

Date: 24 November 2009

Report: MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the report

1. To report back on Member Champions' activities since the last meeting.

Activities

2. Regular meetings between Champions and the Chairman have now been arranged, to take place every two months alternating with Authority meetings. A meeting took place on 20 October – minutes attached as an **Appendix**.
3. Other Champions' activities, since the September Authority meeting, are as follows:

Chris Armitage (Corporate Management):

- Attended Senior Management Team meeting on 28 October;
- Induction session with Chief Executive and senior officers on 23 November.

Will Weston (Climate Change):

- Briefing with Head of Conservation & Policy 13 October;
- Attended Climate Change Working Group meeting 2 November.

Stuart Parsons (Cultural Heritage):

- Background reading from Rob White

Malcolm Petyt (Recreation Management):

Attended meetings of:

- Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership Board
- Pennine Bridleway Steering Group (Chairman)
- Three Peaks Project Group
- Pennine Way Steering Group site visits
- Dales Volunteers Autumn Gathering
- Department Management Team
- Rangers Team

Wilf Fenten (Promoting Understanding):

- *Nothing to report*

Andrew Colley (Natural Environment):

- Met with Tim Thom and Rangers at Freeholders Wood, Aysgarth for dormice survey – 22 October
- Attended C&P November Dept Meeting and reported on Sept Authority Meeting – 4 Nov
- Provided press statement for the Woodland Creation Initiative

John Blackie (Planning):

- Attended a meeting of the Working Group on Site Visits
- Attended the Planning officer training session on Customer Care
- Been involved as MC in 12 planning cases either on behalf of applicants or objectors
- Arranged a public meeting re Gayle Mill Section 106 Agreement

Yvonne Peacock (Forward Planning):

- North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board October 5 at Thirsk
- Various discussions with Peter Stockton and Tom Harland

Lesley Knevitt
Secretariat Administrator
10 November 2009

CHAMPIONS MEETING:
Tuesday 20 October 2009 @ Yoredale

Present: Carl Lis (Chairman)
Andrew Colley
Stuart Parsons
Malcolm Petyt
John Blackie
Yvonne Peacock
Chris Armitage
Will Weston

Apologies: Wilf Fenten

1. Individual updates

- AC: Happy with relationship with officers; suggested role might cross frequently with that of WW. Raised issues of renewable energy/new housing, stressing need to lead by example; issue of costs involved initially; latest work/thinking on trees and woodlands – NPA needs to be proactive and commit to models for others to follow bearing in mind that there is now a big political drive to promote tree planting; including need to work closely with farmers/landowners and tie in with housing working group, climate change work, for example.
- SP: Apologies that unavoidable circumstances have prevented progress since appointment as MC; is fully aware of officers involved.
- MP: Had reported in July; large department of 35 officers and happy with relationships. Found it particularly important/helpful to join team meetings, and to see projects on ground eg risk assessments, three peaks project etc.
- JB: Third year as champion; had reported to September NPA. High profile role. Felt new planning team structure was working well, improving performance and embedding enforcement. Explained circumstances relating to Honeycott investigation. Had discussed concern at number of complaints with chairman and agreed to carry out an audit on an application as a means of seeing exactly where problems might arise; agreed would be more effective to do sample of different types - and ask Tom Harland to make impartial selection of examples, from before start of new team structure so that audit could be repeated in, say, 15 months, (and using examples where planning officer was constant throughout and others where planning officer had changed). **ACTION: JB to liaise with PDW.**
- YP: No problems in picking up Shelagh Marshall's part of role. Pleased to be involved with Housing Board (Sub-Regional Thematic Partnership); emphasised importance of allocating housing sites in readiness for any funding. Discussion on affordable/low cost/local needs housing, including concept of shared ownership (Scott Hill particularly good model) – felt NPA was as near as could be to a good

approach. Stressed difficulties for self-employed, which could hit Dales area badly. Discussion on housing needs surveys, where questions asked need care to ensure credibility eg include input from local people/parish councils. Felt Champion should be part of NPMP Steering Group meetings **ACTION: LK to liaise with GS; YP to arrange session with David.**

- CA: Getting to grips with a wide range of areas covered by role, including involvement with Corporate Excellence bid (identified biggest issue re customer satisfaction lies with planning; must avoid duplicating work with planning application audit); Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy review; Staff Code of Conduct; IIP etc. Agreed should get involved with HR side.
- WW: Big part of role is to push boundaries, particularly in difficult areas like transport, tourism. NPAs should be seen (especially by government) as exemplars. Explore ways of promoting ideas (eg with BBC); social change is key. Would be useful to capture experiences to use as examples; need honest discussions. Wonder if NPA has got the balance right – emphasise that people can't keep saying no without providing alternatives.

2. Champions as Corporate Entity

JB stressed that Champions should not appear as a “cabinet” but could be used to advantage as vehicle to further aims and objectives of NP. Having meetings in between NPAs gave opportunity to talk through before broader discussion, eg a sounding board to give officers a viewpoint – in a sense the reverse of the PDF meetings where officers brought issues to Members. If a MC wished to bring particular issue to a MC meeting he might suggest bringing officer as well. SP raised slight concern that this might lead to perception of a two-tier membership, but suggested putting as an agenda item for one year to see how this had worked.

Suggest getting media quotes at every opportunity **ACTION: remind lead officers to think “Member Champion” in terms of a quotation wien media opps arise.** More “promotion” of the Member view. Suggest Nick Oldham be asked to check with relevant Champion and/or Chairman. Suggest media officer be invited to MC meetings for relevant items. Same to apply to CEO.

3. Sub-Regional structures/representation

CL referred to his recent email to Members. Emphasised remaining “need” to get representation on the regional Spatial Planning Board. Confirmed representation on each of four Thematic Partnership boards: Transport = Malcolm Petyt; Planning = John Blackie; Economy & Skills = Carl Lis; Housing = Yvonne Peacock. CL to substitute for each (Deputy Chairman to sub for chairman on E&S)

4. Rota for reports to NPA

It was agreed that Champions would give individual reports to Members at NPA as follows:

November 2009	None – new appointments
January 2010	Chris Armitage
March 2010	Yvonne Peacock/Will Weston
May 2010	Stuart Parsons
July 2010	John Blackie
September 2010	Andrew Colley
November	Malcolm Petyt/Wilf Fenten

ACTION: LK/RP to issue reminders to MCs as appropriate.

5. Reporting back on “internal” meetings

To avoid unnecessary duplication it was agreed that, as part of the standing “Feedback form Member Champions” item on NPA agendas, Champions would list all the meetings (including team meetings, internal working groups etc) they had attended since the last occasion and could include a report if they so wished; alternatively other members could question them if required.

6. Dates for future meetings

Tuesday 15th December 2009
Monday 22nd February 2010
Monday 26th April 2010
Monday 28th June 2010
Wednesday 25th August 2010
Monday 25th October 2010
Monday 13th December 2010

All meetings would start at 10 am and take place at Yoredale.

ACTION: LK to put dates in Chairman’s and Members’ Diaries on intranet.

There was no further business. Meeting closed at approximately 1.15 pm