

**Report of the Council Representative on the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA)**

My first year as a member of the North York Moors National Park Authority has been an interesting but challenging one. Following a substantial cut in funding from DEFRA major restructuring was needed for the Authority to remain a viable business. The number of directors has changed from 5 to 4 with roles for some changing slightly. The Role of Director for Park Services now includes all roles connected with the second purpose of the Authority.

To explain further NYMNPA has two purposes; firstly to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and secondly to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public. The Authority is very active in promoting the park by raising the profile of its visitor centres through a series of exhibitions. This in turn should increase revenue through the car parks. A new post of tourism officer has recently been created.

Members have approved a reduction in the size of the Authority membership which from 2013 will see one less Secretary of State appointment and a reduction of NYCC appointed Members from 5 to 4.

Officers and Members have spent a lot of time this year on the new management plan which has been out to consultation, it was recently approved is now available online. A fully desktop version is in the process of preparation.

The Farm Scheme which has assisted farm businesses with conservation since the late eighties has come to an end. This is due to advent of National Schemes administered by Natural England. I recently had the honour of chairing a celebration of the 25 years of Farm Scheme which was attended by around 80 farmers including a number from Hambleton. Funding for farm conservation projects will now be directed towards the more arable fringes of the park on items not covered by National Schemes.

Training has been an important part of my first year and in January I attended a three day induction course for new members of the UK National Parks. This was hosted by the Broads National Park Authority in Norwich and was a useful networking event meeting fellow elected members from other Local Authorities in the UK.

**Councillor David Hugill**