

ITEM 17

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7 JUNE 2005

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Purpose of Report:

To receive updates and reports on meeting and events attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority.

1. **Council for National Parks (CNP) Meeting –21 April 2005 Report from Arabella Amory**
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Council for National Parks (CNP) in Birmingham in April new members of Council were introduced. They included Jonathan Cardell, John Bainbridge's successor as Chief Executive of the Dartmoor Preservation Association (DPA).
- 1.3 It was noted with regret that the Exmoor Society is no longer a Member of CNP due to its decision not to support the rise of Council fees. Concern was expressed that Exmoor Society members would not have a lobbying voice at national level or be able to contribute to and influence CNP policy.
- 1.4 'News from Around the Parks' items included the news that Bill Cann, after 10 years as Chairman of Dartmoor NPA, was not standing for re-election as a County Councillor and therefore would be standing down from the Park Authority. Also of interest was the Peak Districts NPA's Youth Forum which aimed at encouraging secondary school children to take an interest in the National Park and environmental issues. Graham Taylor, National Park Officer of Northumberland NPA, retires from his position in November and he was thanked for all the support he has given CNP over the years.
- 1.5 CNP will give evidence at the Whinash wind turbine application public inquiry. This is a major development which would impact on both the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks if given permission and would have severe implications for all protected areas in England.
- 1.6 CNP are also involved in the consultation process undertaken by the Countryside Agency on boundary reviews. One area considered to meet criteria for designation as National Park and associated with the Lake District National Park includes Bretherdale which is the area under immediate threat from the Whinash wind energy development.
- 1.7 Council members discussed the idea of extending the Sandford Principle to include conflicts within the second purpose. As the Countryside Agency research recognised, irreconcilable conflicts between the two main purposes are rare, although the existence of the Sandford Principle has been a major factor in this because it is seen as a last resort and therefore encourages management solutions and negotiations. It is considered that conflicts within the second purpose are just as, if not more, likely than conflicts between the two purposes. An example of this is the Windermere speed limit issue where one recreational use, water ski-ing, was held to be in conflict with other uses e.g. sailing, canoeing, fishing and quiet enjoyment. (Another example might be the recent clay pigeon shooting school application on Exmoor).

If anyone would like any further information please contact Arabella Amory Member of the Exmoor National Park Authority.

Date: May 2005