

Date: 3rd April 2025

Dear All,

Village Caretaker Grant Scheme 2025

I wrote to you last October confirming arrangements for 2025 whilst informing you that the Authority was still reviewing the future operation of the Scheme. This review has now concluded, and we have taken the decision to close the Village Caretaker Grant Scheme from September 30th 2025.

The revenue funding provided by Defra to National Parks in England (the National Park Grant) is being cut by 8.2% for 2025/26 whilst the outlook for revenue funding beyond this period looks extremely challenging. As this is the source of funding for the Village Caretaker Grant Scheme it now makes it very difficult to sustain the Scheme beyond our stated commitment of this year. Over the past 15 years the North York Moors has had an effective 40% cut in real terms in the amount of its National Park Grant; this on-going financial pressure has required many difficult decisions to be made, including this one. I am aware that this will be disappointing news to the small number of villages within the National Park who are the current beneficiaries of the Scheme.

Our review concluded that there is a more sustainable way to support our villages by focusing on providing resources which closely align with the statutory purposes of the National Park, its Management Plan outcomes and where external funding is more resilient. Later this year we will outline how we propose to do this from 2026 onwards. This new approach will allow a wider and more equitable distribution of support to the 100+ villages within the National Park.

In the meantime, if you wish to make a claim for 2025 you are invited to complete the form and return it for processing as soon as possible after receipt, but all claim forms should be returned **no later than 12 September 2025**.

This single claim form covers the 12-month period from October 2024 to September 2025.

Payments will be made soon after your completed form is received and all grant payments will be issued by 10 October 2025, with no payments made after this date.

The claim should be made for 50% of your expenditure, up to the maximum grant payable this year, which remains at £2,750.

Please return your completed form via

*Working together to sustain the landscape and life of the
North York Moors for both present and future generations to enjoy*

The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP
01439 772700 general@northyorkmoors.org.uk
planning@northyorkmoors.org.uk northyorkmoors.org.uk



Email: j.jewitt@northyorkmoors.org.uk or **Post** to Julia Jewitt, NYMNPA, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Brookfield', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Joel Brookfield
Director of Recreation and Wellbeing