**NIDDERDALE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes of the wider membership meeting

held on Thursday 18 June 2015 at 10am

1. **Present:** Cllr Stan Lumley (chair); Cllr John Fort (NYCC); Iain Mann (AONB and Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership); Cllr Tim Witney (Bewerley parish council); Liz Meade (NYCC Stronger Communities); Cllrs Suzanne Truman Davies and Alan Cottrill (Darley and Menwith parish council); PC Bill Hickson (North Yorkshire Police); Cllr Helen Flynn (HBC); Stephen Ramsden (Upper Nidderdale parish council); Keith Tordoff (Nidderdale Chamber of Trade); Cllr Edward March (Birstwith parish council); Rebecca Micallef (HBC Economic Development); James Langley (HBC Planning); Rev Darryl Hall (Church in the Dale); Paula Morris (British Red Cross); Heather Garnett (Friends AONB); **In attendance**: Katy Penn (Nidderdale Plus)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Christine Hill and Christine Ryder (HBC); Karen Weaver (Harrogate and Ripon CVS); Dr David Lawson (NHS); Cllr Michael Harrison (NYCC); Catherine Baker (NYCC Children’s Centre); Thomas Askham (North Yorkshire Fire); Jane Fowler (Nidderdale Plus); Neil Irving (NYCC); Cllr Lesley Scott (Clint parish council)

2. **Welcome and introductions:** SL highlighted the themes discussed by the NSP Executive group over the past year:

Dec 2014 meeting: presentation from Sustrans re scoping exercise for extension to Nidderdale Greenway (now being progressed by Harrogate Cycle Forum); update re community wirelesss broadband scheme (Upper dale/Greenhow);

Feb 2015 meeting: discussion re Neighbourhood Planning – with HBC planning officer and Ripon City Development Manager;

April 2015: One stop shop update (library/tourism/N+); concerns re future of High Street

Every Exec meeting has updates from members – including future of Post Office services in Darley, availability of commuted sums (clarification for Upper Nidderdale parish council), defibrillator updates (Pateley Bridge and Lofthouse), council customer call centres, grass-cutting services.

1. **Presentation by Iain Mann,** Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership – focussing on **‘tourism opportunities through the UNLP’**.

Although not an economic project, tourism runs through the 5 themes of the Partnership and this aspect aims to join up some of the current tourism offerings, to create a better understanding of the area for the visitor and encourage longer stays.

IM outlined plans for orientation points, on the ground development, on-line development and working with tourism businesses.

Discussion included:

* Need for improved toilet facilities
* Opportunity to measure impact through STEAM data (evaluation in 2018)
* Need for reducing CO2 emissions eg electric bike hire and bike repair business opportunities
* On-going concern re Greenhow Hill and speeding cyclists
1. Discussion: the **future of Pateley Bridge High Street** (including Rebecca Micallef, HBC Economic Development and James Langley (HBC Planning):
* KT outlined concerns of Chamber of Trade, with potential vacant units
* Chamber would like to see more events/themes eg Food Festival – AC suggested the ‘Slow Towns’ theme – use of showground
* Discussion re Farmers’ market potential – agreed would need to commit long-term to this, as previously High Street retailers did not support
* Need to make the most of the Auction Mart renaissance
* Many websites – all need to link to all for maximum impact
* Should there be development of the ‘brand Nidderdale’ as a marketing tool
* New District Plan consultation period from 17 July – could planning policy help with the marketing of the area

Recommended **RM** to look into arranging an evening event/meeting (for Chamber members’ attendance) – opportunity to talk through issues, look at linking websites/SEO, event organisation, funding and coordination issues.

1. **Exchange of Information:**
* AC highlighted discussions re a community shop at the Playing Fields, Darley
* SR commented on recent loss of mobile service in upper dale and the need for upgrade of service to 3G
* JF noted that YorWaste will be improving advertising of the Showground services
* HG noted that the forthcoming AONB Joint Advisory Committee agenda will focus on housing allocations in the dale

All were thanked for their contributions and encouraged to keep in touch with project developments and seek opportunities for joined-up working for the good of the area.

Meeting closed 11.45am.