

Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2015-2020

Engagement Report

Version: 0.1

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report describes the proposed methodology of engagement for the forthcoming review of the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan.
- 1.2 A Management Plan document will be prepared and presented to the working group and the National Park Authority for approval as a draft for public consultation.
- 1.3 Simultaneously, actions will be prepared within the six themes of the Management Plan. Actions from the current Management Plan will be carried forward where practicable and where possible, orphan actions will be included. These actions will be consulted on with both internal managers and external organisations.
- 1.4 The draft Management Plan will be paired with the actions and a wider public consultation process will take place. The consultation contacts can be seen at Annexe I.
- 1.5 All consultation comments on the draft Management Plan will be documented and responded to in an engagement report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority undertook extensive engagement and consultation between 2006 and 2010 in preparing a new version of the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan - '*Managing Change Together 2010-2015*'. It included the following events:
 - 2006 – Stakeholder Consultation on existing data sets
 - 2006 – Various consultation events identifying Park issues
 - 2007/2008 - Follow up discussion with individual stakeholders and delivery partners
 - 2008 - 1st draft prepared and public consultation was undertaken
 - 2009 – 2nd draft prepared and public consultation was undertaken including public workshops and individual stakeholder meetings
 - 2009/2010 – Final draft produced for approval by the National Park Authority
- 2.2 Six themes emerged from the consultation process to develop and prioritise actions for the new Management Plan and have since been incorporated as corporate goals by the authority. They develop the 2 Statutory Purposes and Duty of the Authority and are more closely aligned with the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the management principles for Category V Protected Areas¹. The six themes are:

¹ See: Phillips, A (2002) *Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas* IUCN. The World Conservation Union

Management Plan Themes	
Theme 1: Managing Park Landscapes to Maximise Conservation and Public Benefits	1st Purpose
Theme 2: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	
Theme 3: Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Access and Recreation	2nd Purpose
Theme 4: Raising Awareness and Understanding of the Park	
Theme 5: Building and Maintaining Sustainable Communities, Towns and Villages	Duty
Theme 6: Sustainable Economic Development	

2.3 These themes provide the structure for forthcoming iterations of the Management Plan.

2.4 Since adoption of the current Management Plan, the National Park Authority has prepared various strategies and undertaken surveys and consultations to provide an insight into how well the plan’s vision for the Park is being met. They include:

- Residents’ Survey (2013)
- Visitor Management Plan (consultation and engagement in 2013)
- Visitor Surveys
- Local Development Plan (approved in December 2013)
- Community Planning (pilot project under way)
- Community Council Charter and clusters
- Rural Alliances

They provide valuable data that will inform the forthcoming Management Plan.

3. Management Plan Preparation

3.1 A review of the current Management Plan in 2013/2014 stated that good progress has been made on actions within the current plan and that the vision, aims and objectives remain topical, therefore the proposal is that they are retained in the forthcoming revision.

3.2 A draft Management Plan will be prepared for consideration by the working group, corporate management team, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the National Park Authority. In line with the project timeline, the text of the draft Management Plan will be presented to the National Park Authority on 24 October 2014.

3.3 It is proposed that the draft Management Plan will be merged with draft actions (see 4 below) and presented to the working group. Consultation with the general public will be undertaken in early 2015 and a final draft of the Management Plan will be presented to the Authority in Spring/Summer 2015. A revised timeline for Management Plan preparation can be viewed at Annexe I.

4. Action Setting

- 4.1 Since the vision, aims and objectives in the current plan remain topical the focus of this engagement and consultation process will be on action setting. This process began in May 2014 with meetings with internal managers and is due to go on until December 2014 to allow engagement with all relevant partners and stakeholders.
- 4.2 Draft actions will be prepared based on rolling forward internal and external actions from the current Management Plan. Consideration will be given to the results of various surveys, strategies and consultations since 2010 (see paragraph 2.4). Consideration will also be given to how potential funding sources and the Authority's desire to 'do less, better', may impact potential actions.
- 4.3 Regarding internal actions and orphans engagement will take place with the managers responsible for delivering these actions.
- 4.4 Regarding external actions and orphans focused discussions will take place with the lead organisations responsible for delivery.
- 4.5 Orphan actions will be dropped where necessary.

5. Public Consultation

- 5.1 The draft Management Plan document will be paired with draft actions prior to public consultation.
- 5.2 The wider public will be consulted in early 2015. All comments will be recorded and a response will be provided in an Engagement and Consultation Report.
- 5.3 Various methods of consultation will be used throughout the process. Every effort will be made to contact all individuals and organisations listed in the Management Plan's contact database using the method of communication they indicated as a preference in the previous consultation (i.e. letter, email, etc.).
- 5.4 All documents will be posted on the Authority website and the website address will be included on all letters sent out. Press releases, advertisements and announcements will be used and consideration will be given to trialling consultation via social media sites, such as Twitter and Facebook, and via webcasting meetings and use of associated channels such as CoverItLive and UserVoice.

Appendices

- I. Annexe I – Management Plan Preparation Revised Timeline V0.2
(27/6/14)