

**Item 5: For discussion**

**Post-lockdown impressions**

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We thought it would be useful to have a discussion about LAF Members' impressions about recent developments in public access to the National Park since the easing of lockdown restrictions.

Below is a very brief summary of our impressions and the results of a brief 'snap shot' survey conducted by our Rangers;

**Positive**

- Large numbers of people visiting both traditional 'hotspots' and new areas, encouraged by social media.
- Large numbers visiting for the first time
- It is obvious that people value the countryside and by implication the National Parks by the numbers of visitors we have had, even if it may be because they aren't able to go anywhere else
- Increased enthusiasm for active use of our Trails and the National Park as a whole, with attractions such as the Monsal Trail busier than they have ever been.
- Our informal engagement opportunities have been very beneficial with rangers engaging with a wide spectrum of society.
- We have seen an increase in Black and Minority Ethnic families and groups across the NP

**Neutral**

- One of our findings, particularly when it was hot earlier in the year is that people wanted to access water and watersides – this is both a positive (enjoying the countryside) and a negative with disturbance and unthoughtful behaviours in certain locations
- One of the findings is that visitors want clearly signed and promoted routes from hot spots – this is both an opportunity to bolster confidence in our visitors but on the negative side this will require additional resources currently unavailable

**Negatives**

- Congestion from cars and inappropriate parking – not good for climate change, pollution or the landscape
- The behaviour of a small minority in terms of fly-camping, fires and BBQ's
- The behaviour some people leaving litter across the park
- Some of our communities have been distinctly unhappy with the number of visitors
- Some locations e.g. Stanton Moor, Upper Derwent and Kinder have been problematic with fly-camping
- Our ranger resource struggled and continues to struggle with some of the demands upon it

## Survey Summary

In brief: Most of our visitors surveyed have been to the Peak District National Park before, with most knowing about it from previous knowledge or living close to it. Most have also been to other UK national parks.

Most visitors arrive by car or van.

Most visitors are aware how to visit responsibly; however, many would happily park on the side of the road and / or verges.

To find more information about the Peak District, most visitors will do a general web search.

Many know about our visitor centres but few had heard of PeakDistrictProud (7%) or know that we have information about car parks on our website (12%). Parking is an area a number of visitors wanted information on.

Over 50% of those that commented on what information they would like, to help with their visit, said information on walking routes would be helpful. Over 25% would like information on parking. Although not specifically in the survey, the visitors I spoke to said they would like this information online.

### Summary

- Most respondents came by **car** or **van** – 90%
- Most have **parked in car parks** – 70%
- Most knew they were in the National Park – 89%
- Most had **been** to the **PDNP before** – 77%
- The most common reasons cited for coming were to **get outside**, to **take part in activity** and to **meet family / friends**, all with over 50%
- Most visitors **know about the PDNP** from previous knowledge – 70% and / or **living very close to it** – 31%
- Most visitors would look for alternative parking (including roadsides and verges) if their parking destination was full – 53%
- Most visitors would **look online**, on a web search **for more information about the Peak District** – 71%. Only 21% would specifically search on the PDNP web site
- **A total of 87% were aware of the Countryside Code and / or what it stood for**
- **Most – 65% were aware / partly aware of the recent issues** including fires and litter
- Only 7% had heard of PeakDistrictProud
- Less than half – 46% are aware that most of the PDNP is privately owned
- Most were aware that camping (79%) and BBQs (84%) are not allowed
- 66% knew they should stick to footpaths and other rights of way but only 25% had heard of Access Land
- Only 12% knew they could find out about how busy the car parks are, on our website
- 66% know about our Visitor Centres
- Most visitors brought a mobile phone with them, to help with their visit 95%. 92% brought food and drink and 57% brought a waterproof coat. After these, the most popular items were wet wipes / loo roll (44%). Only 27% brought a map / GPS / compass and 29% brought some sort of emergency kit such as a first aid kit.

- **99% will visit again** and **89% have visited other UK national parks**
- 88% of our respondents are white

Where the surveys were undertaken

<b>Location</b>	<b>Distance from parking</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Chatsworth, by the river	<5 mins	8
Errwood Hall CP and nearby	<5 mins	5 + 10 trial
Mam Nick	<5 mins	11
Standing Stone CP	<5 mins	2
Dovestones	<5mins	9
Edale, Ramblers Inn / Main CP	<5 mins	8
Bakewell	<5 mins	1
Monsal Head	<5 mins	3
Parsley Hay	<5 mins	12
Mam Tor	<20 mins	3
3 Shires Head	<20 mins	10
Dovestones	<20 mins	7
Cave Dale	<20 mins	1
Monsal Dale	<20 mins	4
Thorpe Cloud	>20 mins	13
Shutlingsloe Summit	>20 mins	3
Grindsbrook	>20 mins	2