

STATEMENTS RECEIVED FOR POSITIONS OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

FOOD AND FARMING

Statement by Mrs Frances Beatty

I am sorry not to be able to be at the AGM, but my credentials for the Food & Farming or Rural Economy representative lie in that this is where my knowledge and experience lies.

I was Regional Director of the Country Land & Business Association for many years. I subsequently ran my own rural economy business:- specifically a bid writing and grant support company (relevant projects included managing Staffordshire Rural Hub; running the West Midlands Food & Farming Programme. I was involved at the inception of Churnet Valley Living Landscapes where I researched, took evidence and wrote the farming and enterprise section of the bid. I ran a National Lottery Changing Spaces Local Food programme; a local sourcing project for Staffordshire schools; et al).

In my capacity as cabinet member for Planning & Economic Development at Stafford Borough Council I take a particular interest in rural issues eg broadband; new SPDs on rural buildings; new rural development; and landscape design; local sourcing; local procurement etc. I am Staffordshire & Stoke LEP (SSLEP) representative to the national Defra LEPs Round Table; I chair Staffordshire Rural Forum and its economic thematic group (which acts as the SSLEP's rural economic advisory body). I am a member of the ESIF committee deciding EU grant applications; and chair Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee. I am member of Staffordshire DMP for PDNPA, but have a strong county wide interest in the visitor economy.

Frances.

LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

Statement by Mr Robert Helliwell:

I have been elected as Member with Responsibility for Landscape for the last two years. The title of this post has now changed to encompass heritage. There has been comment that these are strange topics to put together, but the landscape that we see is generally a result of past industries such as lead mining, quarrying and farming. Customs developed with these industries, so the two do go hand in hand; each is important in its own right but are also linked to each other.

I have always had an interest in local history and my work as a farmer encompasses caring for the landscape. The wealth of archaeology on the moors and woodlands of the Peak District is fascinating, while local customs help to keep rural communities alive.

Being on Planning Committee is useful in ensuring that landscape is considered and historical issues are treated with respect.

Robert Helliwell.

RURAL ECONOMY

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Frances.

Statement by Cllr Chris Furness:

Please read this together with my Member Representative for Economy report for 2016 – 2017 (previously circulated by Democratic Services), to which I would add that I have spoken at planning committee meetings in support of applications which I believed would benefit the PDNP economy and against those I thought would be detrimental.

I studied Economics to A level and it has been a lifelong interest for me.

My career, before retiring in 2000, was with large PLCs - managing and developing their major accounts and exports, and creating and managing subsidiary companies.

Since retirement, I have acquired Masters Degrees at Oxford and Sheffield Universities and I am a member of the Sheffield University Alumni Board and student grants committee.

As a District Councillor, I represent Derbyshire Dales on two committees (Audit and Scrutiny) of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority. I thus have a voice on the equitable distribution of the annual £30 million of Government economic regeneration funding for SCRCA. Since half of Derbyshire Dales, geographically, is within the National Park, this will also impact on PDNPA and I make regular reference to this in debates at SCRCA committees.

My guiding principle, as MR Rural Economy, would be to ensure that members never lose sight of the need for a vibrant and developing economy within this National Park. We need to preserve our existing business sites and create new ones in appropriate locations. There are many new businesses being created which will need to expand. We need to be able to offer them the opportunity to do so without having to move away from the National Park.

Affordable Housing is a key ingredient of a healthy Rural Economy and we need to ensure that sufficient is made available for local needs.

Chris Furness.