

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

**SUBJECT:
CORPORATE EVENTS**

During the course of a year, the National Park Authority is invited to attend various corporate events. Attendance at external events is an important part of Members' duties and, whilst it is acknowledged that other calls are made on their time, it is expected that Members will attend a number of these during their term of office with the Authority.

Set out below are those events to which Members have been invited to date this year:

1. UK Association of National Parks Workshop 26th - 27th June 2012, Royal York Hotel, York on the theme of Engaging Local Communities (briefing note attached) (*4 Members*);
2. Members' National Induction Course hosted by the Peak District National Park Authority on the 18th – 20th September 2012 (*usually new Members*);
3. National Parks Wales Annual Members' Seminar which will take place on 8th and 9th October 2011 at the Giltar Hotel, Tenby (*all Members*).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members determine and authorise the level of representation at the above-mentioned corporate events.

Background papers:
Respective fliers for the events concerned

(For further information, please contact Janet Evans, Administration & Democratic Services Manager on extension 4834, or by e-mailing janete@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

UK ANPA Annual Members Workshop 2012
Engaging Local Communities
Royal York Hotel, York – 26 / 27 June 2012

Introduction

Our National Parks are national treasures – safeguarded on behalf of the Nation for their natural beauty, diverse wildlife and cultural heritage. They are also home and workplace to over 400,000 people who face many challenges, from the pressure for affordable housing to far-reaching changes to farming. National Park Authorities must manage their duty to conserve these special environments alongside their duty to foster the social and economic well being of these local communities.

Ensuring the diverse communities who live, work and play in our Parks are actively engaged and are able to contribute in a constructive and meaningful way is critical if we are to successfully achieve our National Parks aims and purposes. Effective engagement is also key to the way in which National Parks are perceived. It is important to acknowledge that there is no 'one size fits all model' - Engagement needs to be fit for purpose & relevant to the local community. As different communities will inevitably want to be involved in different ways 'engagement' is not a single process but more a spectrum of different processes which can be defined as 'ladder of participation' consisting of four levels – Empowerment; Involvement; Consultation and Information-giving.

There is already a wide range of excellent engagement practice demonstrated by NPAs at all four 'levels'. It is however vital that we continue to develop our approach to community engagement – exploring innovative, cost effective solutions, using new cutting edge technologies and reaching out to new audiences. As the Workshop will demonstrate there is much for us to learn across the Parks from each other and from other Sectors.

Learning objectives of NPA Members' Workshop:

The workshop will:

- consider the breadth of community engagement practice - consolidating existing processes/approaches and identifying potential opportunities
- identify the **policy drivers** for effective local community engagement (such as the Vision for National Parks; Localism Act; neighbourhood planning; governance review within England; strategic equality plans; declining resources in terms of CSR)
- consider the **benefits** of wider community engagement
- explore the **challenges** of community involvement (processes; resources – human and financial; population size)
- consider the **respective roles** of the National Park Authority and the Member in local community engagement
- showcase **best practice** models of engagement across the UK as well as considering models which have been less successful
- explore **alternative models** for engaging more effectively and efficiently and seek to maximise the potential of strategic partnerships

The Workshop is generously supported by:

