

Exmoor National Park Authority (NPA) Exmoor Panel Update 16/01/20

Rural Enterprise Exmoor:

The project aims to better understand the breadth and depth of business activity within the National Park.

Following the hugely successful business engagement workshop with over 100 attendees a full business survey was launched to gather views on challenges and opportunities. This consisted of a shorter summary survey and a more in-depth survey – the survey was closed this week with over 300 responses received, of which 250 had completed the full extended survey.

Project partners (ENPA, Somerset West and Taunton, North Devon and West Somerset Opportunity Area / SCC) will be considering the draft results to identify areas where further research is required to fully understand the issues coming forward. These issues will be explored at two focus groups which respondents will be invited to at the end of Feb.

Following this all the evidence gathered through the survey along with audit and mapping work completed (which has identified 50% more businesses than first appear through official statistics) will be published in the late Spring.

The final stage will involve further consultation with stakeholders from both businesses and other partner organisations to identify the best opportunities to maximise the opportunities identified and overcome any challenges.

For further information please contact Dan James, Sustainable Economy Manager at ruralenterprise@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Eat Exmoor

ENPA is working with partners to promote greater uptake of local produce within the area reducing environmental impacts and adding value to the local economy. Following work linking hospitality providers with producers over the last 18 months the current focus is working with food retailers in the Exmoor area to better promote local products available within stores with distinct Eat Exmoor branding and supporting materials. For further information please contact Katrina Munro, Economy Project Officer, KJMunro@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk.

Rural Worker and Succession Farm Dwelling Guidance Consultation

A Representation Statement and the amended draft final Rural Worker and Succession Farm Worker Dwellings Guidance was out for [consultation](#) until 13th January.

The Representations Statement explains how the consultation has been carried out at key stages in the preparation of the guidance:

- the organisations and individuals who were invited and how they were invited to make representations;
- summarises the main issues raised as a result of the consultation, and how they have been addressed.

Taking account of responses, it is intended that a revised draft guidance document will be adopted by the Authority as Supplementary Planning Document to enable greater weight to be given to it when deciding relevant planning applications.

Climate Change Emergency

The NPA declared a climate emergency in October and agreed to work towards being a carbon neutral Authority by 2030. A detailed action plan will be developed to be presented to Authority Members. There is potential to work with the Exmoor Partnership Plan groups to respond to the climate emergency. This extends the work done so far looking at the Authority's own corporate carbon footprint.

Work is also happening at a County level led by Devon and Somerset County Councils. Devon's Net-Zero Task Force would like to hear what people and organisations think should be done to help reduce carbon emissions in Devon. Everyone is invited to submit suggestions, ideas and evidence for proposals that help to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the development of a Devon Carbon Plan. The consultation can be accessed at <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-carbon-plan/call-for-evidence/>

BT Consultation Proposals for Public Telephone Box Removals

BT consulted Somerset West and Taunton Council (SW&T) from August to November last year on a programme of public payphone removals affecting three public phone boxes at Bridgetown, Exford and Luckwell Bridge. Two of the payphone boxes affected are traditional K6 red phone boxes. SW&T consulted those parish and town councils affected. Exmoor National Park Authority wrote to SW&T (and BT) on 26th October to object to the removal of heritage 'K6' phone boxes at Bridgetown and Luckwell Bridge and on grounds of inadequate mobile phone signal. The NPA made a holding objection for the box at Exford in light of the information then available. The NPA has received confirmation that their responses were received and the outcome of the consultation is awaited.

Exmoor Historic Signposts

The Exmoor Historic Signpost Project provides support to volunteers maintaining the National Park's distinctive traditional signposts. It follows a 2-year project in 2017-2018. The project covers the whole of the National Park and adjoining parishes and is managed by a local Steering Group. As all signposts remain the property of the County Councils, volunteers must complete Health and Safety training organised by SCC and they also register as SCC volunteers to be covered by their insurance.

Once registered and trained, volunteers can 'adopt' signposts from a list, or offer to assist. Communication with other volunteers is facilitated through a GDPR compliant group email system. ENPA have established a fund to support the purchase of equipment and parts through CareMoor. The NPA is recruiting volunteers to help with the following:

- To sign up as a lead volunteer and 'adopt' signposts
- To sign up to offer assistance to a lead volunteer
- Volunteers monitor the condition of adopted signposts and clean, clear vegetation and repaint those signposts which need minor refurbishment

What can the project offer?

- Training to cover health and safety (arranged by SCC)
- Training on cleaning and repainting signposts

- Funding to cover the cost of equipment
- Support and guidance to include paint and equipment, help with forms and liaison with Somerset County Council Highways team.

For signposts in need of more major restoration, or in hazardous positions, then contractors may be employed to help out.

Information and links can be found at: <https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/get-involved/exmoor-historic-signpost-project> Signpost locations are on the NPA [interactive signpost map](#) and there is more information on Exmoor's Historic Environment Website: www.exmoorher.co.uk

Next Steps

If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved with the project please contact:
Patrick Watts-Mabbott, (Volunteer and Outreach Officer) Tel: 07973727469

Email: PWatts-Mabbott@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or

Shirley Blaylock (Conservation Officer, Historic Environment) Tel: 01398 322289

Email: SJBlaylock@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

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