

Public Document Pack

Peak District National Park Authority

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Our Values: Care – Enjoy – Pioneer

SUPPLEMENT TO MAIN AGENDA

National Park Authority Meeting 5 July 2024

2. Member Statements for Appointments at the AGM 2024 *(Pages 3 - 10)*

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2024 Statements Received for Positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority

Chair of the Authority:

Ken Smith

In my 6 years as a Secretary of State (SoS) appointee (and 34 years as a PDNPA officer), including three years as Vice-Chair of Planning Committee and 1 year as Chair of the Authority, I have been committed to the successful delivery of Authority purposes, duty and policies. Through these roles, I have always sought to act on behalf of the whole Membership without favouring one particular group or interest. I firmly believe that the NPA 'team' includes both Members and staff, the former providing strategic advice, guidance and decision-making, the latter focussed on operational delivery. It remains vital to deliver the final elements of the organisational review, ensure its effective and ensure effective completion and delivery of our developing Management Plan and Local Plan policies, by us and by our partners. Pursuit of our statutory purposes and duty, through our policy base, includes (neither prioritised nor exhaustive):

- Continuing to address the over-arching resourcing issues facing the Authority
- Resolving the issues around future provision of information to our visitors and residents through our visitor centres and website
- Continuing our move towards net zero, while addressing other climate-change issues e.g. involving transport, agriculture and nature recovery
- Listening to and supporting our communities, of both place and interest, through provision e.g. of affordable housing, sustainable employment and visitor education and management
- Continuing to provide an effective and appropriately resourced and staffed planning and enforcement service
- Managing change in the landscapes of the Peak District, maintaining their essential character, the 'scenery' that visitors come to admire (the distinctive combination of landscape, nature, cultural heritage) while inputting significantly to the local economy
- Continuing to review our governance
- Continuing to deliver agri-environment opportunities for farmers and land managers, through FiPL and other developing Environmental Land Management schemes
- Maintaining our ambition, profile and leadership, locally and nationally, as a pioneering (and the first) national park

I believe, over the last year, that I have demonstrated that I have the skills and experience to lead the Authority, as Chair, through the above issues (as well as those not listed!). As background, I have, in the past, been Chair of Trustees of the Council for British Archaeology (a national archaeological and educational charity), chaired the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for both England and the UK; engaged with civil servants and ministers in the development and delivery of agri-environment schemes; delivered governance review while President of the Royal Archaeological Institute. I am currently President of Sheffield's Hunter Archaeological Society and Chair of the Bakewell and District Historical Society.

My years as an officer and as a Member underline my commitment to the current and future management and development of the National Park, utilising my skills and expertise through what I consider to be complementary rather than conflicting experiences. I would be proud to be re-elected Chair and would, of course, serve to the best of my ability.

Deputy Chair of the Authority:**James Berresford**

I am keen to continue as Deputy Chair of the Authority. Through my contributions to date, I have proved that I have a genuine appreciation of the organisation's core purposes and values and the challenges it faces.

The Authority has made significant strides over the past year in tackling the challenges of financial constraint and escalating costs. My role in supporting the Chair and CEO has helped instigate successful measures, making the organisation a more agile and responsive entity. However, the journey is not over, and I am fully dedicated to providing unwavering support if re-appointed as Deputy Chair.

My relationship with the Authority's Chair has been particularly fruitful, and we have developed a very effective working relationship. One of the most challenging issues we have begun to address together has been setting a course to tackle the issues of over-tourism. Whilst wanting to encourage a vibrant tourism sector and to offer opportunities for all, the Authority cannot ignore the very real downsides that mass visitation causes. We are not the tourist authority, but we are responsible for encouraging fellow stakeholders to adopt a more sustainable approach to tourism. I have taken a lead in defining the Authority's position in this regard and hope, as Deputy Chair, to further develop and champion a new approach inside and outside the organisation.

The spectre of rapidly worsening climate change and the long-term impact on the area's precious landscapes and delicate ecosystems continues to be centre stage. Not simply through a new approach to tourism but also by embracing a wide variety of measures, much is still to be done. I am keen to play a key role in helping the Authority's efforts to combat the effects of climate change.

Much of what the Authority must achieve in the coming years, most notably through the lens of its Management Plan, can only be secured through an energetic approach to working in partnership. This is one of my greatest strengths, which, combined with the excellent local and national networks I possess, further supports my bid to continue as Deputy Chair of the Authority.

Once again, I would like to represent the Authority on the East Midlands Councils Board, ensuring it is connected to developments associated with the newly formed East Midlands Combined Authority.

Finally, I would welcome the opportunity to continue as one of the Authority's representatives on the Peak District National Park Foundation. Now that the Foundation has become well established, there are new opportunities to raise income through enhanced visitor giving. I have experience with such initiatives from other areas of my working life.

2024 Statements Received for Positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees

Chair of Planning Committee:

Patrick Brady

I have served as Chair of Planning Committee for two years and respectfully seek members' approval to renew my appointment.

I am resident in the Park, and my family roots in it go back a long way. Its environment and communities are important to me and have motivated me to be an involved and questioning Member of the Planning Committee since I joined the Authority in 2012.

My professional career at a senior level in local government gave me a solid understanding of regeneration, particularly through heritage, and of the policy and legal sides of planning: I have been closely involved in the preparation of several strategic and local plans, both within the West Midlands and the wider Peak District. The review of our own Local Plan is now under way where I believe my knowledge and background are being of service to the Authority and (hopefully!) helpful for the professional officers.

If I am re-appointed as Chair, I will try to:

- Foster consistent and reasonable decision-making that meets members' and local priorities whilst looking after what is special about the Park
- Improve monitoring and performance, building on the recent developments in planning enforcement
- Carry on arguing for planning policies and decisions that meet local housing and economic needs, and the interests of our communities, whilst addressing the urgencies of climate change and nature recovery and conserving what is important about this much-loved and used National Park
- Achieve greater discussion and involvement in policy development so that the emerging policies of the new Local Plan are more widely owned by members
- Develop further a more open approach between the public and the planning process.

Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Cllr Patrick Brady

See above statement for Chair of Planning Committee

Virginia (Ginny) Priestley

I am a Secretary of State Parish Member who has been on the Authority Board for 5 years. I am asking your support for the re-appointment of Vice Chair of the planning committee, a position that I have held for the past year. Applications come to planning committee for Members to take a balanced decision having listened to the points put by our Officers and the Applicant and I try to take a logical view whilst respecting the policies that we are working with.

I see the Vice Chair Role as supporting the Chairperson in the preparation for meetings and managing of the agenda, whilst recognize that I am still in a learning process I am taking every opportunity to further my planning education.

Now retired for the past 2 years I can devote the necessary time to this role, my previous career involved the chairing of meetings at various levels of management. Added to this I have recently completed a course on the Chairing of Meetings. I have a good attendance record for both planning committee and tours.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee

Janet Dugdale

I would be delighted if Members could support me for re-election as Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee for 2024-25.

I have now completed five years as a Secretary of State Member and during this time I have been involved as follows:

- Chair P&R 2022-4
- Deputy Chair P&R 2020-22
- Climate Change Member Champion 2020-23
- Chair Governance Working Group 2023-4
- Deputy Chair Moors for the Future 2023-4
- Authority representative with Campaign for National Parks 2023-4

I have served as a member of the Management Plan Task and Finish Group, which set the Management Plan aims on which the P&R 'programme themes' are now based and advised on the Authority's corporate strategy. I have been a member of the Local Plan Steering Group and Budget Monitoring Group and during 2022-3 served on the Organisational Change Working Group, assisting the CEO and senior team. Additionally, I participated in the planning and delivery of the Transport Symposium to key stakeholders (February 2023). Between them, these have given me a clear understanding of these core elements of the Authority's purposes, duties, working practices and scope.

Set out briefly below is how I believe my skills and experience are appropriate for this role:

- From my previous career in university senior management, I have a sound working knowledge of key aspects of the P&R committee's scope – strategy, finance, risk management and human resources – and the balance needed between competing priorities and resources across the Authority.
- With my academic expertise in sustainability, I have a good working understanding of the remit and activities of the programmes scrutinised by the P&R Committee and the links between them.
- I have held many chair/vice-chair positions, including Chair of trustees for a sustainability membership organisation for universities, as chair of HR/remuneration sub-committees in another trustee role, and have effectively chaired multiple committees in my time in university senior management.
- I hold two outside appointments of relevance – first, as Chair for the Land (Restoration) Trust; second, Chair of the National Trust Regional Advisory

Group (North). Both these charities share similar objectives to that of the PDNPA and my involvement enables knowledge transfer for mutual benefit.

I believe a key aspect of the role as Chair is to understand and embrace the diversity of expertise, opinion and perspective we as Members bring to the Authority. Should I be successfully appointed I intend to commit time within and between meetings to do this.

Vice Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee

Charles Greaves

I would be grateful for your support for my re-appointment as Vice-Chair of the Authority's Programmes and Resources (P&R) committee.

I am a Local Authority member representing Kirklees Council which lies at the northern most part of the Park. The only Kirklees village within the Park boundaries is Holme and our best known part of the park is perhaps Holme Moss – and an area once farmed by my family. I feel privileged to be a part of the Authority and I am keen to support its work. Whilst my home is just outside of the park boundary, the park is within my Kirklees ward which I have represented for the last 12 years (and to which I have just been re-elected), as well as being part of the Holme Valley Parish Council area, where I have been a parish councillor since 2009.

I come from a butcher / farming family that also ran a property rental and holiday business, but my working background is in finance and quantitative analysis. I started work in Investment Management and moved into Financial Services, later specialising in regulatory oversight for sales quality. In more recent years I moved into the voluntary sector providing guidance on finance, debt and pension matters, and as well as being a borough councillor and parish councillor, one of my other roles is as a Clerk to a parish council in Wakefield.

P&R is a busy committee, covering a diverse workload with competing demands. I see the Vice-Chair's principal role as supporting the Chair in managing the agenda and in enabling members of the committee to make their contribution to its work, as well as with monitoring the budget and programme implementation.

Having been a Non-Executive Director, Corporate Trustee, Partnership board lead, Place Committee Chair, as well as a member of strategic cross-party boards, and having chaired a range of public and private council meetings, I am experienced at the need to manage the agenda, whilst encouraging participation and facilitating discussion.

I am used to moving between competing responsibilities and duties - having to "wear different hats" has always been a part of my working life. Not being so closely tied into the heart of the Park, I believe I can bring another perspective into the work of the committee – whilst discharging the duties of the Authority and maintaining the relevance of the Park in the financially constrained, post-Covid world.

I am a regular walker in and around the north of the park, and as a family we often holiday in and around the park. The Greaves name has played its part in the history of the peak district – the Bakewell Pudding perhaps being the most famous connection. I have no idea if am related but I am happy to claim the link!

I ask for your support, and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

2024 Statements Received for Appointments to Committees, Groups and Panels

Planning Committee

Martin Beer

I have developed some understanding of the issues that need to be addressed when dealing with applications on Planning Committee and would like to continue to put this into effect for another year. Key to providing an efficient and respected planning service is to have a clear and unambiguous set of principles that everyone can accept. The new Local Plan is the current development of this (after the Management Plan with which I was involved as chair of the Parishes Forum). My particular interest is the need for vibrant and sustainable communities within the park. Whilst housing is a major issue, it is not the only one. There is little point in building houses if there is no suitable employment, services or transport to provide the necessities of life for the residents. Demonstrated by the steady drop in the 18-30 age group and the slow pick up of people in their 30s and 40s. The local plan needs to consider this and develop appropriate policies to support thriving and sustainable villages.

Appeals Panel

Martin Beer

I have regularly been a member of disciplinary panels for both staff and students, both at the University and as a governor of a school in Sheffield. I was also a trade union officer and regularly supported members at disciplinary hearings, including those leading to dismissal. I have considerable experience of the disciplinary process and the legal framework in which it operates and could bring this to the use of the Authority.

Governance Review Working Group

Martin Beer

My experience of governance both on senior boards in the University and the British Computer Society gives me a good background in developing strategic strategies to move organisations forward. I would use these skills to help the Authority manage how it develops to meet the challenges of its principles and the environment in which it operates.

Local Plan Review Member Steering Group

Martin Beer

I have developed some understanding of the issues that need to be addressed when dealing with applications on Planning Committee and would like to continue to put this into effect for another year. Key to providing an efficient and respected planning service is to have a clear and unambiguous set of principles that everyone can accept. The new Local Plan is the current development of this (after the Management Plan with which I was involved as chair of the Parishes Forum). My particular interest is the need for vibrant and sustainable communities within the park. Whilst housing is a major issue, it is not the only one. There is little point in building houses if there is no suitable employment, services or transport to provide the necessities of life for the

residents. Demonstrated by the steady drop in the 18-30 age group and the slow pick up of people in their 30s and 40s. The local plan needs to consider this and develop appropriate policies to support thriving and sustainable villages.

2024 Statements Received for Appointments to Outside Bodies

East Midlands Councils

James Berresford

Once again, I would like to represent the Authority on the East Midlands Councils Board, ensuring it is connected to developments associated with the newly formed East Midlands Combined Authority.

Peak District National Park Foundation

James Berresford

I would welcome the opportunity to continue as one of the Authority's representatives on the Peak District National Park Foundation. Now that the Foundation has become well established, there are new opportunities to raise income through enhanced visitor giving. I have experience with such initiatives from other areas of my working life.

High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership

Martin Beer

Until I retired, I regularly used the Hope Valley train service into Sheffield and am well aware of the issues with the current service. I was a member of the Hope Valley group until it merged with the High Peak group and supported the campaign to have an hourly local service throughout the day. There are still a number of issues including the long gaps in evening local trains, the lack of a fast train stopping at a station in the Hope Valley and disabled access at Chinley (and elsewhere) despite the recent upgrade work. Crowding also still seems to be a problem at peak times or when a fast train is cancelled.

Moors for the Future Partnership – Chair

Virginia (Ginny) Priestley

I very much admire the work that Moors for the Future Partnership are doing and the way that the Team operate so well together. I can add value to this as Chairman which I see as very much a support role with the Park Authority as the lead and responsible partner working in tandem with all the other partners. The Chairs role is ambassadorial, interacting with the key audience to help with the raising of awareness and funds, and I believe that my extensive work experience is an asset.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Peak District Local Access Forum

Martin Beer

One of the reasons that living in the National Park is so popular is the ability to walk or ride over large areas of open countryside. This is facilitated by the network of footpaths and bridleways that need to be managed and maintained. The Local Access Forum brings together all the interested groups and provides a forum to develop consensus. Whilst it is always more fulfilling to open new routes the current ones need to be maintained and linked together to make a more coherent offering. As a Member of the Local Access Forum I would look to develop such an offering with our many partners.
