



LAKES AREA MEETING - 9 September 2020 at 19.30

MINUTES

Meeting held by Zoom Call

Present (on Zoom) – Mike Parsons, Fiona Sanders, Ron Kenyon, Chris Stone, Alan Strachan, Ann Salisbury, Dave Ferguson, Andrew Tait (FOLD); Lynn Robinson, Ross Bell, Nicola Bolton (Lakes Plastic Collectors), Hatty Harris, Laurie, Cressida Allwood, Mark iPad, James Bumby, Alan Hinks

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence - Ken Taylor, Ric Outhwaite, Alison Wood, Ged Campion

2 Minutes of the previous meetings - March and May - Agreed unanimously

3 Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere – None

4 Impact of Covid-19;

- Increased numbers in the Lakes - Short term issue for this year - or ongoing?
- Litter including leaving of tents and equipment
- Fly Camping and Wild Camping
- Vehicle Parking
- Discussion and comment from people present
 - **Nicola Bolton** (Lakes Plastic Collectors) has visited areas around the Lakes and taken away 7/8 bags of rubbish at a time
 - **Andrew Tait** (FoLD -Friends of Lake District) - Identified three groups of visitors –
 - (1) New visitors to the Lakes – the survey found that 68% had never been before and had no understanding of the countryside code and not a clue about the area (untrained)
 - (2) Groups coming along and partying – they were alright until the alcohol had started to flow.
 - (3) The malevolent element which seemed intent on vandalising the area
 - **Dave Ferguson** – seemed that in remote places, away from the road, there were no problems or issues. ≈ Reflecting a lot of people are respectful of the area. But different in the honey pots and places close to the roads. (NB not the case with Angle tarn and the island on Thirlmere which we both ‘vandalised’)
 - **James Bumby** – agreed – people going elsewhere such as Yorkshire Dales (and Eden Valley) to get away from the crowds.
 - Issue of access concerns with parking, which has not been coping with the new volume of people – but business as usual on the fells.
 - There has been extra parking, with farmers opening fields, which has helped reduce the issue.
 - **Andrew Tait** – The usual visitors are respectful – Fix the Fells have identified more people on the fells – with attendant wear and tear of paths
 - **Nicola Bolton** – who lives in the honey pot of Windermere started litter picks at end of May. Has been horrendous and, for many, with no social distancing, not following



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covid-19 rules and do not understand the country code. Now not as bad in September as it is the more regular hillwalking visitor and also seems to be a different type of visitor now.

- **Andrew Tait** - national problem – throughout the UK – even the likes of top of Glen Clova in Scotland. Great Cumbria Litter Pick was good and good for the likes of Nicola collecting litter but we should not have to do this !! Friends of the Lakes (FOLD) has had a meeting with Keep Britain Tidy – trying to find out what is the difference between the UK and Europe. Initiative in Belfast. Seems to be a need for education/other enforcements needs or neighbourly enforcements – what do people think !!
- **Mike Parsons** – the problem is the learned behaviour - comment on
 - No waste bins at railway stations and high streets etc – due to the 1974 Warrington IRA bomb in a waste bin.
 - Musical festivals – people leaving tents etc. Festivals are licensed and part of the licence should ensure that tents etc are taken home and not just dumped.
- **James Bumby** – festivals are becoming much better at organising regarding tents etc. Tents left are often sent to Calais for refugees to use.
- **Dave Ferguson** – some organised activity events in the Lakes leave arrows and plastic bottles - should ensure they clean-up – or better don't drop in the first place.
- **Laurie** - in the 1960s Switzerland was not the neat and tidy nation it is now – what happened ?? - maybe much due to focusing on ensuring tourists enjoy Switzerland.
- **Mike Parson** – two **campsites** in the Patterdale area have remained closed and this has put pressure on other places for camping - leading to illegal camping. (Note same with Glenmore campsite in the Cairngorms)
- Agreed to need to look at the **bigger picture** – primary school children seem well taught and responsible but beyond primary something seems to get lost ! - though not everyone and secondary schools do their bit.
- **Fiona Sanders** - Suggestion to ask **Ken Taylor** to take issue via the Access Management Group to the **All Parliamentary Party Group** to promote the Country Code and to support NP and other organisations attempts to educate.
- **Lynn Robinson** – suggestion to take to and learn from Europe by the **Union of European Mountaineering Association**.
- **The overall feeling emerging was that there were possibilities to influence long term behaviour through a mixture of legislation, teaching and training and exhortation.**
- **Camp-fires and disposable BBQs** -
 - Fiona Sanders outlined the BMC initiative for the control of disposable BBQ's. Initially, the idea was to have them banned due to issues of fire danger and setting moors alight. Have taken the issue to the All Parliamentary Party Group to change the law.
 - BMC Video available about BBQs
 - Online petition – on BMC website – [please go in and sign the petition -](#)



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- **Litter cleanup –**
 - Had been looking at a clean-up at Hodge Close on 19th Sept (also World Clean-up day)
 - With new covid-19 this can't be held so looking to promote a general clean-up day
 - **Hills to Ocean** litter bags and litter pickers now available from **Alpkit** in Keswick and Ambleside
 - Information on litter collection and covid-19 rules from Cath Flitcroft - cath@thebmc.co.uk
 - Off of use of skip at National Trust (Borrowdale)
 - Looking to promote, with Nicola Bolton, litter collection on 19th September – with suggested locations in covid-19 acceptable groups.

5 BMC update

- **Mike Parsons (BMC Council member)** commented on work done by BMC on organisational review
 - He voiced a strong feeling of personal support for the volunteer board of directors (which includes our president Lynn Robinson, Fiona Sanders and Chris Stone, all here in this meeting. They have collectively done a huge amount since the ORG report of Nov 2017 with its 51 recommendations.
 - The many successes in executing the ODG recommendations by the ODG see <https://odg.thebmc.co.uk/hc/en-gb> have been largely unsung, the focus being on completion of everything. e.g's (just some of many);
 - 1 GB climbing set up to support competition climbing,
 - 2 Commercial partners giving members benefits and BMC some income;
 - 3 Welsh committee to provide support and guidance particularly as the devolved government becomes more embedded, plus the fact that Wales is now looking to introduce legislation similar to English CROW;
 - 4 Partners forum to leverage political strength eg with MP's.
 - Mike's personal view was that the board issues are cultural ones to a large degree between the longstanding faithful salaried staff, 300 plus volunteers and the Board of Directors.
 - This Period of Cultural transition has unfortunately resulted in some resignations and sadly leading to personal difficulties and criticisms being aired on open online forums.
 - Chris Stone, our newly nominated director is looking at new ideas for membership engagement and was ably giving us tech support to run this Zoom meeting session.
- **Mike Parsons** – had drawn up an organogram (version 8) and gave a very useful summary to begin to understand the complex inter-relationship of the structure and complexity of the BMC. He went through this and it was generally felt this was useful to show the structure and interrelationships of the BMC working groups, committees and trusts.
- **Fiona Sanders (Chair of ODG)** gave the key areas of BMC strategy. The strategic plan put together in February, but with Covid-19 the items were not prioritised – which need annual



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reviews. Covid-19 has changed the world and the need to change priorities. Interim executive to look at the priorities.

- **Chris Stone/Fiona Sanders** gave a presentation
 - C-19 has devastated many lives but BMC needs to focus on functions.
 - A dramatic loss of income from Travel Insurance – realised we cannot rely on that.
 - Similarly, we should not rely so much on income from Sport England
 - Need to focus on BMC membership
 - Lot of people out there and need to align with BMC beliefs
 - Lots of lesser experienced people and need for education of those people
 - Lots of volunteer-organised events affected by C-19
 - It has been demonstrated that we are able to use technology
 - Also, continue to make important links with other organisations – e.g. Ordnance Survey, YHA etc
 - Important issues of climate change
 - Olympics and sports climbing – to promote climbing and must align and use.
 - Leaving EU issues
 - Representation of under-represented groups.
- **Fiona Sanders** – went through the various areas being focused on –
 - 4a Access Issues** – e.g. with Hills/Oceans; climate issues; BBQs campaign, CROW (Wales) - looking to consolidate and concentrate each to drive forward as projects
 - 4b Membership Engagement**
 - 4c Education, Inspiration and Skills**
 - Organisational Development and Sector Leadership** - BMC is an umbrella organisation and needs to stay influential at various levels.
 - 4d GB Climbing** – competitions, talented athletes and GB Team - need additional funding to release other funding to go elsewhere.
- **Cressida Allwood** – highlighted the need for **Equitable and Diversity Representatives** throughout the various focus areas – which was agreed through the meeting.
- **Dave Ferguson** – commented on the need for more interaction videos – with a number of videos being produced around the UK on various issues (Top Tips video being done.
- **Hatty Harris** commented about how useful the BMC had been useful this year, for the FRCC, in connection covid-19 in relation to huts and meets
- **Mike Parsons** – also commented, as a director of the Starkey Hut, Patterdale, how very useful a presentation on huts and legal issues was at a post-BMC AGM seminar organised by Fiona Sanders.

6 Access Issues

- **James Bumby** reported –
 - **No issues re birds** – will soon be looking at the situation for 2021



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- **Cathedral Quarry** - big rockfall in the area of Burly Dudes being looked at. Access still allowed but not to that area.
- **Off-road campaign** – Tilberthwaite etc area – BMC did not object as there was a mix of feeling by members – but many members expressed their own feelings in relation to appeal. In the end, the appeal was turned down

7 AGM – 11/11/2020

- **New Chairperson** required -

- Mike Parsons has been chair for six years and governance rules require that he stands down and a new Chairperson be elected.
- He said it has been quite a journey and one which has been satisfying and created for him a wider understanding of the outdoor community. He hopes he has made some contribution to Lakes climbing and walking and membership engagement over this period.
- Mike P is staying on as our elected National Council rep – so still around to give help, support, and even training to the next chair.
- There is always excellent support from the BMC offices Tony Ryan, is the first point of contact, with Rob Dyer for access issues. Plus direct contacts with the BMC president and the board director for membership engagement.
- – anyone interested please contact Mike Mike on theomm.mike@gmail.com

- **New Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

- Ron Kenyon is Secretary and prepares the Newsletter – as well as a myriad of other positions and things he does – and would welcome someone replacing him as secretary and/or Newsletter editor
- Anyone interested and willing to get involved, please make contact or Ron on ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com

8 Any other business.

- **Glenridding Common**; otherwise known to us as Helvellyn and the Edges

- The BMC sent a letter to LDNPA in support of the John Muir Trust buying this land from the LDNPA.
- The Patterdale Parish Council is now sending signals that the area should be community-owned.

9 Next Meeting and AGM - 11th November 2020

Close of meeting at 9:40 pm.