



## Lakes Area Meeting

**ZOOM MEETING - Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 19.30**

### MINUTES

Present: F Bennett (Chair), R Kenyon, P Powell, A Salisbury, D Turnbull, D Robinson, R Outhwaite, G Champion, K Taylor, D Brown, P Davies, S Smith, P Swainson, A Hope, T Rogers, J Brumby, M Collant, K Taylor, A Green, Marian Parsons, Paul Davies

1. **Welcome and introductions** by Frank Bennett  
**Apologies for absence** - Fiona Sanders, Mike Parsons.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
  - Available on the BMC Community website and agreed.
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**
4. **BMC** (Paul Davies, CEO BMC)
  - Mend Our Mountains campaign is being developed for its 3rd iteration and updates are being sent to area officers so that you can stay in touch with what is going on.
  - 'Find your adventure' is aimed at club 'support to grow'. The project has been progressing and now attention is turning on how we might engage with clubs traditionally not associated with the BMC, and convert youth climbers to club climbers, with a view to 'what does the club model 2021 and beyond' look like?
  - Membership numbers have started to increase albeit slowly as COVID rules are lifted and people are starting to get back to some kind of normality.
  - We are in phase 1 of the Sport England funding process, we are aiming to establish a step change in funding for the NGB area so that we can focus membership funds amongst other areas, grass roots development and activities across our regions.
  - Commercial officer has been appointed. The start date is December with a first focus on the membership package for climbers, walkers and mountaineers.
  - Furlough has now finished and staff are back to normal hours.
  - Board is in process of agreeing budgets which due to the consultation undertaken will not be completed until December.
  - BMC AGM likely to be 14th May - hoping to do it in person but looking at all options

## 5. **Impact of Covid-19 – Update**

- **Lake District Park Area** (Dave Turnbull)
  - LDNP busiest year on record - expect to continue as those who discovered the lakes during covid have formed a lasting area interest.
  - Minority engagement has increased in all National Parks.
- **Mountain Rescue Team** (Stuart Smith)
  - Increase in avoidable incidents.
  - Mike Park appointed new CEO of Mountain Rescue England and Wales.
  - Unified message linked to 'Adventure Smart' website.

## 6. **Access and related Issues** (James Bumby)

- Spring has been a busy one - namely due to the lockdown meant a higher level of nesting birds than normal - notably peregrine at Chapel Head.
- Some fly camping issues have prompted the involvement of access officers - notably Goat Crag, Wathendlath.
- However, given all the pressure on the Lakes access has been relatively straightforward.
- Temperature probes are being replaced on Helvellyn to aid winter climbing.
- The Great End probe system to be replaced but not this year. It is, however, still functional.
- The online world is increasing the number of items being reported - loose rocks etc. The current stance is to log them onto RAD / point people in this direction.

## 7. **Lakes Fest - 22-24th April 2022** (Ann Salisbury)

- Organisation progressing. In the early stages with the website launch coming soon. The organisation committee will need to meet shortly.

## 8. **BMC Lakes Youth meet - Rawhead - 1-3rd July 2022** (Ron Kenyon)

- Missed the last 2 years but planned to go ahead in 2022.
- Max attendees will be 32 in line with covid - of which max (possibly less) 16 will be youth.
- Organisation pace will pick up in the new year.

## 9. **Any other business**

### **Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan** (Ken Taylor)

- We have decided to respond on behalf of the BMC / Area
- Driven by the climate change agenda.

- Geographically split into 5 zones
- Central Lakes more relevant to the BMC community as is linked to core access to fells and crags.
- Draft can be found here;  
[www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/544/942/44452172639.pdf](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/544/942/44452172639.pdf)

**Document key response points** - summary as put forward at meeting for review:

- Set context of BMC as a representative organisation of a key interest group.
- Highlight that the BMC has declared a climate emergency and sustainability is a core strategic focus.
- Stress our view that the current infrastructure is struggling to cope with current visitor and resident usage - further growth in popularity will only compound this.
- That it is acknowledged the use of private transport modes needs to be curbed in the central areas - but that this is a key access consideration for climbers and walkers who actively engage, and seek out, the more remote areas.
- That climbers and walkers often access the fells and crags from early until late, and that any public transport system would require this provision if to be fully used by these groups. e.g. First bus / last bus system.
- Electrification for car charging of the more remote areas seems impractical due to limited parking locations to install the required points. Plus, suspected lack of electrical distribution capability in the valleys to support chargers.

It was agreed that Ken Taylor would incorporate comments as appropriate into the draft response and liaise with Frank Bennett to finalise prior to submission.

**Tree planting proposals** (Ken Taylor)

- Langstrath and Coombe Fells Common - Scrub and wood pasture proposal, involving substantial lengths of new fences, which tend to end up being permanent.
- The main impact would be on Raven Crag, notably the trod to its base, given the popularity of routes such as Corvus etc. One possibility is to have stiles at each end of the path where it crosses the new enclosure, another is to suggest making a fenced corridor.
- Potential impact on the trod to Heron Crag has also been highlighted.
- KT has approached the agents handling the proposals and will be given a chance to comment in due course (likely Dec 2021).

**10. Next Meeting**

Monday 24th January 2022

Adam Green, Area Secretary,  
26.10.22