



## Lakes Area Meeting

On Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 19.30

### MINUTES

Present - F.Bennett (Chair), F Sanders, K Sanders, M Parsons, R Kenyon, P Powell, D Brown, H Harris, J Bumby, K Willshaw, K Taylor, Matthew C, N Bolton, P Stewart, R Leafe, W Stirrup, P Swainson, J Holden,

#### First - Apologies for the delay in opening the meeting !!

1. **Welcome and introductions** by Frank Bennett
  - **Apologies for absence** - A Salisbury, R Outhwaite
  - Thanks to Ron for supporting Frank as he takes over as Chair
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - available on the BMC Community website
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**
4. **BMC** (Fiona Sanders)
  - Pleased to announce Paul Davies has been appointed CEO after being interim - he was our best candidate
  - BMC AGM - 15.05.2021 - please register prior and you can see candidates to vote for <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-agm-2021-how-to-vote>
  - CLubs committee launch club networks a new way for clubs to engage with each other and the BMC. <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/club-networks>
5. **Impact of Covid-19 – Post Lockdown**
  - **2021 post lockdown plans from National Parks and influx of visitors** - (Richard Leafe - LDNPA)
    - Authorities spent the winter digesting and learning from experiences in 2020
    - Looks like 2021 will be busier !!
    - Created a “**Safer Lakes**” website
      - Gives status of car parks
      - Increase the message to encourage people to plan ahead.
      - Marginal increasing in car parking provision
      - Issue of less car sharing going on !
      - Encourage to visit less visited areas
    - “**Safer Lakes**”
      - Have permanent staff
      - Linked with multi-agencies

- 100 Visitor Management Volunteers
  - Located at major visitor points to give out information; get out the message about staying safe; do not litter or leave items on fells, lakeside etc
  - Educate people
  - More volunteers welcome.

**Action point - BMC Lakes needs to promote website and need for volunteers**

- **After the end of lockdown** - has been relatively low numbers but starting to grow !
- Looking to install additional **temporary toilets** in the area
  - Comment from Mike Parsons re only 3 public toilets between Patterdale and Pooley Bridge.
  - LDNPA would welcome ideas for locations.
- Contending with poor behaviour especially with flycamping and litter
- Very grateful of all the people who are helping - including Kate Willshaw & Friends of the Lakes and Nicola Bolton & Lakeland Plastic Collective.
- Definitely not the case that everyone is behaving badly - it is just a minority but a significant minority.
- Following message of the recently issued **Countryside Code**.
- For those living in the National Park and nearby we have been lucky to live here - particularly in lockdown.
- Many others have discovered the Lakes for the first time and are looking to return.
- The age profile of the visitor is lower than has been in the past and will likely lead to a lifetime of visits by many in the future.
- LDNPA needs the **eyes and ears of others to look for bad behaviour** - any such behaviour, with details, should be emailed to [cvalert@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:cvalert@lakedistrict.gov.uk)

**Action - BMC Lakes needs to promote**

- **Litter etc**

- **Hill to Oceans**
  - BMC initiative
  - Bags and Pickers available from Alpkit in Ambleside and Keswick
  - BMC sending additional bags to these shops.
  - BMC would welcome other shops to help with this - contact BMC accordingly

**Action point - BMC Lakes needs to promote**

- **Lakes Plastic Collective** (Nicola Bolton)
  - Been busy - working closely with LDNPA and other authorities.
  - More Flycamping - reported via the Safer Lakes website has been useful.
  - Lakeshores are the main areas for issues
  - But also on the fells.
  - Visitors keen to help - can direct to Alpkit
  - More issues with BBQs - Nicola B counter 14/15 campfires by Honister Pass
  - Not usual visitors and not all disrespectful.

- Fires etc in Borrowdale Woods - now area fenced off - this is a shame but necessary
  - Need more bins - and bins emptying
- **Friends of the Lakes** (Kate Wilmshaw)
  - **The Great Cumbrian Litter Pick** - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
    - Details on Friends of the Lakes website
    - Ruth Kirk organising event - email - ruth-kirk@fld.org.uk
    - Get local groups to help
    - Share details with BMC members and Clubs

**Action point - BMC Lakes needs to promote**
  - **Research with Keep Britain Tidy campaign**
    - Looking at Who and Why drop litter
    - 24 people admitted to dropping litter and being used in the survey
    - Full report not till end of May - but issues coming through as follows
      - Inconvenience of carrying litter
      - Bins full
      - Festival mentality – that “others” will pick it up and keep place tidy
    - Ideas –
      - Use of social media to get out message
      - Need to firm up message
      - Different message for different people
      - Highly need to “Take a bag”
    - BBQ’s
      - Looking at best ways to dispose of BBQ’s
      - Important to get out message of issues with BBQ’s
      - National initiative to ban sale if portable BBQ’s (a) all together or (b) in dry conditions
      - Suggestion of having BBQ’s at car park etc – as in eg US, Australia or South Africa
    - Plastic bottles
      - Comment made about plastic bottles
      - Kate W commented on campaign to have deposit of plastic bottles
        - Want to get BMC to support this campaign.

**Action point - RK to follow up**
- **National Campaign**
  - Richard L indicated there is a national joined approach by all the National Parks – with the underlying message of following the **Countryside Code**.
  - **Million Mile Mountain Clean** - this is a week long campaign aimed at cleaning one million miles of mountains, rivers, beaches and streets to protect the environment from the growing problem of plastic pollution. The Mountain specific campaign that the BMC is

supporting in partnership with Surfers Against Sewage runs from the 15th - 23rd May when we hope to maximise publicity. This coincides with the Friends of the Lakes clean up weekend.

- More details can be found here;
  - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/join-us-for-the-million-mile-mountain-clean>
  - Trudy Harrison (MP Copeland) looking to organise joint meeting of MP's, Councils and interested parties to discuss the litter issue - BMC linked
  - Other ideas of slogans
    - "Don't Be A Tosser" or "Don't be a Chucker"
    - "Pack it in - Pack it Out" - idea in the US some years ago
6. **Access and related Issues** (James Bumby)
- **Additional Bird Restrictions** on some crags - notably Raven Crag, Walthwaite - which apart from one exception climbers seem to be acknowledging.
  - **Goats Crag - Watendlath** - access issue Access Reps working with NT Ranger and farmer - for alternative access
  - **Shepherds Crag**
    - Enquiries re additional car parking have drawn a blank !!
  - **Kings Meaburn**
    - Tree which became lodged at the crag has now been removed by forestry contractors
    - Funded 50% by the landowner and 50% by BMC.
7. **Lakes Fest** - 17 - 19 September 2021 (Provisional date)
- Date suggested moved back
  - Details of the weekend based on 2020 plans but without social events and band.
  - Look to register attendees through BMC - no registration fee - campsite fee paying on the weekend
  - Weekend dependant on Covid 19 restrictions and will monitor the situation accordingly.
  - Subgroup meeting on Friday 09/05/2021 to take forward
8. **Any other business** - None
9. **Next Meeting** - Need to fix weekend - **RK to liaise with BMC**

Unfortunately with time pressure there was no time for talk following meeting by Jase Wilson on Tourism in the Death Zone—an ethnographic encounter with Himalayan high-altitude tourism - to reschedule