

*Appendix 5a*

Northumberland National Park Authority

Report to Haltwhistle Town Council

By Andy Saunders Parish Representative

Due to the election, the appointment of the new members was severely delayed not happening until late in July. However, the other members of the NNPA and staff were welcoming and invited us to attend the new members briefing and the annual general meeting despite not being members. This also prevented the new members being appointed to any of the sub committees although gaps were left until the September meeting.

The new National Appointees are still waiting to meet the Secretary of State and hence have not yet been appointed.

The main focus of the NNPA has been on The Sill opening. Not surprising given the amount of money spent!

Initial visitor numbers are above those forecast. The only real issue seems to be the car parks where the upper car park is being washed away and the lower one has turned into a quagmire. The issue on the lower car park is that it was not completed early enough to allow the grass to grow through the matting before it got heavy use. McAlpine's will be back to sort this out but I suspect the lower car park will be out of action for a number of months.

The other area that I was keen to get involved was the review of the planning rules. I thought I would be fighting a losing battle to loosen the rules over more residential dwellings. At the sub-committee, it turns out I was one of many. However, this committee is full of residents of the NNPA. It may be when the other members get to look at the proposed new rules retrograde changes will be made.

It is early days to even understand what the NNPA is achieving and what changes can be made.