

## **2019 Statements Received for Positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority**

### **Chair of Authority:**

Cllr Andrew McCloy

I am standing as Chair of the Authority for a second term and with your support I will continue my approach that is based on fairness, openness and valuing the contribution of every member. In return I expect that all members will work together for the good of the National Park and show the necessary collaboration and commitment to make it happen. A good example of this has been the work of the member-led Governance Review working group over the last year, which has helped further improve the role and contribution of members and the effective functioning of the Authority. I look forward to carrying on with this positive and reforming agenda.

The National Park Authority will face a number of challenges in the year ahead, not least from the ongoing uncertainty over Brexit and its potential impact on farming and land management in the National Park. Julian Glover's review of National Parks and AONBs is due to report in the autumn and we will respond constructively to its findings. But regardless of what the report might say, as Chair I intend to ensure that the National Park Authority makes progress in a number of key areas, including:

- a renewed focus on providing local needs affordable housing across our resident communities, showing more urgency and imagination in its delivery
- more encouragement for landowners to sustainably manage moorlands that are healthy and biodiversity-rich, including putting more pressure on those that are not responding
- identify ways for the National Park to better connect with external and culturally diverse audiences, especially from our neighbouring cities
- begin a serious, joined-up conversation about the role of transport in the National Park and in particular explore ways to influence more sustainable visitor travel

However, one area in particular that I will continue to personally focus on is climate change. It is of such fundamental consequence for us all - especially protected areas like National Parks - that it will ultimately impact on everything we do. There has to be a cultural shift across the whole of the National Park Authority so that we face up to the implications for the National Park and adapt accordingly; but at the same time also develop a wide-ranging suite of mitigation measures that are informed, ambitious and in step with our many and diverse partners. If we get our approach to tackling climate change right it will deliver for the landscape and biodiversity, as well as the long term resilience of our communities. It is for us as Authority members to start showing real political leadership over climate change and to start doing it now.

**Deputy Chair of Authority:**

Cllr David Chapman

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

During that time I have gathered a wealth of experience in many aspects concerning the management of this Park of which I consider the holder of this position must be in possession and my involvement has been, amongst others:

Attendance at both Planning and ARP committees, Chair of the Land Managers Forum and Moors for the Future Partnership, member for Europarc and the National Park Management Advisory Group and member representative for Enforcement.

I consider my role to be particularly important from the situation of support for the Chair and also in sharing the weight of responsibility which the holder of that office must take in the running of this organisation which manifests itself not only locally but on a national scale where I have established contacts and friendships with Chairs and Chief Executives of all other UK National Parks, thus enabling me to seamlessly step in to meetings and commitments when our Chair is unable to attend.

I can be confident in stating that both Chairs with whom I have had the privilege of being Deputy have found my support and assistance of considerable value in sharing what is, particularly during recent times, a heavy work load.

Although a large part of the remit of this position is as back up for the Chair I am also very aware that this support must also extend to fellow members and just as importantly to our officers and I consider that I always have and always will take this responsibility very seriously.

I sincerely wish to be allowed by you, my fellow members, to continue the privilege of being the Deputy Chair of this Authority which, if elected, I will carry out with the passion and pride which our National Park deserves.

Cllr Chris Furness

Dave has done well as Deputy Chair over the last 4 years, but I feel that the principle of a 4-year maximum tenure for senior positions should be adhered to.

It is very important for the Deputy to support and work well with the Chairman. Andrew and I have similar views and ambitions for the future of the PDNPA and I look forward to working with him to achieve our goals. I have been a Board Member since 2003 (except for a 4-year gap) and have never been so optimistic about its future as I am now.

The post of Deputy Chair does have kudos and I intend to use that to further an initiative which I know Andrew also supports. One of the projects we are working on together is the creation of a Peak District National Park Community Land Trust (PDNPCLT), to acquire land for new affordable housing in communities where there is established local need. This is a model which we have already successfully tried and tested in our home villages of Bradwell

and Youlgrave. We would now like to expand this model to all PDNP communities and Brian Taylor is looking into the practicalities of a PDNPCLT, facilitated by the Authority.

Members who have known me for some time are aware of my concern for our communities within the Park. The cost of houses and the shortage of affordable rented housing is forcing many of our young people and young families out of the Park. They will probably do well wherever they go, but the communities they leave behind suffer from their loss when their dwellings become holiday lets or second homes. The village schools are the indicators of this trend. In Castleton, where only 40% of houses are now residential, I'm told the school population has fallen from around 50 in the 1980s to just 9 now. Eyam school has a similar history with only 10 pupils now.

This problem may not be solvable by simply building new affordable houses. Sometimes it is too immediate for that. Last year I was contacted by a resident whose landlord had told him to look for somewhere else to live as he wanted to sell the house. I later discovered that the landlord was selling twelve tenanted houses, eight of which were short term. If they all had to leave Bradwell it would have a serious impact on school numbers and the economy generally. Over the past year, I have been working with Bradwell CLT (as a Director) to try to purchase these houses to retain them as affordable rented dwellings for local needs in perpetuity. I am pleased to say we have managed to put together a grants and loan package of over £2 million to allow us to acquire these houses and retain the current tenants within the village. I am hopeful that completion will take place later this month.

I am currently Chair of the Communities and Environment Committee at Derbyshire Dales and Chair of the Scrutiny Committee at Sheffield City Region.