

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 **TUESDAY 9TH MAY AT 2:00PM OR ON THE RISING OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE, WHICHEVER IS SOONER**, 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 BRECON BEACONS WILDLIFE SITES PROJECT

Gareth Ellis

Project Brief

- 4.1 The Authority (BBNPA) has a statutory duty to take biodiversity considerations into account when assessing planning applications. While some sites/species are protected by statutory designations and law, this does not encompass all sites that may have high biodiversity value or be of particular local importance. For this reason Planning Authorities should identify Sites of Local Importance for Biodiversity (or “Wildlife Sites”) in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). It is appropriate that BBNPA do not undertake initial assessment of candidate sites as this will ensure an objective approach outside the influence of planning considerations.
- 4.2 These sites are also of high importance to delivering the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. They represent the best examples of habitat and/or support important LBAP species outside of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Most Wildlife Sites will be in private ownership and often working farmland. A key aspect of identifying Wildlife Sites will be the ability to engage successfully with the farming community to gain support for and secure a sustainable long term future for these sites.
- 4.3 This project will be delivered by grant aid from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. Given the requirements of the project above, the Wildlife Trusts are the only organisations with the necessary skills, competency and ethos to deliver this project successfully. The Wildlife Trusts are considered to be the UK leaders in the field of identifying and developing Wildlife Sites and produced the guidance for such selection in South Wales. Working in partnership with the Wildlife Trusts was also a key factor in EFF approving this grant.
- 4.4 The three Wildlife Trusts that cover the National Park were approached to assess their ability to deliver this project. Neither the Gwent Wildlife Trust, nor the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales had the resources available to deliver this project, but gave their full support to the Brecknock Wildlife Trust running this project on their behalf. Therefore, this project will cover the entire National Park, not just Brecknockshire.
- 4.5 The Project Steering Group will take a final decision on the approval of candidate Wildlife Sites. The Steering group will consist of representatives from Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys CC, The Wildlife Trusts, CCW and if possible, a National Park Member. It is hoped that all constituent authorities of the National Park will be represented on the Steering Group, subject to further discussions.

(a) *Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Project to be delivered by the Brecknock Wildlife Trust (BWT), who will employ a full time Project Officer for 18 months to deliver the project.*

Staff time from BBNPA Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer will be required to support the post and sit on the Project Steering Group.

This first phase of the project (identify and designate sites) will begin in May/June 2006 to finish November/December 2007

Total Cost of this initial Project phase is £28885.00

Total of grant aid from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (EFF) £25135.00

Contribution from BBNPA £3750.00 to be sourced from filming contracts.

Funds can be drawn from EFF as required.

£8379.00 has already been received from EFF

As stated above, the Brecknock Wildlife Trusts is the only organisation available to deliver this project.

Given that this project will be in excess of £15,000, approval to Suspend Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (No. 4) will need to be provided by the Committee.

- (b) Equality Issues: Project Officer will be recruited in line with BWT's Equal Opportunities and Recruitment policies.**
- (c) Sustainability Appraisal: This project will identify sites of local importance for biodiversity within the National Park to ensure adequate provision for such sites in the UDP. Protecting areas of importance for biodiversity is at the core of providing a sustainable future for the National Park**
- (d) Human Rights: Project Officer will be recruited in line with BWT's Equal Opportunities and Recruitment policies**
- (e) Background Papers:**

Key documents:

BBNPA UDP – Chapter 3 Conserving and Enhancing Our Biodiversity and Earth Heritage

BBNP Wildlife Sites Project Proposal – Brecknock Wildlife Trust (Enclosure 1).

BBNP Wildlife Sites Costs – Brecknock Wildlife Trust (Enclosure 2)..

Other documents:

Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales (Gwent Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts and others August 2004. This is quite a large document and can be provided on request.)

- (f) Corporate Objective: 12. To instil the principles of sustainable development throughout the Authority and its work by developing and maintaining appropriate policies in up to date management and development plans.**

- UDP – Chapter 3**

Policy Q3: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Development on non-statutory sites of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance will only be permitted where:

- (i) the need for the development outweighs the nature conservation importance of the site; and**
- (ii) the proposals comply with Policy Q5 and/or where protected and important wild species are concerned, with Policy Q4**

Where appropriate the NPA will consider the use of conditions and/or planning obligations to provide appropriate compensatory measures.

Recommendations:

- a) That the Authority approves the Suspension of Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (No. 4) to appoint the Brecknock Wildlife Trust as Contractor to deliver the Wildlife Sites Project.**
- b) That the Authority approves the allocation of £3750.00 sourced from filming income to support the Wildlife Sites Project**
- c) That the Authority appoints a member of the National Park Authority to sit on the Project Steering Group.**

5.0 COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL PARKS: 70TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE 2006
Christopher Gledhill

2006 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Council for National Parks (CNP). To celebrate this milestone, CNP is holding a major conference in Buxton on the theme of "Prosperity and Protection". The conference is being held at the Dome, in Buxton, from the afternoon of 30 June to lunchtime on 2 July 2006.

The conference aims to:

- explore the relationship between National Park designation and the economy
- examine a number of key issues facing National Parks in their relationship with the economy
- celebrate the achievements of CNP over the last 70 years and to demonstrate the continuing need for our work

There is a full programme of talks and activities, speakers including Defra Minister Jim Knight MP, Professor Adrian Phillips and the Rt Hon David Blunkett MP (as the after dinner speaker on Saturday). There will also be the opportunity for conference workshops and to get out and about with a variety of field trips, including to Stanage Edge and the Goyt Valley. The conference is being sponsored by the Countryside Agency and National Grid (a member of the Corporate Forum for National Parks).

The National Park Authority appointed Mrs Mary Taylor to represent them on the CNP Council, and she has subsequently been appointed CNP's Vice Chairman for Wales. She has been asked to attend the conference in both capacities, and would produce a report in an appropriate edition of Update to share outcomes from the conference.

(a) Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: the conference rate is £125 to include accommodation and all meals.

(b) Equality Issues: None

(c) Sustainability Appraisal: Delegates will be encouraged to share transport or travel by public transport.

(d) Human Rights: No implications

(e) Background Papers: None

(f) Corporate Objective: 12

Recommendation: That the Authority authorises the attendance of Mrs Mary Taylor, National Park member and Vice President of CNP Wales at the 70th Anniversary CNP Conference from 30 June to 2 July 2006.

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.