

CONSERVATION AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE

19th February 2014

Present: Mr D Ellis (Chairman)
Councillor S Hudson, Councillor B Kilmister and Councillor PJ Morgan.

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 2.15p.m. – 2.35p.m.)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C Gwyther and Councillor A Lee.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2013 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2013 be confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

(a) Delegation of any issues of concern to the Continuous Development Group

Referring to the above-mentioned Minute, the Director of Park Direction and Planning reminded Members that they had raised concerns about the fact that members of the public were unable to access planning applications on the Authority's website, which was in contrast to Pembrokeshire County Council. She reported that she had recently attended a meeting with the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, together with representatives of the Welsh Government and Pembrokeshire County Council when it was agreed that the Council would pursue the matter. The Minister stated that he would monitor the situation.

NOTED.

4. Performance report for the period ending 31st December 2013

The report of the Business and Performance Manager presented performance to date for the Park Direction Team in accordance with the new Corporate Strategy for 2013/14, which was based on four strategic outcomes. Each of the actions reported on were shown as red, amber or green in the report, depending on the level of progress made.

He went on to say that, at this point in the financial year, most actions were underway and on target, although for some the work was concentrated in the second half of the year. He added that the majority of the measures were also on, or close to, target for the period in question.



He then illustrated some of the figures presented graphically in the report using the Ffynnon system which, due to timing, were exactly the same.

Referring to the actions and measures relating to conservation, it was reported that some sites had been removed from the 'active management' list as they were in a stable condition. This meant that the resources allocated to those sites could be used to manage new sites. The Business and Performance Manager went on to say that a lot of work was being undertaken with local farmers and landowners, advising them to enter the Welsh Government's Glastir scheme.

Turning to the Development Management figures, it was reported that planning officers were consistently determining over 70% of planning applications within the 8-week target and were currently fourth in the Welsh Government's quarterly report. The Chairman welcomed the statistics, particularly given the current political climate for joint working; however, he acknowledged that more work was required on monitoring/enforcing of planning conditions. The Business and Performance Manager replied that development work on this aspect was ongoing, and investigating computer solutions to a database were underway.

Councillor B Kilmister suggested that the vast majority of developers would discharge their planning conditions properly, and a balance needed to be struck between the need to check every condition and the cost of doing so. Officers added that the Authority prioritised enforcement work according to NP adopted policy and was now being much more proactive and in addition checks were carried out by other bodies such as the building regulations authority.

Actions and measures for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and economy and access were also reported.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Performance Report for the period ending 31st December 2013 be received.

5. Affordable Housing Update

Members were reminded that at its meeting in October 2013, the National Park Authority had adopted a report from the Scrutiny Committee on affordable housing. The report before Members provided an update on implementation of the conclusions of that Scrutiny Committee report.

The most substantive area of work was the commissioning of consultants to identify ways of improving the delivery of affordable housing in the National Park and this was on target for completion as



programmed at the end of March 2014. It was anticipated that a workshop would be arranged for Members in the Spring.

It was **RESOLVED** that progress made on taking forward actions from the Authority's Scrutiny Committee into affordable housing be noted.

6. Delegation of any issues of concern to the Continuous Improvement Group

It was **RESOLVED** that there were no issues of concern that the Committee wished to delegate to the Continuous Improvement Group for consideration.

