



## Peak Area Meeting

**Venue:** The Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow, S11 7TS

**Time & Date:** 7.30pm, Wednesday 15 January 2020

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1.1. 43 people attended the meeting, and were welcomed by the Chair, Andy Reeve.

1.2. Apologies: Louise Hawson, Alison Cairns, Neil Foster, Spenser Gray, Lisa Payne, Mark McKenzie, Linda McCann, Bev England, Emma Holland, Kevin Noon.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 November 2019

2.1. Minutes for the AGM are online.

#### 3. Hill Walking Update

*Austin Knott:* The hill walking representatives organised a walk before today's meeting, it was very lovely and there will hopefully be another one the afternoon before the next meeting. The next walk may be more skills based, all welcome.

3.1. Spring Area Walk plan – Saturday 4 April

*Austin Knott:* The spring area walk will start at 10 am meeting at Sett Valley Trail car park in Hayfield. The walk will be approximately 12 miles with some spectacular views (weather dependent). If you contact one of the hill walking reps in advance they will know to look out/wait for you at the car park.

3.2. BMC's national hill walking weekend – 13-15 March

*Vikki Hughes:* The hill walking weekend in Ambleside is coming up. It costs £80 per person but includes bed & breakfast and Saturday's evening meal. Friday night involves a quiz and socialising and on Saturday and Sunday there's a choice of events on offer. Saturday evening there's a talk by guest speaker Mary-Ann Ochota.

3.3. Mend Our Mountains



*Peter Judd:* Progress on the two Mend Our Mountains schemes, Cut Gate and Great Ridge. The Cut Gate project looks like it is just starting. The work on Great Ridge has stalled as planning permission is needed, this has been severely delayed and may not come through until April. If that is the case work may be delayed until next autumn.

#### 3.4. Government plans on trespassing

*Peter Judd:* Was going to talk about legislation on encampments and trespassing but Henry has more information.

### 4. Access Updates

*Henry Folkard:* Commiserations to Rob Dyer and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Rushey Flat Dyke: Spoke to the enforcement officer as this is an enforcement issue as the track needs removing. Hopefully a meeting will take place with the owner in next two weeks. Midhope Moor: Jon Scott has written a letter to the planning department asking when the public enquiry will be, have been waiting over a year.

#### 4.1. Government plans on trespassing

*Henry Folkard:* The Guardian has an article on the Tory party manifesto pledge to make intentional trespass an offence. This would have wide-ranging consequences. This could affect walkers, climbers, anybody, it's raised serious concerns. It has already been raised with BMC head office and will be followed up when all party parliamentary groups are resumed.

*Tony Mays:* It's a wide-ranging threat that restricts access and should be challenged for everyone no matter who it's intended to affect.

*Vikki Hughes:* Seen a statistic where 75 % of police forces believe existing legislation is enough to deal with trespass.

*Becky Hammond:* Wanted clarification on the stage of the legislation?

*Peter Judd:* It's a consultation which is open until March. People need to reply. This could also affect activities such as wild camping.

*Henry Folkard:* The Peak District needs to be aware of what's happening up in the Lake District. There's a lot of controversy over 4x4's and house boats. The problem with the Glover Review is that it stated national parks need to be entrepreneurial but didn't state where they should get funding. Legislation could be applied to stop certain groups or restrict access to certain areas. The 4x4 challenge is being crowdfunded to challenge the Lake District National Park's decision to cover tracks and allow cars.



#### 4.2. Stanage Options Appraisal process

*Henry Folkard:* Louise Hawson is secretary of the Stanage steering group. There are proposals of what to do with North Lees. FisherGerman were commissioned to write a report, they are rural surveyors not national park specialists. They have come up with 3 options which will at some point come up for public consultation. These 3 options have already been decided by the national park, details within options cannot be mixed and matched. You can't vote for parts of an option. The North Lees brief did not include brief on the landscape, farming or woodlands or the people who use it. This could result in disadvantaged groups being affected i.e. outreach groups not being able to afford parking costs. People will need to read the options carefully and come to their own conclusions, you may want to go back slightly and ask a more basic question. One of the consequences is that they want to stop all unauthorised parking and manage all parking. Stanage is relying on heritage lottery funds, waiting for Brexit as that is stalling funding. There are plans to convert Cattiside Cottage into affordable housing, or to scrap it. To convert it into affordable housing would be incredibly costly so would be surprised if the housing is affordable.

*Mike Pinder:* Observed that the technique of presenting 3 options rather than giving a starting point is one the BMC have used. The only way to counter it is to come up with your own options, which is expensive. If the repercussions on the access and future of Stanage are so large it could be worth the BMC spending some money and presenting their own option. If we rely on other people choosing the lesser of two evils then it could split the vote.

*Henry Folkard:* Has asked if something like the Eastern Moors Partnership was an option but told no.

*Simon Lee:* The brief was written purely on what they thought was profitable not on the whole of Stanage. It was a very narrow brief missing wider view of the intangible. There doesn't seem to be creative thinking on how they could make money from the location or memberships.

*Lynn Robinson:* This is of local, national & international importance. How much can we push back now and say we're not accepting this consultation? - Need to talk to Louise.

*Dave:* We can't just be reactive, need to be pro-active. This will involve spending money and getting like-minded groups together, this needs a complex response.

*Henry Folkard:* The 3 options were given to Henry at a meeting and are not yet public.

*Dave/Mike Pinder:* Once the options are public it will be much harder to get them to change, action needed before a public consultation.



*Kirstin Prager:* Wanted to clarify with Simon Lee on the brief.

*Simon Lee:* The brief was a competitive tender not a holistic approach.

*Kirstin Prager:* If the National Park is refusing to approach this holistically could we use this as the basis for a legal challenge, would be expensive and need legal advice.

*Mike Pinder:* "We" have a choice of approach, either challenge the national parks approach and/or come up with our own approach.

*General consensus that the plans put forward focus primarily on profitable assets and are very narrow without taking a holistic approach to the whole landscape.*

*Andy Reeve:* Action from meeting – Andy & Henry will meet with Louise and discuss what action to take. Lynn Robinson to speak with BMC head office to get backing.

## **5. Horseshoe Quarry Volunteer Day – Saturday 18 January**

*Andy Reeve:* This is a volunteer day with plans to improve the access path to Horseshoe Quarry by placing gravel to improve the footpath. Will be meeting at 10am.

*Simon Lee:* Are the companies from the abseiling involved, they should be as they use the area too? - No

*Mike Pinder:* Other organisations not approached and it hasn't been well advertised. BMC E-mails don't seem to be working. BCU are very good at getting commercial organisations involved, might be worth trying in future. - It is advertised on Facebook & BMC website

*Toby Archer:* Been there recently and it's not a huge job.

*Andy Reeve:* There will be cake, just need sturdy footwear & appropriate clothing, maybe a flask.

## **6. Peak Area Meeting location**

### **6.1. Update on options**

*Andy Reeve:* We are hoping the Maynard will re-open and still be taking events. We are still considering other options, if you know of any please tell us – we have already had some suggestions. If we need to we can send out an e-mail/Facebook poll - general feedback was that if a poll is used, to start by asking people if they already attend meetings and reasoning.

*Vikki Hughes:* Would it be possible to meet at the southern end of the Peak Area?



*Andy Reeve:* We can move round, can either have accessibility or maximise attendance, not possible to do both for every meeting.

*Rik Payne:* I'm originally from London, we tried moving the meetings around where people said they wanted but it didn't work, think people like familiarity. Moving does help some people could also stop people already attending from coming.

*Lyn Robinson:* This is a big issue and involves wider membership engagement.

*General consensus that if meetings are moved it could make it difficult for people who already attend but equally it could mean other people come to meetings who wouldn't otherwise. We can also look into options such as live-streaming.*

*Action for next meeting:* Waiting to hear about the Maynard re-opening but will continue to investigate alternative options. Biggest barrier to meetings is a suitable venue.

## **7. AOB**

### **7.1. Ring Ouzel Monitoring**

*Kim Leyland:* Don't actually need volunteers for this but if really keen get in touch. Branching out into peregrines, kestrels and ravens. Curbar Edge, Burbage South and Millstone. Need volunteers in those areas to watch out for birds nesting. In the White Peak, Ravensdale there may be peregrines. Don't know how regularly they are there. If people see these birds around let Kim know.

*Mike Pinder:* How formal an arrangement is it?

*Kim Leyland:* At Burbage South they normally nest in one of two quarries so just sometime watching, not too formal or onerous.

### **7.2. Tree Planting at Burbage**

*Kim Leyland:* Tree planting day at Burbage/Holmkirk. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Tell Kim if interested.

### **7.3. New structure for managing competition climbing**

*Simon Lee:* The Organisational Review made recommendations, one of which was to create a subsidiary for managing competitions. The BMC has decided to set up a new internal department, rather than a subsidiary, and an explanation is needed on why this choice has been made.

*Lynn Robinson:* Rab Carrington led a working group which considered different options and recommended an internal department, which the Board decided was its preferred option.



*Simon Lee:* ORG recommended a subsidiary and its recommendation has been overturned, an article has been put out but without an explanation.

*Rik Payne:* The ORG made 51 recommendations, the competitions working group looked at just that one recommendation. The final decision could be against the ORG recommendation as the working group was able to take a more in-depth look. It would be good to have an explanation but this decision might be the best.

*Simon Lee:* The working group came up with three options and this was the one voted for. Want an explanation as to why that one was chosen.

*Mike Pinder:* An example of how the BMC presents options and doesn't allow cherry-picking.

*Rik Payne:* The ORG was created from the views of the whole membership so no individual will agree with everything.

*Lynn Robinson:* Will try and get more information.

*Andy Reeve:* Action for next meeting to have feedback.

## **8. Date and venue of next meeting**

8.1. Wednesday 18 March, The Norfolk Arms, Ringinglow, S11 7TS