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Southern Boundary Partnership meeting: 18:30 on 20 February 2019 at Grizebeck Community Hall

1. Introductions

The meeting purpose, agenda and focus on Lake District National Park Housing and Transport Policy were outlined. It was emphasised that this meeting would only consider policy and a later meeting would consider policy implementation with Dave McGowan, Head of Development Management for the Lake District National Park. Minutes from the meeting of 21 November 18 were agreed as a true record.

2. Friends of the Lake District report

Douglas Chalmers explained that the landscape consultant, Alison Falmer, is expected to deliver her report on suitability of outlying areas for inclusion in the National Park by the end of this month. It was explained that this report has been delayed by a month because of other commitments of the consultant.

The Friends of the Lake District (FLD) have been separately collating evidence of the value of the heritage, architecture, environment and literature of the outlying areas. FLD have also been quietly lobbying key individuals within Natural England, South Lakeland District Council and other local organisations. When there is a more clear proposal for a potential new boundary engagement will continue with these organisations.

Douglas Chalmers indicated that discussions with Natural England to date suggest they will receive the report favourably. It is advantageous that the outlying areas were considered for inclusion within the National Park by the Hobbs Report, particularly as other parts of the country are also expected to be submitting proposals for designation of land as National Parks (or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

The process for designation was clarified: A report suggesting a new boundary would be submitted to Natural England (part of DEFRA) who would decide if the application should go forward. Natural England would be responsible for a public consultation process. Natural England could alter the boundary from that proposed in the report to them.

The Glover call for evidence on National Parks that ended in December 18 had received approximately 3000 responses, which are now being reviewed. A report on the findings is expected in September 19. It was emphasised that as the Glover review has started it is not expected that it would be delayed or stopped by a change of Environment Minister or Government. FLD are trying to get Julian Glover to visit Cumbria.

Approximately 40 areas are seeking new designations. Focus for designation would take account of, amongst other aspects, public access and promotion of health and well being. These aspects are being considered in the FLD report.

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) produced a report in January 19 looking at opportunities for public access to National Parks (the report can be viewed

on the CPRE website). FLD are considering drilling into the data for Cumbria within this report.

It was restated that the Glover report was commissioned by Michael Gove as Environment Secretary at the 70th anniversary of the establishment of National Parks. The parks were a 'present for returning heroes' and after 70 years the Glovers review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is being conducted to identify if these designations are fit for purpose.

A meeting with the mayor of Copeland on the SBP initiative had been held in February 19. The Copeland ambition is to attract more tourists while retaining the unique nature of the area. The recent Copeland 'tourist summit' had provided highlights and the opportunity to bring people together.

3. Focus on Housing Policy

Hanna Latty is the Team Leader for strategy and planning policy at the Lake District National Park, and explained that her group sets policy in line with the vision for the National Park. The National Park works with other groups in the Lake District National Park Partnership.

Hanna Latty presented information (see accompanying handout) on housing policy and referred to the local plan issued in May 18. Approximately 3000 responses to the plan had been received and are being considered. A revised policy is to be issued in March 19.

The target for new homes is 80/year. These are to support the working age population. It is recognised that community resilience is significantly affected by proliferation of second homes.

Discussion points are noted below.

Parish Councils can support lobby MPs to support National Park work to close a tax loophole associated with holiday homes.

Towns can have extended boundaries to allow for more development. The LDNP holds a brownfield register.

If Grange over sands were to be included within the National Park the local neighbourhood plan would not have to change. Neighbourhood plans require review every 5 years. It was emphasised that community plans should be kept up to date to reflect local housing concerns.

The LDNP work with communities to identify land that is suitable for development. Each development is tested against housing and other policies. Empty homes are not an issue as such in the LDNP, it is second homes as under utilised housing stock, that are an issue.

The LDNP are starting to address the issue with Air B&B lettings reducing the stock available for long term renting.

The extension of small houses, that could be afforded by local residents, to larger houses that are then too expensive for local residents, was noted at the meeting. The LDNP can apply restrictions to such developments.

Broadgate Orchard in Grasmere was highlighted as an example of a developments that meet the vision of the LDNP. Other examples of social housing are at Newby Bridge (along the A590) and at Bootle.

Affordable housing was defined as 80% of market value. The LDNP team work with Homes England and other housing trusts to unlock housing opportunities. The housing policy recognises different types of social housing. The distinction was made between policy and housing officers.

It was anticipated that the public will question the impact of National park designation on housing prices in areas that come into or are near the National Park. It was noted that some house prices may increase but new housing will be required to be 'affordable'.

Reference was made to 'land banking' and the prospect of LDNP restrictions could induce the earlier sale of land to avoid reduction in land value, as this land would be used for new developments, which will focus on Affordable Housing

David McGowan will be asked at the next SBP meeting to address issues raised on misuse of planning restrictions.

It was observed that larger houses in some areas are being purchased by people who commute outside of the local area and take their children to schools at the end of the commute rather than locally.

It was observed that holiday lets (cf second homes) contribute to the local economy as there is a succession of people using local services. Some of these services such as Buses, Pubs and Cafes would not be sustainable without the visitor community and Ravenglass is an example of ~ 300 populations and has 3 pubs, post office and café.

4. Transport policy

Hanna Latty provided information (accompanying the minutes) on the LDNP vision for visitor transport, highlighting that LDNP set policy but Cumbria County Council is the transport authority.

Infrastructure is key to transport within the Lake District. It is accepted that people will generally want to use cars to get to the Lake District but that they want to get out of their cars while visiting.

Car parking needs to have a link to sustainable onward transport.

The LDNP works with other authorities as closely as possible to develop, for instance, cycle routes, and are keen to work with partners. It was made clear that Cumbria County Council has statutory authority for transport and LDNP works with the authority on transport policy.

Reduction in local bus services by Cumbria County Council was highlighted. Future transport development aligns with 'attract and disperse'. The National Park status can be used to attract funding for visitor transport that also benefits residents.

Demand led services (an example of which is Uber) are under consideration and this type of transport could be visitor led but also benefit residents. It is an example of where Residents could access services which cannot "stand on their own feet" without the additional visitor demands.

5. Community conversations

David Savage distributed a handout (accompanying minutes) that sets out a proposal for conversation with the community about the Southern boundary extension. The outline proposals include:

- Each PC to host a community conversation, provisionally during the summer
- Local Parish Councilors would attend the community conversations to represent their area.
- Experts and representatives from FLD and LDNP are to attend
- Fact sheets will be available
- Questions will be gathered and responses will be provided after the sessions
- Key topic conversations will be held with special interest groups such as farmers, local business, will be held in the Autumn.

These proposals were viewed positively.

Parish Council representatives were asked to take this back to their Parish Councils and seek their agreement to host community conversations, pay for expenses, and optimise the number and location of community conversation drop in sessions to reduce the burden on those who will provide support and expertise.

6. Meeting conclusion

The delineation of the boundary was clarified. Natural England would ultimately determine the boundary with consideration of the quality of the evidence but would apply pragmatism. A Parish Council could be split by the boundary (as for a number of Parish Councils now), but this is an issue for Natural England.

The unique selling point of this designation proposal is that is community led; other changes are being led by organisations. It is recognized that this is the only known existing approach which is being led by the Community. This is a unique strength to any potential application.

The next several meetings will be held at Grizebeck Community Hall at 18:30 on Wednesday evenings.

- 20 March (Dave McGowan, planning process)
- 17 April (Potential to include the Landscape report)
- 8 May (any remaining topics)

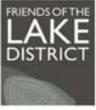
The meeting concluded at 20:30.

Attendees

Mike	Cumming	Askam Ireleth
Diana	Rutherford	Blawith and Subberthwaite
Gill	Wardle	Blawith and Subberthwaite
Chris	Hoban	Copeland District Council observer
Jay	Sayers	Duddon
Graham	Pitts	Duddon
Douglas	Chalmers	Friends of the Lake District
John	Campbell	Friends of the Lake District
Caroline	Johnson	Lower Allithwaite
Mike	Lamb	Lower Allithwaite
Graham	Sanderson	Lowick
Jane	Micklethwaite	Millom Town Council
Angela	Dixon	Millom Town Council
Bob	Kelly	Millom Town Council
David	Savage	Millom Without
Ian	Lockwood	Millom Without
Adrienne	Calsy	Millom Without
Brian	Wright	Millom Without
Howard	Graves	Observer
Jonathan	Powell	Observer
Hannah	Latty	National Park
Dan	Hunt	National Park
Maggie	Cumming	Whicham

Apologies

Alan	Cook	Aldingham
Steve	Smith	Copeland Council observer
Joanna	Greenway	Grange over Sands
Martin	Ingle	Grange over Sands
Denise	Burness	Millom Town Council
Angela	Nugent	Millom Without
Pauline	Murray	Millom Without
Pauline	Murray	Millom Without
Mike	Harrington	Muncaster
Bob	Williamson	Drigg and Carelton



National Park Boundary Meeting

Southern Boundary Partnership

Gaby	Napoletani	Millom Without
Ged	McGrath	Millom Town Council

Copy to Lowick PC Clerk irene@jewell.me.uk

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