



Lakes Area Meeting (joint with NE area)

ZOOM MEETING - Wednesday 27th Apr 2022 at 19.30

MINUTES

Present* - **Lakes Area**; Frank Bennett (Chair), Adam Green, Anne Salisbury, Cameron Stoneley, Chris Bullock, Jessica Wortley, Ken Taylor, Matthew Collantine, Mike Conlon, Mike Parsons, Paul Stewart, Phillip Powell, Ric Outhwaite, Ron Kenyon, Steve Blake, Tim Parsons, Tony Williams. **NE Area**; Peter McCreedy, Simon Litchfield. **Guests**; Emma Moody, Louise Hawson.

*please note, where Zoom identities do not show full name they are not recorded (2 at this meeting)

1. **Welcome and introductions** by Frank Bennett
Apologies for absence - Fiona Sanders, Dr Cath Flitcroft, Martyn Hurn.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Available on the BMC Community website and agreed.
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**
None
4. **Sustainable Transport - special focus**

Emma Moody - LDNPA

- Transport an acute issue in the national park area - linked to periods of peak usage - and is a complex challenge. LDNPA do not want to see more visitors, but want visitors to stay longer.
- 83% of journeys are by car, with 70% day visitors. The focus is to bring this down, in turn delivering a positive impact on the joint objectives of reduced landscape and carbon impact.
- The Go Lakes travel programme aims to reduce internal travel by car, once visitors have arrived, from the current 72% to 56%.
- 2 shuttle buses have been trialled - Wasdale and Buttermere - with another trial planned for Catbells in 2022 plus an improved Keswick to Threlkeld trial.
- The options of road user levies, valley restrictions and visitor taxations are inevitably controversial and more evidence is required.
- Road charging is linked to a wider government policy review in light of the impact on fuel tax revenues as electrification builds momentum.

Louise Hawson - Area Access Rep Peak District

- The patterns of use in the Peak District show the usage is mainly day trippers and evening visits from the major surrounding conurbations.
- The Hope Valley Climate Action group is focused on the local parish / village areas and is engaging in solutions at the local level.
- What has been insightful is the lack of awareness of the needs of climbers - travel times during the day and the requirements of kit transportation (bouldering matts etc)
- The idea of a car free day at Stanage would mean in practice no climbers and walkers.
- The National Trust and RSPB are focused on honey pot areas.
- Derbyshire are investigating electric bike hubs.

Dr Cath Flitcroft - BMC (Ken Taylor covered)

- It's all about engagement in local areas as each will have different answers - with the focus on innovation and context.
- If BMC interest are to be taken into account, we need to engage with these projects (like the Eden Valley one)
- Worth a note is the BMC has a lift sharing website - each shared journey is a 50% reduction in car use.

5. BMC NE Area

- Peter McCreedy is taking over as area chair and area will now run its own meetings going forward.
- Focus is on reorganisation.
- 28th-30th October there is a proposed youth meet.
- Youth Climbing Series are all at venues in the NE

6. Access - Lakes Area (Ron Kenyon)

- Area Access Rep is sought for the North Lakes Area (Borrowdale / Thirlmere)
- St Bees landslip is stabilising - proceed with care advised.

7. Ennerdale (Ric Outhwaite, Paul Stewart)

- The field centre is currently run by a charity and Forestry England is looking to evict current occupants and take back control.
- The proposed reintroduction of Beavers may be used as a catalyst to develop a visitor centre with subsequent impact on local environment and visitor numbers.
- Full proposal is still unclear and one to monitor.

8. Elterwater Development (Ken Taylor)

- Quarry will be stopping operations (now reduced to just moving spoil) in next 18 months.
- The owners (Burlington) are working up proposals to develop the site into a recreational venue, offering what might be called quarry may be developed with a 'quarryman's experience'.
- KT highlighted that there are some significant areas of rock which may not be used in the development and so could be a great resource for climbers. (If it happens, it would be a bolted crag so there's a need to ensure development is in line with bolt fund recommended methods etc.)
- It is early days and it was agreed that KT would approach the consultants working on behalf of Burlington (Adam Perry) to arrange a meeting.

9. Lakes Fest - 22-24th April 2022 (Anne Salisbury)

- 60 people attended our Lakes Fest event last weekend. It was based from the Seathwaite Village Hall and Turner Hall Farm campsite.
- Glorious weather helped make it a great success with many activities on offer.

Fix the Fells

Bouldering

Wall to Crag climbing

Scrambling with a Rope

Self Rescue

Fell Ranging walk with Mark Richards author

Coniston Coppermines Tour

Star Gazing

Children's Climbing

- Friday night live music at the Newfield Inn by Mike Willoughby and his Raving Rock band went down well.

- On Saturday evening, a crowded village hall welcomed Paul Davies the BMC CEO who attended the weekend and gave a short talk on the BMC prior to Craig Matheson giving his evening talk about the history of climbing in the Duddon Valley and a look at some of the three-star trad and bouldering routes there. Also attending were Rob Matheson, Dave Birkett and Mary Jenner for a question and answer session afterwards. The evening was hosted /compared by Andy Mitchell, a local climber and activist and he gave interesting and humorous introductions for all four climbing guests and kept the discussions on track!

We also welcomed Al Phizacklea, John Holden and Ian Cooksey in the audience, who among others have all played a large part in the Duddon Valley climbing development.

- The organising team will be sending out a feedback form for participants to report back and we all be able to give more on that at the next area BMC meeting.
- Point to note re BMC: No access to the Lakes Area BMC bank account made financial arrangements very disjointed and this needs addressing for any future events.

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

- Will be at Langdale FRCC hut
- 11 youth 12-18 year olds registered plus 8-9 instructors to help.

11. **Any other business** - none raised.

12. **Next Meeting**
Monday 20th June 2022

Adam Green, Area Secretary