



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Thursday, 19 June 2014
My Ref:
Your Ref:

Committee:
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Date: Tuesday, 1 July 2014
Time: 10.45 am
Venue: Harley Village Hall, Harley, Much Wenlock, SY5 6LP

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| George Chancellor (Chairman) | Carol Griffiths |
| Tim Barker (Vice Chairman) | Dawn Griffiths |
| Alison Caffyn (Vice Chairman) | Geoff Grimes |
| Heather Kidd | Alan Jones |
| Cecilia Motley | Sue Jones |
| David Turner | Jenny Joy |
| Chris Turley | Jo Jury |
| Harriet Carty | Bill Klemperer |
| Edward Dugdale | Sue Lee |
| Fiona Pidduck | Marc Liebrecht |
| Elizabeth Thomas | Hazel MacDowell |
| James Williamson | Vivienne Parry |
| Dr Keith Bartlett | Ronald Repath |
| Gillian Binks | David C. Smith |
| Tony Bostock | Leo Smith |
| Sarah Bury | Andrew Tyley |
| Lee Chapman | Simon West |
| Veronica Cossons | Caroline Whiteman |
| Dave Cowell | Michael Whithouse |
| Ian Dormer | |

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 252739

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence

2 Note of the last meeting (Pages 1 - 6)

The note of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 is attached for approval

3 AONB Partnership Activity and Staffing Update (Pages 7 - 14)

This paper provides members with a summary update of recent activity of the AONB Partnership staff team and a staffing update.

4 Connecting Shropshire Broadband Programme Update

To receive a presentation from Ben Walker Marketing and Engagement Manager Connecting Shropshire

5 Planning Pressures and the AONB

Report to follow

6 LEADER 2015 - 20

Report to follow

7 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership will be held on Tuesday 18 November 2014

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Agenda Item 2



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| <u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 1 July 2014 10.45am | <u>Item</u> 2 Public |
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Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2014 9.30am – 12.05pm

Responsible Officer Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252739

Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council

Cllr T Barker (Vice Chair)

Cllr Heather Kidd

Cllr D Turner

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member

Alison Caffyn (Vice Chair)

Individual Member

George Chancellor (Chair)

Individual Member

Edward Dugdale

Individual member

Liz Thomas

Individual member

James Williamson

Town & Parish Council representative

Michael Braid

British Horse Society

Ronald Repath

Long Mynd & District Bridleways Association

Sue Lee

Ramblers Association

Sue Jones

Shropshire Geological Society

David C Smith

Shropshire Hills Tourism

Lee Chapman

Strettons Civic Society

Ian Dormor

Upper Onny Wildlife Group and Shropshire

Leo Smith

Ornithological Society

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

John Harrison (Environment and Sustainability Manager)

Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership staff
team

Pete Banford (LEADER Co-Ordinator)

Clare Fildes (Development Officer)

Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

Joy Howells (Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country
Landscape Partnership)

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Bury (CPRE), Harriet Carty (Individual Member) Veronica Cossons (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), David Cowell (National Trust), Geoff Grimes (Shropshire Tourism), Deb Hughes (Shropshire Council Officer), Marc Leibrecht (Institute of Chartered Foresters), Fiona Pidduck (Individual Member), Chris Turley (Telford & Wrekin Council), John Voysey (Institute of Chartered Foresters), Bob Welch (Town & Parish Council Rep), Simon West (Forestry Commission) and Michael Whithouse (Caring for God's Acre)

Note of Last Meeting

2. It was resolved that the note of the meeting held on 19 November 2013 be approved.

AONB Partnership Activity Update

3. A report had been circulated updating the Partnership on recent activity by the AONB Partnership staff team.
4. The AONB Partnership Manager took the meeting through the report and highlighted the following points: -
 - The Shuttles service for 2013 had been completed with over 7,500 passenger journeys made between May and September. Two services had been commissioned for 2014, the Long Mynd - Stiperstones Shuttle and the Castle Connect service.
 - Additional funding had been secured for the Sustainable Development Fund, and the Panel were starting to assess the applications for the next round of funding. The annual awards were about to take place and any Partnership members that would like to assist with the Panel were asked to contact the Development Officer as soon as possible.
 - The AONB Management Plan for 2014-19 had been approved by both local authorities, following endorsement by the Partnership and formal observations by Natural England.
 - Further work on the development of a new charitable body linked to the AONB Partnership had taken place, and contract had been let to provide specialist advice. Following receipt of this advice, the Management Board had agreed to take more time to consider the options for this body due to the possibility of potential for divergence of such a body from the aims of the AONB Partnership and the difficulties of establishing the links in an appropriate way. There were also issues around the amount of officer time necessary against the likely financial benefits in the short term.
5. Mr L Smith paid tribute to the AONB Partnership Manager and the AONB staff for all the work involved in the production of the new Management Plan.
6. The AONB Partnership Manager then took the meeting through the new staff structure. He informed the meeting that Mike Kelly had taken up a new broader

- role as Natural Environment Officer across the whole AONB. He went on to advise that the Planning & Landscape Officer was being made redundant at the end of March due to financial cuts. It was intended that the planning role would now be split between other members of staff and that he would maintain oversight of planning matters.
- 7 Mrs Kidd expressed concern regarding the capacity of the team to deal with planning matters, as with the current difficulties caused by the lack of a five year land supply she expected number of applications would be made. The AONB Partnership Manager shared the concern, but said that the level of planning policy work had reduced and that a number of the staff would be involved with dealing with planning matters. The Chair commented that there was need to have a degree of co-ordination to ensure that nothing was missed.
- 8 The AONB Partnership Manager then took the meeting through the budget update. He advised the meeting that staff costs had risen in the 2014 - 15 budget due to the fact that Mike Kelly's salary now formed part of the core budget rather than the project budget as previously. He went on to say that further consideration was being given to alternative office accommodation for a number of reasons including operational, the possibility of reducing costs and also financial risk.
- 9 The Chair commented that securing a future round of LEADER was a critical part of the future for the AONB Partnership.

Shropshire Council Reorganisation

10. The Environment and Sustainability Manager advised the meeting that he would be leaving Shropshire Council shortly. He went on to say that his leaving had prompted a review of the management arrangements for the hosting of the AONB Partnership staff team. The Partnership would be moving to the Outdoor Recreation Partnerships team under Deb Hughes. Mr Leo Smith highlighted the need for the team to retain links with other parts of the Council including natural environment, following the reorganisation.
11. The Chair thanked the Environment and Sustainability Manager for all the work he had done on behalf of the Partnership and the AONB. The AONB Partnership Manager and other members of the Partnership echoed these sentiments.

Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme

12. The meeting received a presentation from Joy Howells, Landscape Partnership Manager on the Stiperstones and Corndon Country Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme, which outlined the current work being undertaken and future plans for the scheme.
13. The Chair commented that it was a good scheme that would also make a valuable contribution to the local economy. The Chair thanked the Landscape Partnership Manager for all the work she had undertaken in getting the scheme under way. He looked forward to further updates on the progress of the Scheme, and potentially visits as part of a Partnership Tour.

LEADER 2015 – 19

14. A report had been circulated making a recommendation that the AONB Partnership bid to be the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) for the Shropshire Hills for the 2015-20 round of funding.
15. The LEADER Co-ordinator reminded the Partnership that transition funding had been secured which had enabled an extension to his post, and that during this year a review of the performance of the 2009 - 13 programme would be carried out and a new Local Development Strategy (LDS) would be prepared for submission by August 2014.
16. The LEADER Co-ordinator advised the meeting that the priorities set by DEFRA for the next round of LEADER were:
 - Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification
 - Support for increasing farm productivity
 - Support for rural tourism
 - Support for increasing forestry productivity
 - Provision for rural services
 - Support for cultural and heritage activity

He said that these priorities offered great potential for the AONB but there was need to explore the risks and potential conflicts between the priorities and the primary purpose of the AONB. He added that the development of a LDS which fitted with the aims of the AONB should overcome any potential conflicts.

17. The LEADER Co-ordinator reminded the meeting that the Partnership had earlier expressed a preference to continue with the same area as previously. DEFRA had expressed a wish for LEADER to cover rural areas not previously covered, which was also supported by Shropshire Council, but the levels of money available were not yet clear. The AONB Partnership Manager commented that it had been suggested within Shropshire Council that the possibility of having one LAG to cover the whole of the county should be investigated, but that he felt that this would be impractical. He added that there possibly two other LAGs being applied for, one in the north of the county and one in the Severn Valley.
18. The Environment & Sustainability Manager informed the meeting that he had attended a meeting at DEFRA and they had stressed the importance of the economic activities within LEADER. The programme needed to connect with other funding schemes through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) but was seen as an opportunity to pilot approaches. He went on to say that it was important that the three potential LAGs did not compete with each other and that if necessary some sort of compromise should be reached.
19. After further discussion it was resolved that the Partnership -
 - i support the development and submission of a new LEADER Local Development Strategy for 2015-2020, linking economic outputs strongly to the qualities of the AONB, and with the AONB Partnership as the Local Action Group (with detailed structures to be decided in due course).
 - li approve the role of the LEADER Development Group to support development of the LDS, with any significant decisions coming back to the Partnership.

Proposed Clee Hill Heritage Project

20. A report had been circulated giving a summary of the proposed Clee Hill Heritage Project.
21. The Development Officer took the meeting through the report and outlined the aims and objectives for the scheme which were to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of Titterstone Clee and surrounding area for the benefit of local people, visitors and the local economy. She went on to outline the range of activity that was proposed.
22. The Development Officer advised the meeting that an application would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. and that if successful stage 1 funding would allow the employment of a full time project development officer to draw together a detailed stage 2 application. If this were successful, funding would be used to deliver project activity over 2016 – 2019.
23. Following further discussion it was resolved that the Partnership –
note the proposals for the Clee Hill Heritage Project and the opportunity to input comments to the further development phase if the stage 1 bid is successful.

Planning Update (verbal)

24. The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that at the Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting where the final SAMDev document was discussed, the New House Farm site had been removed as a preferred site and other sites in Church Stretton had been agreed.
25. The Chair informed the meeting that he had spoken at the Cabinet meeting on behalf of the AONB Partnership.
26. The AONB Partnership Manager warned the meeting that as the Council did not have a 5 year land supply there may still be a planning application made for the New House Farmsite and that we must be vigilant for this.

Date of Next Meeting

27. The Chair advised members that due to the original date clashing with the Conference of the National Association for AONBs, the date for the July meeting had been changed and that dates for future meeting were confirmed as :-

Tuesday 1 July 2014 and
Tuesday 18 November 2014

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| Committee and Date Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 1 July 2014 |
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| Item 3 |
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AONB PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY UPDATE

Responsible Officer Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager
e-mail: phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk **Tel:** 01588 674088 **Fax** 01588 674099

Summary

This paper provides members with a summary update of recent activity of the AONB Partnership staff team, and a staffing update.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the information provided and offer comments.

KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS IN 2014-15 TO DATE (April 2014 - present)

Take and co-ordinate action to conserve and enhance natural beauty, to promote wellbeing, enjoyment and understanding and to further sustainable development.

- **Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme**

The LPS entered its second year of delivery on 1 April (although full team were only in post from Sept 13 and the Chirbury office was occupied only from Nov 13). Since April the team have been focusing on projects requiring seasonal input, particularly the Ground-nesting bird recovery project (i.e. promotion and land owner liaison/visits, breeding season monitoring surveys through volunteers), Wildflower meadows, pastures and verges (i.e. liaison with meadows owners, ID skills and condition survey training, preparation for meadow surveys, soil testing and prep of donor and recipient green hay sites) and Community Wildlife Groups (i.e. training of volunteer surveyors, organisation of bird and plant surveys, support to volunteer surveyors).

Cultural heritage project activity has focused on the Open hills, old ways and commons project with a launch event in Pontesbury at the beginning of May attended by 75 people, and community archaeology LIDAR training and field survey work has started this month June. Other work has focused on liaison with site owners (at Cothercott mine, Hyssington and Wilmington motte & bailey castles, and Pontesbury 1784 Engine House) to agree future capital, access and interpretation works. The Helping hillforts & earthwork castles project has started with support from Shropshire Council Historic Environment Team and Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust. The Down to Earth project in the Churchstoke area has progressed with engagement events during April and a number of community learning/sharing activities are planned for July/August 14.

The Education Officer has worked with Norbury School alongside Cath Landles to progress their John Muir Award 'Explorer' award and has recently started working with a group of boys from Mary Webb School to undertake JMA 'Discoverer' award. He has

laid the foundations for working with Stiperstones, Hope and Churchstoke primary schools during the next academic year. He has been planning a Young photographers project with Shropshire Media Network which will involve students from Welshpool High School, Mary Webb School and Science College and Bishop's Castle Community College and will run over Summer 2014.

Since April, the LPS has organised 18 events including family geocaching Easter egg hunt, Down to Earth engagement event, Churchstoke churchyard practical task day (with Caring for God's Acre), Community Wildlife Group bird and plant walks and training events, International Dawn Chorus Day guided walk, Land Between Lands (LIDAR) launch event, Curlew Capers family event, Open Farm Sunday event, Meadow plant ID and condition training, Butterfly ID training, LIDAR training day and fieldwork week (16-21 June), Callow Hillfort guided walk, and support to the Bishop's Castle Walking Festival.

See <http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/>

- **LEADER** Transition year continues with development for new programme 2015-2020. Evaluation report for 2009-13 programme completed. Meetings have been held with other potential LAGs in Shropshire, with Defra and with Shropshire Council. A proposed working area covering the south of the county (south of M54/A5/A458) has been submitted to Defra for approval. Contact with local partners has been opened up and a series of business consultation events undertaken. The new Local Development Strategy must be submitted in early September.
- £22,703 allocated in **Sustainable Development Fund** grants to 9 projects (see below) for 2014-15 with additional funding from Jean Jackson Charitable Trust and Millichope Foundation. Some projects from 2013-14 continuing.

| Name of Organisation | Name of project | Amount of grant | Planned total project value | Rate of grant |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Jenny Stevens/Beetles and Bees | HAWTHORN Wildlife Web Award | £2,200 | £3,524 | 62.4% |
| Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust | Clun Forest Community Landscape Heritage | £3,000 | £7,573 | 39.6% |
| Shropshire Media Network | Dip - wild swimming film | £3,000 | £5,000 | 60% |
| Craven Arts CIC | Shropshire Hills Art Week | £3,000 | £15,780 | 19% |
| Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group | Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group | £1,000 | £1,333 | 75% |
| Shropshire Wildlife Trust | Discover Nature: Clun Valley John Muir Award | £3,330 | £6,530 | 51% |
| South Shropshire Youth Forum | Clee Youth Development Programme | £2,500 | £9,222 | 27.1% |
| Loudwater Studio | Loudwater Studio in the Shropshire Hills | £2,673 | £3,564 | 75% |
| Four and Twenty Arts CIC | Art Adventures in the Landscape | £2,000 | £7,930 | 25.2% |
| TOTALS | | £22,703 | £60,456 | |

- **Rivers.** Majority of 2013-14 site works complete for SITA funded River Clun Freshwater Pearl Mussel Project (completes August 2014) and additional Natural England funded activity. Capital work programme well supported by volunteer involvement to undertake riparian tree planting and river monitoring. Extreme winter weather delayed implantation of some capital works for both SITA and NE. Ongoing projects include: Removal of a woody debris dam on the Clun SAC, installation of solar pasture pump on Clun SAC, Hydraulic ram livestock watering system upper Clun, installation of sediment traps and upland re-wetting project supported by SWT. Meeting of Clun Catchment Partnership held, and input to Teme Partnership, Severn Uplands Partnership, Clun Steering Group, Clun Field Officers Group and Clun Nutrient Management Plan Group. The Clun Himalayan Balsam strategy was sent out for consultation and is now finalised.

£216k of WREN (landfill tax) funding secured for four year project focussing on freshwater pearl mussel recovery sites, runoff pathways and a lower Clun rural SuDS project. Includes a NERC funded research bid working with the University of Worcester investigating resistance in alder to *Phytophthora* disease. Third party contribution secured from Natural England.

<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/projects/rivers/>

- **Shuttles** services for 2014 under way, including second season of Castle Connect service from Ludlow. 330 people used the services in the first Easter weekend. Promotional roadshow held.
- SDF funded **Buy Local** project. Six business networking events and a Sustainability Event have been completed and 35 renewals or new members are being recruited to the **Shropshire Hills Sustainable Business Scheme**, now at 66 members. SBS Awards event held in April.
- **Walking with Offa co-operation project** Around a hundred people attended the Walking with Offa Conference on 9 April in Craven Arms. Proposals being developed for second phase of project to include business engagement and volunteer development. Key themes will be heritage, wildlife and culture.
<https://www.facebook.com/WalkingWithOffa>
- **Better Outcomes on Upland Commons** Team members undertook (as a fee-earning opportunity) a case study on the Long Mynd as one of five nationally for a project led by the Foundation for Common Land. Involved interviews with 13 stakeholders, a joint meeting and preparation of a report. The project focussed on mechanisms for the successful delivery of multiple outcomes (e.g. biodiversity, access, farming) and the potential for developing payments for ecosystem services. Attended London meeting of national sponsor bodies and continuing role in disseminating findings of the project.
- **Proposed Clee Hill Heritage Project.** Project planning is now complete and has involved a wide range of stakeholders. Stage 1 application delayed until 9 September due to decisions regarding ongoing leases for the heritage sites.
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/projects/clee-hill-heritage-project/>
- **Promotion** activity. 6 press releases issued and continued output on social media. Joint Shropshire Hills 2014 Events programme and visitor guide well distributed. Website updated. AONB display at a number of events. 2015 Visitor Guide in preparation jointly with Shropshire Hills Tourism.

- **Advice and support** to a range of activities and projects, including Walkers are Welcome group, joint work with CPRE and Norbury School, Bishop's Castle Town Hall, Stiperstones Bioblitz event, Long Mynd Dark Skies initiative,
- Proposed **Marches Uplands project** Discussions ongoing with Bulmer Foundation and Herefordshire Rural Hub on development of a project along the lines of the earlier Shropshire Hills Farming project. Attendance at national Uplands conference at Penrith.
- Meeting of **Wrekin Forest Partnership** convened, and support for process to establish a new Management plan for the Wrekin Forest area.

Develop policy and strategy for the area through the AONB Management Plan, and influence the policies and strategies of others.

- Text version of approved AONB Management Plan 2014-19 published on website. Design contract let.
- **Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan** Mid-term review of Strategy completed with Shropshire Hills and Ludlow Destination Development Partnership. Destination logo and consistent of text adopted in further in websites and literature. <http://www.shropshirehillstourismpartnership.org.uk/>
- Input to local authority and other **steering groups** (Local Nature Partnership Board, Biodiversity Partnership, Offa's Dyke Path Liaison Group, Southern Walking Forum and others). Represent West Midlands LAGs on national LEADER Exchange Group. Engagement with Local Enterprise Partnership regarding LEADER.
- **Planning.** Submissions on three planning applications – 2 dwellings at Snailbeach, accommodation block at Wenlock Edge Inn, and further comments on poultry sheds Corfton Farm. (see <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/planning/planning-consultations/>).
- Input to Ordinary Watercourse consents and other **non-planning casework**.

Develop the AONB Partnership as an inclusive and effective organisation.

- Input to **National Association for AONBs**, through frequent information sharing and consultations. Business Engagement is being investigated through a new Peer to Peer mentoring project organised by NAAONB. Brainstorming session with business representatives in London 23 June. Will result in defined process for AONB Partnerships to approach businesses for funding and opportunities for joint working <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>
- Staff appraisals completed and training on meeting and presentation skills through LPS. Discussions about possible alternative office premises. Shared contacts system in place across the team. Team-building practical task day held.
- Further development work on **new Charitable body** linked to AONB Partnership, including Development Group and specialist advice contract. Following the advice received, the Management Board have agreed to take more time to consider options before going ahead with an application to the Charities Commission.
- Additions made to **financial reserves** from unattached income within 2013-14.

Support the involvement of the community in the management of the AONB (also a cross-cutting theme in some items above).

- Support and advice for a wide range of **community projects**.
- New programme of **volunteer-led guided walks**, with new system established and six volunteers recruited to date.
- John Muir Award programme with **schools** (education/activity programme themed on wild places), currently working with Norbury and Bishop's Castle primary schools.
- **Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB** currently has 95 members (with some renewals pending). Friends social event planned for 13 July – bus tour on LPS Rescuing Rocks & Overgrown Relics project. A volunteer has offered to help with member recruitment.
- Attendance at AONB Partnership led **events** (excluding Landscape Partnership Scheme):

| | | |
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| 2 April | Sustainable Business Scheme Awards Ceremony | 28 |
| 2 April | Norbury School, John Muir Award visit to Gleanings | 24 |
| 27 April | Onny Valley Round guided walk | 7 |
| 30 April | Clee Hill School, John Muir Award introductory session | 25 |
| 2 May | LEADER Business Consultation workshop | 17 |
| 3 May | From Clunbury quietness to Massacre at Hopton Castle, walk | 5 |
| 7 May | Bishop's Castle School John Muir Award, Walcot Wood visit | 32 |
| 7 May | LEADER Business Consultation workshop | 18 |
| 11 May | Trees of the Shropshire Hills walk with John Tuer | 15 |
| 20 May | Sustainable Business Scheme event at Long Mountain Centre (CANCELLED) | 0 |
| 3 June | Sustainable Business Scheme event with Appleteme | 6 |
| 11 June | Bishop's Castle School John Muir Award, Bury Ditches visit | 34 |
| 14 June | In Berlin the last hours before the War with Keith Pybus, walk | 16 |
| 19 June | Clee Hill School John Muir Award, Novers Wildlife Day | 25 |
| | TOTAL | 252 |

STAFFING

As earlier reported, due to ongoing budget reductions, the Planning & Landscape Officer post (3 days/week) was made redundant at the end of March 2014, and Glynn Barratt left at that time. As part of this restructure, Mike Kelly took up a new core role of Natural Environment Officer on 1 April. This will give renewed emphasis to the natural environment in our work, in line with the new Management Plan. This role encompasses our ongoing rivers work, but seeks to work more widely across the AONB on a range of areas including uplands, woodlands, ecosystem services, etc. The continued momentum of the rivers work will affect how much new activity can be taken on board and how quickly. The proposed arrangement with planning casework is to involve a range of members of the team, co-ordinated by the AONB Partnership Manager, though this has yet to be fully rolled out. There is nevertheless an inevitable reduction in staff resources overall available for planning work.

Clare Fildes, Development Officer, is leaving the team to take up a post with Shropshire Council's Outdoor Recreation Partnerships team at the beginning of July. This has prompted a review of the team structure and options for replacement of this post. Partly in view of the recent creation of the Natural Environment Officer post, and also with a view to

development opportunities for other members of the team, it has been decided not to refill the Development Officer post directly, but instead to create a new different post of Sustainable Tourism & Business Officer. This will sit alongside the Natural Environment Officer in terms of grade (and potentially also the Community Officer, subject to a regrading process), creating a structure in which a number of more senior members of the team will have responsibility for developing new projects, accessing external funding and managing project staff. This is shown in the diagram in Appendix 1. The restructure also allows for the Landscape Partnership Scheme and LEADER to come under the direct line management of the AONB Partnership Manager, which is felt to be advantageous given the large scale of these programmes and the need for maximising alignment and synergies.

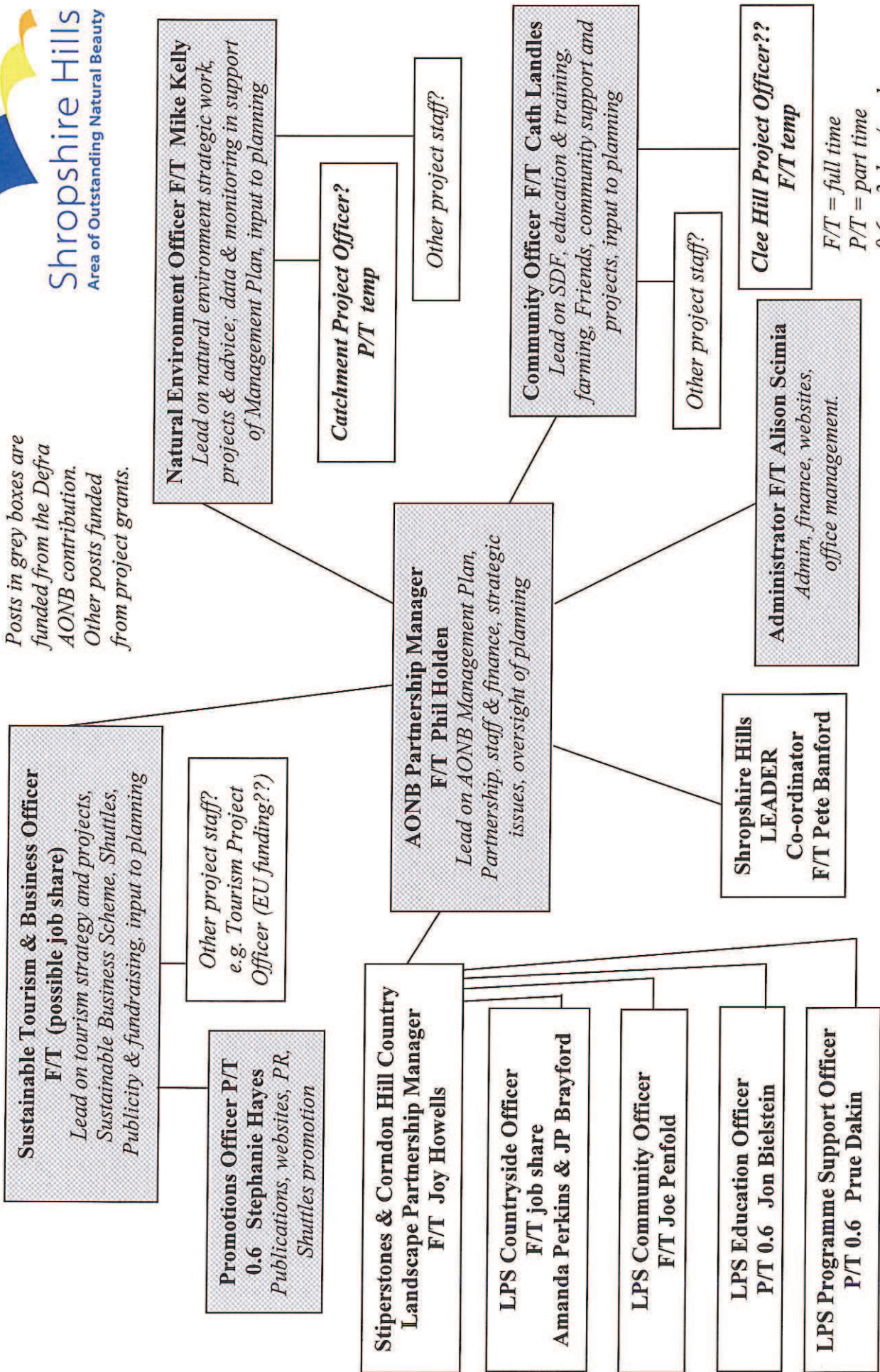
The new structure of the AONB Partnership staff team from 1 July 2014 is given as Appendix 1.

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| <p>List of Background Papers Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-19. The full 2014-15 Team work programme can be made available to members on request.</p> |
| <p>Human Rights Act Appraisal The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.</p> |
| <p>Environmental Appraisal The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.</p> |
| <p>Risk Management Appraisal Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.</p> |
| <p>Community / Consultations Appraisal The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.</p> |
| <p>Appendices Appendix 1 Shropshire Hills AONB Team proposed structure from 1 July 2014</p> |

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership staff team (new structure from 1.7.14)



Posts in grey boxes are funded from the Defra AONB contribution. Other posts funded from project grants.



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