Submitting Questions to the Authority

PROTOCOL

1. The Authority will allow 20 minutes during an Authority meeting for members of the public to have their say by allowing them, subject to prior notification (as per point 2 of the protocol), to ask questions and to receive a reply.

2. Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Director of Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

3. Subject to paragraph 9 of the protocol, questions may be asked on any subject matter relevant to National Park duty and purposes.

4. Only one question on one subject matter will be allowed.

5. The invitation to speak and the conduct of the meeting is at the discretion of the Chair of the Authority or in his/her absence at the Vice Chair's discretion and subject to the points set out below.

6. At the meeting, the Chairman will invite the individual to ask the question. Questions should be clear and brief and should be the same as the question submitted in writing. Statements will not be allowed. The Chairman will then ask a member or officer to respond. At the discretion of the Chairman the individual may ask a supplementary question arising from the reply received.

7. The individual who has tabled the question will normally ask the question. However, she or he may nominate someone else to ask the question. The prior permission of the nominee must be obtained.

8. The Authority will use its best endeavours to answer the questions at the meeting. If the question cannot be answered satisfactorily at the meeting the individual will be informed and a written reply will be sent as soon as possible.

9. Questions concerning the following matters will not be allowed:
i. personal or private matters
ii. confidential financial or legal matters
iii. issues which are considered to be racist or slanderous
iv. individual planning applications

10. The Director of Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer) will decide if a question should be allowed in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Authority.

11. A written explanation will be given if questions are not allowed.