**18. DNPA Cycling Guidance - Consultation**

Thank you very much for your comments regarding cycling within the National Park. As I am sure you are aware, there continues to be a growing interest and increased popularity and participation in cycling - particularly around road cycling at the moment, not just in Devon and on Dartmoor, but across the country. I think this is due in part to the success in the London 2012 Olympics, high profile events such as the Tour de France grand depart in Yorkshire this summer and Tour of Britain. Government is also investing a lot into cycling as well to reduce reliance on motor cars, health and well-being agenda and benefits to the local economy and tourism.

Whilst we recognise the benefits that cycling can bring to Dartmoor through tourism and rural economy, the flip side of all this, is of course the impact on local communities and on rights of way and other designated routes - potential for increased erosion for example. As the newspaper article stated, we are producing a simple set of guidelines aimed at cyclists which we hope will get the message across about cycling responsibly on Dartmoor. I have attached a copy of the draft guidance - a press release is due to go out early next week and I will be discussing with our Communications Team how we best get this out to local communities.

We have also included some advice for event organisers - particularly around cycle sportives which have seen an increase in popularity recently in the UK. The Authority's role here is to provide advice to organisers and relevant agencies, bearing in mind that this Authority has no jurisdiction over the highway network within the National Park. As regards the Dartmoor Classic, from next year this is being brought under the scrutiny of the relevant Safety Advisory Group, which consists of highways, emergency services etc and DNPA also has a seat at the table as and when necessary.

In the meantime, please feel free to circulate to others. I would be grateful if any comments could be added to the feedback form attached. I would also be very interested to hear of any other ideas you may have on ways in which cycling could be managed better within the National Park.

Regards, Andrew Watson, Head of Recreation, Access & Estates