

SELECT COMMITTEE

13 July 2022

Present – The Chair (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors Brown, Hull, Jaquin, Lis, Pighills, Shuttleworth, Solloway, and Whitaker.

Officers – Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Start: 6.33pm

Finish: 7:03pm

Apologies for Absence –

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ireton and Mercer.

Confirmation of Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held 8th June 2022 are signed and approved as a correct record.

Public Participation –

There was no public participation.

Declarations of Interest –

Whilst no declarations of interests were made, it was noted that Councillor Lis was the Craven District Council appointee to the YDNPA.

Minutes for Report

OS.481 Recommendation Tracking Update: Planning Enforcement

Further to Minute OS.478/21-22, the Senior Democratic Services Officer presented Members with a recommendation tracking update pertaining to planning enforcement. Councillor Lis, Chairman of Planning Committee and a member of the Planning Improvement Board stated that Craven compared well against the number of enforcement staff employed by nearby authorities. One full-time planning enforcement officer had been recruited and although proving difficult, it was still the intention to try and recruit another member of staff. Members queried why Craven received so many enforcement issues and wondered whether the conditions attached to planning applications weren't clear enough. It was suggested that it was essential that planning conditions were explicit and unambiguous so there was clarity for all concerned.

Resolved – That the report is accepted.

OS.482 Review of the Impact of Tourism on the Craven District

The Select Committee Working Group presented their review of the impact of tourism on the Craven District. The review was conducted over six working group sessions, which had taken place between October 2021 and February 2022. A range of evidence both written and verbal had been received. Evidence was provided by parish councils, parish meetings, town councils, Welcome to Yorkshire, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, emergency services and local businesses.

The Select Committee's report also included written comments in response to the review (Appendix A) from the Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

The Select Committee recognised that tourism impacted both positively and negatively on some parishes and their residents and noted that, going forwards, tourism had been changed due to the pandemic with rising visitor numbers and staycations.

In agreeing that tourism was very important to the Craven economy, Members discussed the need for sustainable transport, reducing littering and noise and they believed it was important that all relevant agencies worked together to develop plans for visitor management and mitigation of negative impacts on communities.

The report included nine recommendations that outlined the Working Group's expectations regarding a number of improvement measures:

1. To encourage Local Planning/Rating Authorities to consider in their future planning the impact of tourism on local infrastructures and communities in terms of viability and sustainability. To lobby central government where appropriate.
2. To request that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority review their no litter bins policy. This has a negative impact across the Dales and on adverse effect on parishes who have to provide extra litter bin capacity and recruit volunteers to mitigate the impact the policy has on their community.
3. To recommend a joint approach by all stakeholders to address the impact of parking in honeypot destinations by looking at improved traffic management. To include Highways, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Planning Policy, Parish Councils, Economic Development and the Police/PFCC in these discussions.
4. The Safety Advisory Group members to continue to consider their individual legislative powers, which help to control or mitigate large scale events.
5. For Democratic Services to circulate information on how a multi-agency partnership approach can be used to look at community issues, and as a model to address the negative impact that tourism has on residents.
6. For CDC to call upon the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to improve their engagement, communication, liaison and support with Parish Councils and communities who are negatively affected by their promotion activities. For example, intense visitor number at honeypot and other popular destinations, and large scale outdoor events.
7. For CDC to request greater on-site management by Yorkshire Dales National Park officers e.g. park rangers, to manage the large numbers of visitors at outdoor events and during key times when numbers are particularly high.
8. To request that Business Support, promote where possible, the recommendations of this report to stakeholders (e.g. business sector, charity sector, event organisers).
9. For CDC to hand over to the new unitary authority the work that is already being done to promote greener travel plans and sustainable travel in the District. To continue to lobby for better public transport networks within the District.

The Committee thanked everyone who had contributed to the review and, it was

Resolved – That, the Working Group’s report and recommendations therein and set out above are adopted for reference to Policy Committee on 13 September 2022.

OS.483

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Select Committee - Wednesday, 14 September 2022 at 6.30pm.

Chairman.