

# BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Telephone: (01874) 624437

Plas y Ffynnon  
Brecon  
Powys  
LD3 7HP

Dear Member

An **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** of the **NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY** will be held in **THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, PLAS Y FFYNNON, CAMBRIAN WAY, BRECON** on **FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 10.00am** when your attendance is requested.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTOPHER GLEDHILL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## *Fire Evacuation Advice*

*In the event of a fire, please exit the building via the main staircase, and assemble in the car park at Assembly Point 3*

**Lunch will be available for members**

## **AGENDA**

### **1.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

To receive the attached Schedule of Correspondence and make any recommendations thereon. (Below).

### **2.0 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interests from members regarding items to be considered on the agenda. (Members' attention is drawn to the sheet circulating with the Attendance Sheet, and the need to declare any interests both in writing and verbally at the meeting).

### **3.0 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

To give opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee in accordance with the Authority's Public Speaking Scheme.

#### 4.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**Recommendation:** *That pursuant to the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following two items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under Paragraphs 19, 12 and 24 of Schedule 12A, to the Act.*

#### 5.0 I LANSDOWNE TERRACE, BRECON

*Lynne Coughlan*

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION** - *This report contains exempt information as defined in paragraphs 19 and 24 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

To consider an exempt report from the Authority's Solicitor, attached at **Enclosure 1**.

#### 6.0 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING OFFICER

*Jane Davies*

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION** - *This report contains exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 19 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

To consider an exempt report from the Head of the Business Unit, attached at **Enclosure 2**.

#### 7.0 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

*Christopher Gledhill*

##### 7.1 Appointments to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

- The Minister has confirmed the reappointment of Mr James Suter for a second term of office, to run from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.
- Mrs Pat Thomas was invited to serve a second term but has regretfully declined due to her acceptance of employment with the Federation of Women's Institutes.
- Mr Colin Young completes his second term of office on 31 March 2006 and has indicated that he does not wish to be considered for a third term.

Confirmation of further appointments to the National Park Authority is currently expected from the Minister, and a verbal report will be given at the meeting.

Subject to this confirmation being received before the meeting, the following recommendations are made:

**Recommendations:**

- a) That the Authority notes the appointment of new members.***
- b) That new members be appointed to the Development Control Committee after an appropriate induction session, and the Strategy and Policy Committee;***

- c) *That new members are not appointed to other committees until the Annual Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006 pending the review of the current committee structure.*

## **7.2 Consultation on the Process of Appointing Members to the Welsh National Park Authorities**

The Review of the Welsh National Park Authorities, commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2003, made recommendations on the process for appointing members to the Welsh NPAs.

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, Carwyn Jones AM, has now issued a consultation paper (attached at **Enclosure 3**) on arrangements for appointments generally and specific options for possible change.

Once all views have been received the consultation outcomes will be published. The deadline for comments is 19 May 2006.

Members' attention is drawn to the following issues that might have a particular relevance for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority:

### 1. Need for Change

Given the number of appointing authorities to this Park, the balance has worked well, but members need to consider the implications of the NERC Bill which will require the makeup of the elected members to change in order to reflect more local representation.

### 2. Appointment of local authority members and possible greater engagement of community councils

The paper refers to 7 out of 16 BBNP members being community councillors (CHECK ACCESS DATABASE), which would appear to give adequate grass roots representation and allows two way communication. It is also the case that a number of BBNP members attend their local community councils as observers, and this role can be a useful one in engaging community interest in and support for Park purposes. Conversely it could be argued that direct elections from community councils might skew the balance in favour of local issues rather than park wide or national issues, which has been referred to in the consultation paper. Members' views are sought on the three options presented in the paper.

### 3. Direct Elections

This is of particular relevance to the Brecon Beacons, comprised of seven local authorities, which is already a complicated model for the public to engage with. Members' views are sought on what value direct elections would bring to the Authority and how directly elected members might fit into the current model.

### 4. Size of National Park Authorities

The paper highlights the particular circumstances of the Brecon Beacons with its seven appointing authorities, but members' views are sought on this issue.

#### 5. Co-opting of additional members

Members are aware that the Brecon Beacons already co-opts members on to its advisory committees (the Area Advisory Forums and the National Park Visitor Centre Advisory Committee). While they do not have voting rights on the Authority, they can make recommendations to it from the Advisory Committee on which they sit.

#### 6. Social Inclusion

The Minister, in his Annual Grant Letter, has specifically asked the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to lead on the shadowing exercise to encourage engagement in Park purposes from ethnic and other minority groups.

Members' attention is also drawn to the comments about members being 'eligible to claim reimbursement for costs in relation to childcare/care of the elderly.' It is the view of the Authority's solicitor (shared by those in other National Parks) that under current legislation we are not permitted to do this. However, if the Assembly is serious about encouraging a wider range of people to stand it needs to consider this urgently. This point has already been made by members in the Authority's response to the Members Allowance consultation paper.

- (a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Financial implications in relation to the size of the Authority.**
- (b) **Equality Issues: The paper contains specific references to encouraging NPA members from a wide section of society.**
- (c) **Sustainability Appraisal: No implications**
- (d) **Human Rights: No implications**
- (e) **Background Papers: Consultation paper attached at Enclosure 3.**
- (f) **Corporate Objective: 8 (Corporate Objectives for 2006/07)**

**Recommendation: Members' views are sought on the Welsh Assembly's Consultation on the Process for appointing Members to the Welsh National Park Authorities.**

## **8.0 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES 2006/09**

*Jane Davies*

### **8.1 Background**

Members approved the fourteen draft Corporate Objectives at a meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee on the 20 January 2006. These are attached at **Enclosure 4** for members' information.

The Corporate Management Team has subsequently completed further work on the agreed fourteen Corporate Objectives and has broken them down into the staff and financial resources required.

The financial commitment necessary to be able to deliver upon the Objectives over the next twelve months is as follows:-

<b>CORPORATE OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1.</b> To demonstrate sustainable land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mynydd Illtyd - £15,000</li> <li>• Waun Figen Felin - £8,700</li> <li>• Llangasty - £1000,</li> <li>• Demo Days - £2000</li> </ul>	£26,700
<b>2.</b> Built Environment	Brecon and Crickhowell Town Schemes - £10,000	£10,000
<b>3.</b> Sustainable Design Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of consultation and printing £7,000</li> <li>• BBNPA Awards Competition £1,000</li> </ul>	£8,000
<b>4.</b> Improved Customer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for DC £10,000</li> <li>• Training for Visitor Services £2,000</li> <li>• Production of Customer Service Charter</li> </ul>	£12,000
<b>5.</b> Make the Park more accessible and welcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member/Officer training £3,000</li> <li>• Healthy Living Seminar £300</li> <li>• Continuation of WHS Warden and Volunteers £5,000</li> </ul>	£8,300
<b>6.</b> Improve the Rights of Way Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff time: Access/ROW and Area Teams</li> <li>• Development of hierarchy will allow existing PROW budget to be better focussed</li> </ul>	(N.B To fully implement the ROWIP would cost £300,000)
<b>7.</b> Redevelop and launch new web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graphic Design £8,500</li> <li>• Design Implementation £3,600</li> <li>• Integrate other sites</li> </ul>	

	<p>£2,700</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-Planning £1,500</li> <li>• Mapping £4,500</li> <li>• Web Store £6,000</li> <li>• Technical Re-work £2,850</li> <li>• Translation £10,350</li> </ul>	£40,000
<b>8.</b> Develop the Corporate Governance Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT for members £10,000</li> <li>• Upgrade to Finance System £10,000</li> <li>• Consultations £5,000</li> <li>• Telephone Voice Recording System £1,500</li> </ul>	£26,500
<b>9.</b> Produce Social Inclusion Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Facility at NPVC £500</li> </ul>	£500
<b>10.</b> Apply Geopark Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Running Costs for European Geopark Network related costs £5,000</li> </ul>	£5,000
<b>11.</b> Climate and CAP changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide exhibition on Climate and CAP changes and promote demonstration days at NPVC £20,000</li> </ul>	£20,000
<b>12.</b> Instil Principles of Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy and Policy Gap funding for staff, training for members and staff via site visits £35,000</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Training for staff and members, hire of hall, speakers and food £500</li> </ul>	£35,500
<b>13.</b> Green Dragon Level Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher environmental management standards e.g. Recycling bins for outlying Centres, vehicle spill kits £5,000</li> </ul>	£5,000
<b>14.</b> Promote Sustainable Tourism principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce Sustainable Tourism Charter - Core Budget (£16,000)</li> </ul>	Core Budget Cost
		<b>TOTAL: £197,500</b>

**8.2 In Addition** to the cost of delivering the above Corporate Objectives over the next twelve months there are also two high risk items of essential maintenance work that must

be completed for Health and Safety reasons, with a combined cost of approximately £16,200, namely:-

- **Repairs to landslide on A4069** – this landslip has occurred on an area of land owned by BBNPA and debris has now encroached on to the highway. A structural engineers report has been commissioned and recommends immediate remedial work involving repair and reinstatement of the retaining wall to prevent any further slippage.
- **Repair to the dam wall at Craig-y-nos Country Park** - Over the years the current far lake dam wall has seriously deteriorated and now poses a real threat of bursting. Initial costs involve obtaining an engineers report and tender for repair. Until this report is prepared we are unable to fully assess the costs involved in restoring the dam wall.

### 8.3 Possible/Potential Savings

Further to the Chief Executives Budget Issues Report to members at the Corporate Resources meeting on 27 January 2006, the following savings have been identified to contribute to funding the above:-

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POTENTIAL SAVING</u>
Planning Fee Increase	£35,000
Printing/Stationery/post	£15,000
Travel and Transport	£25,000
Corporate/Democratic Savings	£25,000
DC Staff Savings	£10,000
Back Office Review	£15,000
Rights of Way Maintenance	£30,000
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL SAVING</b>	<b>£155,000</b>

By deducting £155,000 from the £197,500 we are left with a shortfall of £42,500 to meet the delivery of the Corporate Objectives for 06/07 plus the additional high risk items of £16,200 making a **TOTAL SHORTFALL OF £58,700.**

- 8.4 **Further and in Addition** there are two items subject to compensation awards that will involve the Authority in a further £10,000 of expenditure.

### **FINAL SHORTFALL FIGURE - £68,700**

### 8.5 Options

The following options are available to Members as a possible solution to meet the above shortfall of £68,700;

1. To reduce elements of the financial components for the Corporate Objectives and give consideration to an order of priority for the Corporate Objectives.
2. To draw down further funds from Reserves to meet the shortfall either in whole or in part.
  - (a) ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications:*** A request has been made to WAG for further funds to meet the Pinch Points set out in the CEO's Budget Issues Report of 27 January 2006. The financial and staffing implication are clear from the above report. Improvement will be achieved through delivery of the fourteen Corporate Objectives.
  - (b) ***Equality Issues:*** Delivery of the fourteen Corporate Objectives will improve accessibility, interpretation and education for visitors to the Brecon Beacons National Park through implementing the social inclusion strategy.
  - (c) ***Sustainability Appraisal:*** Sustainability underpins and forms the foundation for the fourteen Corporate Objectives. By investing time and money in delivery of the Objectives sustainability is ensured.
  - (d) ***Human Rights:*** Links in to the Social Inclusion Strategy ensures access for all.
  - (e) ***Background Papers:*** Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Corporate Objectives – 2006/09.
  - (f) ***Corporate Objective:*** 1 to 14

***Recommendation:*** That members give consideration to the two options to meet the financial shortfall in the delivery of the fourteen Corporate Objectives with the guidance of the Section 151 Officer and Head of Business Unit and direct officers in the delivery of the Corporate Objectives.

## **9.0 ESTIMATES 2006/07: Update on the Baseline Budget**

*Jane Davies*

### **Background**

The baseline Revenue Estimates for 2006/07 were approved by Members at the Corporate Resources Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2006, in order that the Levy could be issued to constituent Authorities. At that Committee Officers proposed that a further report would be submitted in relation to the second phase of the budget process, covering priorities and projects in 2006/07.

### **Current Position**

Some amendments have been made to the baseline budget, as a result of items which have arisen since the last meeting. The revised summary of the baseline figures is shown below and a copy of the baseline estimates is included at **Enclosure 5**. The baseline estimates do



not include any priority projects, which are discussed in a separate report, but include known increases in costs and incorporate the following items:

- A contribution of £30,000 to Earmarked Reserves for the Local Development Plan.
- Assumed efficiency savings of £15,000 to be met from staffing redeployment and recruitment slippage.
- Assumed savings of £20,000 from the Central Area Car Parks budget.
- Pension Strain costs of £68,350 arising from the restructuring.
- It now appears possible to fund the £40,000 payable to Powys County Council as a one-off sum using expected underspending during 2005/06. Approval to proceed along these lines is sought from the Authority. The £40,000 is in respect of additional costs arising from deferral of the change to the Local Government Pension Scheme which reduced the benefits payable to employees.
- The Planning Improvement Grant (£68,000) is currently fully allocated to Development Control.

	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Amended</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>4,323</b>
Welsh Assembly Grant plus Levy	4,156	4,199	4,203
Use of Reserves	485	46	52
Planning Improvement Grant	68	68	68
	<b>4,709</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>4,323</b>

## Reserves

The balance of reserves as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 was £752,129 and the projected balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, based on the latest out-turn forecast for 2005/06 and the revised baseline estimates for 2006/07, are shown below. Any additional underspend not used to top up the Pension Fund would increase the reserves balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

	<b>£</b>
<b>Balance of Reserves as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005</b>	<b>749,119</b>
Forecast contribution from Reserves 2005/06 (allowing for a forecast underspending in 2005/06 of £46,000)	(436,348)

<b>Estimated balance of Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006</b>	<b>312,771</b>
Estimated contribution from Reserves 2006/07	(52,144)
Earmarked Reserve transferred from Revenue (Local Development Plan)	30,000
<b>Estimated balance of Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 (including LDP Earmarked Reserve of £30,000)</b>	<b>290,627</b>

The level of reserves recommended by the S151 Officer (4% of net budget plus £100,000 working balance) equates to £268,110 in 2006/07.

- (a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement Implications: Financial implications as detailed in the report. The baseline budget does not allow for significant expenditure on improvement projects.**
- (b) **Equality Issues: None.**
- (c) **Sustainability Appraisal: The baseline budget is designed to maintain the core services of the Authority with due regard to the requirement to keep reserves at a sustainable level.**
- (d) **Human Rights: Not applicable.**
- (e) **Background Papers:**
- (f) **Corporate Objective: 3**

**Recommendation:** Members are asked to note the contents of the report, approve the treatment of reserves described above to fund the baseline budget for 2006/07 and agree to the use of underspending in the current year to fund the contribution to the Powys Pension Fund.

**Contact Officer:** For further information contact Elaine Standen or Alan Elliott on 01874 624437.

## **10.0 PARK ACCOUNTS AUDIT 2005/06**

*Jane Davies*

### **Background**

At a meeting with Geraint Norman (Audit Manager) from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on the 16 February 2006, new procedures relating to the Code of Audit Practice were explained to officers from the Finance Section and Head of Business Unit (See **Enclosure 6** – Presentation by WAO – ‘Parks Accounts Audit 2005/06’). The whole Government Accounts strategy is now being implemented and as a result the Authority has to approve the Statement of Accounts by 31 July 2006 with the Auditor’s report being issued to the Authority by 31 October 2006.

The key change this year will be the SIC (Statement of Internal Control) which now replaces the SIFC (Statement of Internal Financial Control) and information on this new procedure is contained within the CIPFA guidance. Under the Statement of Internal Control the Statement of Accounts must now be 'signed off' by the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Authority and must cover the following;

- Financial systems and controls
- Risk Management
- Governance arrangements
- Economy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Authority now has to provide a number of dates to accommodate these new procedures;

1. The date when the Authority can approve the Statement of Accounts (before the 31 July 2006).
2. The date when WAO can come in to the Authority to commence their audit.
3. The date when WAO can present their ISA260 Report to the full Authority before mid October.

The two dates available to approve the Statement of Accounts would be at Corporate Resources on the 12 May 2006 and a meeting of the National Park Authority on 23 June 2006. Unfortunately, neither of these dates fit in with the timetable for the Finance Section to complete the full Statement of Accounts. It will therefore be necessary to call an EGM to approve the Statement of Accounts including the SIC.

- (a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement Implications: Approval of the Financial Statement of Accounts, Finance Staff will be fully engaged in closing down the 05/06 Accounts and the preparation of the Statement of accounts. The Authority is making a contribution to the overall WAO improvement to whole Government Accounts.**
- (b) **Equality Issues: None.**
- (c) **Sustainability Appraisal: Provision of a sustainable approach to accounts management within the Authority by following WAO procedures.**
- (d) **Human Rights: There are no issues.**
- (e) **Background Papers: WAO Parks Accounts Audit 2005/06.**
- (f) **Corporate Objective: 8.**

**Recommendations:**

- a) *That a date for an EGM of the National Park Authority be set before 31 July 2006 (preferably between 17 and 28 July 2006).*
- b) *A date to be agreed when the WAO can present the ISA260 report to the National Park Authority before mid October 2006 (ideally between 2 and 13 October 2006).*

## 11.0 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Christopher Gledhill

Members have received the notes summarising the agreed issues from the very useful workshop held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and the letter from the Chairman outlining the approach she wishes to take regarding the Corporate Governance Project.

Members were clear that they wished to establish a Task and Finish Group to work on the detail of issues raised at the workshop, and that this should comprise six members of the Authority as well as relevant officers (to include the Chief Executive, legal advice, Management Assistant, Corporate Affairs and Committees, and other staff as necessary to provide advice). Suggested terms of reference are attached at **Enclosure 7** for members' consideration.

It was also agreed that an action plan be brought to this meeting for members' approval, which would provide the framework for the Task and Finish Group. Members will note that a very tight timetable has been suggested in order that we achieve real benefit from any changes, and meet the challenge of improving our corporate governance structures. The Task and Finish Group will need to meet urgently and work closely with officers to meet the target dates. The action plan is attached at **Enclosure 8** for members' approval.

- (a) ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Many of the suggested changes may result in financial savings and lead to improved structures. The initial period of proposals and implementation will require a high level of staff time with member involvement as well.***
- (b) ***Equality Issues: Any changes will take account of equality issues.***
- (c) ***Sustainability Appraisal: One of the aims of the project is to make the Authority's corporate governance structure and procedures more sustainable, and to support the work towards the Green Dragon Award.***
- (d) ***Human Rights: Any changes will take account of equality issues.***
- (e) ***Background Papers: None***
- (f) ***Corporate Objective: 8***

### **Recommendations:**

- a) ***That the draft Terms of Reference for the Corporate Governance Task and Finish Group be approved and members appointed in line with these;***

**b) That the Corporate Governance Action Plan be approved.**

## **12.0 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY AND POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

***Christopher Gledhill***

Members are aware that two liaison meetings have been held between the Authority and Powys County Council to discuss a range of issues of common concern, and to draw up a draft Memorandum of Understanding that might be used as a model for future liaison between the Authority and its other constituent authorities.

A draft Memorandum was discussed at the recent meeting between the two authorities on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and officers in Powys are currently making the agreed amendments. The draft document (**Enclosure 9**) will be circulated for members' consideration under separate cover as soon as it is available.

- (a) Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: A Memorandum of Understanding will give a clear framework for improved working relationships between the two authorities, which will benefit relationships with other authorities if adopted as a model.**
- (b) Equality Issues: The agreed model will be used to build frameworks with all constituent authorities.**
- (c) Sustainability Appraisal: Partnership working may lead to shared consultation exercises.**
- (d) Human Rights: No implications**
- (e) Background Papers: Memorandum of Understanding at Enclosure ?**
- (f) Corporate Objective: Could affect any**

### **Recommendations:**

- a) That the draft Memorandum of Understanding be adopted;**
- b) That the proposed membership of the Liaison meetings be agreed pending any changes to the Authority's decision making structures at its Annual Meeting 2006.**

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE**

***Peter Tyldesley***

### **13.1 Members' Attendance at Events**

At its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 the Events Committee discussed how members could support the events organised or supported by the National Park Authority. The point was made that members are sometimes unclear what constitutes approved duty and what is a matter of an individual member's interest in the event or a wish to support the work of the Park. Officers suggested that a recommendation be brought to the Authority so that there is a clear procedure for member attendance in future.

It is suggested that there are three possible levels of attendance at Authority events:

- a) Official duty where one or more members (usually the Chairman and/or Deputy Chairman) are formally (ie. via a written invitation) invited to represent the Authority, open the event, make a speech or some other duty (this also applies to events run by other organisations – eg. Ystradowen Fete in 2005);
- b) Authority events where it is important that members are actively involved and where they may have a specific role to play (eg. The BBNP stand at the Eisteddfod in 2004 where members regularly worked shifts to engage the public);
- c) Events which are organised by the Park for the public (eg. Food Fayre, Summer Fayre) where there is no specific role for members (apart from the Chairman or his/her representative) but where they are keen to support the event and demonstrate a member presence. At the event planning stage it should be specified what level of member attendance is appropriate.

In cases (a) and (b) it seems appropriate that this is deemed an official, approved duty where all appropriate expenses may be claimed. However, in the case of (c) it is a question of members' individual choice whether they attend, in their own time. It is suggested that while they should be able to claim a mileage allowance, this is not an approved duty and should not be eligible for the attendance allowance of £50.

However, in order for the Authority to be prudent with its resources, members of the Events Committee suggested that a rota system might be considered, where a list of events is displayed in the Members' Room, and members sign up to attend events up to an agreed limit, which would ensure representation and support, but not incur excessive expenditure for the Authority. Members' views are sought on an appropriate limit in numbers of members eligible to claim at such events.

- (a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: An agreed procedure would give a clear steer to the budget for such events.**
- (b) **Equality Issues: Members should consider how they might ensure that members had an equal chance in attending events for which they could claim expenses.**
- (c) **Sustainability Appraisal: A procedure would enable evaluation of sustainability and members could consider sharing transport where appropriate.**
- (d) **Human Rights: No implications**

(e) **Background Papers: None**

(f) **Corporate Objective: 8**

**Recommendations:**

- a) *That a clear procedure for member attendance at events be adopted;*
- b) *That a list of events be displayed in the Members' Room to enable members to 'sign up' for attendance;*
- c) *That an appropriate limit in the number of members eligible to claim travel expenses for attending type (c) events above be agreed;*
- d) *That these procedures be reviewed in September 2006 after the summer season of events.*

**14.0 APPOINTMENTS TO THE FFOREST FAWR GEOPARK SENIOR MEMBERS PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
*Jane Davies*

At a meeting of the National Park Authority on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006, members made decisions in relation to the management structure of the Fforest Fawr Geopark, as follows:

**RESOLVED:**

- a) *That the National Park Authority now dissolve the Upper Swansea Valley and Geopark Advisory Committee and approve the proposed Fforest Fawr Management Structure (to include the amendments below) with immediate effect and that the Authority's terms of reference and scheme of delegation be amended accordingly.*
- b) *That two additional NPA members be appointed to the Senior Members Partnership Board;*
- c) *That two community councillors be appointed to the Senior Members Partnership Board, one from a community council within Powys County Council and one from a community council within Carmarthenshire County Council;*
- d) *That any other representatives that might be deemed appropriate be co-opted onto the Senior Members Partnership Board;*
- e) *That the Chairman of the Senior Members Partnership Board be appointed from the National Park Authority members;*

Members are asked to nominate two members to sit on the Senior Members Partnership Board.

- (a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: A decision to appoint two further NPA members in addition to the Chairman and Chief Executive officer would improve accountability to the full Authority and make clear the National Park Authority's commitment to the Geopark.**

- (b) **Equality Issues: None.**
- (c) **Sustainability Appraisal: No implications.**
- (d) **Human Rights: None.**
- (e) **Background Papers: None.**
- (f) **Corporate Objective: 10.**

***Recommendation: That the Authority appoints two further members to the Senior Members Partnership Board of the Fforest Fawr Geopark.***

## **15.0 OUR ENERGY CHALLENGE: SECURING CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR THE LONG TERM**

***Paul Sinnadurai***

The three Welsh National Parks have been asked to comment on the above consultation paper. A draft response is attached at **Enclosure 10** for members' consideration. This incorporates comments from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority but comments from Snowdonia National Park Authority are still awaited.

The following points should be noted:

- The response is very detailed and may need some editing.
  - It may help if we can cite some positive examples from Europe with regard to successes in the use of alternative technologies.
  - We might consider how incentives could be used to encourage the development and use of bio fuels. e.g. tax incentives.
  - Kyoto targets. We could be radical and suggest ways of reducing transport emissions through tax breaks for engine and new fuel research and pilot programmes.
  - What scope is there in the planning process to encourage modern buildings to be more sustainable and energy efficient.
  - Fuels and Transport. While a novel idea, a government ban on car advertising is possibly a bit too far. However, in the same spirit we could divert this to greater promotion of energy efficiency and carbon reduction schemes.
  - Fuels and Transport - This is one key area in which we need a more strategic overview with regional strategies.
- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: None in relation to the recommendations. We are investing staff time and SDF grant aid in renewable energy initiatives within the Park.**
  - b) **Equality Issues: None in relation to the recommendations. The outcome of the Energy Review however will have a direct impact on fuel poverty.**



- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: UK energy policy has a direct impact on everyone's ability and willingness to live sustainably.**
- d) **Human Rights: None anticipated.**
- e) **Background Papers: None but this links closely with the issues raised in the NPA's responses to the proposed LNG pipeline.**
- f) **Corporate Objective: 10.**

**Recommendation:** That the draft response to 'Our Energy Challenge: Securing clean, affordable energy for the long term' be approved.

## **16.0 MEMBER REPRESENTATION OF NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Members will remember that at the Strategy and Policy Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005, a Steering Group was set up to guide the process of preparing the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Authority's two main plans. This group includes representatives from the Environment Agency and CADW, and four members of the National Park Authority. Those appointed were Cllr John Morris, Mr Peter Seaman, either the Chair or Deputy Chairman of the National Park Authority plus Mrs Pat Thomas.

Mrs Thomas has now withdrawn from the group, and members are asked to nominate another member to replace her.

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: None.**
- b) **Equality Issues: None.**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: No implications.**
- d) **Human Rights: No implications.**
- e) **Background Papers: None.**
- f) **Corporate Objective: 11.**

**Recommendation:** That members nominate one member to serve on the NPMP/LDP Steering Group

### **SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE**

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Such other correspondence as, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.