

Waterfalls Task and Finish Group

Name of Committee	National Park Authority
Date	25 June 2019
Report Author	Julia Gruffydd (in the absence of Richard Tyler, Sustainable Tourism Manager)
Job title	Democratic Services Manager
Contact Details	01874 620400 Julia.gruffydd@beacons-npa.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To establish a task and finish group of members to develop a plan for the Waterfalls Area within the Park
Single Integrated Assessment	N/A
List of Enclosures	N/A
Public Interest Test	N/A
Recommendation(s)	That members be appointed to a Waterfalls Task and Finish Group to work with officers to develop a plan for the Waterfalls Area within the National Park

1.0 Introduction or Background

On 25 January 2019 members were invited to attend a site visit to look at some of the issues on the ground in the Waterfalls Area, prior to considering the Waterfalls Car Parking Plan at the Authority meeting on 12 February 2019. The report presented to that meeting, supporting documents and minutes can be found here: [National Park Authority 12 February 2019](#).

Discussion at that meeting recognised the wider issues facing the area, but also the opportunities and members felt it would be helpful to establish a Task and Finish Group to explore these matters further and a formal decision was made to this effect. Since then the Sustainable Tourism Manager has been on sick leave and this report is being brought in his absence. It is anticipated that he will return in order to lead this area of work.

2.0 Proposals

The purpose of the Task and Finish Group would be to work with officers on the development of a masterplan for the waterfalls area within the National Park. If possible meetings will be held on days when members are in Plas y Ffynnon for other meetings, with all information circulated electronically.

The plan will include (but not necessarily be limited to) the following considerations:

- Conserving and enhancing the ecology of the river valleys;
- Public access, rights of way and high quality visitor experience;
- Infrastructure, including parking, toilets and other amenities;
- Local community concerns, needs and solutions.

An internal staff working group for waterfall country has been established, with representation from across departments, to work with the Task & Finish Group on the development of the plan. This is particularly important given the recent funds received from the Welsh Government, in addition to other existing external grants.

The Authority needs to ensure that it makes the best use of this funding to develop a coherent future approach and implement appropriate solutions, whilst working to leverage further funding (e.g. from HLF) at the scale required to improve the area as outlined above.

A draft timeline for the coming months is included below.

At this stage the suggested duration of the Task and Finish Group is through to the end of January 2020, with the potential to extend further into 2020 as required. It is suggested that the group comprise no more than six members, as far as possible to include a balance of Local Authority and Welsh Government members.

21 st May	Internal staff working group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterfalls vision - Draft waterfalls masterplan
28 th June	NPA AGM, including appointment of member to T&F Group
July (date TBC)	1 st T&F Group meeting to review vision & draft masterplan
11 th July	Waterfalls Partnership Board Meeting with external partners
September (date TBC)	2 nd T&F Group meeting to review implementation of masterplan actions & potential HLF proposal
November (date TBC)	3 rd T&F Group meeting
January 2020 (date TBC)	4 rd T&F Group meeting

February 2020	Submission of HLF development grant application & review ongoing requirement for member T&F Group
---------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

3.0 Implications

Taking a wide ranging, holistic look at the Waterfalls Area will identify the opportunities for working with partners to resolve issues.

4.0 Risk

The Authority has a duty to address issues within its remit throughout the Park. The Waterfalls Area is a heavily visited area and a balance is needed to ensure that local people can benefit from this and avoid a negative impact on their wellbeing.

5.0 Conclusion

Members are asked to appoint members to the Task and Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATION: That members be appointed to a Waterfalls Task and Finish Group to work with officers to develop a plan for the Waterfalls Area within the National Park