's steer and the pragmatic decision by the AONB network to work constructively on the process; the opportunities that a rebrand could bring in terms of a stronger collective identity for AONBs; and a brief overview of implementing the rebrand.

Leanne Fox, AONB Information Officer, then presented more detail on the rebrand implementation process, including sharing the new Nidderdale National Landscape logo with JAC members.

Members discussed various aspects of the rebrand including ensuring that the patent for the logo will be in place before launch; the challenge of designing a logo that was simple and represented our landscape and our role as a landscape conservation organisation; ensuring that the logo works at

different scales; and making sure that the costs associated with the rebrand are carefully controlled and do not impact on wider AONB work.

It was noted that there is an embargo on publicly sharing the logo and other aspects until the launch on 22 November. JAC Members are welcome to share information about the rebrand within their organisations prior to that date and it would be very helpful if Members can raise the profile of the new 'National Landscape' name once the launch has happened.

7.0 Skell Valley Project

- 7.1 Nabil Abbas, Skell Valley Project Manager, gave a presentation on the progress of the Skell Valley Project. The Project is jointly led by the National Trust and Nidderdale AONB and its main funding is from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Project has been in delivery since early 2021 and Nabil set out the range of projects that have taken place during that time, including natural flood management measures in partnership with the Skell farming community, wildlife and volunteer projects in Ripon and across the valley and heritage conservation works at Fountains Abbey, Eavestone and other heritage sites. The Project will run until 2025 and the partnership is beginning planning to ensure an ongoing legacy.

Members discussed the Project including recognising the wide range of projects that are being delivered; understanding how the design of the new walking routes will ensure they are as accessible as possible through co-design work with disability group advisors; noting that the overall Project is on schedule and on budget; discussing Himalayan Balsam control at Hell Wath; highlighting the MoRPh citizen science project as a mechanism for river monitoring.

8.0 Latest Government response to Landscapes Review

- 8.1 IM provided a verbal update on recent Government announcements relating to recommendations in the Landscapes (Glover) Review. There was a written ministerial statement from the Defra Secretary of State (SoS) on 13 September, followed by an online roundtable for all protected landscape chairs (attended by AM) hosted by the SoS on 14 September. The main points made by the SoS were:
- There would be an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to give improved powers to protected landscapes.
 - AONBs have equal status to National Parks and Government considers them central to enabling access to nature and delivering environmental targets.
 - The SoS supports the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme but is unable to commit to an extension beyond March 2025.
 - Defra is finalising arrangements for a new Protected Landscapes Partnership.
 - Defra is soon to publish the Outcomes and Targets Framework for protected landscapes.
- 8.2 Subsequently the Government amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill were passed at the third reading in the House of Lords. For AONBs, these make changes to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:
- General duty of public bodies – this now requires that “a relevant authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty”, where a relevant authority includes any Minister of the Crown, any public body, any statutory undertaker and any person holding public office.
 - Supplementary provisions relating to management plans – the SoS may make provision (via secondary legislation) requiring a management plan to contribute to “the meeting of any target set under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021”; and setting out how “such plans must contribute to the meeting of such targets”.
 - Duty of public bodies in relation to management plans – the SoS may make provision (via secondary legislation requiring a relevant authority “to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of [management] plans”.

9.0 Summary of planning application responses

- 9.1 A summary of planning consultation responses was circulated prior to the meeting, showing that in the period April to August 2023, the JAC (via the JAC Executive) commented on 42 planning applications, with a total of 54 applications scrutinised during this period. Additionally advice was given in response to 9 pre-application enquiries.

- 9.2 SR asked about the AONB response to the recent Government consultation on extending certain permitted development rights within National Parks and AONBs. IM set out the details of the consultation response that had been agreed with the JAC Executive. The main points were: that we do not support extending permitted development rights for the conversion of agricultural buildings to residential dwellings (the reason being that we consider this is best dealt with as part of the full planning permission process in line with the Local Plan); and we do support extending permitted development rights to allow small-scale conservation works, such as wildlife ponds, to be part of permitted agricultural works (the reason being that we consider the requirement for full planning permission for a small-scale wildlife pond or similar to be overly onerous).

Members discussed the pros and cons of permitted development rights versus development management through the full planning permission process.

- 9.3 Members discussed recent planning applications for mobile phone masts in the AONB. IM set out the recent JAC responses (as agreed with the JAC Executive), which were to object to the 25 metre lattice masts proposed at Middlesmoor and near Scar House/Angram Reservoirs because of the impact on the landscape; but not to object to a similar-sized mast at Ox Close in Colsterdale because it was being sited within an existing commercial forestry area and, as such, had a lower landscape impact.

Members discussed the need to resolve mobile 'not-spots', particularly for residents in the light of the upcoming analogue landline switch off, but that mobile operators need to properly take landscape into account when seeking solutions.

10.0 Reports from partners

- 10.1 SR noted the increasing impacts of Ash dieback in Upper Nidderdale, including on Yorkshire Water land. LHS explained that both the Yorkshire Water rural and recreational estates are regularly surveyed to manage this issue.

11.0 Any other business

- 11.1 There was no other business.

Dates for the 2024 JAC meetings will be circulated later in 2023.