



A meeting digest – Monday 23 June 2014

*Aspirational approaches for the future... current actions... rolling out valley planning.....
... and a welcome addition to the Partnership.*

Chairman – Chris Warren

Partner organisations -22 of 24 in attendance

Well - for the first time, no Lord Clark as Chairman (recovering from a ruptured Achilles), no deputy Chairman available and no Steve Ratcliffe (as LDNPA Partnership Director). Enter Mr Chris Warren (LDNPA Interim Head of Partnership and Strategy). Chris is leading the development of the new Partnership's Plan 2015-20 so was well placed to lead the meeting.

Most importantly, good Partner attendance allowed for some positive discussion on the emerging approaches to managing the Lake District for the next 15 years!

So the significant agenda items for discussion and agreement included:

- ❖ **What progress with Plan actions?** (Item 4b). Partnership work is guided by the Partnership's Plan (the Plan) and monitoring progress with delivery underpins understanding of what works, what doesn't, where attention needs to focus and what success looks like. The latest update showing 60% is happening according to schedule. However 8 actions, highlighted with problems, asked the Partnership to agree amendments in light of their changing delivery circumstances.
- ❖ **Testing approaches for the Partnership's Plan 2015 – 20** (Item 5). This is about developing a new management Plan for the Lake District as a National Park and as a World Heritage Site, and although some time was spent looking at the positives, this item purposely focussed on the negatives. Partners were asked to identify concerns they had about the draft approaches to achieving the Vision and managing the Lake Districts Special Qualities, as part of the new Plan development. Smaller group work then resulted in suggestions for improvement. These will now be used to help refine the approaches through further sub-group meetings, prior to seeking Partnership agreement in September and then public consultation in the autumn.
- ❖ **Rolling out Valley planning** (Item 6.). This ground breaking Partnership approach is considered to be an effective way of a) helping deliver the Partnership Vision and b) identifying and managing the Lake District Special Qualities, at a local level. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and UNESCO also sanction it as a means of locally managing a World Heritage Site (WHS). With prescribed deadlines for WHS purposes, the challenge now is to successfully plan ahead so that Partners, local communities and businesses can work together to produce 13 Valley Plans by 2019. The Partnership endorsed a timetable for this (Annex 2 under this item).
- ❖ **And then there were 25!** (Item 7). The Partnership unanimously agreed the University of Cumbria should join the Partnership. Professor Peter Strike (Vice Chancellor) will represent the University's integral and important education and learning offer in and to the Lake District.
- ❖ **Finally ...** sharing words from Lord Clark, the Partnership bid a fond farewell to Jack Ellerby of Friends of the Lake District, who leaves after 12 years there. Jack was a passionate supporter of the Partnership and his pragmatic input into its work will be missed greatly.

The detail of all the papers is available to view [via the website](#).

All details of previous meetings; [agenda, papers and minutes](#), plus full list of partners are available on the website: www.lakedistrictpartnership.co.uk