

8. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (SF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

To up-date members of key issues since the previous Authority meeting

2. **Recommendations(s)**

1. **For members to note the report**

3. **Key Issues**

**Land Managers Forum - 31 May 2019.** This was an opportunity to hear from Defra on the tests and trials for the proposed new Environment Land Management System (ELMS). Defra are supporting each of the National Park Authorities to trial proposals for a new ELMS. Our trial is in the white peak, it will support our vision for a limestone landscape revitalised and has been developed by a sub group of the Land Managers Forum and White Peak Partnership. The trial will explore what it would take to properly reward and incentivise land managers to buffer and expand key habitat networks, landscape features and test a whole scheme approach for the delivery of public benefits.

**Peak Park Summit – 13 June 2019.** The Chief Executive and the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a strategic meeting to tackle rural and wildlife crime across the National Park. The High Sherrieff of Derbyshire attended and saw partnership working in action on engagement and enforcement. Other attendees included representatives from the Derbyshire Police Rural Crime Unit, South Yorkshire Police, National Farmers Union, Moorland Association and Trail Riders Federation. This strategic bi-annual summit will be supported operationally by a Fourshires Group, covering the four police forces across the National Park. We agreed to build on the Countryside Watch initiative of Derbyshire police to encourage codes of good conduct and reporting of illegal activity. A training session later in the year will improve partner understanding of heritage crime, wildlife crime, rural theft and damage and crime relating to motorised vehicles and raves.

**Derbyshire Cultural Heritage and Tourism (CHAT) Board – 18 June 2019.** Chatsworth House hosted the recent meeting of this Board, led by Derbyshire County Council and chaired by James Beresford. The CHAT Board aims to maximise the economic potential of Derbyshire's unique and distinctive cultural and environmental offer to ensure the county is an exceptional and *World Class Destination* for people to live, work, visit and invest. The Board set up a steering group to develop a Festival of Derbyshire in 2020/21; a celebration of Derbyshire and a number of landmark birthdays, including 20th anniversary of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, 70th anniversary of the Peak District National Park and the 250th anniversary of Arkwright at Cromford

**Hen Harriers breed for second year running in Peak District National Park.** This successful breeding in the dark peak moorlands is heartening. We are working with partners, through the Peak District Birds of Prey Initiative, to create the conditions for the hen harrier and other birds of prey to thrive once again in the moorlands of the National Park. This success is from landowners, gamekeepers and conservationists working well together and is a model for all to follow. Hard work remains to give these young harriers the best start in life

**Park Protector and Year of Green Action National Parks Award.** Our nomination for the *Skills Builder project* has been short-listed for these Awards. Campaign for National Parks, who run the awards, will announce the winning projects at an awards ceremony in London on 10 July. Skills Builder is a pilot project funded by Big Lottery. A partnership between a rehabilitation company based in Nottingham (DLNR), the Peak District National Park Authority and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, it recruits offenders on probation onto a 12-week training programme of conservation-related activities. We are not aware of any

participant being found to have re-offended since engaging with the project, 12 Level 1 Awards in Practical Skills have been gained, 11 Level 1 Awards in H&S have been gained and at least 12 countryside sites have been improved for public access and or biodiversity.

**Peak District National Park Foundation.** Following members approval this charity for the National Park was established earlier this year. With this year being the 70th anniversary of the Act of Parliament that led to the Peak District becoming the UK's first National Park, the Foundation want to keep the spirit of access and enjoyment of our National Park going into the future. They are hoping to raise £70,000 to mark this milestone to restore damaged moorland, look after important cultural heritage, help people access the National Park and protect at-risk species and their habitat. The Foundation has 7 Trustees, 3 appointed by the Authority, and its chair is Jen Lowthrop.

**Single Car Parking Scheme for Peak District National Park Authority car parks.** The new single, £40 annual permit for National Park Authority pay and display car parks is now in place. This updated permit gives everyone the opportunity to use any Pay & Display car park in the scheme – 18 of the 45 National Park Authority-owned car parks – for less than 80 pence per week. Blue badge holders will continue to park for free at all facilities. This new £40 annual permit rates among some of the lowest within the 15 UK National Parks, with the most expensive (the Lake District) currently costing around £500 per year. All Pay & Display fees will continue to be invested into National Park Authority land and projects in the areas surrounding the car parks involved in the scheme. Our remaining 27 car parks do not have charges.

**Rural Development in the English National Parks.** England's National Park Authorities have a long-standing ambition to support communities and drive sustainable economies from these rich cultural landscapes, integrating land management and rural and community development. A new paper from National Parks England signals a leading role National Parks can play in shaping land management and rural development whilst delivering the Government's objectives in the Industrial Strategy and the 25 Year Plan for the Environment. It sets out the vision and ambition for rural development in England's National Parks. Please see Appendix 1.

**UK National Parks and Clif Bar launch the National Parks Protectors Fund.** This new partnership is funding a series of major conservation projects across five of the National Parks in 2019, as well as supporting the environmental protection of the remaining ten parks. Clif Bar has a long history of supporting environmental projects in the USA and Canada, and this is the first time the company has lent its support in the UK. The 5 projects funded by Clif Bar in 2019 are:

- installation of a bug hotel bike rack in the Broads National Park;
- woodland protection in the New Forest National Park;
- anti-light pollution programme in Northumberland National Park;
- Paths Pollinators and People programme in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park;
- Operation Wildfire in the Peak District National Park which will train volunteers to support fire prevention and early detection, educate and provide advice and support on wildfire issues, and support Moorland restoration where fires have occurred.

#### 4. Appendices

Appendix 1 - : Rural Development in the English National Parks: a proposal from the English National Park Authorities

#### Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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