

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY POLICY & PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEETING 17 DECEMBER 2015

Held at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst at 2.02pm

Present:

Ken Bodfish (Chair)	Jo Carr	Mark Dunn
Daniel Humphreys	Barry Lipscomb (Deputy Chair)	Pete West
Norman Dingemans (ex officio)		

SDNPA Officers: Trevor Beattie (Chief Executive), Andrew Lee (Director of Strategy & Partnerships), Phil Belden (Director of Operations), Vince Hislop (Director of Corporate Services), Karen Everett (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Michelle Herrington (Acting Head of Finance), Anne Rehill (Performance & Project Manager), Alan Brough (Business Services Manager), Anne Bone (Cultural Heritage Strategy Lead), Conal Stewart (Sustainable Tourism Officer), Stella New (Member Services Support Officer).

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

76. Apologies were received from Philip Ede, Sue Saville, Deborah Urquhart and ex officio member Margaret Paren.

ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

77. Pete West declared a Public Service Interest in item 10 as a member of Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) as set out in Minute 90.

ITEM 3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2015

78. The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
79. Committee member Pete West joined the committee table at 2.04pm.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

80. The Director of Strategy & Partnerships informed the Committee:
- The actions to carry forward from the previous meeting had been put into a table format as requested by Members and tabled at the meeting (see appended table).
 - An 'end date' could be added to the status column.
 - Local Procurement had been raised at the 29 September Authority Meeting as an item for P&P Committee, and would be brought to a future meeting.

ITEM 5: UPDATES ON PREVIOUS COMMITTEE DECISIONS

81. There were none.

ITEM 6: URGENT MATTERS

82. There were none.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

83. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

ITEM 8: FORWARD BUSINESS FOR 2015-16

84. The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Strategy & Partnerships:
- The Director of Strategy & Partnerships gave a brief update on the recent United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Paris:
 - The agreement, yet to be ratified, achieved consensus to reduce carbon emissions to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and an aspiration to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C.
 - This outcome, much more positive than at Copenhagen, had been reached through a process encouraging voluntary commitments from individual nations, a different approach from the past one of allocating emissions reductions top down.

- It was as yet unclear how agreed emissions reductions will be monitored and enforced, and the voluntary commitments fall short of the required emissions reductions – the gap to be made up from a basket of other measures
- The implications for UK national policy regarding planning, road building, fracking, carbon capture and storage and other matters is as yet unclear.
- The Partnership Management Plan (PMP) had not included a separate chapter on climate change adaptation as this was inherent throughout the Plan.
- The SDNPA, with all NPAs is required to produce a report to Defra to highlight how climate change adaptation is being achieved across the NP.
- The Committee commented:
 - Whether the SDNPA signing the Paris Pledge could be beneficial.
 - The need to call into question outmoded thinking with regard to carbon, and take every initiative to improve sustainability in the National Park.
 - The importance of promoting the value of the National Park.
- In response to Member queries, officers clarified:
 - The Paris Pledge had assumed future technical advances that had yet to be implemented, and signing it implied agreement that the plan was adequate.
 - The land and habitat management being undertaken in the SDNP constituted proven carbon storage technology.

January 2016 Strategic Session

- The Director of Strategy & Partnerships informed the Committee:
 - The next all Member strategic session would take place on 26 January 2016 at the Goodwood Estate, and would include discussion on route options for the A27.
 - The session would include factual presentations from the engineering consultants Mott MacDonald and Highways England and allow Members the opportunity to consider the issues involved.
 - The public consultation on all routes would commence around Easter 2016, and the session would provide a steer from Members so an SDNPA position statement could be drafted prior to the 1 March 2015 P&P Committee and subsequent NPA meeting.
- The Committee discussed:
 - Whether there was wider public awareness of the consultation timetable.
 - Whether it would be useful to hear from those with other points of view and evidence on the desirability of the Chichester Bypass in order to allow Members to broaden their understanding of the issues involved.
- The Director of Strategy & Partnerships stated that a subsequent session on wider A27 issues could be held for Members.

ITEM 9: ICT STRATEGY

85. The Committee considered the report by the Business Services Manager (Report PP20/15).
86. The Committee commented:
 - The language employed was quite technical and challenging for some to fully understand.
 - The discrepancy in IT equipment used by Members, given that those appointed by Local Authorities were often supplied with iPads.
 - The view that a number of Members would be happy to receive meeting papers in electronic format.
87. In response to these points and other questions, officers clarified:
 - USB sticks were only used for external presentations by officers and Members and the risk of their continued use was considered to be very low.
 - The Member survey completed in 2014 indicated that the majority of Members did not

- require or want an additional device.
 - Issuing a single type of device could however reduce the time spent by the IT department administering the widely diverse array of Member equipment, and reduce printing costs.
 - A review of Member IT equipment could be brought to a future meeting of the P&P Committee and/or NPA.
88. It was proposed and seconded to vote on the officer's recommendation, and to include a further resolution to delegate to the Chief Executive to review the provision of IT equipment to Members and report to the appropriate decision making body as necessary. Following a vote the proposal was carried.
89. **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:
- 1) Approve the adoption of the ICT Strategy.
 - 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to approve minor changes and revisions that may arise through review of the strategy.
 - 3) Agreed to delegate to the Chief Executive to review the provision of IT equipment to Members and report to the appropriate decision making body as necessary.

ITEM 10: AREA OFFICES & NATIONAL PARK PUBLIC FACE – STANMER PARK AND QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE THIRD YEAR OF THE 2014-17 CORPORATE PLAN

90. Committee Member Pete West declared a Public Service interest in the item as a member of Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and previous chair of the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee [tbc by Pete West].
91. The Committee considered the report by the Director of Strategy & Partnerships and the Director of Operations (Report PP21/15).
92. The Committee commented:
- Their support for both projects, especially with regard to providing better facilities for the SDNPA Volunteer Ranger Service and flexible working space for officers.
 - With regard to Stanmer Park, traffic movement and the viability of providing alternative travel arrangements needed to be fully investigated before a decision on the layout of buildings could be taken.
 - The importance of providing appropriate gateways to the National Park for the large neighbouring populations.
93. In response to questions, officers clarified:
- With regard to Stanmer Park:
 - The Stage II bid was aimed for submission in September 2016, transport was a critical issue, specifically sustainable transport and car parking provision, a planning application would need to be submitted before then.
 - Financial aspects of the proposal were due to be considered by BHCC in February.
 - There was cross-party support for the scheme and all political parties were represented on the Stanmer Member Board, along with NPA members.
 - Discussions were still in progress over where the SDNPA area office would be based, subject to BHCC finalising its restoration proposals.
94. The Director of Strategy & Partnerships said the new ways of working in partnership with other public bodies, which had been informally discussed by Members during the morning's strategic discussion session, were being modelled in practice by the area office projects.
95. **RESOLVED** That the Committee:
- 1) Noted a potential call for capital and/or revenue funding from SDNPA as contributions to successful redevelopment of Stanmer Park and Queen Elizabeth Country Park respectively, subject to detailed papers on the financial case to come to future Policy &

Programme Committee meetings once there is a clear business proposition for each site.

- 2) Noted the progress to date in developing both Stanmer Park and Queen Elizabeth Country Park as key National Park gateways and Area offices/bases for the National Park Authority;
- 3) Endorsed the continued partnership working with Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to ensure the best outcomes for the National Park.

ITEM 11: MID-TERM PROJECT REPORTS

96. The Committee considered the report by the Performance & Project Manager (Report PP22/15).

97. The Committee commented their commendation of the work done by officers to achieve what were proving to be successful and exciting projects.

Food & Drink Portal

98. The Committee recognised the financial support and commitment given by Southern Cooperative.

99. In response to questions, officers clarified

- The local wine estates were cross promotionally supportive of each other.
- There was no formal appellation however the majority of the wine estates were proud of their National Park location and had used this as a successful marketing tool.
- The enthusiasm now shown by local food businesses for adopting the Shared Identity.
- The project had managed the Sussex Food & Drink Awards, and had received significant promotional benefit from the Taste National Parks and British Food Week events.

Secrets of the High Woods

100. In response to questions, officers clarified

- A server had been purchased that would enable the storage of the very extensive Lidar data.
- The Lidar data would be made available to the general public for research purposes subject to further discussion with land managers and foresters.

101. **RESOLVED:** That the Committee

- 1) Received the mid project updates
- 2) Noted the progress of the Food and Drink Portal
- 3) Noted the successful delivery of the second year of the Secrets of the High Woods project

CHAIR

The meeting closed at 3:36pm.