



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 29 July 2009

<u>Item</u> 2A

SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP

NOTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009

Responsible Officer Tim Ward
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PRESENT:

Local Authorities

Bridgnorth District Council
Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council
Shropshire County Council

Cllr William Parr
Cllr Tim Barker
Cllr James Gibson

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual member
Individual member
Individual member
Individual member
Parish Council representative
Parish Council representative
Parish Council representative
Parish Council representative
Advantage West Midlands
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Hereford Diocese
Institute of Chartered Foresters
National Farmers Union
Ramblers Association
Shropshire Geological Society
South Shropshire Tourism Association
Upper Onny Wildlife Group/Shropshire
Ornithological Society

Peter Norman (Chair)
George Chancellor (Vice Chair)
David Gibbon
Elizabeth Thomas
Dr Keith Bartlett
Pat Fairclough
Bob Welch
Jenny Collingridge
Amanda Cunningham
Claire Cox
Rev Nick Read
John Voysey
David Watson-Jones
David Shelley
David C Smith
Ian Kemsley
Leo Smith

Observers/Officers

Shropshire County Council

John Harrison
Tim Ward
Neil Willcox
Peter Lindsell
David Francis
Peter Banford
Phil Holden

Bridgnorth District Council
South Shropshire District Council
Shropshire Hills AONB Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Glyn Barratt (Chair – LEADER Approvals Panel), Tony Bostock (Teme Fisheries Association), Jane Bushell (Telford & Wrekin Council Officer), Claire Fildes (AONB Team), Bill Klemperer (English Heritage), Stewart Minton-Beddoes (Country Land & Business Association), Jon Parry (Walford & North Shropshire College), Sally Powell (Natural England), Ben Shipston (National Trust) and Michael Whithouse (Caring for God's Acre).

2. Co-option of New Member

It was proposed, seconded and duly **resolved** that Glyn Barratt become a member of the AONB Partnership.

3. Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising.

It was resolved that the note of the meeting held on the 21 October 2008 be approved subject to the addition of Ms Alison Caffyn to the list of apologies.

The Chair thanked Members for appointing him as Chair and informed them that this would be his last year as Chair of the Partnership.

The AONB Manager informed the meeting that the draft Terms of Reference had been passed to the County Council's Legal Department for comment and then would go through the approvals process at each partner authority.

The Chair advised members that there would be one extra item on the agenda – The Shropshire Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation.

4. AONB Management Plan Review

A report presenting the revised draft Management Plan for endorsement had been circulated. The AONB Manager thanked those members that had made comments on the Management Plan. He said that whilst many had resulted in useful changes to the Plan, he had needed to take account of the balance of comments and in some cases had made no change. He informed members that there was a summary of the comments received and responses to these available on the AONB website.

The AONB Manager informed members that to cut down on the size of the printed document, the 'State of the AONB' section of the Plan would be produced electronically. This section was largely factual and was not included in today's paper. He added that some of the Actions had been refined as a result of comments and further thought. The AONB Manager informed the meeting that the draft plan had been supported by the Overview Committee and the Cabinet at Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, and by the Executive Committee of South Shropshire District Council, and that the draft plan had been taken to two County Council Scrutiny Panels. He went on to say that the Plan would be taken to the Implementation Executive of the new council in March for approval and somewhat later to Cabinet of Telford and Wrekin Council. He then highlighted to members changes in wording of Policies and Positions and received comments from members present.

The Chair thanked the AONB Manager and his team for the immense amount of work that had carried out in preparing the Management Plan.

It was **resolved** that the AONB Partnership endorse the revised draft Plan and recommend it and to the local authorities for formal approval.

5. LEADER Update

Pete Banford, LEADER Co-ordinator gave a short update on the work being carried out on the LEADER project. He reminded members that the theme for the programme is improving the wellbeing of people in and around the Shropshire Hills by building on a sense of place and attachment to the landscape.

Mr Chancellor asked for guidance on the type of projects that would be funded. The LEADER Co-ordinator advised that the minimum grant would be £5,000 and that there was a degree of performance accountability and reporting that might deter smaller projects. Discussion followed regarding the types of projects that may qualify for funding.

The Chair thanked the LEADER Co-ordinator for his presentation.

6. Current and Planned AONB Partnership Projects

A paper giving members an update on projects being carried out by the AONB was tabled. The AONB Manager apologised that Ms Fildes could not be present as due to the Partnership meeting being rearranged she had a clash of dates. He talked briefly through the projects and asked members to contact Ms Fildes if they had any queries.

7. Shropshire Core Strategy: Issues and Options Consultation

The AONB Manager informed the meeting that the new Shropshire Core Strategy was the most important local planning policy document in relation to the AONB, and the Issues and Options stage was the main opportunity to influence it. He gave a brief presentation on the key choices in the consultation and offered some thoughts from the perspective of the AONB Management Plan.

Mr Francis described the place of the Core Strategy within the Local Development Framework and outlined the issues contained in the consultation document.

Discussion followed regarding the options contained in the consultation and how they would affect the AONB.

The Chair commented that the issues contained were very important and that the Partnership should make a strong and considered response to the consultation. He felt that a special meeting of the Partnership was needed to consider the consultation fully. It was agreed that a meeting of the Partnership should be held as soon as practical to discuss the consultation.

8. Dates of Next Meeting

Members were asked to note that the date of the summer meeting had been altered as the original date was immediately after the Unitary Council elections and it was not practical to hold the meeting then.

It was agreed that the next meetings of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership would be held on: -

Wednesday 29 July 2009
Tuesday 20 October 2009.