

West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee

At the July 2015 meeting of the Area Management Committee, a review of the operation of the committee was presented. This included a commitment to explore the potential for a large project with external funding for partners to work together on.

Scoping of a Potential Volunteer Project

Over summer 2015, officers reviewed the potential for an externally funded project to support the large number of volunteers active in the area and enhance the role that they play. However, there is limited availability of external funding and it proved impossible to find a unique angle to present on this project to potential funders. It therefore was not a viable use of limited officer time to develop this proposal to a stage where funding applications would be submitted.

Future meetings of West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee

With the limited resources available for local authorities at the present time, and limited attendance of members at recent committee meetings, it is necessary to continually review the operation of the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee.

The local authorities and other partners would not communicate as effectively without the partnership. However, without specific resources and a formal decision making function, the current format of the meetings could be limiting attendance. It is proposed to adopt a different format for meetings and that future meetings of the committee take the form of a regular seminar with presentations about the projects that partners are delivering, and with a wide invitation list to anyone with an interest in the area, its conservation and recreational access. This could include current members of the committee; county, district and parish councillors representing wards within the area and representatives of conservation, access and recreation organisations.

The first meeting in this format could take place in July 2016, but if members wish the meetings to continue, then there needs to be a commitment from all partners to take a turn in hosting and organising these meetings. Lancashire County Council would be able to host the next meeting, but would not be able to continue to do so. In addition, partners need a commitment to sharing information and invitations to the meeting widely, giving presentations and updates about the key activities they are undertaking on a regular basis.