

## Report Of Discovery Team

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### **Subject: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Youth Committee**

#### Purpose of Report

To record, and update Members on PCNPA Next Generation Youth Manifesto and share the recently completed Youth Committee film.

To request:

- Approval of the PCNP Youth Manifesto.

#### Introduction/Background

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) Youth Ranger scheme has run since 2013. In recent years the scheme has become more youth-led, culminating in the establishment of a PCNPA Youth Committee in 2020. An important project for the young people involved has been the preparation of the [Europarc Youth Manifesto](#), created in 2018/19 alongside young people from other designated landscape areas across Europe.

The Manifesto covers many issues identified by young people from across Europe who live in rural and protected areas as important, and includes a call for young people to be more involved in making decisions that affect them. It was agreed following the publication of the original manifesto, that a 'Pembrokeshire version' should be created, providing a local commentary on the issues young people consider to be important.

The Youth Committee now operates under the banner of Pembrokeshire Coast Next Generation ([National Park Next Generation - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)) and aims:

- **Give Young People more of a role in decision making.**
- **To ensure that services delivered by PCNPA are as effective as possible in meeting the needs of young people.**

The Youth Committee contributes to PCNPA's Well-being goals as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and embodies ways of working including Collaboration with PCC and fostering Involvement of Young People in the work of the Authority. It is important that PCNPA gives due regard to the [Principles of Public Engagement](#), as endorsed by the Authority, in consideration of the work of the Youth Committee.

PCNPA's Discovery Team has worked collaboratively with PCC's Children and Young People's Rights Office (CYPRO) to develop and deliver Youth Committee activity to date.

The PCNP Youth Manifesto gives voice to some of the issues and concerns of local young people. Those involved recognise the need to engage with a wider audience of young people in our area and so the manifesto itself is seen as a dynamic document, which will be reviewed and updated as more young people are involved in conversations about their experiences (and views) as they relate to living in or near to a protected landscape area.

The Youth Manifesto was produced by Youth Committee with the support of the PCNPA Staff (Discovery Team).

Meeting minutes are available for more information on the planning and decision making process of PCNP Youth Manifesto.

### **Comparisons**

The Europarc Youth Manifesto sets out to capture the views of Young People from National Parks and protected areas across Europe, whilst PCNP Youth Manifesto focuses solely on young people living within and around Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and their experiences. The layout in terms of topics and themes is broadly similar to that of the Europarc Youth Manifesto, allowing some comparison between the two documents.

### **Compliance**

Youth representation contributes to the NPA purpose of promoting opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities, its duty to foster the economic and social well-being of communities living within the Park and the County, and the Authority's work towards WG directives including the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Youth representation and the Youth Committee support elements of the National Park Management Plan and the Engagement Action Plan.

### **Human Rights / Equality issues**

Youth representation supports PCNPA Equality plan, and is a strong demonstration of the Authority's commitment to Equality and Diversity.

It is important that the Authority follows through on developing youth representation in decision making, and that the engagement with young people is meaningful rather than tokenistic. In order to achieve this training / support for staff and Authority Members may be desirable – PCNP Youth Manifesto available to all PCNP staff/members

### **Welsh Language statement**

All information and opportunities relating to PCNP Youth Manifesto will be presented in a way which takes account of PCNPA's commitment to promote the Welsh language.

## **Recommendations**

**Members note the PCNP Youth Manifesto and consider how the content can influence the work of the Authority in the future.**

*Author: Maise Sherratt (Inclusion and Youth Engagement Officer) and Graham Peake (Discovery Team Leader) 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.*

# Youth Manifesto

## A call for change

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Next Generation - Youth Committee



Parc Cenedlaethol  
Arfordir Penfro  
Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park

# National Park Purposes



■ To conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park (and Pembrokeshire).



■ To promote opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Parks.



■ In pursuing these two purposes the Authority also has a duty to nurture the economic and social well-being of communities living within the Park.

# Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Priorities



**Climate –**  
**Destination: Net Zero**  
We're an Authority aiming for net zero and a carbon neutral National Park



**Connection –**  
**Natural Health Service**  
People are healthier, happier and more connected to nature and heritage



**Conservation –**  
Boosting biodiversity and halting its decline.  
Nature is flourishing



**Vibrant Communities**  
Places people can live, work and enjoy




The Manifesto was been inspired by work undertaken by groups of young people from across Europe, as part of a project to create a Protected Areas Youth Manifesto, which reflects the views and experiences of young people living in and around projected areas and identifies the priorities for the future -

[www.euoparc.org/nature/young-people/youth-manifesto/](http://www.euoparc.org/nature/young-people/youth-manifesto/)

■ The Pembrokeshire Next Generation Manifesto is a response to that document and attempts to reflect the views, and experiences, of young people living in and around Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

■ It is intended to be a 'Living document', with regular reviews and further consultation with young people in our area helping to shape future versions of the manifesto.

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors in a natural, wooded area. They are both wearing black jackets with a logo on the left chest. The woman on the left has long, wavy pink hair and is holding a long-handled tool, possibly a shovel or a rake. The woman on the right has long, curly brown hair and is also holding a similar tool. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The background consists of trees and foliage.

This manifesto sets out to be:

- A source of inspiration and ideas, helping to ensure the empowerment, involvement and consideration of young people in the decision-making process.

- Provide a clear and coordinated approach to engaging young people in rural communities.

- Identify key issues that impact on young people, from depopulation to unemployment.

- Understand that all young people have imagination, creativity and individuality, and these talents should be fostered to aid the development within PCNPA, for our successors to inherit our National Park.

# 1. Youth Empowerment

Young people are the future of PCNP, and we CARE about looking after our landscapes for future generations, but we are under-represented and don't have a voice in the decision-making process.

We want to connect with our community and have an impact on the decisions made for us!

Young people should be treated as equals, all voices are important.

## What can you do?

- Create youth councils/forums to present young people's needs and thoughts to decision makers.
- Provide a safe space for young people to be heard.
- Deliver schemes that enable adults and young people to work side by side.
- Arrange funding for youth projects.
- Deliver induction programs than enable board members to understand the important of youth representation.
- Record important meetings and share with Youth Groups.

## Communicating with young people

- Provide opportunities for young people to share their achievements and encourage them to express their concerns and opinions to an older audience.
- Use online platforms for consultations and surveys, leading to face-to-face sessions raising awareness on issues that connect with young people.

## 2. Living

Supporting young people within PCNP areas helps the communities to remain connected, and aids future development. It is often difficult to travel within PCNP. Young people need to connect with the real, and virtual, worlds to succeed and thrive. We cannot afford for young people to be pushed out of PCNP due to living costs.

### Infrastructure

- Affordable transport needs to be provided throughout the year.
- Flexible transport needs to be available, public transport times need to be realistic.
- Transport routes need to be clear and concise = user friendly.
- School bus passes should work for public transport.
- Internet access should be boosted across the NP for sharing information.
- Cycle routes need to be better connected and safer.
- Provide safe accommodation to avoid rough sleeping and criminal action.

### Affordability

- Introduce schemes to allow young people to purchase goods and services at an affordable rate to create an affordable existence in the area.
- Support small local businesses to be more independent and connected within the community.
- Limit the second home market, in order to give local people a better chance of success in the housing market.

### Community

- Young people have a right to be part of the culture and history of the area.
- Connect with young people and provide engagement and social opportunities.
- Young people should be sharing what their sense of community is. Young people can share their understandings with older people to help each other.
- Create safe, fun, spaces for people of all ages to connect.

# 3. Learning

We need to provide more self-sufficient, resilient and diverse communities across PCNP. We want to share, learn, sustain and care for our local culture and natural heritage.

We need to invest in training for the FUTURE.  
PASS ON KNOWLEDGE  
AND INSPIRATION TO  
FUTURE GENERATIONS.

## Aspire to inspire

- Use of social platforms and programme of events within PCNPA.
- Efficient use of social media to inspire awareness and encourage engagement.

## Nature education

- Create opportunities for young people, from an early age, to learn about their local landscape, heritage and culture.
- Provide opportunities that empower the youth to be capable and confident in the outdoors – volunteering, Junior Ranger Programmes etc.
- Create connections between schools and local protected areas, Rangers and Wardens.
- Provide training for teaching staff to be more outdoor orientated.
- Encourage school curriculums to include education on local farming, wildlife, NP and the environment.
- Create links with Pembrokeshire Association of Secondary Heads.

## Support

- Support parents/guardians to engage and take their families outdoors.
- Provide more opportunities for skill development and confidence.
- Create more young people led businesses by providing courses to learn about self-employment / owning a business.
- Develop volunteering as a way to boost progress – work experience, young people volunteering, award schemes.

# 4. Working

We believe that developing the local economy and providing jobs, should not be at the expense of the natural environment.

The need for environmentally friendly practices should not compromise local standard of life.

Youth employment should be flexible, creative, innovative and sustainable.

All young people have creativity and talents which should be fostered to help us develop as entrepreneurs of our communities.

## Job Opportunities

- Young people want to work. Age does not create a barrier for wanting to work and give back to your local community.
- Opportunities for young people to work should fit around education, not just seasonal vacancies.
- Partnerships should be developed and cared for between schools and local businesses, to offer jobs and experiences to young people.
- Jobs for young people should include progression and pay rises.

## More Training

- Provide youth schemes with training that is relevant and beneficial to them, providing support and encouragement.
- Share knowledge and experiences with young people, to inspire them to work within their community.


## Low Wages

- Pay fair living wage, to counteract the cost of living in a rural environment.
- Help with cost of living through transport subsidies, subsidized housing costs and funding for further training.
- Consider living allowances/ grants for young people wanting to stay in the area.

## 5. Our call to action



Let's put our  
PCNPA  
Youth Manifesto  
into action  
and create a  
sustainable future  
for today!

A photograph of four young people (three men and one woman) climbing a rocky mountain peak. They are wearing outdoor gear like jackets and hats. The background shows a vast landscape with fields and a body of water under a sunset sky with colorful clouds. The image is used as a background for a document with several circular text overlays.

Connect with your community youth, local schools and youth clubs. Encourage them to share their thoughts and inspire others.

Apply for funding projects that engage with young people.


Co-work to select the priority issues to address from the Manifesto. Start planning a joint project, including young people in the decisions.

Monitor and evaluate any progress, including young people in the process.

Put your project plans into real action.

Report and publicise your ideas, progress and results online and print materials.

Stay in touch with PCNP Next Generation to share your experiences – learn and inspire!  
[www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales)  
[www.facebook.com/PCNPAYourPark](https://www.facebook.com/PCNPAYourPark)

A photograph of four young people sitting on a grassy cliff overlooking the ocean. From left to right: a person in a blue hoodie, a person in a green jacket and a knitted hat, a person in a white t-shirt using binoculars, and a person in a plaid shirt with a large green backpack. The ocean is a deep blue-green, and a rocky island is visible in the distance. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

We look forward to working with you to create an exciting future for nature, rural areas and young people.

#PEMBSCOASTNEXTGEN

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Next Generation - Youth Committee



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