

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7 JUNE 2005

MEMBER TRAINING

Report of the Head of Business Management

Purpose of Report: To invite members to comment on their training needs and requirements for the period to June 2006

Legal Implications including Human Rights Act 1998:

None

Financial Implications:

Any costs would be covered by the training budget for members

National Park Purposes:

To ensure members are equipped with the knowledge and information to approve policy and make decisions relating to the achievement of National Park purposes.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Authority considers and AGREES the Member Training Programme for the period to June 2006

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Training arrangements for members have centred around national and regional conferences and workshops, local tours and ad hoc sessions covering specific topics.
- 1.2 Local training has in the past tended to be carried out on reserved Fridays throughout the year and it would seem that this may not be the most attractive day for members given their commitments.

2. **PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 The national and regional conferences and workshops which the Authority has supported include:

- ANPA Annual Conference
- ANPA Workshops
- Member Induction
- Joint Activities with Dartmoor (now likely to include the New Forest)

It is assumed that the Authority would wish to continue to support these national and regional events.

- 2.2 It is suggested that local training should consist of:

- An annual development control tour – currently planned for 23 September 2005
- An annual conservation tour including the Authority's moorlands and woodlands – currently planned for the Spring of 2006 (May 2006)
- A series of workshops on topics which members would find useful held on the rising of the Planning Committee on 2 August 2005, 1 November 2005, 10 January 2006 and 4 April 2006.

2.3 At a recent Resources Committee members asked for a demonstration on IT Developments such as the new website, the document management system, the planning portal, and the geographic information system improvements. Rather than give a presentation just to the Resources Committee members may feel it should be given to the whole membership.

2.4 Other topics on which presentations could be made to members include:

- Biodiversity Action Planning
- Archaeology
- Conservation Area Appraisals
- Managing SSSIs/NNRs owned by the Authority
- Social Inclusion
- Education (including Pinkery Centre)
- National Park Centres/Local Information Points
- Information provision (publications, website)
- Freedom of Information Act
- Managing Rights of Way and Diversions/Open Access
- Working with Volunteers
- Exmoor pony management

2.5 Members are invited to comment on their training needs identifying the priority areas that should be covered on the four dates set out in paragraph 2.2 above.

Charles Burrows
Head of Business Management
24 May 2005