

2018 Statements Received for Positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority

Chair of Authority:

Cllr Patrick Brady

I had not intended to stand but, following approaches from colleagues, I have agreed to offer myself for election as Chairman of the Authority.

Policy

Policy reviews are a priority for the next couple of years:

- a major review of the future of National Parks;
- A Corporate Policy review that will, in many ways, replace the old National Park Management Plan; a
- a review of planning policy, with a new NPPF and a new all-embracing Local Plan

Members need positively to own and understand the policies we are advocating and those we adopt. This requires leadership, understanding of policy implications, and inclusiveness. We must:

- A. Make sure we consider the wider long-term implications of what we do and not be distracted by vociferous special interest groups or the campaigns of the moment;
- B. Listen to and understand what our local farmers, businesses and communities are saying. They are, after all, the people whose predecessors created this National Park and its special qualities and now care for them;
- C. Understand what is happening locally, not least given what we were told by Derbyshire Dales Council on our Annual Tour as to where our communities may be in a few years' time.

I believe firmly that the steps that may need to be taken for our communities are not only necessary and urgent for the long term health of the National Park, but are entirely compatible with our prime purpose of conserving and enhancing of its special qualities

What I want to do

A Chairman's role is limited, and whatever we do needs the time, enthusiasm, brains and the contribution of those members wanting to make a difference. My aim will be to help Members make that difference and, within resources, to use my considerable experience of local authority governance at a senior level to work inclusively with colleagues to:

- ✓ enhance the National Park Authority's reputation for integrity and consistency;
- ✓ re-build relationships with our partners, particularly the local authority leaderships with whom we need to work;
- ✓ find ways to strengthen Members' role in making policy, scrutiny and influencing the agenda;
- ✓ advocate simpler reports and "Plain English";

- ✓ keep Members better informed about the important business of the Authority;
- ✓ clarify the roles of Members and officers and the accountability of officers for actions and advice;
- ✓ pursue “open government” so that the public and Members can better contribute to our work;
- ✓ ensure that reasonable concerns of Members and partners are addressed and responded to, whether accepted or not.

Cllr David Chapman

For the past four years I have been the Deputy Chair of this Authority.

During that time, I have familiarised myself with all duties which a Chair of a National Park should be expected to fulfil.

I have attended both Planning and ARP Committees during my tenure as well as meeting every Friday with our CEO and Chair. This has kept me informed and updated with every aspect of the running of this Park and I consider that I have a well rounded insight into the overall requirements that this Authority requires from it's Chair.

Outside of this Authority I have also formed associations with Chairs and CEOs of all the other UK National Parks and would be able to seamlessly continue to work with them on topics which are of mutual interest and importance.

My idea of what the requirements of a Chair of this Authority should be are as follows:

- Someone who is not necessarily an expert in every field but who has the ability to bring together officers and Members to reach a mutually beneficial outcome bearing in mind that ultimately the Members are the decision makers.
- Being able to communicate with outside bodies such as politicians, local constituent and Parish councillors and all groups who have an interest and influence with this Park.
- Know the Park. I emphasise this point as it is so important that the residents' needs and aspirations are understood, in farming and industry, tourism and conservation, jobs and housing to name but a few. However small or large a part we play in these areas we must approach them all with dedication, enthusiasm, professionalism and love.

I consider that I meet these criteria.

I consider that I would be capable of leading this Authority with vigour, with fairness, with strength and with good humour.

I have lived, worked, farmed, been educated and raised a family in this Park all my life and I would consider it a privilege and an honour to be able to become its Chair.

Cllr Andrew McCloy

For the last four years I have chaired ARP committee, as well as taking part in Member Scrutiny teams, the Charity Working Group and holding Member Representative roles. Prior to my joining the Authority I chaired the Peak District Local Access Forum for six years; and I was a Derbyshire Dales District Councillor (Independent) for five years. What this has taught

me is that the Peak District National Park is at its strongest when it is led by a vigorous and visible membership; when all its constituent authorities and its local communities are fully and positively engaged; and when it is bold and imaginative in its thinking and is willing to try new approaches to help it adapt and develop.

If elected Chair of the Authority I will continue to encourage a constructive working relationship between Members and officers, based on mutual respect and understanding; but I am also clear that decision-making ultimately rests with the membership and should be seen to do so. I would chair the Authority as I have done ARP committee - calmly but strongly, with fairness and good humour, based on an inclusive approach that values the contribution of every single member.

I also believe that given the Peak District's complicated political make-up it is essential that we have a productive relationship with every constituent authority, from county and metropolitan through to district and parish, in which we understand each others' priorities and recognise that a successful and thriving National Park delivers for everyone.

I intentionally moved to the Peak District 20 years ago to set up home, since when our daughter has been born locally and is about to start secondary school in Bakewell, whilst my wife works as a senior radiographer for a local hospital. I've been a parish councillor for over 15 years, a member of numerous local community groups and am presently Chair of Governors at Youlgrave Primary School. I strongly believe that National Parks are at their most effective when the interests of the people that permanently live, work and farm in them are in the forefront of everyday thinking - whether it's building enough affordable homes for young people to remain in our villages or helping our farmers find a sustainable future.

We need to reflect on the pioneering spirit that helped set up the Peak District National Park in the first place and approach the challenges ahead with purpose as well as resolve, whether it's opposing inappropriate development or confronting the ongoing persecution of moorland birds, or being bold and visionary in tackling climate change, embracing landscape-scale conservation and reversing biodiversity loss. The recently-announced National Park review should inspire us to look again at how we go about our business and forge a National Park fit for purpose for the next 70 years, in order to stay relevant in an ever changing world. I would like to have the opportunity to lead the National Park in that new direction.

Deputy Chair of Authority:

Cllr Andrew Hart

I would like to put myself forward for the post of Vice Chairman of Peak District National Park Authority. I am committed to the aims and purposes of the National Park. But, I am strongly of the belief that there is scope within these aims to ensure the people living in the park are able to create vibrant dynamic communities that are of great benefit to residents and businesses.

The Peak Park should offer more and better opportunities for residents. In my view, this means more affordable housing, greater economic activity that is suited to the special environment, and much better ways of getting around the park.

Our current policies do not permit the provision of enough affordable housing to meet the need that we know exists. Business needs a more flexible and permissive policy environment so that they can thrive and open ourselves to new investments that contribute to the employment needs of residence and support the growth of productivity in the wider area.

I have been a board member of Peak Leader for a number of years and have acted as the vice-chairman for the past two years. During that period we have successfully invested in farm diversification, small business growth and the visitor economy. This is a direct contribution to the Peak District economy and I am proud of the impact the programme has had.

We are too keen to put barriers in the way of investment and this is stopping the innovation and change that is needed to maintain a living community. I am particularly concerned that our approach to transport in general does not take into consideration the needs of the Park.

Many Board members do not feel they are listened to and if they persist they are made to believe they are a nuisance. If elected, I would like to champion these members' concerns to those at the top.