

Sheffield Moors Partnership

MDC, Longshaw Estate – Wednesday 13th February 2019 (2:00pm to 4:15pm)

Present:

Bob Berzins (PLAF)
Danny Udall (EMP)
Dave Aspinall (SCC Countryside Manager)
PC Emerson Buckingham (Derbyshire Police)
Felicite Dodd (Natural England)
Henry Folkard (BMC)
John Horscroft (Ride Sheffield)
Mark Anderson (PDNPA Stanage)
Matt Croney (Nature People)
Nabil Abbas (SRWT)
Louise Baddeley (EMP)
Rachel Bennett (NT)
Sue Fletcher (PDNPA)
Ted Talbot (NT)
Terry Howard (SLAF)
Tom Lewis (PDNPA)

Apologies:

Chris Bray (PDNPA)
John Gilpin (SCC)
Matthew Scott-Campbell (Moors for the Future)
Sam Beaton (SCC PROW)

Item 1. Matt Croney introduction & 5-year review brief

- *Matt outlined his involvement in the Sheffield Moors Partnership Master Plan 5 year review, and asked all present to support him in feeding back on emails already sent out, filling in the requests for information and setting up relevant meetings so that he can finish the review in a timely fashion.*

Item 2. “Take the Lead” campaign refresh – Louise Baddeley & Tom Lewis

- Have combined the messages delivered through the new Peak Park ‘CROW’ access point signs, with our original Take the Lead campaign for a much-needed refresh. Chosen to incorporate pictorial representation (dog on lead symbol) for clear, communicative messaging. Seeking to form a ‘Sheffield Moors’ wide “dogs on lead” sign to use across the eastern side of the Peak.
- Group recognized the challenge of clearly communicating the “dogs on leads” message but also advising public on releasing dogs if the owner was threatened by approaching cattle.

- Rural Crimes team's common dog-related incidents pertain to the threat to livestock/sheep.
- Agreed that simple messaging is key, particularly for the wider public who have little knowledge of access route legislation.
- Landscape approach towards this campaign is essential in order to tackle the dispersal of commercial dog-walking from inner city areas, where they are coming under closer scrutiny.
- Recognition by the group that goods on site signs are only one element of widely communicating responsible dog walking in the countryside and that press articles, social media and positive face to face communication with public is also vital.

Item 3. Rural Crime team update – PC Emerson Buckingham

- *PC Buckingham from Derbyshire Police was asked to attend the meeting following some positive joint work with the ranger teams over the summer around wildlife crime issues and illegal raves.*
- Derbyshire Police have established a new Rural Crimes team who are now keen to engage with the community about their work, see link below:
<http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/My-Local-Police/Wildlife-Crime-and-Rural-Crime/Rural-Crime/Derbyshire-Rural-Crime-Team.aspx>
- Request to partners - if they have publications or newsletters - for the Rural Crime team to have a small segment in each issue to raise awareness of their remit and work. There's potential to write a piece per publication on rural issues (i.e. wildlife crime, criminal damage, theft from buildings & cars, raves, fly tipping, illegal campsites, injuries/fatalities through to livestock worrying by dogs.)
- Preferred evidence method - photographs and videos taken on your personal device are 100% legal. Times, dates and locations are always important – as are statements of what happened.
- If you see a crime in progress happening before your eyes, do not hesitate about wasting police time and call '999', ask to speak to a Wildlife Crime officer, and do not put the phone down until you have obtained an incident number for your report.
- If reporting any crimes or suspicious behaviour to 101, ensure you request "Please can this incident go to PC Buckingham at the Rural Crime team" to keep a record.
 - Operation Blackbrook
 - Operation Pitchford 1 or 2 – for raves
- Derbyshire Police are currently working on reworking and promoting the long forgotten Countryside Code, and its policies. (noted that this is a key issue for PDNPA and others as well this year)
- Happy for a Crime Team representative to come to local/recreational groups to give a talk on a range of rural crime issues that may be of relevance.

- Current operations that the Rural Crime team are seeking assistance from partners –
 - Damage to legal Traps/snares on private open access moorland mainly on Moscar, Goyt Valley, Derwent Moors and around the Eastern Moors. Police are keen to receive photographs of traps that may be illegal, but do not permit or condone the damage of them.
 - Theft of vehicles, agricultural machinery, plant and equipment.

Item 4. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- *Nabil's attendance to the last meeting now factored in to the minutes.*
- *Other than this, the minutes of meeting on Wednesday 14th November 2018 are agreed as a true record.*

Item 5. Partner updates

Dave Aspinall (Sheffield City Council)

- Burbage Plantation work now finished replanting new trees, oak done particularly well & no obvious deer damage at present.
- Comments back PP planning regarding the cycle track, will have to work through these issues and return with a revised application.
- New SCC Trees and Woodlands Strategy got approved by council – set the vision for the next 15 years.
- Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area overlaps the SMP around Redmires, will have funding for how we work out how to develop Redmires woodlands between both organisations. Habitat and access links to wider landscape will be considered.

Felicite Dodd (Natural England) – further NE updates to be included shortly

Natural England have submitted their position statement on burning on blanket bog. Please find this at the link below:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6647144950005760>

The documents you will find cover the following:

Position statement:

This clarifies the position Natural England will take where a request is made to carry out a burn for restoration purposes on blanket bog. This is supported by two further documents

Decision making framework:

The framework clarifies where burning and other interventions may be considered directly connected with or necessary for the restoration of blanket bog.

Monitoring Protocol:

This advice note sets out simple, standardised approaches to peatland survey and monitoring.

Question & Answer:

This Q&A seeks to answer the most commonly asked questions and will continue to be developed as we receive feedback.

Nabil Abbas (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust)

- Key winter tasks at Blacka Moor have been rhododendron clearance and willow tit habitat enhancement.
- Willow tit survey work planned over spring.
- Landfill grant funding has been secured for woodland bird project in 2019: habitat enhancement and improved interpretation.
- Had to deal with recent issues on site with a dog attacking mountain bikers, and trail bikes on Bole Hill.

Sue Fletcher (Peak District National Park) – TO BE INCLUDED SHORTLY

Access - Sue Smith

- *SENTENCE*

North Lees/Stannage - Chris Bray/Mark Anderson

- *SENTENCE*

PDNPA - Sue Fletcher

- *SENTENCE*

Ted Talbot & Rachel Bennett (National Trust, Longshaw)

- HLS work pressing forward – wood pasture restoration planting, felling, and brash burning – works ongoing ‘til end of February. Looks to be working well from a landscape and wildlife viewpoint.
- Got planning permission for the café – building start 2020. Operational building (office, etc.) starting 4 March 2019. New Welcome building in the car park is working well.
- Helping with sphagnum planting and cutting in the Dark Peak as part of Moorlife 2020 work.
- Producing Ecological monitoring report for last year, due out at the end of February. Also involved in the willow tit Sheffield project and repeating the RSPB WIG 80 survey.

- Nature themed Easter trail is planned for this year, as opposed to previous years' affiliation with Cadbury's – has been planned and has been well received elsewhere (focus on nature & spring & not chocolate!)

Danny Udall (Eastern Moors, NT & RSPB)

- Whilst we're in between management plans, EMP are currently focusing on maintenance work at present.
- Mike is involved in the wider willow tit project.
- Currently investing time in the offroading issue on the SSSI on Houndkirk Road.
- Bilberry Bumblebee Conservation Trust work now underway ahead of the management plan.
- Walking for Health walks will launching via. the Festival of the Outdoors in Sheffield.
- Management Plan will be divided between Ecology, Heritage and Visitor Experience.

John Horscroft (Ride Sheffield)

- Ongoing re-examination of what The Outdoor City is about. RS brought up that we need more conservation information fed in to TOC, to demonstrate the obvious link between Sheffield and the Peak District.

Terry Howard (SLAF)

- After brief discussion with John of the PLAF, please find attached with these minutes a copy of the Sheffield LAF's "Aspiration Routes". This is a 'wish list' of routes that SLAF would like to eventually see.
- Sheffield Ramblers have been successful in gaining a grant through the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership to carry out stile improvements around Bradford area. This has been a partnership agreement between the Ramblers and Sheffield PROW unit. Other grants have also been acquired.
- Have a received a request from the Sheffield Walking Group of the Ramblers to carry out volunteer work within the SMP. However, only weekend days can be offered. Contact required.
- Thanks for the Eastern Moors staff for welcoming a group of Sheffield Ramblers to Barbrook Cottage, where they were given much relevant info about the work being done on the moors, as well as provided refreshments and walks leaflets. This type of activity should be carried out with other groups too, very worthwhile.
- People's Landscape celebration 27 April 2019.
- Winnat's Pass Rally beginning to shape up, along with accompanying events involving several partners, and eventually children and young people. Hopefully this will lead to "passing the baton" of campaigning and working for our countryside from veterans to young people.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th April 2019, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, at Barbrook Cottage.

Meeting ends

ACTION: Rights of Way meeting with Sam Beaton and Mike Rhodes to be organized – to focus on Eastern Moors.

Request that “Rewilding Britain” & “Eco tourism” to be the focal point of one SMP meeting in the summertime.