

## **BMC AREA MEETING REPORT: Yorkshire Area – Monday 6 June 2011**

### **FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COUNCIL**

1. **Location & Attendance:** The Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale. 22 people
2. **BMC staff & Executive member(s) present:** Martin Kocsis
3. **New postholder(s) & situations vacant:** Limestone Access Rep post vacant
4. **Key issues discussed:**

**Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) Budget Reductions & Staff Restructure, Access to Foredale Quarry, Blue Scar, Kilnsey & Youth Meets** – see bullet points

**Victoria Cave** – Decision awaited re installation of some kind of internal barrier to protect the deposits.

**Eavestones Access** – As well as notice there is now a rope across path - ongoing problem

**Woodhouse Scar & Shipley Glen** – clean up & tree pruning needed. Council land. Relevant councils will be approached.

**Beggar's Stile** – Continued confusion re access. YDNP ranger to talk to farmer re agreeing an access route.

**Clubs Committee** – feedback from March meeting.

**Harpur Hill clamping**

**Pateley Bridge Walking Festival.** 22 to 25 September. Walks, ceilidh on 24<sup>th</sup> & illustrated lecture by Doug Scott – 'Life & Hard Times' on 22 September.

### **Bullet points for highlighting to the National Council:**

- **YDNP Budget Reductions & Staff Restructure.** Kathryn Beardmore, Head of Park Management @ the YDNP & Julie Barker who will be taking over from her attended the meeting. Effectively 30 + % cut in grant from government (DEFRA). Concerned to maintain front line services as far as possible but loss of 36 staff (a third overall). All 8 Park Area Rangers kept – first port of call for any issues. Fewer managers with those left taking on additional responsibilities. Responses to the recent public consultation said rights of way maintenance was most important. CROW open access & recreation (which is where climbing fits) is less important, but still important. Very few things were highlighted as unimportant. Definitive Map work been done on behalf of County Council (CC) with some funding until 2010/11. Now this work will go back to CC & this will probably be the biggest impact from recreation perspective - eg queries re Rights of Way will go to CC after 2013. YDNPA is committed to recreation, as one of the reasons why the area is a National Park & so although some work programmes will be stopped it was not envisaged that there would be much impact on BMC Area interests.
- **Access to Foredale Quarry.** Farmer has withdrawn access to walk across his land to the quarry & also to climb there. Issues stated to be climbers ignoring parking & access arrangements, noise,? dogs, possible pollution of water supply & a local climbing wall using Quarry for climbing courses & charging £90 per person. Dave Musgrove has written to each resident to ask for their views & replies awaited. Alternative access option investigated & possible but still issue of actual climbing access. Moughton Nab access crosses some of same land and so climbers are asked not to climb there either pending resolution of Foredale access to avoid inflaming the whole issue
- **Blue Scar.** Efforts to pre-empt parking problem before 2011 climbing starts. Possible use of apparently unused land at side of barn for parking. Meeting to discuss. Farmer's conditions unacceptable. Letter to this effect. Response awaited.
- **Kilnsey** - On one day over Easter > 100 climbers seen there. Parking 'atrocious'. Evidence of defaecation. ? how to improve situation.
- **Youth walk** – Sunday 5 June. Successful walk of 8.5 miles in Ilkley area. Ten people including organiser & Nick Colton but all friends, family etc – no new faces. ? why ? not enough publicity ??
- **Youth climbing** – Sunday 3 July – Windgather. No application process – no instruction – parents to be responsible for their children.

Completed by: Deirdre Collier, Secretary.