

Dartmoor National Park, Management Plan Review
Dartmoor Debate No. 5: Understanding & Enjoyment held on 15
November 2018

Transcript of feedback received during the closing session in response to the question:

“After all the various conversations you have been part of today.... And with the future vision for the Dartmoor national park in mind.....

What stands out for you... What single thing would you most want to see in the Dartmoor National Park Vision Statement at the heart of the new Management plan for 2020-2024?”

Transcript:

- The management of the moor itself so the diversity and ecology thrive. Access to the moor needs to be in a balanced triharmony so the integrity, biodiversity and use allows it to flourish. Car parking is an issue. As a rider on Dartmoor I've seen old tracks disappear with bracken to gorse. It is difficult to park with a trailer, turning space for ramp, not wanting to inconvenience cars, needing a level base, security when left for up to 6 hours. Erosion due to climate and lack of resources on []
- Influence the future. Behaviours, understanding, appreciation + protection through creating an involved younger generation
- The trustees, manager & volunteers of Dartmoor life / Okehampton TIC would like to develop a co-[] vision & strategy with DNPA to enhance tourist information centre at Northern gateway to Dartmoor National Park to cope with likely increase in visitors due to proposed railway expansion and capture some of the cars passing on A30 to Cornwall thus increasing sustainability for local tourism businesses
- Zoning to encourage greater / better use of adjoining areas to spread the load – a key part of this would be improved traffic-free links to and within the NP which are accessible to all
- Visitors will come to Dartmoor to enjoy physical & spiritual benefit. DNP does not need to encourage [] with commercial businesses interests. Keep it NATURAL, BUT it has to be paid for [] to maintain it []
- Promoting sustainable use of the natural environment which recognises climate change impacts
- Change Direction! Traditional farming practices are damaging and unsustainable. Strive towards Dartmoor being a recreational lung for the wider population. Foster natural regrowth, plant mixed woodlands, develop walking & cycling routes. Serve with better infrastructure – parking, toilets at key access points particularly on river sides
- Enabling rather than controlling. Legacy
- A National Park that delivers... For all those that want to come and visit Dartmoor (including residents) are able to do so in a way that promotes their health & wellbeing, whilst protecting the special qualities of Dartmoor. *All means young/older people who want to do active recreation, but provides opportunities for everyone.

- We plan for a growth in visitors so that we have good facilities all visitors have a true connection with Dartmoor, its communities benefit and its special qualities are not damaged.
- The National Park is a place that is welcoming to everyone... a balance of understanding, heritage & being relevant in today's world. A place that inspires wonder and gives opportunities to people to touch, feel, see, learn and immerse themselves in all aspects of the place
- A Dartmoor community of interest which has come together to help conserve, enhance and promote understanding of the special qualities of the national Park
- Development of provision for inspiring the under 35-yr olds with special reference to the DNP schools for starters. [] 'visit" to DNP with constraints of National Curr. By providing resources to use which enhance and match the NC and offer induction to use of these resources by volunteers / DNP staff to give the confidence to the schools to use them and go some way to providing the 'staff" to "do" which is often the excuse not to. The 5-yr olds today will be 30 in 25 years
- Consultation – rationale; -actions; - feedback. Respond to changes in external environment!. Be flexible. Embrace diversity. Learning environment not teaching. Create opportunities.
- Plan for: joined up approach with a variety of /all Dartmoor 'stakeholders' to ensure plan is able to be actioned.
- The national park as a 'shared space' for all. Locals, groups, visitors, organisations, nature, history etc. Joint responsibility. Everyone welcome! What is DNPA's role in facilitating that? How do we bring people with us? How do we have a spirit of 'togetherness' and 'respect'.>How do we bring everyone together?
- Create new access area to to spread visitors from the 'honeypot' areas. Possibly Yelverton side and Okehampton/Sourton area.
- All people have multiple and varied opportunities and 'routes' to benefit through physical, experiential and immersive experiences to benefit in terms of increased – knowledge and understanding; - personal and social development; - physical, emotional, mental wellbeing; - spiritual 'refreshment'.
- Have a financially viable future for farmers / land management. To maintain the whole rural economy.
- We need a healthy body representing tourism on Dartmoor that works with local businesses to promote Dartmoor in the correct manner as a first class and worthwhile place to visit. That tourism body needs to have a good relationship with other ATPs (area tourism partnerships) to help put Dartmoor on the map of both national and international tourism. That fact that Visit Dartmoor isn't here today is telling.
- To keep Dartmoor as a special place where the local communities and visitors benefit from living in and have access to this unique resource for the promotion of health and wellbeing
- Access land – if vegetation is unchecked then the few paths will be eroded even more, and there is high risk of wild fires once no agri-environment support for swaling etc

- Ensure that the importance & significance of the special place we call Dartmoor is one of the core studies for local children.
- Vision that welcomes, encourages, guides and supports visitors. Aids appropriate use and inspires users. But allows the environment to thrive and encourages understanding of Dartmoor as a space. Making Dartmoor a space for everyone and everything.
- A bold vision that can be owned & sustainably managed to: bring all stakeholder representatives together regularly to openly / honestly discuss, agree and deliver issues and plans & to find the right balance between: natural wild spaces – conservation, rewilding, wildlife; upland farmers + other small businesses, recreating; low impact, sustainable / eco & affordable housing
- Education and promotion of the culture, archaeology, beauty of Dartmoor so that there is a greater appreciation of its value to residents of Devon and visitors alike.
- Collaboration between stakeholders to unlock opportunities for enjoyment for all ages and abilities.
- Every child in Devon to have the opportunity to visit the national park as part of their education but with a focus on enjoyable understanding. A programme for partnership with local farmers & communities ie they tell 'their story'

Transcripts of notes from workshop sessions also available on request email: manplan@dartmoor.gov.uk