

PARISH INFORMATION FROM YDNPA

CURRENT ISSUES

1. Local Plan

The [Examination](#) of the [new Local Plan](#) has been completed. In December, the Planning Inspector concluded that – subject to a number of modifications – the Plan was ‘sound’ and legally compliant, and that it provides an appropriate basis for planning development in the National Park. The Plan was, therefore, adopted by the National Park Authority on 20 December, and is now being used as the basis for decisions on all planning applications in the pre-1st August 2016 National Park.

The Plan includes a number of significant changes from the old Plan, including:

- encouraging wider re-use of redundant farm buildings, including allowing some roadside barns to be converted for local housing;
- providing more flexibility to build the mix of new housing that is needed;
- widening the range of visitor accommodation and visitor facilities;

NB. The new Plan does not apply to any of the new parts of the National Park. Click on the links to see the Local Plan policies for [Lancaster City](#), [Eden District](#) and the South Lakeland parishes of [Casterton](#), [Firbank](#), [Grayrigg](#), [Killington](#), [Kirkby Lonsdale](#), [Mansergh & Middleton](#).

2. Light Industrial Premises

In October 2017 a new national permitted development right will be introduced allowing light industrial buildings to be converted to residential use without the need for planning permission. Whilst the Authority recognises the Government’s wish to increase the supply of housing, our Members believe that the impact of this measure would – in our particular circumstances - be detrimental to the well-being of local communities. In particular, it would lead to the permanent loss of economic assets that are critical to retaining viable local communities and achieving the vision set out in the [National Park Management Plan](#).

The Authority has, therefore, determined to make what is called a non-immediate Article 4 Direction. This would remove those permitted development rights within the National Park. The proposed Direction, which is currently the subject of public consultation, would come into effect 12 months after publication (i.e. in January 2018). Further details of the consultation, which runs **until 27 February**, can be found here: [Yorkshire Dales - Article 4 Direction](#)

3. Rights of way maintenance and Ranger Areas

The provision of a well-maintained rights of way network is one of the Authority’s four priority work programmes. The Authority has delegated responsibility from North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Councils for rights of way maintenance. However, the existing delegation agreements do not automatically extend to the new areas of the National Park. We hope to have a new agreement in place with both Cumbria and Lancashire County Councils by 1 April to extend the delegation arrangements to cover the new areas.

Following on from the boundary extension, the Authority has reorganised its Ranger Service into three main areas – broadly based on the constituent District Council areas. Any Parish wanting to raise rights of way maintenance issues can now find all the relevant contact details on the Authority’s website [here](#).

4. Dark Skies Festival

The Yorkshire Dales is one of the least light-polluted places in England. Our dark night skies provide amazing opportunities for star-gazing. From 18 to 26 February we will be running a

series of events for residents and visitors to discover and enjoy the dark and the stars you can see as a result. Full details can be found at www.darks skies national parks.org.uk

5. Appointments

The Authority has a new Parish Member. [Allen Kirkbride](#) is the Parish appointee for the Richmondshire parishes. He replaces long-serving Member, Harold Brown. Mr Kirkbride is Chairman of Askrigg Parish Council and a Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Farmers Network.

6. Parish Forums

The next meetings of the Northern and Southern '[Parish 'Forums'](#)' will be held on 26 April and 19 April respectively (full details on the website – follow the link above). The Forums provide an opportunity for discussion and liaison between the Authority and Parish Councils on any and all National Park issues. Following the extension of the National Park boundary last August, the parishes in the new western area have indicated their desire for a Western Parish Forum. Subject to the approval of the Authority's Members (on March 28th), the first meeting of the Western Parish Forum will be held in May.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE AUTHORITY

1. Sustainable Development Fund

Funding is still available for 2016/17 for local projects that would have economic, social and environmental benefits. Details at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/livinghere/sdf.

2. Conservation Areas

Funding for projects that help preserve or enhance [Conservation Areas](#).

3. Parish Wildlife Project

Funding and support is available for local groups who want to carry out nature conservation work on local sites. www.natureinthedales.org.uk/projects/parish-wildlife-project

4. Woodlands

Funding is available to farmers and land-owners to [create new woodlands](#), or improve woodland management.

5. Catchment Sensitive Farming

The [Yorkshire Dales - Catchment Sensitive Farming](#) initiative provides grants for works to improve farm infrastructure so as to reduce diffuse pollution.

LATEST FACTS AND FIGURES

- The Yorkshire Dales has the fourth darkest night skies in England – after Northumberland National Park, Exmoor National Park and the Isles of Scilly.
- Projections indicate that by 2030, 35% of the National Park's population will be over 65 (compared to the national average of 22%).

MORE INFORMATION

The long-term ambitions for how the National Park will be looked after and developed by local communities and a wide range of organisations are set out in the [National Park Management Plan](#)

The Authority's specific objectives for each of its services are set out in the [Corporate Plan](#)