

# PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL MEETING – 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

### Candidates Statements

#### CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

##### Cllr A McCloy

Statement from Cllr Andrew McCloy in support of his nomination as Chair of the Authority, June 2021

With Members' support I would like to continue as Chair of the Authority for a final year, actively representing the Peak District and also championing National Parks on a wider stage.

Over the last year the Peak District National Park Authority has shown resourcefulness and resilience in the face of multiple challenges, most notably the pandemic, funding uncertainty and organisational change. Despite all this, we continue to show – and must now take further – our ambition and leadership by setting out a programme of green recovery that has, at its heart, the twin aims of tackling climate change and encouraging nature recovery. I'm determined that this should be reflected in a new and progressive Management Plan and Local Plan policies, including a bold strategy for achieving a net zero Peak District and a clearer vision on how to support the people who live and work in the National Park to ensure generational succession.

We are also facing fundamental change through the recommendations of the Landscapes Review, which Government has indicated it will take forward in some shape or form. As the newly elected Chair of National Parks England, representing all ten English National Park Authorities, I would like to have a chance to positively influence events over the next 12 months – in so far as I can. There is much to support in Julian Glover's review, especially around nature improvement and access to the countryside for young people, and we must be prepared to embrace change where it helps us to be more effective in our work and improves outcomes. This includes reform of some aspects of our governance. National Park Authorities should collaborate better; and I support the call for smaller, more agile and diverse boards – so long as they retain local representation and are accountable to local communities. Guided by that principle, over the next 12 months I aim to work with Members and draw up proposals for a streamlined Authority board so that we are fit for purpose going forwards. It's my view that we are likely to be in a better position if we are seen to address our own ways of working rather than wait and have it done to us.

Despite the multiple challenges, it's been a privilege to chair the Peak District National Park, especially during its 70th year, and in particular I am grateful for the

expertise and support of my Deputy Chair James Berresford. I remain convinced that in striving to do better for people and nature, National Parks can enrich our lives and those of future generations. Our challenge is not only to continue this important work, which has been seven decades in the making, but to take it one step further. Thank you for your support.

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## **DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY**

### Mr J Berresford

I am keen to continue in my role as Deputy Chair of the Authority. I believe I have proved through my contributions to date that I have a genuine appreciation of the organisation's core purposes and values and the challenges it faces.

Whilst the pandemic and continued uncertainty surrounding the final implementation of the National Landscapes Review have meant we have faced a difficult year; I believe the Authority has progressed well over the period. Clearly, I cannot claim credit for this progression. However, I feel the supportive and appropriately challenging approach I have taken as Deputy Chair has been of benefit to the organisation. My relationship with the Authority's Chair has been particularly fruitful, and I would like the opportunity to foster further this relationship as we navigate another challenging year. The pandemic and associated changes in visitor behaviour have severely impacted the Peak District's environmental and economic well-being. Now, more than ever is the time for continuity in leadership. The spectre of rapidly worsening climate change and the long-term impact on the area's precious landscapes and delicate ecosystems also demands determined action by the Authority. I am keen to support the Authority's response to this as Deputy Chair.

My experience in change management and organisational development would, I believe, serve me well as we look to re-energise the National Park Management Plan and align it more closely with our own strategies. Success in this regard can only be achieved through an energetic approach to partnership working. I believe this is one of my greatest strengths which, when combined with the excellent local and national networks I possess, further supports my bid to continue as Deputy Chair of the Authority.

I would like to represent the Authority once again on the Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire Local Authority Investor Group. It makes sense to me to provide a strong voice on this representative body, particularly now as the local visitor economy begins to recover from an extended period of closure.

Finally, I would welcome the opportunity of continuing my input into the ongoing work of the Governance Review Working Group and National Park Management Review task and finish group.

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## **CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **Mr R Helliwell**

As chair of planning for the last two years, I have learnt a good deal about the planning process, and have worked with the planning team to try to ensure the department works well. Lockdown brought different challenges for planners, democratic services and members, and officers and members have adapted and worked well under these changing circumstances.

In addition the recent changes to senior management across the Authority and the merging of two services, development management and development policy with a new head of service has, as expected, had quite an impact on the service, which both the chair and vice chair have provided input as appropriate.

Add to that, the last 18 months has also seen a large increase in planning applications, which is putting pressure on the system. Workloads and Staffing across the planning department need to be urgently reviewed so the system works effectively. Enforcement and minerals are included in the above.

I will continue to support officers as appropriate and work towards building a planning department that is effective and meets the aims of the National Park and meets the established policies. The revisions of the Local Plan is ongoing and there will be important lessons to be learnt in its revision as it is discussed with interested parties.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue in the role of Chair of Planning for a further year.

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## **CHAIR OF PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES**

### **Mr Z Hamid**

I would be pleased if Members would positively support my re-appointment as Chair of the Authority's Programmes and Resources Committee for the 2021/22 term.

Having been elected last year by Members to Chair this Committee I offer my services again in order to provide some stability and continuity as we move from the year no-one wanted to the somewhat unknown post Covid world. As the Authority continues its duties and services facing old and new challenges I will attempt to Chair the Committee so that it can add value to the Authority's work. I hope I have demonstrated the analytical, listening and critical skills required to be a diligent Chair acting in the best interests of the Authority and the National Park. In addition, I have experience of chairing committees and Boards for over 20 years; and if appointed I would continue to work constructively and diplomatically with Members, staff and the public.

I have contributed, and felt valued, as a Member in various roles with the Authority including:

- Lead member for work to engage young people to the Park
- Joint lead for work with Communities
- Member appointments panel

- Due Diligence panel
- Local Joint Committee
- Promoting and Understanding
- Stanage Forum Steering Group
- Charity working group
- Peak District Local Nature Partnership
- Peak District Inspiring Generations Partnership

I feel privileged to be on the Authority and support ongoing work where I can make a positive contribution in developments such as Mosaic, South West Peak, National Park Management Plan and the new PDNP Foundation charity.

I am also put myself forward to be reappointed as the Member Representative on the Stanage Forum Steering Group again to provide experience and continuity during these unsettling times of transition.

## **VICE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### Mr K Smith

During of my 3 years as a Secretary of State (SoS) appointee (and 34 years as a PDNPA officer), including one year as Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, I have been committed to Authority purposes and their successful delivery. Through membership of Planning Committee and various task/working groups, and as Member Champion for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes, I have always sought to act on behalf of the whole Membership without favouring one particular group or interest.

### **Vice-Chair of Planning Committee**

I consider delivery of planning policies to be one of the principal tools for management of change to the character of the Peak District's landscapes. My career has included contributing to the development and implementation of planning policies to this end, as a result of which I am familiar with the relevant PDNPA policies. The last 3 years have enabled me to continue this contribution, from a different but equally important perspective, as a Planning Committee member and as Vice-Chair for the last year.

I believe my previous and continuing experience in the planning process, as chair of different external institutions (past and present) and as Vice-Chair of Planning Committee for the last year enables me to bring an appropriate skill-set to the role of Vice-Chair. In addition, my wider experience of national park purposes enables me further to support the Chair of the Committee, and the Membership, and make informed contributions through the Chairs' and Vice-Chairs' and other appropriate meetings/briefings.

I would further welcome the opportunity to: continue my input to the work of the **Governance Review Working Group** and the **Climate Change Task Group**;

continue to be a member of the **Planning Committee** and the **Local Joint Committee**; act as deputy to the Member representative to the **South West Peak Landscape Partnership Board**, where I developed the cultural heritage component of the current NLHF Landscape Project.

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## **VICE CHAIR OF PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES**

### Prof J Haddock – Fraser

I would be grateful for your support for my appointment as Vice-Chair of the Authority's Programmes and Resources (P&R) committee for the 2021-22 period.

Since my appointment in 2019 as a Secretary of State member, I have been active in my engagement with the Authority, committed to its purposes and keen to use my experience and expertise in their successful delivery. In addition to my membership of the P&R committee, acting as Vice-Chair in 2020-21, I am also Chair of the successful Climate Change Member Steering Group and as part of this, Member Champion for Climate Change.

I plan to continue with all of these in 2021-22 and set out below what how I believe my skills and experience are appropriate for this, followed by a statement to demonstrate my understanding of the role of the Vice-Chair of the P&R committee.

### ***Skills and Experience***

My career to date has enabled me to build knowledge and skills across a range of key areas of relevance:

- I worked for many years in senior management positions (in universities), holding responsibility for strategic and operational leadership and management, including strategy development, and in managing large budgets (£20m-£30m revenue) and many staff (200-300 staff). From this I have a sound working knowledge of key aspects of the P&R committee's scope – strategy, finance, risk management and human resources – and the balance needed between competing priorities and resources across the Authority.
- I am currently part of (and chair) the member-led climate change task (steering) group. This scrutinises and influences one of the four programme strands the P&R committee is responsible for. With my professional expertise in sustainability I have a good working understanding of the remit and activities of the other three, and the links between them.
- I have extensive experience in leadership and influence, and as part of this have held many chair/vice-chair positions, both as a trustee/governor and as a manager/staff member. In 2020 I finished my 5-year maximum term as Chair of Trustees for a sustainability membership organisation for universities, operated as chair of sub-committees in other trustee roles, and effectively chaired multiple committees in my time in University senior management.

### ***Role of Vice-Chair***

Formally, this role is to substitute if the Chair is unavailable; to attend agenda setting meetings; and to participate in the budget monitoring meetings. These are all within my capabilities and expectations. However, in the last year as Vice Chair I have worked with the Chair towards developing this role to provide much greater support to the Chair, committee, Members and therefore to the Authority. If I were appointed, I would like to continue to do this and in particular focus on embedding the newly agreed programme strands (based on NPE priorities) as agreed at the May 2021 Authority meeting. Finally, I would like to be able to offer an opportunity for seamless succession to P&R once the current Chair finishes their maximum term as Chair of the committee and on the Authority.

### **Cllr C Furness**

I am standing for this position simply because I think it important that these 6 senior positions should be seen to be contested. I was particularly concerned, last year that none of the positions was taken by a Local Authority representative member and it seems the same is likely to happen this year.

The 6 Chairs and vice chairs are a sort of Cabinet who have regular meetings with the CEO. I think it important that there should be at least one Local Authority member amongst them to give the views of constituent Authorities.

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## **MEMBER CHAMPION FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND FARMING**

### **Mr R Helliwell**

Over the next 5 years there will be major changes made by government, as a result of BREXIT, to the way that farming is supported. This will of course have a major impact on the farming industry which could result in the loss of many farm businesses, typical of those found across the Peak District. However the proposals for the new scheme are designed to encourage farm business owners to do more for biodiversity, combat the effects of climate change and care for the landscape. DEFRA is currently discussing with the farming industry and other stakeholders, the design of the new Environmental Land Management, ELM, scheme; discussions with which I am involved.

The impacts of change could be far reaching and will require big changes in farm management, some of which are already under way. We have recently been informed, and will discuss at Authority, the newly introduced programme for Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) which aims to ease farming in National Parks and AONBs into this new system with improved outcomes for climate, nature, people and places.

As a farmer in the Peak District for many years, I have been involved in trying to shape the future of the industry through membership of the Peak Park's Land Managers Forum and the subsidiary BREXIT group, the Hill and Upland Group, LEADER and other discussion groups. Membership of such groups is a two way process gathering information from industry to feed into the group, and vice versa.

The big challenge is to get farmers involved and to plan for the future. This is something that Suzanne Fletcher and her team have been very much involved with and to which I have always offered my support and will continue so to do. Development of a Carbon Audit tool by the team has proved popular along with a Farm Management tool for considering the effects of changes to farm management. I have been involved in testing out both these and they are useful aids to help farmers make decisions about the future of their businesses. Couple this with the emerging FiPL scheme and there is a good opportunity to engage with the farming industry to develop a more sustainable future.

### Cllr G Heath

No Statement Received

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## **MEMBER CHAMPION FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPES**

### Mr K Smith

During of my 3 years as a Secretary of State (SoS) appointee (and 34 years as a PDNPA officer), I have been committed to Authority purposes and their successful delivery. As Member Champion for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes, and through membership (and Vice-Chair) of Planning Committee and various task/working groups, I have always acted on behalf of the whole Membership without favouring one particular group or interest.

### **Member Champion for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes**

I aspire to continue in this position to fulfil the remit of my SoS appointment to promote sustainable conservation of Peak District landscapes and, as identified by the NPA when I was appointed, to promote maintenance and enhancement of the cultural heritage of the National Park.

I have 34 years of experience of managing the cultural heritage of the National Park as an officer of the Authority and 3 years as a SoS Member, the last two years as Member Champion for Cultural Heritage and Landscapes. During those two years, I have met regularly with lead officers and managers, informing and being informed by their work, reporting back to Members via Authority meetings. These inputs benefit variously from my previous experience and understanding of the NP/NPA; membership of the Historic England Advisory Committee and National Trust Archaeology Panel; and input to national agri-environment scheme historic environment policies. Currently I provide heritage advice and guidance to the National Trust as a Specialist Volunteer and participate in independent research projects considering ecosystem services and natural capital accounting and value from a cultural heritage perspective.

These skills, experience and expertise benefit this role and enable me to assist the Authority in achieving maintenance and enhancement of the National Park's cultural

landscapes and their component parts, amidst the many competing demands that impact upon them.

Finally, I would welcome the opportunity to: continue my input to the work of the **Governance Review Working Group** and the **Climate Change Task Group**; continue to be a member of the **Planning Committee** and the **Local Joint Committee**; and act as deputy to the Member representative to the **South West Peak Landscape Partnership Board**, where I developed the cultural heritage component of the current NLHF Landscape Project.

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## **MEMBER CHAMPION FOR ENGAGEMENT**

Ms Y Witter

No Statement Received

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## **MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Ms A Harling

I would be happy to act as Member Champion for Thriving and Sustainable Communities if elected. In my first year as a Secretary of State Member I have developed an interest in affordable and local needs housing as a member of the Planning Committee and am keen to provide support and challenge to Officers as the Local Plan is reviewed and developed.

In addition to planning, I believe this role can help local businesses to thrive by impacting access to services/assistance, such as broadband, business/digitalisation support, grant aid and economic development by liaising with the relevant bodies. The changes to consumer behaviour and work patterns from Covid are an opportunity for many businesses in the National Park and I feel it is important to frame that opportunity around the Special Qualities and the impact of climate change - thus helping businesses become more future-fit while contributing to the future of the Park.

Finally I am passionate about engaging and informing local communities, in order to magnify and extend the impact of the excellent work achieved by Officers and employees of the Authority. I believe it is important we are aware of urgent community concerns (eg recent visitor pressures) and provide clear communication of the Authority's actions and clear signposting to other relevant bodies (eg police/councils re problem parking).

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**MEMBER CHAMPION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

Prof J Haddock – Fraser

See Statement under Vice Chair, Programmes and Resources Committee

**MEMBER CHAMPION FOR BUSINESS ECONOMY**

Cllr C Furness

No Statement Received

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**MEMBER CHAMPION FOR MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Cllr B Woods

No Statement Received

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