

## **NIDDERDALE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes of the Executive Group meeting  
Held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 10am  
at Nidderdale Plus Office, Pateley Bridge

**Present:** Cllr Stan Lumley (Chair); Cllr Stephen Ramsden (Upper Nidderdale parish council); Cllr Edward March (Birstwith parish council); Keith Tordoff (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade); Cllr Chris Skaife (Pateley Bridge town council); John Fort (Nidderdale Plus); Cllr Tom Watson (HBC); Cllr Chris Hawkesworth (Pateley Bridge town council); Rev Alistair Ferneley

**In attendance:** Debbie Grassam (Nidderdale Plus); Paul Chattwood (Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company); Colin Speakman (Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company); Keith Roebuck (Transdev, Harrogate)

**Apologies:** Heather Garnett (AONB JAC); Rev Darryl Hall; Cllr Michael Harrison (NYCC); Paula Newson Smith (Nidderdale Plus); Cllr Dan Fletcher (Bewerley parish council)

Rupert Douglas (Sustrans); Malcolm Margolis (Harrogate District Cycle Action); Martin Weeks (Harrogate District Cycle Action)

SL welcomed everyone to the meeting – a number of apologies had been received.

Minutes of the last meeting, which was the annual ‘Wider membership’ meeting were considered and there were no matters arising.

### **Community Transport Update**

This had been requested as an Agenda item at the last meeting, but there were no specific issues to discuss at today’s meeting.

### **Nidderdale Sunday Bus services**

Paul Chattwood and Colin Speakman, volunteer representatives from Dales and Bowland CIC were present to update regarding this Agenda item.

PC firstly gave a brief update regarding the winter Sunday bus service, which he said over the 4 month period shows an average of 67 passengers per day with £142 revenue per day.

Promotional activity is ongoing and more promotion will be done in liaison with the chief sponsor Harrogate Spring Water. Friends of DalesBus continue with their programme of free walks in Nidderdale in conjunction with this service.

Details of a new initiative will be circulated shortly ‘Sweet Sunday Surprise Draw on the 24’, with prizes for those using the Sunday service e.g. from KT and Transdev.

PC also updated regarding the free shuttlebus service which has been operating from Pateley Bridge to How Stean and back from Thursdays – Sundays over the winter courtesy of Stan Beer, How Stean Gorge. This service was due to finish at the end of January, but Stan has confirmed he will operate it on a Sunday until the end of April. It is a 16 seater bus and a seat can be guaranteed if you pre-book. Stan is also offering half price tickets to How Stean Gorge for those coming through from Harrogate to Pateley Bridge on the No 24 Sunday bus.

A proposal document for a summer Sunday and Bank Holiday programme had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were available at the meeting for perusal. PC highlighted the proposed three bus services for Sundays and Bank Holidays – which it is hoped can start at the beginning of May – when the Tour de Yorkshire will be in Pateley Bridge (weekend of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May). This proposal was discussed by the Group in great detail, predominantly relating to the need for urgent financial support and various suggestions to consider. PC explained that a number of organisations have been approached – some of which have been unable to contribute and others have not been able to give a decision as yet. DG had passed details of a possible approach to a Charitable Trust whose criteria the proposal would meet prior to her holiday, with a deadline of Monday, which PC is pursuing. The National Trust have offered substantial support and SL has granted £1,000 from his NYCC Locality Grant budget – which has been very gratefully received. The remaining figure of around £6,000 is still needed for the proposal to go ahead. CS explained that Yorkshire Water were sympathetic, and would help with promotion, but could not provide funding at this stage. KT expressed his disappointment that the Pateley Bridge Town Council and the Friends of the AONB had been unable to financially support the venture and this was discussed. CH said that Pateley Bridge Town Council could not fund the amount requested as its resources were too stretched and reserves were depleted. There was a further discussion about other Parish Councils in the area being approached, not just Pateley Bridge. PC and CS will write to all Parish Councils making a request and revisit their request for funding support from Pateley Bridge Town Council – but for a smaller contribution.

Various ideas were mooted for financial support such as honesty boxes on the bus; collection boxes in locations along the routes; sponsorship of a ‘seat on the bus’ – however it was agreed that at this stage speedy steps to fulfil the £6k shortfall were necessary. A number of those present at the meeting had ideas of organisations to approach – and each will urgently pursue these avenues. Communication regarding this will be through DG at Nidderdale Plus.

DG focused on the proposal in her monthly column of the Nidderdale Herald last week, but nothing has come from this as yet and it was agreed that it needs ‘emergency’ media coverage i.e. front page in next week’s Nidderdale Herald. KT offered to support PC and CS to gain speedy media attention, including radio.

Importantly, although of course desirable, it is not essential to have all the funds in immediately – but it is essential that the commitment for these funds is received. A 6 week notice period regarding the introduction of these services is necessary – so the timeframe for receipt of funding is around 3 weeks.

### **Nidderdale Greenway Proposal**

Unfortunately no representatives had been able to attend today. However, an update had been received yesterday from Rupert Douglas, Sustrans, which DG had emailed to the Group. Copies of this document were circulated also during the meeting. The Group briefly discussed the proposal and were pleased that Rupert had confirmed that a representative for Sustrans will be present at the next NSP Executive meeting. Presently landowner issues were being pursued, which was discussed. It was felt that logistics have to be right, in particular regarding parking/facilities, but in principal all present were very keen to see the project become a success. SL added that the Harrogate to Ripley cycleway has certainly been a huge success story.

### **Communication/broadband**

This Agenda item had been requested by SR at the last meeting due to the lack of broadband up the Dale. SR said that this continues to be a problem and that mobile coverage up the Dale is practically none existent. He said that ideally 4G coverage is needed. SL said that 90% of the County is covered by broadband now and NY are working on the remaining 10%. The issue was discussed and SL said that a repeater ariel is needed. NSP will write a letter to the Harlequin Group, who have been granted planning applications to build telecom masts in isolated places in the area (which carry all the main providers), but who have not yet acted on them – to ascertain their intention regarding telecommunications.

### **Persecution of Birds of Prey**

KT had requested this issue to be an Agenda item and said this has created significant negative press on social media for Nidderdale. This was discussed – SL said though that ultimately it is a legal matter.

### **Tour de Yorkshire 2018**

The Tour de Yorkshire 2018 route for Stage 4 on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May includes large areas of Nidderdale. The route starts in Halifax and travels through Masham, Grewelthorpe, Kirkby Malzeard, Fellbeck, Pateley Bridge – going up Greenhow Hill and then along Duck Street Lane, through Thruscross and Hardisty Hill to Blubberhouses and on to Leeds.

SL said that the Sportive race will be the biggest challenge logistically for the area as it will bring in huge numbers of amateur riders into the Dale. Greenhow Hill will be closed for 6 hours on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, although residents will be able to gain local access. KT asked if the mayor would be present for the event and this was discussed. CH said his time in office will have just finished, but he will be present. The possibility of an outdoor large screen was briefly discussed and SL said he was considering this. However, it was agreed that this is expensive and had not proved to be as popular as expected back in 2016. CS said she would be attending as Tour Maker and that the Memorial Hall will be open and involved on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Funds will be raised for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

As usual there will be a ‘roadshow’ for the event – this will take place at Pateley Bridge Council Chamber (2pm registration) on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

[Please see Event Brite link to attend the event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tour-de-yorkshire-2018-roadshow-in-pateley-bridge-tickets-41956132923> ]

SL confirmed that there will be the usual HBC Grants available to parish/town councils, voluntary and community groups and schools (up to £1,000) in order to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire 2018. Applications can be submitted until 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Bunting was mentioned and KT said new bunting was needed for Pateley Bridge High Street and CS said she intends to apply for a Grant for bunting.

[https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20122/grants/1064/tour\\_de\\_yorkshire\\_small\\_grant\\_fund\\_2018](https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20122/grants/1064/tour_de_yorkshire_small_grant_fund_2018)

### **Constitution/membership**

Copies of the Constitution were copied for the meeting as Sue Welch had requested at the last meeting that this be an Agenda item. However, due to time constraints it was decided to

cover this at the next meeting. DG will circulate the document and SL asked the Group to consider this and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.

### **Exchange of Information**

There was some general discussion and update regarding planning issues in the area. JF suggested interested parties meet with Harrogate Planners and Housing to specifically discuss key concerns.

SR raised the issue of litter and dog mess in the Upper Dale, which was also an issue elsewhere from time to time. Volunteer residents currently deal with this. DG suggested that parish councils could possibly ask the Probation Service for assistance.

Gouthwaite Wildlife Centre – this proposal is ongoing and further public consultations have recently taken place at Nidderdale Plus and elsewhere.

Parking issues are ongoing, particularly at Birstwith and Dacre Banks.

Ongoing problems with Pateley Bridge public toilets were discussed. KT said the option of closing the toilets on a night may be the only option to stop the vandalism. CS said she was pursuing safeguarding and inadequate hygiene facilities concerning the ladies toilets.

Changes in local businesses – Unfortunately Kendall's Fish Shop has closed, which is very disappointing. A new Pizza Take Away is opening in the High Street.

Yorkshire in Bloom & 1940s weekend – KT asked for support from Pateley Bridge Town Council for 2018 and this was discussed.

Saturday's Mayor's Charity Ball, which raises funds for the local area, has unfortunately been cancelled this week due to low uptake of tickets.

Remembrance Day 2018 – CS said that as it will be the 100 year anniversary since the end of the First World War, there will be a presentation of a memorial stone and a larger community event this year. There is a plan for knitters to make 100 poppies. CS will liaise with Nidderdale Plus to promote.

The major construction work at Gouthwaite Dam wall was discussed. NSP to write to the construction company, Bentleys, to ask if they will contribute towards the DalesBus proposal.

KT said that following huge support for the Young Farmers tour of tractors through the area last March – this will be repeated again on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March, but on a much larger scale. They will meet at the Show Ground for a hog roast and the £20 entry will go to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

CH raised the improvement work on the A59 at Kex Gill and this was briefly discussed. SL said the new road would go from Skipton and down the back of the sand quarry.

JF suggested that a representative from Yorkshire Water be invited to the next NSP meeting and this was agreed. It was suggested that Lisa Harrowsmith is approached, as she sits on the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership group.