

Statements for Position of Chair of the Authority

Statement by Cllr Lesley Roberts:

Members,

It is the time of year when we take time to assess what we have achieved and plan what we still need to do. Our Performance and Business Plan sets it all out in depth and detail, but I would like to extract a few points to illustrate the variety of work undertaken by our officers.

I list some of the projects below:-

Moors for the Future Partnership, South West Peak Landscape Partnership Scheme, White Peak Project, Stanage North Lees and Sheffield Moors Masterplan, Countryside Stewardship, Trans-Pennine Wider Connectivity Study, NPE 'Future of Farming' group.

There are many, many more – too many to mention here, but you will find them all in the Plan.

The restructure of the Authority is almost complete, and we are both leaner and smarter to cope with the future facing us. We are still financially challenged, must look after our farmers post Brexit, continue with the projects already underway and – with partners – move forward with other plans; which will be outlined in the Management Plan, currently out for consultation.

Alongside this, we hold our AGM, during which we elect the members to the various posts, where they will be able to support and help the officers in their work.

I have been Chairman for 3 years, and if you elect me for a fourth year (our standing orders allow a maximum of 4 years), I will continue to support and back the CEO and officers to consolidate the progress already made.

I am also involved nationally with the family of National Parks, where we all face similar problems. We are in the process of sharing both ideas and services, in order to fulfil our statutory purposes, as well as developing the projects we feel that only National Parks can do.

The job of Chairman is a pleasant one, even though it takes hard work, responsibility and commitment. So, I hope you will re-elect me, in order that I can see through some of the outstanding projects, including the completion of the National Park Management Plan – due early next year.

Lesley.

Statement by Cllr Patrick Brady:

Following recent approaches from colleagues, I have agreed with some diffidence to allow my name to go forward for election as Chairman of the Authority.

The Authority, mainly through its staff, has some remarkable and sometimes spectacular achievements to its name, and long may this continue. Nonetheless, I sense a growing concern at the dangers of "Cabinet Government" and a degree of frustration and confusion

around when, how and why decisions are taken and about how we debate and formulate policy.

My aim is to help Members make a difference and, within resources, to use my considerable experience of local authority governance at a senior level to work inclusively with colleagues (both formally and informally) to:

- ✓ strengthen the Members' role in making policy;
- ✓ structure meetings so that Members properly debate and "own" the policies we approve;
- ✓ broaden the Members' participation in the scrutinising and appraisal of performance;
- ✓ keep Members better informed about the important business of the Authority, and review opportunities for Member consultation and "call-in";
- ✓ clarify the accountability of Officers for actions and advice;
- ✓ pursue "open government" so that the public and Members can better contribute to our work;
- ✓ consider how Members may influence the agenda;
- ✓ ensure that reasonable concerns of Members are addressed and responded to.

Patrick Brady.

Statements for Position of Deputy Chair of the Authority

Statement by Cllr David Chapman:

I state below my reasons for wishing once again to be elected as Deputy Chair of this Authority. This statement has not changed other than in the fact that I have a further year of understanding and experience of what the role entails. This means I am better able to support the Chair of the Authority and continue with the commitments with which I have been involved over the last two and a half years.

I was elected to the position of Deputy Chair for the Peak District National Park in March 2015. Since then I have established a very good working relationship with our Chief Executive and officers within this authority whilst also giving support to our current Chair in sharing a heavy work load. This continuity in the position of Deputy Chair means that I now have both the experience and contacts to liaise with outside bodies and a close knowledge of staff interactions and responsibilities within Aldern House, something which has taken time to develop. My original reasons for wishing to be considered for this position remain unchanged:

One is to ensure, to the best of my abilities, that the hopes, needs and aspirations of all Park residents and visitors are understood and met wherever possible. Two is to ensure, to the best of my abilities, that the landscape of this Park is protected and sustained. I now add a third reason

and that is to continue to help the development of a closer understanding and respect between officers and members in what are times of change for this National Park.

As a Derbyshire Dales District Councillor I am also able to act as a conduit for any matters arising which have mutual significance for this Park.

The qualities which I consider myself to have to fulfil this role are:

1. A lifelong connection and unquestionable love for the Peak District National Park.
2. 17 years as a District Councillor which have provided me with a sound knowledge of the workings of Local Government.
3. A vast number of friends and relatives within the Park who don't hesitate to keep me informed as to public opinion.
4. I am in my seventh year as an Authority Member and have served on a number of committees which have given me a broad aspect and understanding of National Park governance, namely: Planning, ARP, Moors For The Future (Chair), Land Managers Forum, Appeals Panel, National Park Management Advisory Group and Local Joint Committee.

To be re-elected to this role would again be a massive privilege for me and the chance to continue to give back something to this National Park which has had such a huge influence on, and importance to, my life.

David Chapman.