



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

Date: Wednesday, 15 November
2023

My Ref:

Your Ref:

Committee:
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Date: Thursday, 23 November 2023

Time: 9.30 am

Venue: Shropshire Room, Craven Arms Community Centre, Newington Way,
Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9PS

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

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chairman)

Cecilia Motley (Vice Chairman)

Heather Kidd

Hilary Luff

Dan Morris

Chris Turley

Emma Bacon

Alison Caffyn

Rachel Cockett

Adrian Cullis

Sue Manns

Gillian Preece

Francis Acton

Tony Haighway

Ruth Houghton

John Luck

Steve Pennington

Sarah Farquhar

Sarah Bury

Gillian Binks

Matthew Lawrence

Wayne Barnes

Bill Klemperer

Robert Harris

Jim Bunce

Sue Lee

Nigel Jackson

Carol Griffiths

Andrew Hearle

Hazel MacDowell

Charles Edwards

Jenny Rouquette

Veronica Cossons

Nick Read

Leo Smith

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence

2 Minutes of the last meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

The note of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 is attached for confirmation

3 Election of Chair and Vice Chairs and seats to Strategy & Performance Committee

To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and to appoint the members of the Strategy and Performance Committee.

4 Appointment of nominated trustees to Shropshire Hills AONB Trust

To appoint Rachel Crockett as an appointed trustee to the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust

5 Background induction briefing about the National Landscape

To receive a briefing from the National Landscape Team Manager

6 Young Rangers Creative Evaluation Film

To receive a presentation from Joe Penfold - Young Rangers Officer

7 Management Plan Review (Pages 5 - 10)

This paper briefly introduces a workshop session to be held at the meeting to progress the Management Plan review.

8 Partner Updates

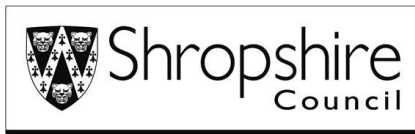
To receive brief updates from Partner Organisations

9 Sustainable Tourism Strategy - consultation on objectives and draft actions

Report of the Sustainable Tourism Officer is **TO FOLLOW**

10 Dates of Future Meetings

To agree future dates for meetings of the Partnership



Shropshire Hills
AONB Partnership

23 November 2023

9.30 am

Item

Public

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2023 9.30 - 11.45 AM

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council

Cllr Hilary Luff

Borough of Telford & Wrekin

Cllr Chris Turley

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member

Alison Caffyn

Individual Member

Gillian Preece

Individual Member

Fiona Williams

Town & Parish Council representative

John Luck

Town & Parish Council representative

Ruth Houghton

Town & Parish Council representative

John Long

Town & Parish Council representative

David Mills

Caring for Gods Acre

Gill Binks

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Sarah Bury

CLBA

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chair)

Land Life & Livelihoods

Joy Greenall

Longmynd Adventure Camp

Jim Bunce

National Farmers Union

Carol Griffiths

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Veronica Cossons

South Shropshire Climate Action

Nick Read

Upper Onny Wildlife Group

Leo Smith

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB

Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

Partnership Staff Team

Nigel McDonald (Sustainable Tourism Officer)

89 **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

89.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

89.2 Apologies for absence had been received from Pete Banford, Pete Carty, George Chancellor, Janet Cobb, Adrian Cullis, Rob Harris, Cllr Heather Kidd, Sue Lee, Cllr Dan Morris and Cllr Cecilia Motley.

90 **Minutes of the last meeting**

90.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the AONB Partnership held on 23 March 2023 be approved as a true record.

90.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that Janet Cobb had expressed an interest in the vacancy for a trustee for the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust and that he would be meeting her later in the week to discuss this further. He reminded the meeting that there was still one vacancy and asked members to let him know of anyone that may be interested.

91 **National Landscapes Rebranding**

91.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which set out some background on the national rebranding initiative for AONBs to become known as National Landscapes. He also gave a presentation which gave further details of the options that had been considered.

91.2 Members generally welcomed the new logo.

91.3 In response to a query regarding whether the colour palette had been tested to ensure that it was visible by those with visual impairments the AONB Partnership Manager commented that he thought it had but would check.

92 **AONB Management Plan Review**

92.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which introduced a workshop session to be held at the meeting to start generating a new Management Plan vision.

92.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that the vision contained in the management plan had been developed for the 2009-14 plan and that it was felt that it needed updating for the review of the plan due to be carried out.

92.3 Members then went into a workshop session to consider what should be included in the vision.

93 Review of Sustainable Tourism Strategy

93.1 Members received the report of the Sustainable Tourism Officer which set out the background to the review of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

93.2 Members were advised that the current strategy was coming to an end and the AONB were currently starting a review to produce a new 5-year strategy which would be used to support the reapplication for the Europarc Federation Sustainable Tourism Charter, and also feed into the county wide Destination Management Plan.

93.3 Members then split up for a workshop session to identify the issues facing tourism in the area and the objective of the strategy.

94 Brief Update on other AONB Partnership team and NAAONB activities

94.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which brief updates on activity of the team and of the National Association for AONBs.

94.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members of the following: -

- Farming in Protected Landscapes – uptake has increased with 80% of the grant budget for 2023/24 being allocated. An administrator for the scheme was currently being recruited.
- Two of the Young Rangers had attended the International Junior Ranger Camp in Denmark.
- The new shuttle routes had started in May and were being reasonably well used.
- The Biennial appointment of Individual and Parish Council members on the Partnership would take place later in the summer to allow for the newly appointed members to attend the next meeting in November.
- The Partnership was hosting a national NAAONB/NFU liaison meeting part of which would be a farm visit.

94.3 It was agreed that an update would be given on the Shuttle buses at the next meeting.

95 Updates from Partners

95.1 Members received a presentation from Leo Smith on the work he was doing with various organisations regarding conservation of Curlews in the AONB.

96 Date of Next Meeting

96.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 9.30am

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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**Shropshire
Hills
National
Landscape**

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| <u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership 23 rd November 2023 |
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| |
|-----------------------------|
| <u>Item</u> 7 |
|-----------------------------|

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Responsible Officer Phil Holden, National Landscape Team Manager
e-mail: phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 254741

Summary

This paper briefly introduces a workshop session to be held at the meeting to progress the Management Plan review.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note progress and contribute ideas and suggestions on the topics below through the workshop.

Background

The Partnership has held discussions to progress the Management Plan review at the March and July meetings this year. The main outputs of these, on key issues and on the Plan vision, are shown in Appendices 1 and 2.

We will form into three groups for the workshop session (you can choose on the day):
Land Management
Planning
Community & enjoyment

Please could you consider and be ready to input your top few suggestions for the following (don't worry if you may not be able to suggest things for every heading):

Topic 1 Evidence and influences (written suggestions will be gathered – you can write these on the day, or in advance and bring them if you prefer)

- key sources of evidence and information to support the Plan (e.g. reports, data)
- recent higher level strategies or policies on relevant topics which the Plan needs to take into account
- any sources of information you know about on community views on topics related to the Plan

Topic 2 The current Plan (written suggestions will be gathered – you can write these on the day, or in advance and bring them if you prefer)

If you have used the current 2019-2024 Management Plan, please say:

- which sections (policies, guidance, etc) have been the most useful

- which sections (policies, guidance, etc) you think need updating or changing (if possible including why, and what change would you like to see)
- which topics currently don't have policies or guidance and perhaps should have

Topic 3 Actions (discussion in the workshop will focus on this topic)

- key new actions (for any actor) that you think the Plan needs to include or stimulate
- actions where the activity of different partners could be better co-ordinated
- actions that your organisation (if you are linked to one) can take forward to support the aims of the National Landscape in the next 5 years

Some guidance on framing actions:

- We classify actions into categories as:
 - **New Actions** (probably not currently happening, and either arising from the strategic priorities of the Plan or activities about to start anyway)
 - **In Progress** (such as a finite project which is already under way)
 - **Ongoing** (such as continuing relevant roles of organisations)
 - **Aspirations** (some of these are good to include to stretch and make the Plan ambitious, but realising that they may not all be possible to deliver).
- Actions generally have a lead organisation and sometimes supporting partners.
- The Management Plan isn't tied exclusively to a particular source of funding. In most cases the delivery of an action relies heavily on the commitment of the lead organisation.
- Not all actions should be reliant on lead from the National Landscape staff team, as this will limit the potential and scale of activity.
- Assigning actions in the Plan to organisations outside the Partnership is possible but the Plan will probably be less influential with those organisations.

List of Background Papers

Agenda item and papers on Management Plan Review at Partnership meetings 23rd March and 20th July 2023.

Current Management Plan 2019-24 <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/aonb-management-plan>

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

Risk Management Appraisal

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

Appendices

Appendix 1 New or changed issues for Plan review to address (23rd March meeting)

Appendix 2 Collated output from workshop on Management Plan vision (20th July meeting)

Appendix 1 New or changed issues for Plan review to address (23rd March meeting)

The Partnership's light touch review has identified the following issues to address in the full plan review, and as areas for development of new content in the new 2025-2030 Management Plan (note that list is not exhaustive and topics inter-relate and overlap):

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, including integrating and developing content from the Partnership's Climate Change Action Plan, local and national strategies and plans for Net Zero.
- Nature Recovery – linking to the Colchester Declaration, the AONB Nature Recovery Plan and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Agriculture transition, the development of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme and support for those forms of farming most compatible with AONB purposes.
- Priorities set out in the Landscapes Review and government response, and any changes to purposes, duties and targets which result from this.
- The government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (the revision to the 25 Year Environment Plan).
- Closer attention to natural capital assets and the ecosystem services they provide, along with Biodiversity Net Gain, emerging opportunities for green finance, the advantages and disadvantages of carbon offsetting.
- Local authority policies, including the Shropshire Plan (Shropshire Council).
- New Shropshire Local Plan and review directions for the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan.
- Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The vision of the National Association for an uplift to the status of AONBs and the activity of their organisations, rebranded as National Landscapes.
- The evolving roles of small landowners, Town and Parish Councils and the aspirations of local communities.

Appendix 2 Collated output from workshop on Management Plan vision (20th July meeting)

Words/ideas which were most often mentioned are grouped towards the top, as well as by size and bold type. This will be worked up into a draft new vision statement by the team and brought back to a future Partnership meeting.

Sustainability

Nature recovery Reverse nature depletion Wildlife habitats Ecology – conserve and restore Clean rivers
Rewilding

Resilience Climate adaptation Healthy Mitigate climate change

Working landscape Living land and landscape Vitality Productive Sustainable farming Food security
Livelihoods Economically viable Land use Growth

Working together Collective Collaboration Partnership Connected

Beauty Outstanding People's connection Dark skies Peace & quiet

Community Responsive to people – communities and people's lives Caring Home Passion

Protected - through planning Influence planning policy Special significance Quality Enduring

Accessible to all Widening participation Inclusive Open to all Access Enjoyment Celebration Managing visitors
Public transport

Evolving – to meet needs Dynamic

Heritage

Culture

Quality of built environment

Villages