

## Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) Youth Committee

### Minutes of outdoor meeting held on 22/6/21 at 6.00pm Portfield Gate Community Woodland

#### Present at the meeting:

**Youth Committee:** Lili (8/9), Charlie (online); Tom W-D (5/9); Michele (7/9.5); Rory (7/7); Demi (6/8); Sara (8/8.5); Fred (7/8); Rebecca (6/9)

**Staff:** Suzanne, Tom, Graham, Sarah Hoss, Abi, Dilys

**Apologies:** None

**Intro** – Youth members were given an opportunity to walk 50 paces in any direction and feedback what they noticed/heard/. Checked in. Tom provided a bit of history of the Portfield Gate site.

**Item 1** – Discussed role of chair and vice chair. Lily explained role of both to the group. Vacancy for vice chair. To be discussed at next meeting (**Tom to action**).

#### Item 2 – Youth Committee Visioning

Group Work Activity – Youth members to split into two groups and discuss the following:

##### 1. Vision of where the National Park should be in 20 years' time;

##### Group 1 - Group 2 –

##### Climate Change

- Wanting park to be near to carbon neutral as possible
- Try to make cars carbon free in next 20 years
- Replace (damaging industries) with green energy jobs
- More widespread sustainable use of renewable energy

##### Wildlife and Biodiversity

- Increased biodiversity – reduced diversity loss
- Conserving and enhancing natural and cultural areas
- Introducing more conservation projects including rescue rehabilitation and release

##### Community

- More active sense of community activity. Less social isolation
- More activity groups (NPA and/or partners) getting out and a sense of being involved and prevent social isolation

##### Housing

- Young people able to afford houses. Housing big problem. Banning 2nd homes. Make harder for people to own 2nd homes. Financial aid or systems for local (young) people to buy houses

## Transport

- Free effective public transport for all ideally- but young people a priority
- More pedestrianised high streets (e.g. Pembroke)
- Create ways for (young) people to subsidise parking costs
- More cycle paths

## Working

- Try to localise jobs in communities more for benefit of economy but also people / health / climate
- Provide economic reasons for (young) people to work and live here – training and qualifications, change culture of having to move away

## Economy

- Encourage tourism to spread out more across Pembrokeshire – reduce crowding and support other communities
- History – unique in UK. Is a major selling point should be appreciated more (by young people)?

## Inclusion – More (young) people understand Pembrokeshire is special and belongs to them

- Inclusive – target a wider range of people (as well as young people) in more local communities not just in the NP (across all work of the NPA)
- Increase accessibility - Footpaths
  - promote footpaths more and make them more visible - clearly marked orange instead of green?
  - How to read maps - promote DofE
  -
- Maintain popularity of visiting the NP – past and future – don't rely on tech so it stays an physical – an escape
- Improve Broadband and internet to rural areas
- Regular wheelchair accessibility – coast path walks

## 2. Vision of where Youth Committee could /should be in the Future.

### Working to ensure that Young People feel like they have a sense of ownership of Pembrokeshire / NP / Environment

- Pembrokeshire doesn't feel like it belongs to Young People. Teach young people Pembs belongs to them. Young people not motivated to stay and invest in area. Sense of you grow up leave for university, get a job and move back when you have children etc. retire. Older population in Pembs – Retirement dominates (housing, dead communities for young people)

### Working to ensure that Young People feel more connected to Nature

- High school (and that life stage) creates mental barriers to the outdoors
- Addressing perceived barriers to outdoors – improve education/less risk how to make it easier for young people
- Common experience – change the perception of young people and young people changing the perception of themselves

### Helping the NPA to respond more quickly and provide quicker and effective impact

- Feeling that they are being heard by the NPA. Nice to see impacts of what we are talking about and being kept up to date and the reassurance of what we are doing is right.
- Less talking more social action

#### **Having improved wider young people's proactive involvement**

- As part of a joined up system for age groups influence younger ages. Open doors to get involved earlier. e.g. work with young people earlier age so is more cool later on
- (Young People generally) We're too laid back. We will do it when we need to. Reactive rather than proactive
- Too many consultations – and get little or no feedback or influence
- Better use of social media – doesn't reach many young people
- Speaking to young people better than online stuff. Have conversations through schools more but in more interactive way than assemblies etc

**Item 4** - Sarah Hughes talked about her work gathering feedback for PCNPA Review of the volunteering experience. **Tom** add to this 3<sup>rd</sup> July Youth Ranger Day

**Item 5 – Dilys from the PCNPA Experiences for All research project** – following online meeting last july – experience for all started in march

Research – 11 user categories including young people under 25. Of 470 responses only c20 were young people. Lots of information gathered.

To make things happen to improve on this situation – what 3 things do you want to feed into an action plan? Ran out of time so **Dilys to join next outdoor Youth Committee 20<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Item 6 – Making a Pembrokeshire version of the Europarc Youth Manifesto**

Tom gave overview of how youth manifesto came about. Youth Ranger set up 2013 – YP opportunity who couldn't do D of E or access other things. Focus on YP with barriers. Was hard to sustain but mixture of group more beneficial. 2017/18 Europarc had funding. 3 YP went to manifesto project in Glasgow and was launched at conference where a youth manifesto was produced. Yp presented to NP committee and call to action for NP to make some changes.

Youth manifesto into 4 areas: walk around look at the sheets and add any thoughts /ideas you may have

- Youth empowerment
- Living
- Working
- Learning in protected areas

**Time ran out – deferred to next meeting**

#### **Date of Next Meetings:**

- **6<sup>th</sup> July (Online)**
- **20<sup>th</sup> July (Face to face)**
- **August – possibly a meeting mid-month (TBC – Tom away!)**