

## **Stanage Forum Steering Group - March 2019**

### **Suggested Principles for Review of Options for the Stanage North-Lees Estate**

The Stanage Forum Steering Group welcomes the proposed review of options for the Stanage North-Lees Estate. We see of the Estate as the jewel in the Authority's crown. The review is an opportunity to demonstrate how we in the Peak District can work in partnership to deliver on the purposes of the National Park in the context of complex agricultural, ecological, recreational and economic pressures.

The purpose of these Principles is to communicate, from the outset of the review, the priorities of the stakeholders in the Estate. We hope that this will help to guide thinking on options, and to identify opportunities for delivery in partnership with the local community, user groups and the wider population who love and care for the Estate.

The Stanage Forum has agreed a 2025 Vision for the Stanage-North Lees Estate, which forms the basis of the thinking below

[https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/508352/Vision.pdf](https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/508352/Vision.pdf)

### **Ten core principles**

1. The Estate was sold to the Authority on the understanding that it would always be somewhere everyone could enjoy quiet recreation. The land was acquired with public money and is publicly owned, and should remain so in perpetuity.
2. The Estate should be dealt with as a whole and not fragmented nor any part of it sold. This is because of its heritage; because conservation priorities demand a complex habitat mosaic; and because the 'people' factors can only be managed in the round. It requires a unified management plan to reap the benefits of managing the Estate as a whole, not as separate departmental plans.
3. The open and unfenced moorland character of the Estate should be retained. It is loved for its beautiful landscapes and wilderness value, and this should be enhanced and protected.
4. The wider ecological context of the estate in the landscape, as part of the Sheffield Moors, and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, must be a key part of any decision.
5. The Estate has a powerful cultural heritage which is deeply valued by the local community and the people of Sheffield. Ease of access, and promotion of access opportunities, to allow a diverse range of users to enjoy the Estate is sacrosanct.
6. Decisions about the future of the Estate must involve local people, and those who enjoy it and farm it. The role of the Stanage Forum in bringing stakeholders together to develop solutions should be recognised for the unique opportunity it brings.
7. All revenue raised must be reinvested in the Estate, in support of the shared vision and management plan.
8. It's vital that the estate has a financially sustainable future. This includes considering diverse sources of funding, and setting clear and realistic objectives and targets for individual aspects of the Estate that can be met without damaging its unique character and qualities.

9. Stakeholder involvement in management and care for the Estate should be at the heart of planning. There is significant potential for increasing volunteer involvement in delivering improvement works, guided walks, visitor engagement, surveys, and monitoring. More strategically, there is potential for delivery of projects or management of assets in partnership with organisations who can bring funding, skills or expertise.
10. The role of the Estate in the economy of Hathersage and the surrounding area, as well as its importance to Sheffield's 'Outdoor City' positioning, should be considered.

### **Specific elements for consideration (taken from minutes of recent meetings)**

1. There is an opportunity to build on stakeholders' love of the unique features and history of the Estate – locally, nationally and even internationally – to generate funding from wider sources, from grants to LEPs to crowdfunding.
2. Contracts with new tenants at the Hall and Farm allow opportunity for diversification, in order for their tenancy to be financially sustainable and allow for stability in management of the Estate.
3. The heritage and archaeological value of the Estate should be enhanced and promoted.
4. The outbuildings and cruck barn should be refurbished and put to profitable use.
5. The camp site and its particular character should be treated a showcase for the National Park, and a significant opportunity for effective outreach and volunteer recruitment
6. The impacts of any options on parking issues on the Estate and in Hathersage must be appraised in the light of existing challenges with roadside parking, particularly on busy weekends.

### **About Stanage Forum and the Steering Group**

The Stanage Forum is a consultative body, representing stakeholders, which advises on issues affecting the Stanage (North Lees) Estate. It provides a forum for stakeholders to understand each other's' views and concerns, and to generate shared solutions. It is open to all users of the Stanage Estate, and meets once per year.

Between Forum meetings, consultative business is addressed through the Steering Group. Members of the Steering Group are appointed at the annual Forum meeting, and membership is structured to provide a balanced representation of stakeholder groups.