

# STANAGE FORUM

A chance to have your say

## REPORT OF THE 7th STANAGE FORUM

Held Saturday 12 November 2005, 2-5:00pm, Bamford Institute

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### A. Attendance and meeting statistics

The meeting was attended by 21 people in total.

The age distribution was:

0-16	0%	41-55	7%
17-25	7%	55+	71%
26-40			

## 1. Stange Byways Forum - 4 x 4 and trail bike use of the Long Causeway

This process ran alongside the full forum during the summer. Consensus was reached as to how to try to improve the situation for everyone on the Long Causeway non-classified road (which runs from Redmires Reservoirs, over the Edge to Dennis Knoll). Full reports are available on the website or on request. Agreements include a voluntary Code of Respect, some physical works (erosion repair, making it one-way, etc) and other measures (a hierarchy of routes throughout the Peak District, traffic recording and education/publicity). Although not everyone could gain 100% of what they ideally wanted on such a difficult and polarising issue, everyone could agree to at least try these measures and hope that they improve the situation for all concerned. As with all forum objectives, they will now be reviewed annually to see how well they are working. The Stange Byways Working Group will meet again in one year to co-ordinate this review.

## 2. Revised parking/traffic management plan

Following views expressed at last year's Forum, the Steering Group has now finalised a revised plan for introduction over the coming year. See last year's 6<sup>th</sup> Forum report for all background details. The revised plan basically involves a voluntary approach (rather than a clearway), using temporary signing, which will be minimal and only used at busy weekends when the car parks are full.

Signs will follow a 3 stage approach as the area gets busier:

- x Stage 1: Welcome, please park in the car parks
- x Stage 2: Diverting parking from the first to fill up (usually Popular End /Hook's Car and Bubage Bridge) to the other less busy ones (especially Plantation/Hollin Bank, where the pay & display will hopefully be made voluntary on such occasions, subject to consultation with PDNPA's Recreational Facilities Manager)
- x Stage 3: Car parks full, please use the bus or try elsewhere today

All signs will then be removed Sunday/Bank Holiday Monday evening.

There was a brief discussion as to whether we should reserve parking spaces for minibuses. As they tend to arrive before the car parks are full, it was agreed that we should monitor the situation and reconsider this suggestion if any noticeable problems occur.

## 1. Pay & Display

Following the introduction of new car park bylaws by PDNPA's Recreational Facilities Manager, rumours fuelled widespread concern that more pay & display machines were to be introduced and existing ones, such as at Plantation (Hollin Bank) were to be rigorously enforced. There was much website debate and articles in the climbing press, such as the BMC's Summit Magazine.

The following statement from Sean Prendergast, Head of Access & Recreation Service (who oversees Recreational Facilities) was displayed:

- x "There are no plans to introduce pay & display at Stanage other than where it currently exists
- x Also, there are no plans to employ wardens to enforce the bylaws"

Matthew therefore appealed to people to go back to parking inside Plantation/Hollin Bank Car Park and to stop the protest parking along the roadside outside the entrance.

## 1. Parking monitoring

Parking patterns were recorded during the bird breeding season and these showed a similar pattern to the previous two years. Stanage continues to be very busy and over parking capacity most weekends. The only notable difference in pattern, was a decrease in parking levels at Dennis Knoll (High Neb). There has also been a slight decrease in parking levels overall. It is felt that this was due to the designation of open country under the CRoW Act, which provided more new alternatives to Stanage, particularly Bamford Moor, which has seen a marked increase in parking.

## 5. Ring Ouzels

As in the previous two years, there were only 2 successful nests on Stanage, below the target of 4-5. However, where the nests were located again gives great hope for the future. They were both on very busy parts of the Edge, at Balcony Buttress and Twin Chimneys. Two other nests were very close to success, failing quite late on in the nesting process at Count's Buttress and the Trig Point (both believed to have been predated). A technical group meeting will follow in February 2006 to look at the season's results in full and consider what to do for next breeding season. Everyone was thanked for their co-operation.

## 6. Derby College leaving North Lees Farm

The farm tenants, Derby College, have given their Notice to Quit and will be leaving North Lees at the end of September 2006. They were thanked for all their hard work over the past 17 years, which has resulted in the farm being left in much better condition, with miles of walling and hedging being completed, as well as improvements in conservation value of almost all of the now floristically rich fields.

PDNPA outlined a two phase process which it recommends for reviewing the future management of the farm:

- x **Phase 1: Agree objectives for the farm** - i.e. what should be achieved on the ground. This should involve fleshing out the relevant objectives already in the agreed Estate Management Plan and reconsidering any previously ruled out. This will be done at a technical group, involving the Stange Forum Steering Group and other key stakeholders, at the end of November 2005.
  
- x **Phase 2: Assess the best management options** - i.e. whether to relet another tenancy on the same basis or to do something different. PDNPA is open to all suggestions at present. These will need to be assessed against criteria set out in its Asset Management Review of properties (see below), weighing up pros and cons in terms of achieving National Park purposes. The Steering Group will also be involved in this phase of the process.

### Asset Management Review Criteria

- x Review properties against NPA objectives
  
- x Consider other options to secure objectives
  
- x Verify any legal constraints on disposal
  
- x Examine how alternative management arrangements could release resources
  
- x Consider how to focus resources on retained properties

#### **D. Review of Forum structure/ Suggestion to establish a trust/partnership**

With the College leaving the farm and PDNPA undertaking an asset management review of its properties, the Steering Group felt that it is an opportune time to review the Forum's role in managing the Estate.

The Steering Group therefore cautiously suggested that further consideration should be given to devolve greater responsibility to the Forum by setting up some kind of partnership or trust to act as a management body.

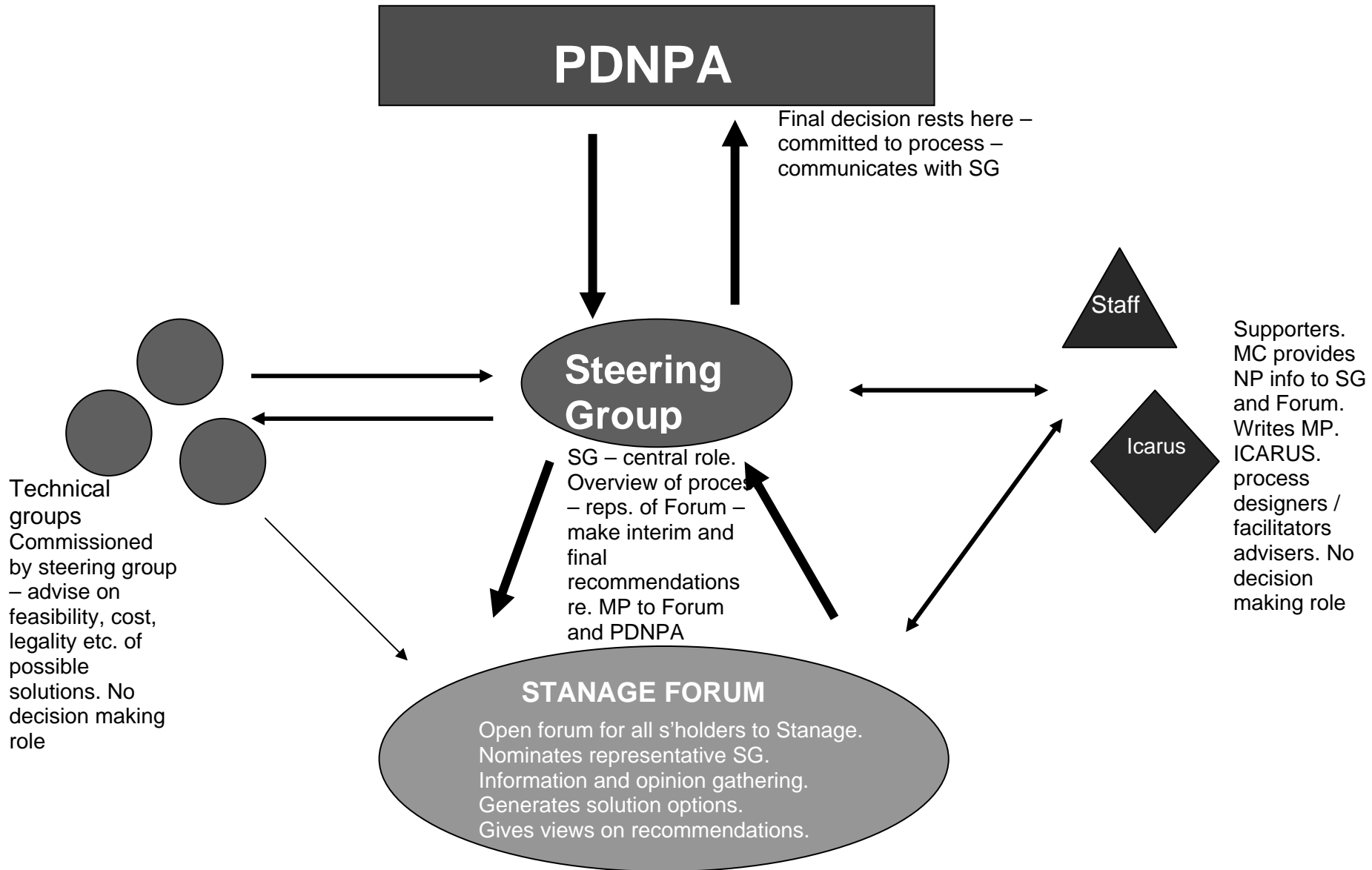
#### **Why consider a trust/partnership?**

- x To build on the successful Forum model, which has led to stakeholders taking much more moral responsibility and a sense of "ownership" of the Estate.
- x PDNPA is facing severe resource problems, with £250,000 cuts in 2006/07 and £500,000 in 2007/08.
- x To achieve greater integration in managing the Estate (whose campsite, car parks and woodlands are managed by different departments of PDNPA)
- x The "many heads are better than one" principle of partnerships could lead to more resources and expertise delivering more for the area
- x More grant and fundraising opportunities are likely to be open to a charitable trust or a partnership.

The idea of establishing the Steering Group as a trust was previously ruled out during the drafting of the Estate Management Plan (in 2001) for the following reasons:

- x The Steering Group was working well as it was (but it might be possible to retain the good aspects of the SG as part of a new structure).
- x There were no great resource problems at that time (which there are now).
- x The SG said that we should first seek to get the income from the car parks and campsite to contribute directly to the Estate and public transport. (Due to PDNPA internal review, this has gone further away from the Estate).

The existing structure is as follows:





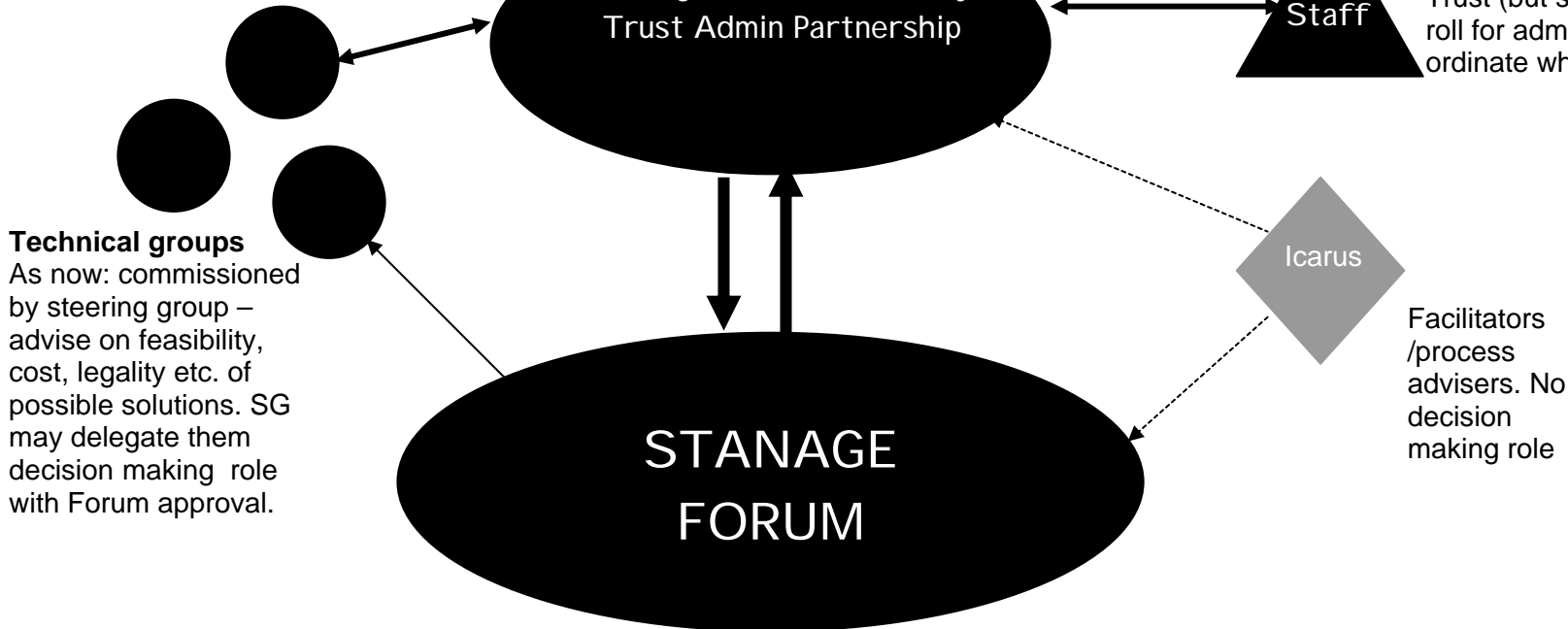
The following 2 similar suggestions for the Forum to set up a Trust to take on the budget and greater responsibility for Stanage were put to attendees:

**Suggestion 1**

Trust – comprising funding partners/key SG members , PDNPA Senior officer and 2 PDNPA members – makes it happen: manages the budget to meet objectives set by the Forum. Reports annually to PDNPA & Forum.

Still owns the land but steps back and is no longer the final decision-maker. Reserves right to take back control if it goes seriously wrong – in terms of meeting National Park purposes. Senior officer and Member to join SG and Trust

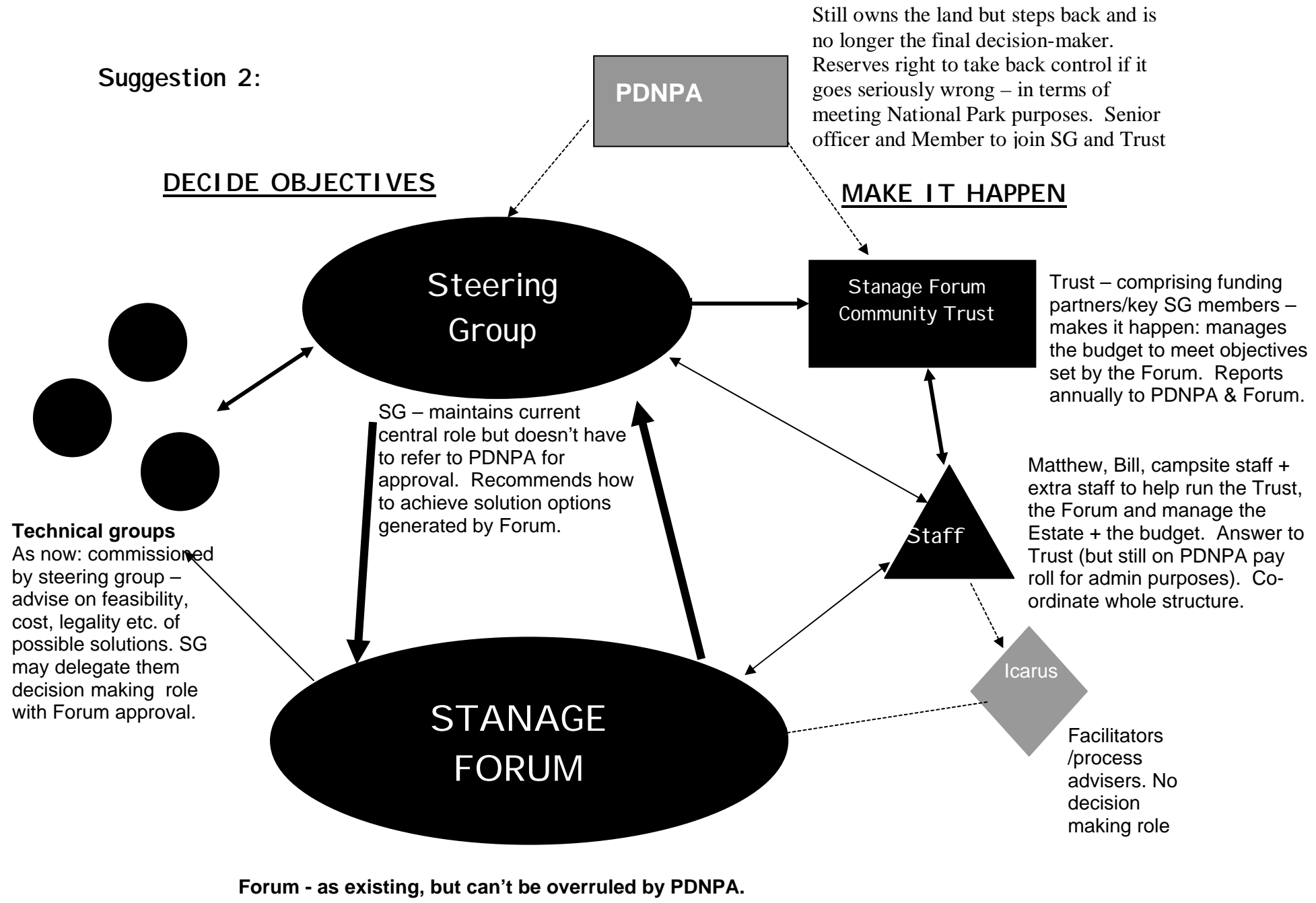
Matthew, Bil, campsite staff + extra staff to help run the Trust, the Forum and manage the Estate + the budget. Answer to Trust (but still on PDNPA pay roll for admin purposes). Co-ordinate whole structure.



**Technical groups**  
As now: commissioned by steering group – advise on feasibility, cost, legality etc. of possible solutions. SG may delegate them decision making role with Forum approval.

**Forum - as existing, but can't be overruled by PDNPA. Open forum for all s'holders to Stanage (including PDNPA officers!). Nominates representative SG. Information and opinion gathering. Generates solution options. Gives views on SG recommendations.**

**Suggestion 2:**



These were discussed in 3 working groups, who then came together to discuss and conclude as follows:

- x Everyone agreed that giving more responsibility to the Forum for the Estate has merit and is worth pursuing further.
- x Some also commented that there should be a concerted effort to lobby for greater funding so that the Authority can adequately resource its land management and that it should not need to investigate other sources of funding, such as this Trust idea.
- x It was felt that we should not be restricted to charitable trust status. There are many types of partnership or management group, which should also be investigated further.
- x It was acknowledged that a charitable trust should be able to draw in further grant aid to fund projects on the Estate, perhaps doubling resources. However, such a Trust would need long-term security regarding core funding, should grant aid dry up.
- x Further detailed work is needed on a Trust idea, such as remit/status/responsibilities and the membership of it. Those eligible to join and their roles will need tighter definition than for the current Steering Group. The Forum should democratically vote members on to the Trust/Group. As a comparison, it was reported that Dales Housing's board is constituted of one-third tenants, one-third councillors and one-third technical people needed to run it. It was commented that if a charitable trust is to be set up, then such issues will have to be addressed anyway, to meet charity commission rules.
- x Any funders must be agreed by the Forum and should then be represented on the Trust. Sir Hugh Sykes, who has just bought Brookfield Manor, was suggested as a potential funding contributor. However it was agreed that we should wait and see what he does before deciding whether to approach him or not.
- x People were unsure whether the Steering Group should become a Trust or whether a Trust should be a sub-group of it (although more were in favour of the latter). However, everyone agreed that, in moving to a Trust set up, we must ensure that we don't lose the good characteristics and members of the Steering Group we have now.
- x The Estate should be integrated, including the campsite and car parks. Budget information is needed on this whole picture, including all officer time/staff costs, to aid further decisions concerning a Trust and funding of it.

## Detailed comments

The above results came from a summary debate of all comments made when attendees worked in 3 separate groups. The written comments of the individual work groups were as follows:

**Do you think giving more responsibility to the Forum is a good idea?**

All three groups replied "yes".

**Can you suggest a better name than "Stanage Forum Community Trust"?**

Suggestions: Stanage Protection/Preservation Group/Trust/Partnership

### **GROUP 1**

- x Thought that structure suggestion 1, where the Steering Group becomes a Trust was best.
- x The trust/committee's make up could be one-third financial stakeholders, one-third interested organisations and one-third interested individuals
- x They commented that whichever structure developed, there must be an active Stanage Forum, involving as many people as possible. It was suggested that there could be 2 Forums per year, rather than just one and that people should be encouraged to get more involved in technical groups.

### **GROUP 2**

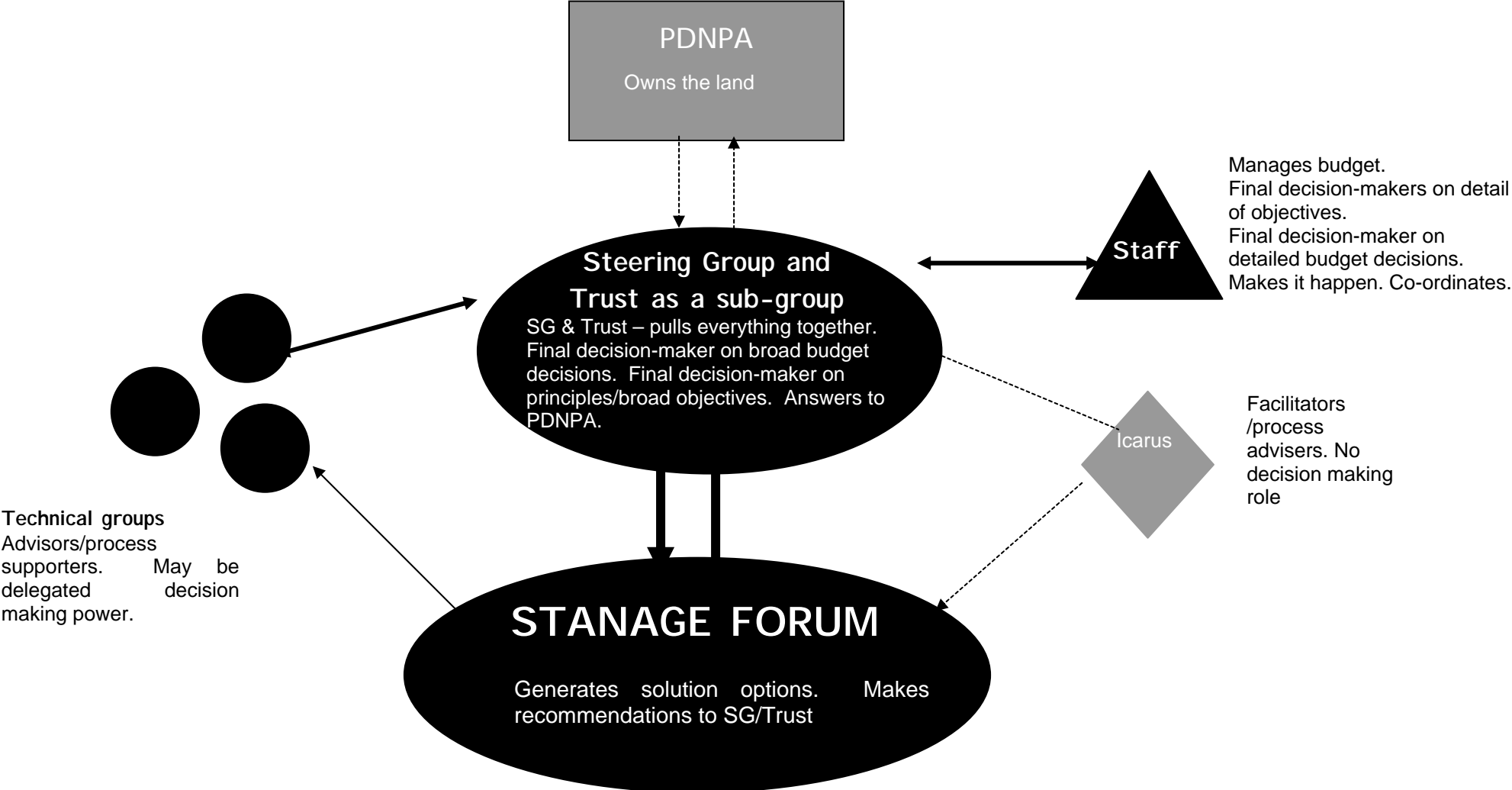
- x Favoured suggestion 2 but where the new Group (not necessarily a Trust) should be a closely related sub-group of the Steering Group.
- x They felt that if the Steering Group became a Trust, we would frighten off some of the existing SG members, so the Steering Group should be retained. The SG is a necessary link with all users and a good decision making platform.
- x Decision making on policy/objectives should stay with the Forum and Steering Group, with the Trust/Group responsible for implementing.
- x Any Trust must be fully integrated with the whole Forum structure.
- x Retain Stanage Forum – it works and is economic!

### **GROUP 3**

- x Similarly favoured suggestion 2 but where the Trust should be a closely related sub-group, answering to the Steering Group and the Forum.
- x The Trust should be the "core" members of the Steering Group plus others with skills/experience in applying for funding.

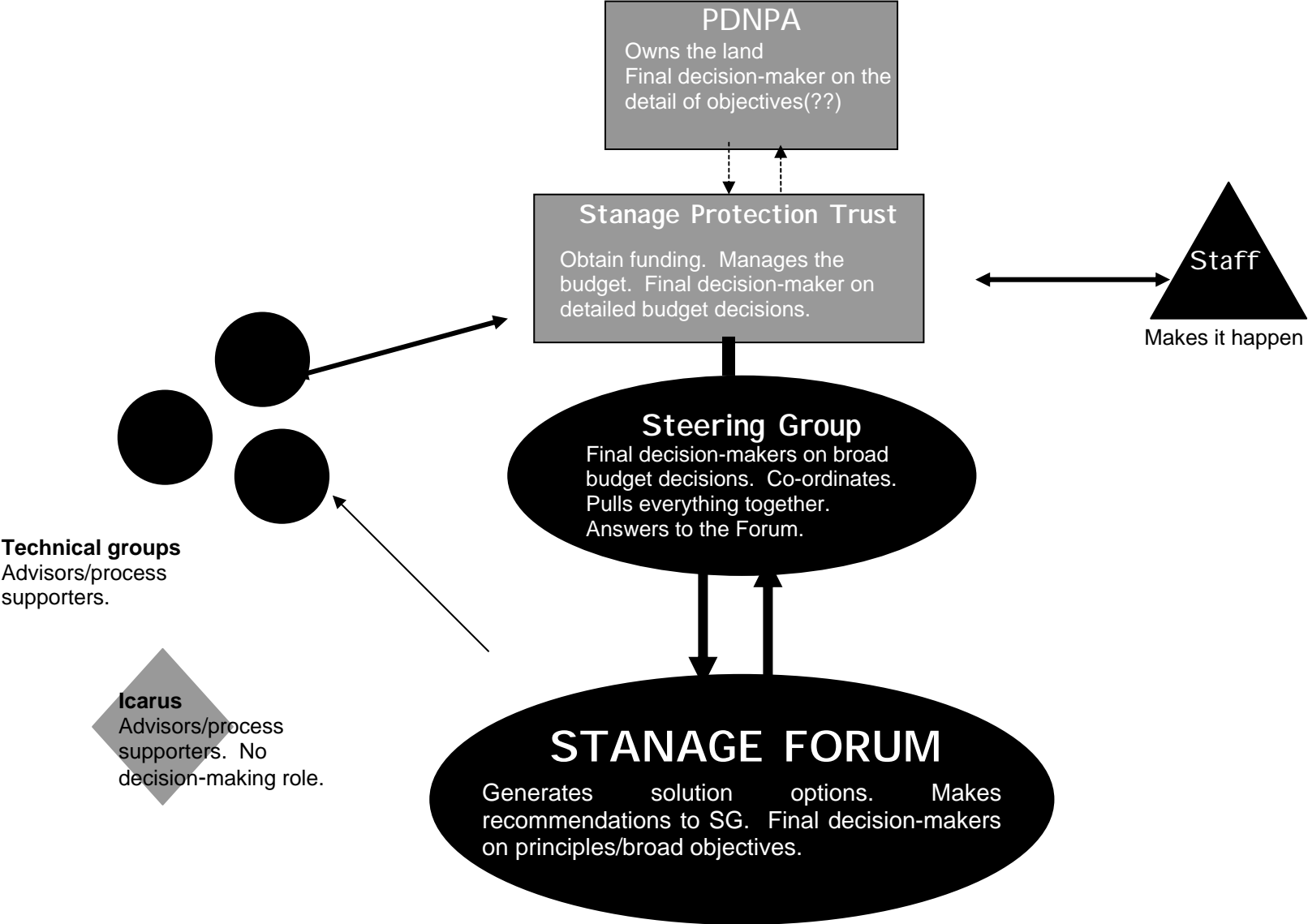
Groups 1 & 3, in making the above comments, drew the following suggested structures:

**GROUP 1's suggestion**





GROUP 3's suggestion





### E. Year 3 Evaluation of the Plan

As detailed in the Plan, certain aspects were timetabled for evaluation this year. (All other aspects of the Plan will be evaluated during its 10-year life span).

Attendees were asked to indicate their responses to the questions below by placing sticky dots on charts in the relevant places, as follows:

Question	Not at all	Not really	Average	Yes/Well	Completely
<b>1. The Vision</b> (for the agreed Estate Management Plan) is: "To care for and enjoy Stanage/the North Lees Estate in a way which respects and enhances wildlife, heritage and landscape"					
a) How well do you think this vision is being met?			14%	86%	
b) Were you aware of this Vision?	17%		17%		67%
c) Can you sign up to the Vision in principle?		14%		71%	14%
d) Do you think the Vision is valid/appropriate/achievable?	14%			86%	

Question	Not at all	Not really	Average	Yes/Well	Completely
<b>2. Communication</b> Do you feel that there is clear, effective communication between the Forum, Steering Group, Technical Groups and PDNPA?				71%	29%

Question	Not at all	Not really	Average	Yes/Well	Completely
<b>3. Ecology/Wildlife</b> The goal for Ecology/Wildlife in the agreed Estate Management Plan is: "To reduce disturbance to wildlife, enhance habitats and provide pollution-free fresh air and water, whilst: maintaining public access; allowing an appropriate level of vehicular access; providing an educational resource; providing income to local businesses and the Estate and maintaining a working farm".					
How well do you feel this goal is being met?			14%	86%	

**F. Next steps**

- x Write up & circulate today's meeting results
- x These will then go to a Steering Group meeting for further consideration
- x Farm Future Technical Group Meetings
- x Report back to you all
- x Remember to think about nominations to join the Steering Group - which is now open for anyone to join at any time (nomination forms and other details attached at Appendix 2).

[REDACTED]: Visit the website: [www.peakdistrict.org/stanage](http://www.peakdistrict.org/stanage) or contact: Matthew Croney, PDNPA, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE. E-mail: [matthew.croney@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.croney@peakdistrict.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 01629 816351.

## APPENDIX 1

Attendance List

Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Jennifer Argent	Student	Jean Hogkinson	Outseats Parish Council
Jacque Bevan	Local councillor	Sean Jennings	Local resident/walking
Tracy Brindley	PDNPA, North Lees Campsite	John Le Corney	Walking & natural history
Rab Carrington	British Mountaineering Council	Chris Manby	PDNPA, Conservation Properties Manager
Derrick Collins	Trail Riders Fellowship	Jane Marsden	Outseats Parish Council
Matthew Croney	PDNPA, Stanage/North Lees Estate Manager	Frank Ogden	Ramblers Association
Richard Entwistle	Green Lanes Association, Peak & Dukeries Land Rover Club	Muriel Prigent	Local resident
Tom Ferguson	Walker & bird watcher	Flo Richardson	PDNPA, North Lees Campsite
Henry Folkard	British Mountaineering Council	Wendy Thomson	
Bill Gordon	PDNPA, Stanage/North Lees Estate Warden	Ben Wilson	All
Rachael Hinchliffe	Cimbing		

**STANAGE FORUM – STEERING GROUP**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**Name of person to be nominated:**

(Self nomination *is* allowed)

.....

**Organisation/Interest:**

**Nominated by:**

**Organisation (if appropriate):**

**We feel this person would be a good representative on the Stanage Forum because:** (Please refer to Steering Group requirements forms)

**Please return to :** Matthew Croney, PDNPA, Aldern House , Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE, e-mail: [matthew.crony@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.crony@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

## ROLE OF THE STEERING GROUP

- x To monitor and assist the National Park and the facilitators in designing and running the Forum process
- x To keep the Forum process focused, true to its objectives, on track and on time
- x To represent key areas of interest in tackling / discussing complex issues beyond the scope of the Forum
- x Set priorities for Forum events
- x Guide the preparation and development of the Plan, assisting with implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision.
- x Keep the process and agreements reached on track, including meeting with key actors responsible for leading on different objectives.
- x Ensure that further identified processes are undertaken (such as the agreed process for addressing 4 wheel drive issues).
- x Ensure that issues of equal opportunities and equity are addressed
- x Provide feedback to own groups and feed members views to the forum process. Feedback should be of agreements reached and should be of a positive, pro-active nature.
- x Ensure key groups and individuals are involved throughout the process
- x To co-opt members and call for extra working groups as necessary
- x To be a representative of the Steering Group as called upon
- x In carrying out the above, the Group should be open, transparent and receptive.

## STEERING GROUP MEMBER PERSON SPECIFICATION

To bear in mind when making nominations

### 1. COMMITMENT

- x High level of commitment needed
- x Need to attend all meetings (ideally)
- x Must be accessible (including phone/e-mail)

### 1. KNOWLEDGE

- x Detailed knowledge of the interest they are representing in relation to Stanage but also (ideally) an understanding of other interests /broad knowledge of the Estate and the local community.
- x Good knowledge and awareness of the needs of their own organisation / interest group

### 1. SKILLS

- x Communication - willingness to listen, meeting skills, questioning, debating
- x Act as channel of communication between steering group and others

### 1. PERSONAL QUALITIES

- x Patience
- x Team working
- x Willingness to get involved - "Do-ers"
- x Ability to listen and recognise the needs of others
- x Commitment to a consensus based approach to management planning
- x Ability to represent both their area of interest and the views of the Forum
- x Stamina!

### 5. ABILITY TO REPRESENT A GROUP OR ORGANISATION

- x Credibility with his/her group/organisation

STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP  
WAYS OF WORKING

- x Consensus principles underlie all of our work – every effort will be made to reach agreements acceptable to everyone, rather than, for example, by voting (which results in winners and losers).
- x Everyone will have the opportunity to have a say and their opinion will be valued.
- x People will work from an open position, where their interests are stated and understood, even if not agreeable to others.
- x People accept, and are willing to work with, each other's differences in order to reach a consensus that benefits all.
- x A draft report will be produced after every meeting for approval by all SG members, then posted on the website (and made available by post).
- x Meeting dates for the whole year will be set every October, on a mixture of weekdays, weekends, mornings, afternoons and evenings.
- x Steering Group decisions will normally be made at the meetings and those that cannot attend may nominate a deputy in their place and forward their views and the deputy's name to Matthew beforehand. The appropriateness of this procedure should be reviewed for each meeting, depending on what is to be discussed.
- x If any member chooses to send a deputy, they must ensure that they have read the role of the Steering Group, the person specification for SG members and these ways of working and are fully briefed about the current issues. They should also be authorised to speak on behalf of their interest group.
- x An independent facilitator will be used when necessary to help the group perform to the best of its ability.
- x We will be open, transparent and receptive in all our work.
- x We will co-opt members and call technical or working groups as necessary.
- x Each member will do their best to keep the people they represent fully informed and involved in the Steering Group's work and in the progress of the Stanage/North Lees Estate Management Plan.
- x Any Steering Group member can add items to the agenda for any particular meeting.
- X Steering Group members should recognise that we operate within a statutory framework which impacts on our work