

**Dartmoor National Park, Management Plan Review**  
**Dartmoor Debate No. 6: DNPA Members & Staff Workshop on 16**  
**November 2018**

**Summary**

- Recognising that National Parks are national assets and have a higher profile and recognition
- A lot of comments regarding the management of visitors including: improved facilities, high quality visitor infrastructure and rights of way / access network; education and raising awareness, encouraging responsible behaviour, consistent messages; large scale event management; improved onsite interpretation; stitch in time repairs and reinstatement of lengthsman to avoid erosion; planning positively for increase in visitor numbers which is inevitable (also calls to stop any more visitors coming but these were not agreed with); use of tools such as zoning also new high tech solutions; particular effort to improve accessibility for all; outreach to bring Dartmoor to town
- A lot of support for education, engagement, outreach and communications to raise awareness, build understanding and sense of 'ownership'; providing immersive, experiential, engaging, inspiring opportunities for all but especially for young people to encourage and foster care about and care for Dartmoor. Also support for more use of volunteers
- Making connections outside Dartmoor with surrounding areas, joined up thinking, green infrastructure links but also recognising impact of development at the boundary
- Maintaining Dartmoor's open landscape, sense of tranquillity, wilderness and dark night skies
- Taking a holistic approach to conservation. Greater weight and protection given to PALs and protection from planning breaches. Bolder and more ambitious vision to enhance wildlife, with ambitious landscape- scale habitat restoration, species reintroductions, more woodlands, zoning; and greater engagement through events such as the Meldon wildlife festival
- A lot of support for Farmers who take a pride in delivering public goods including environmental outcomes and high quality food; with a Dartmoor agri-environment scheme and payments based on results; working with farmers, foresters and commoners so that a future vision is shared
- Encouraging greater links between people and their food e.g. through a Dartmoor food festival; more premium quality food produced on Dartmoor which supports environmentally beneficial farming
- Recognition of the health and well-being benefits of Dartmoor, working with relevant health partners
- A lot of support for enabling viable communities and businesses including through: sustainable building; affordable housing; good quality jobs; broadband; supporting the next generation;

- Become a beacon of sustainability including through alternative energy suppliers, public transport, electric cars and bikes
- Addressing transport issues including speeding on the moor, better transport links and public transport
- Responding to climate change
- Better monitoring and research to provide a good evidence base for future priorities. Increased collaboration with researchers and universities to improve understanding of all Dartmoor's special qualities
- The need for clear leadership and a collaborative approach, particularly working with Parish councils, universities and higher education, the voluntary sector and partners; building trust and capacity

**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:**

- There are lots of concerns about impact of visitors and change and solutions coming out suggest a we know best approach. We need to make sure our views don't blind us to how others want to use and care for the moor. We need to work nationally and regionally so that the national Park is not an island isolated in a more developed landscape, Collaborate with local authorities and other NGOs to provide wide variety of wild places to explore, care for and value. Find ways to make everyone value their patch of nature.
- LEADERSHIP → Dartmoor sets the way, tests, innovates, inspires, looks forward, challenges, seeks to change
- We need to better explain that things have changed. 1. There are things that the 'Authority' has to do. They are statutory obligations. 2. There are things that the DNPA wants to do. This involves a conversation that we are part of but not necessarily 'lead' we are active partners
- An open landscape with large skies and 360 views still possible. More woodland creeping up our valleys to give our wildlife resilience to future change but our fantastic landscape scale archaeology visible to the eye. Our visitors and local communities know more about what they are seeing, help us monitor landscape change and respect the environment and our communities when they visit. All young people at yr6 visit the NP and are given pathways to continue a relationship with the NP.
- I don't want Dartmoor to be culturally and physically lost due to increased tourism, events, housing and visitor pressure. 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners + "Londoners" threaten the young person + traditional farming practices and I would like to see this prevented. More people for the sake of meeting targets will destroy the natural environment and I think it should be maintained as it is at present.
- Clear calls to action which encourage all involved to address key issues & pressures. Overuse / erosion / pressures on conservation Vs desire to encourage sensitive sustainable & enjoyable visits from both locals & tourists.
- Need to celebrate what is unique and special about Dartmoor (and other areas of outstanding 'wonder') to promote its uniqueness and ensure its continued importance (whilst considering the impact of external factors (such as global warming))
- Wider engagement strategy across Devon/SW about National Parks here. Dartmoor and Exmoor – what are they; why visit – importance → working as a National Park Devon Team

- That Dartmoor doesn't lose its integrity as one of the "last wilderness's"  
That farming together with breeds indigenous to Dartmoor survives on the high moor in balance with embracing change & an inevitable degree of sensible rewilding
- Dartmoor retains its special, different, inspiring & iconic status through conservation of maximising potential of ecosystems, biodiversity, cultural heritage – and it will continue to provide opportunities for people to learn, enjoy and benefit their physical health and mental wellbeing
- Clear communication and education about Dartmoor's special qualities
- An aspiration to change attitudes & respect for our national park – this probably needs to start with the next generation being engaged to value the park in order to change / impact societal norms / practice in the long term future.
- A Dartmoor that gives more than it takes. Sustainable, growth of biodiversity and natural systems helping to alleviate the stresses of climate breakdown helping heal the mental health crisis and providing space for people to celebrate life.
- Dartmoor is a place where you can get away from it all (tranquillity) but also provides opportunities for a range of recreational activities undertaken in a sustainable way or all those that live in or visit the National Park.
- Wilderness and rugged landscape
- Departments to work more with local parishes to help enhance the whole park. – involve more in decision making; - assist with work to enhance local areas
- Education, education, education! Closer work with schools, FE & HE. Include students in activities hands on. Info for the visitor – provided by all, not just the NPA
- I would like to see explicit clarity in the values of place on Dartmoor and a re-emphasis of the primacy of its statutory purposes in the decision-making processes and policies of the authority
- The economy of Dartmoor (incl. farming) supports conservation land management and provides opportunities for a thriving local community
- Awareness of quality and specialness of Dartmoor to all audiences to help future of the place to prosper and be protected
- The link between people & place. Importance of Dartmoor to life – water, clean air and enriching people's lives – inspiration, challenge, enjoyment
- Recognition of the importance of protecting Dartmoor as the nearest we have to 'wilderness' in Southern England
- Emphasise statutory duties to a wider audience – what makes Dartmoor special?
- More effective proactive community engagement on 2 x purposes 1x duty of DNP
- Pleased with everyone's care + passion for DNP. Education about park is very important.
- Emphasis on the next generation (25 years)
- Education
- Education is the essence for staff, partners, residents, workers and visitors. We need to invest more time and money to nurture partnerships

and collaborative working to ensure the messages are consistent across all partners – kept short simple but effective messages to ALL

- Dartmoor is a place where you can experience wildness, tranquillity, beauty & dark night skies. There are places where you can get away from it all.
- Protection of environment & history of Dartmoor. Manage visitor numbers. More proactive work all around the moor. Towns and villages to show the public some of the things that the DNPA can do to help maintain the environment.

*Transcripts of notes from workshop sessions also available on request email: [manplan@dartmoor.gov.uk](mailto:manplan@dartmoor.gov.uk)*