

UK National Parks Charity Foundation
Report by Chief Executive

Summary: This report provides an update to Members on the progress made by National Parks Partnerships LLP (NPP) in establishing the UK National Parks Charity Foundation. NPP has identified corporate entities who may wish to make a donation to invest in National Parks, and provide public benefit through "charitable" routes.

Recommendations:

- (i) To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Authority's Chair, to submit formal application to apply for membership and take all such incidental and consequential steps as are reasonably necessary to implement this decision, including entering into any agreements and signing any legal documentation to give effect to this decision.
- (ii) To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Authority's Chair, the taking of any decisions on behalf of the Authority in the running of UK National Parks Charity Foundation, including nomination or seconding of Trustees and bringing back regular reports to the Authority as necessary.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22 January 2016 the Authority unanimously resolved that the Broads Authority become a member of National Parks Partnerships LLP alongside the other 14 National Parks with the aim of engaging with the private sector and gaining commercial sponsorship.
- 1.2 The partnership to date has been very successful and has secured sponsorship with Columbia Sportswear, Sykes Holiday Cottages and Forest Holidays.

2 Latest Sponsorship Deal

- 2.1 NPP has signed Heads of Terms with a US company who manufacture and sell energy bars. The current plan is for the project to go 'live' in May/June,
- 2.2 The company has agreed to fund five projects in 2019 at £10,000 per Park. The other ten National Park Authorities without a funded project in 2019 will each receive £2,500 towards conservation/protection work. The list of successful projects is as follows:

Peak District - Operation Wildfire

New Forest - Ground Nesting Birds project

Northumberland - Dark Sky Friendly Lighting Scheme

Broads - Bike Bug Hotel & Community Wildlife Demonstration

Pembrokeshire Coast - Paths, Plants and Pollinators

- 2.3 The two Broads projects involve putting in a new bike rack at Whitlingham which incorporates space for bugs to show how you can blend natural habitat with structures. The second is working with local school children to boost the habitat bird and bat boxes and similar features at Hoveton Riverside Park so others can take inspiration home.

3 UK Charity

- 3.1 Throughout NPP's engagement with other corporate bodies for potential funding it has been identified that some organisations would prefer to donate to a charitable body.
- 3.2 A working group of National Park officers, including the Broads Authority's Chief Executive, has been working on the establishment of a UK National Park Charity. The formation of the charity has been agreed by the majority of the authorities and the necessary forms submitted to the Charity Commission. All National Parks have now been written to inviting them to formally apply for membership of the new charity by 1 February 2019. Applications must be made in writing on the Authority's letter headed paper and signed in accordance with our delegated powers.

4 Charitable Structure

- 4.1 The proposed structure is an Association (CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and is based on the Charity Commissions model constitution. The proposed name of the charity is "UK National Parks Charity Foundation" with the following charitable objectives:
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage;
 - Promotion of sustainable use of the natural resources of the national parks;
 - Promotion of understanding and enjoyment, including recreation, of the special qualities of the national parks by the public;
 - Promotion of the sustainable development of the communities within the national parks; and
 - Promoting knowledge transfer and sharing best practice in the delivery of sustainable rural development projects.
- 4.2 An application was submitted to the Commission on 18 December 2018 to establish the Charity with three founding Trustees:

- Sarah Fowler (Peak District, Chairperson);
- Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast); and
- David Cameron (Cairngorms).

4.3 Feedback is awaited from the Charity Commission and it is hoped to be approved by the end of March 2019.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 If the Authority decides to submit an application for formal membership the Authority will be contacted on Monday 4 February 2019 to inform them of which National Parks have formally applied to be a member. Members of the charity have the right to either nominate or second the nomination of a trustee. The Authority will then be invited to either nominate or second the nomination of a Charity Trustee. Nominations and seconds will need to be submitted to Sarah Fowler by close of business on Thursday 14 February 2019.
- 5.2 Subject to approval by the Charities Commission, the Working Group has provisionally set a date of Monday 4 March 2019 for the first General Meeting of the Charity. Notice of any general meeting must be given to members 14 days in advance of the meeting.
- 5.3 The deadlines for submissions set out here will allow the founding Trustees to meet to admit members on the basis of applications, and issue agenda and papers to members setting out Trustee nominations together with any other business to be considered on Friday 15 February prior to a General Meeting on 4 March 2019.

6 Risks

- 6.1 The risks associated with the Broads Authority being a member of the UK National Parks Charity Foundation have been identified as low. There are potential reputational risks if the charity was poorly run but based on the experience of National Park Partnerships there are significant potential benefits in our engagement with the private sector.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The establishment of the charity is a welcome development and it is recommended that the Broads Authority applies for membership and in due course appoints a Trustee.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objectives: Potentially Multiple

Appendices: None