

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

URGENT BUSINESS ITEMS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

20 AUGUST 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION & EDUCATION

PART A

1. MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PROJECT - REQUEST TO APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION (A.7932/CD)

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring members up to date with the work of the Moors for the Future Project in respect of the Moorland Visitor and Research Centre proposals at the Fieldhead property in Edale. Most importantly within this to seek member's approval for the project to apply for planning permission for part of the proposal to allow for an early start to construction works. (Hence the need to call an Urgent Items Sub-Committee).

Background

- 1.2 The Moors for the future project reported to this committee on 16 July on the projects progress to date and presented a draft of its year two project plan. Members received both favourably.
- 1.3 A major item in the works of the project is the redevelopment of the National Park Property at Fieldhead in Edale. It is proposed that this will form a new moorland interpretation function and research facility in addition to office space for the project staff. The present uses will also continue on the site. Those being the campsite facility and the National Park Ranger Base.
- 1.4 Members will note that an extensive consultation exercise has been undertaken by the project through a stakeholder group in the village of Edale to decide upon the location of the projects proposed moorland visitor and research centre. This will now go ahead at the site of the present National Park Information Centre at Fieldhead. This stakeholder group is still working with the project, both to mitigate the concerns of residents over the development and to add value to the design process. It should be noted that the Moors for the Future Project Manager considers the stakeholder group to be of significant importance to the development and has high regard for the hard work so far of the residents and officers on the group.
- 1.5 In the intervening period between the Moors for the Future Project being drawn up and the project starting and being in a position to commence plans at Fieldhead (approximately 5 years), the buildings have deteriorated rapidly. It is considered that the funds available for the new moorland centre £500K were insufficient in light of this. Further funds of £175k were applied for within the East Midlands Development Agency scheme to assist in bringing the basic fabric of the building into good repair. A favourable response has been received to this application but these EMDA funds will require outturn by 31 March 2005.

Proposal

- 1.6 The Project proposes to manage the re-development in 2 phases the first phase to bring the older house and present ranger centre into good repair including internal refurbishment of the present house and works to reposition internal walls stairs and doorways in the present house. The second more substantial phase will be the redevelopment of the visitor centre. A separate report requesting authority will be submitted to a later committee when details with the stakeholder group and architect have been agreed and finalised.
- 1.7 This first phase will need planning approval for the internal works to go ahead as these will be with a view to redeveloping the present domestic house for office and research centre uses.
- 1.8 With planning approval as early as possible there will be time available to outturn the EMDA grant on these works.
- 1.9 A location plan of the house within the Fieldhead property is attached as Appendix 1. A floor plan of the present house and a further plan of the proposed changes will be available at the meeting.

Financial Considerations

- 1.10 The Projects HLF supported budget is in place. The works itemised in 1.6 to 1.9 would not be committed until EMDA funds were assured.

Human Rights

- 2.10 There are no apparent human rights issues.

2.11 RECOMMENDATION:

That approval is given to the Director of Recreation and Education to apply for Planning Permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This will be an application for change of use, to the present residential house at Fieldhead, to form office, research centre and community meeting facilities.

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

Nil