

FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

AREA: Peak District

1. Location & Attendance:

The Maynard Arms, Grindleford. 44 attendees

2. BMC staff & Executive member(s) present:

Rob Dyer, Martin Kocsis

3. New postholder(s) & situations vacant (Chair, Secretary, National Council rep):

None

4. Key issues discussed:

Five key areas were discussed:

- 4.1 *Access issues* – Lots of important access issues. Bird restrictions are starting to be come into force so people were encouraged to check on the RAD before they go out to play. A new planning application has been submitted for Staden Quarry and climbing is restricted for the moment. It was reported there had been some illegal tree felling at Burbage North and High Neb. Bouldering at night with floodlights is becoming popular but people need to consider the impact on the wildlife and environment.
- 4.2 *The Eastern Moors* – The Peak Area has formed an Eastern Moors Group to work with the Eastern Moors Partnership Stakeholder Forum, an advisory body for the estate. They have had a productive meeting with the Danny Udall and Roy Taylor from The Eastern Moors Partnership in which they were asked if they could produce a Crag Management Plan. This has to fit in with other recreational users plans. The situation with respect to North Lees was also discussed.
- 4.3 *The Roaches* – There are 7 bidders left in the process. The BMC is currently supporting two of them: The National Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The climbing areas are all on 'open access' land but complications could still arise with unsympathetic owners. In particular the issue of The Whillans Hut could become difficult. It was the opinion of the meeting that the BMC should work to protect the future of The Hut.
- 4.4 *Communication* – The issue of whether The Peak Area should continue to have its own newsletter was discussed (one hasn't been published for a while). People present thought it should be rejuvenated and it should especially be used as a precursor to understanding the increasingly complex access issues. The meeting voted to set-up a Facebook account for the area meeting.
- 4.5 *Guidebooks & Volunteering* – The meeting received an update from Martin Kocsis. Work on the Moorland guidebook is progressing well. Work on the Limestone book is also moving along nicely. Work is also ongoing on other BMC guidebooks including Lancashire Rock, Cheshire Sandstone and Leicestershire (where some amazing slate and granite quarries are being discovered). People were keen to get involved in volunteering for guidebook work and it was agreed that an open meeting should be arranged with a focus on helping with the Limestone project.

5. Bullet points to highlight to the National Council:

- Another really positive and productive meeting with new faces and people eager to start doing some volunteering work.
- A productive working relationship is being developed with the Eastern Moors Partnership and in particular the National Trust who plan to have a representative at all our meetings.
- Principles of how the BMC worked/are working in relation to the sale of public land have emerged. These are being put together and will be shared with other areas/members.
- On-going work with regard to the future of The Roaches and in particular the Whillans Hut
- Ways of improving communication to Peak Area members was discussed and some positive suggestions made which will be implemented.
- Guidebook work is continuing a pace.
- After supper Matt Heason kindly put on a show of short films from "The Best of ShAFF".