



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

Date: Monday, 5 June 2017

Committee:
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Date: Tuesday, 13 June 2017
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

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

Members of Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

James Williamson (Chairman)	Sarah Bury
George Chancellor (Vice Chairman)	Lee Chapman
Heather Kidd	Veronica Cossons
Cecilia Motley	Ian Dormor
Robert Tindall	Patrick Edwards
David Turner	Carol Griffiths
Chris Turley	Alan Jones
Mr Andy Boddington	Sue Jones
Alison Caffyn	Jenny Joy
Mr John Pritchard	Bill Klemperer
Mr Tom Whiteman	Sue Lee
Mr John Woolmer	Marc Liebrecht
Ms Hilary Claytonsmith	Hazel MacDowell
Janine Hayter	Mr David Mills
Yvonne Holyoak	Mr Andy Pugh
Mr Clive Leworthy	Ronald Repath
Steve Pennington	David C. Smith
Mr John Tucker	Leo Smith
Caroline Bedell	Ms Donna Tavenor
Gillian Binks	Michael Whithouse
Mike Brogden	

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 21 March 2017 is attached for confirmation

3 Update on Submission to Defra for Creation of a Conservation Board

To receive a verbal update from the AONB Partnership Manager

4 Brexit Issues And Shropshire Hills AONB (Pages 5 - 8)

This paper examines some of the implications of Brexit issues on the AONB Partnership and outlines some possible responses and questions for discussion in a workshop session.

5 AONB Team Work Programme Update (Pages 9 - 14)

This paper provides an update on recent activity by the AONB Team.

6 Appointment of Trustees to the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust (Pages 15 - 16)

This paper seeks reappointment of George Chancellor as a Partnership-nominated trustee on the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, and if possible to fill a further nominated trustee vacancy.

7 Joint Tour Event - 7 July 2017

To receive a verbal update from the AONB Partnership Manager on the Joint Tour Event.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership will be held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 9.30am.



Shropshire Hills AONB
Partnership

13 June 2017

9.30 am

Item

2

Public

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2017

9.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council Cllr David Turner

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member	Alison Caffyn
Individual Member	James Williamson (Chair)
Individual Member	John Woolmer
Town & Parish Council representative	Hilary Clayton-Smith
British Horse Society	Ronald Repath
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Sarah Bury
Longmynd & District Bridleways Association	Sue Lee
National Trust	Andrew Hearle
Land Life & Livelihoods	Rob Harris
Ramblers Association	Sue Jones
Shropshire Tourism	Mike Brogden
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Veronica Cossons
Walford & North Shropshire College	Phil Ridley

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council Neil Willcox (Local Commissioning Manager)
Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Staff Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)
Team

53 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

53.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

53.2 Apologies for absence were received from Gill Binks (Caring for God's Acre), George Chancellor (Individual Member), Lee Chapman (South Shropshire Tourism), Yvonne Holyoak (Town & Parish Council rep), Bill Klemperer (Historic England), Clive Leworthy (Town & Parish Council Rep), Hazel McDowell (Natural England), David Mills (SASTAK), Steve Pennington (Town & Parish Council rep), John Pritchard (Individual Member), David C Smith (Shropshire Geological Society), Robert Tindall (Shropshire Council) and John Tucker (Town & Parish Council rep),

54 **Minutes of the last meeting**

54.1 The AONB Partnership Manager pointed out that there were some extraneous words at the end of paragraph 50.5 and it was agreed that these should be deleted.

54.2 RESOLVED:

That subject to the above, the note of the meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership held on 15 November 2016 be agreed as a true record

55 **Update on discussions with Defra regarding Conservation Board proposal**

55.1 The AONB Partnership Manager confirmed that the formal submission to create the Conservation Board had been made to Defra and that an informal meeting had been held with representatives from Defra at which several matters were clarified by both Defra and the Partnership.

55.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that Defra were refining the criteria for the creation of new Conservation Boards but that the new criteria had not been received yet. He confirmed that there would be an opportunity for the Partnership to update the business case to take account of these changes prior to a final decision being made.

56 **AONB team work programme and budgets**

56.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided Members with an update of the recent activity of the AONB Partnership team and a summary of the work programme and budgets for 2017 – 18.

56.2 In response to a question the AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that fee earning income in the current financial year had amounted to £35,000.

56.3 The Chairman congratulated the AONB Partnership team on the amount and variety of work carried out.

57 **Update on AONB Trust charity**

57.1 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the meeting on the AONB Trust Charity. He reminded members that the Trust had been set up as a CIO and currently the trustees were

George Chancellor, Sarah Bury, Janine Hayter, Anthony Morgan, Alistair Warrington and Diane Lyle.

57.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that the Trust had taken over the role of the AONB Conservation Fund and had recently met to consider 18 grant applications amounting to £46,000. Reduced grant had been awarded to all 18 applicants, totalling £20,000.

57.3 Mrs Bury advised the meeting that due to other commitments she would be stepping down as a trustee. The AONB Partnership Manager stated that if anyone was interested in becoming a trustee they should contact him.

58 **Draft Terms of Reference for proposed new AONB Forum**

58.1 The meeting received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which presented a draft of the new Terms of Reference for a broad advisory group of partners which would sit alongside the Conservation Board.

58.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that it had been recognised that the retention of a group with a similar membership to the current Partnership was important, but that the role of such a group would be different as the Conservation Board would take on the role of main governance body currently carried out by the Partnership. He then took members through the draft Terms of Reference.

58.3 Several Members commented that the main strength of the Partnership was the wide range of organisations and individuals represented and urged that this be reflected in the membership of the new body.

58.4 Following further discussion it was RESOLVED:

That the Partnership endorse the draft terms of Reference for the proposed Shropshire Hills AONB Advisory Group.

59 **Proposed 'Stepping Stones' project**

59.1 The meeting received a presentation from Andrew Hearle from the National Trust on the proposed "Stepping Stones" Project. He then took questions from members.

60 **Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum, Defra Plans and post-Brexit land management policy and programmes**

60.1 The AONB Partnership Manager commented that the UK leaving the European Union would mean the biggest changes for the environment and agriculture in a generation. He advised members that the AONB team had held an "Uplands Forum" discussion event which had been attended by 82 people and various topics had been discussed and that these would form the basis for short workshop sessions.

60.2 Members then broke into small discussion groups.

61 **Date of Next Meetings**

61.1 Members were advised that future meetings of the Partnership would be held on Tuesday 13 June 2017 and Tuesday 14 November 2017.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 13 th June 2017	<u>Item</u> 4
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DISCUSSION PAPER ON BREXIT ISSUES AND SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB

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

Summary

This paper examines some of the implications of Brexit issues on the AONB Partnership and outlines some possible responses and questions for discussion.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to consider the issues raised and take part in a short discussion workshop.

Background

The purposes for the AONB Partnership of understanding the implications of Brexit on the AONB are mainly:

- To inform ourselves (Partnership members and the team) on the issues and their relevance to the AONB, and from that to influence our own work.
- To influence, and stimulate dialogue with, other stakeholders in the area, working towards an updated vision for the AONB in the next Management Plan (2019-2024).
- To contribute to the national debate and influence government policy (our influence may be fairly small in this regard and this purpose will require working in conjunction with others, including the NAAONB, Uplands Alliance, etc).

The statutory basis of AONBs lies in UK legislation and will not be directly affected by Brexit.

The two main issues arising from Brexit of direct relevance to the AONB are:

- The future of EU-based environmental legislation and mechanisms for enforcement.
- Government policy and funding regimes for land management (including both farming and forestry)

Other less direct but significant factors are:

- Loss of access to EU funding (including LEADER, structural funds etc) – this affects the AONB Partnership directly but also the area more generally. The loss is direct, but will also have the knock-on effect of increasing competition for key UK funds, e.g. HLF.

- Reaction of the UK economy – this is not predictable, but some commentators predict a slowing of the economy, which could affect likely levels of future government funding for AONBs, as well as impacting other sources e.g. private sector and charitable giving.
- The political climate and/or funding may affect the links of the AONB Partnership with other protected areas, especially elsewhere in Europe, and potentially lead to greater isolation, loss of opportunities for learning, good practice, etc.

A further immediate issue particular to the Shropshire Hills AONB is the potential for Brexit to affect the outcome and/or timescale of our request to Defra to create a Conservation Board.

This paper will focus on the two main issues identified above.

Environmental legislation

Environmental groups are reasonably unanimous in their calls for the government to maintain current standards of legal environmental protection post-Brexit. The government are currently pledging to do this, but there are political pressures from some quarters for 'deregulation'. Some of these are overt, others more subtle, e.g. the government's admission that it may seek to 'correct the statute book' in some cases as part of the proposed transposition process through the Great Repeal Bill. EU-based legislation of most direct relevance to the AONB are the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive, though other regulations and international commitments such as on climate change will affect us, along with everywhere.

Aside from maintaining the standards of environmental legislation, a key concern is over enforcement and oversight of these, which is currently undertaken by a range of strong EU institutions, often with powerful sanctions including fines. Under domestic legislation, these roles would fall to the UK judiciary, which although independent of government, will not have the same power and influence.

Proposed action – The AONB Partnership should add its voice to the prevailing view of environmental groups that existing standards of environmental legislation should be maintained, and adequate mechanisms for enforcement and oversight should be put in place.

Land management policy and funding

This is a complex area, in which the alternative scenarios are quite broad. These issues have been explored in our Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum of February 2017, and written up in a report of the event, which has been publicised by ourselves and the Uplands Alliance, and also sent directly to Defra's Uplands Team.

Regardless of any views on Brexit overall, environmental groups have for decades been dissatisfied with the CAP. The UK for a long time was in the forefront of calls for reform of the CAP towards less environmentally damaging policies, and the limiting factor was usually resistance from other EU member states. There is now therefore the opportunity for a UK based land management policy and funding regime to provide something much better.

Professor Dieter Helm, Chair of the Natural Capital Committee, has characterised the three broad options as follows:

1. Pursue food security and self sufficiency – which he argues is unrealistic (for reasons such as lack of domestic supply of agro-chemicals) and has many negative consequences, e.g. on food exports, on non agricultural uses of land, and through the imposition of import tariffs.
2. Move further from income subsidies to environmental subsidies – i.e. the equivalent of agri-environment schemes growing, with the likes of Basic Payment Scheme being phased out. This option he argues is unsatisfactory, not going far enough and creating perverse incentives e.g. by reversing the ‘polluter pays’ principle, through rewarding land managers for profits foregone for not damaging the environment.
3. Public money for public goods – in this scenario land managers would be paid from the public purse for defined public benefits. This could be in the form of ‘contracts’ which have the advantage of not being classed as ‘subsidy’. Many environmental groups feel that this option would provide the best value for money, and integrate the environment with farming and land management in the best way, recognising natural capital and ecosystem services. Discussion at the Uplands Alliance and our own Uplands Forum suggest that there may be quite broad support for this option, though some land managers and organisations representing them are wary of it. There remain many issues of detail about how such a scheme might operate.

The issue of transition from the current system to a new one is a key factor. The government has pledged to continue current funding regimes up to 2020 (and to honour agreements such as through agri-environment schemes which may extend beyond this).

All commentaries describe the different situation affecting the uplands, where land management is more heavily reliant on subsidy (and inherently less economically viable), and where the balance of delivery from land of food production to other public benefits is most clearly towards the wider range of benefits.

The scenario of paying for public benefits inevitably raises different views on what public benefits should be supported, with a range of positions from hoping that payments to farmers to carry on just as they are, to calls for ‘rewilding’ the uplands with an end to uneconomic sheep farming. This polarisation can be divisive and deflect debate from the real issues. There is much to support in seeking to develop more complex and resilient ecological systems in the uplands, but abandonment of land to let nature ‘do its own thing’ will rarely lead to the best environmental benefits. There is potential for the ‘cultural landscape’ aspects of the AONB, or ‘maintaining landscape character’ to be apparently set in conflict with improving ecological condition, or to be used as arguments against essentially positive changes. Language and perceptions are important here – e.g. there is evidence that visual/pictorial representations of greater levels of native woodland cover in upland landscapes are nearly always welcomed as adding to attractiveness of the landscape. Verbal descriptions of much the same thing on the other hand may quickly be written off as ‘scrubbing over the hills’.

Proposed action – The AONB Partnership should continue dialogue with local and national stakeholders on these issues. There should be an emphasis on finding and developing common ground rather than divisive language and approaches. We should not limit the potential of a new land management policy and funding regime to improve the landscape of the AONB, but also need to recognise that changes for many will feel threatening. The potential benefits of changes need to be well articulated. Over the next six months or so, continuing dialogue may be more useful than setting out written ‘positions’ – there is in fact a risk that the latter could perhaps inhibit dialogue. We need to work over the next year or two towards likely

forthcoming consultations by government and to the next AONB Management Plan. This is at present however quite a fluid area, on which further knowledge and thinking will develop, so positions in the short term need to be relatively flexible.

List of Background Papers
Report of Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum 27 th February 2017 http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Shropshire-Hills-Uplands-Forum-27-Feb-17-full-report.pdf
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 Workshop questions

Appendix 1 Workshop Session

Group 1 Environmental legislation

What are the main issues around environmental legislation and its enforcement for the Shropshire Hills AONB?

How can biodiversity best be protected post-Brexit?

What should the AONB Partnership be doing about this?

Group 2 Land management policy and funding

What are the risks to the AONB landscape from Brexit?

What do we most want to retain in our landscape, and what do we want to change?

How can new policy and funding regimes help to achieve this?

What should the AONB Partnership be doing about this?



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 13 th June 2017
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<u>Item</u> 5

AONB TEAM WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

Summary

This paper provides an update on recent activity by the AONB Team.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the progress update.

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Team Work Programme – selected updates on recent work since March 2017

TAKING ACTION - on the ground and in our communities - to conserve and enhance natural beauty and to promote enjoyment and understanding.

Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme

Stabilisation works have been completed at the [1784 Pontesford Engine House](#). This is the largest capital project within the Scheme and has taken a lot of time to negotiate.

[Ground- nesting birds](#). Curlew nests are being monitored, including a live streamed nest cam. To date 22 nests have been found. 8 have since failed due to crow predation and not having the fencing in place, whilst waiting for a full clutch of eggs to be laid.

[Impressions of the Past](#) – over 200 round ceramic tiles created with designs inspired by the landscape and Celtic symbols. These have been installed in a simulated wooden palisade fence at Poles Coppice, looking out to Earl's Hill.

[Hay Meadow Festival](#) is to be held on Sat 24 June 10am-4pm at the Bog, Pennerley.

[Buzz in the Borders](#) is working with Churchstoke Primary School this summer.

Next month, two of our [Young Rangers](#), along with Education Officer Jon Bielstein are travelling to Habkern in Switzerland to take part in the 2017 Europarc International Junior Ranger Camp. They are one of 14 delegations from 10 different European countries.

[Interpretation](#) installation has been carried out at the mine sites: Tankerville, Snailbeach and Cothercott.

[Skills in the Hills events](#) – Hay Rake making 10-11 June, Axe handle making 22-23 July.

Marvellous Moths id sessions being held monthly May – Aug.

Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, Conservation Fund and Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB

Conservation Fund now handed over to AONB Trust for contractual offers etc. Support still provided for applicants, Panel etc by the AONB Team for a small fee, according to a simple written agreement put in place on joint working.

2017-18 Conservation Fund grants offered as follows:

Name of Organisation	Name of project	Amount of grant	Planned total project value	Rate of grant
National Trust	Heartland - Art and Landscape project	£1,000	£36,700	2.72%
Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group	Improving access and biodiversity of Stretton Wetlands	£1,500	£31,625	4.74%
Severn Rivers Trust	Restoration of the Upper River Teme	£1,000	£15,940	6.27%
Four and Twenty Arts CIC	Blakemoorgate Wild Art Museum	£1,000	£2,450	40.82%
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	John Muir Award with 2 new schools (Farlow and Clunbury), increasing Wildlife Watch to 10 new schools and wildlife camera trapping project with Stuart Edmunds.	£2,000	£4,650	43.01%
Upper Onny Wildlife Group	Upper Onny Invasive Plants Project	£1,000	£2,760	36.23%
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Local Wildlife Site Restoration and Improvement	£1,000	£1,477	67.70%
Redlake Valley CBS	Community Engagement in Woodland Management	£500	£1,420	35.21%
South Shropshire Youth Forum	South Shropshire Youth Heritage & Conservation Programme	£2,000	£20,099	9.95%
Caring for God's Acre	Wildlife in God's Acre	£1,000	£6,419	15.58%
Butterfly Conservation	Wood White	£1,000	£10,615	9.42%
Lightfoot Enterprises	Woodlands for All	£1,000	£3,530	28.33%
Footloose	Biodiversity and music project with Stokesay School on the Long Mynd	£750	£1,097	68.37%
Grow Cook Learn	Shropshire Hills Discovery Walks	£2,000	£3,990	50.13%
Marches Meadows Group	Storage barn for equipment and hay	£500	tbc	tbc
Myndtown Combined Parish Council	Myndtown Combined Parishes Verges Project	£1,000	£7,025	14.23%
Corvedale CofE Primary School	Wildlife Pond Area	£550	£1,550	35.48%
Shropshire Mobile Farm	Farms and Flowers - Educational visits in school.	£1,200	£2,600	46.15%
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	Foundation for Common Land – Upland Commons Project	£1,800	£528,200	0.34%

Trust bank account now in place and new admin arrangements being made for Friends subscriptions to be paid direct to the Trust. New Friends leaflet in preparation. Joint Tour event planned for Fri 7th July, focussing on Conservation Fund.

River Clun Recovery project

The WREN funded project is now half way through its four years. Alison Jones is the Project Officer and Heather Scott a student at Harper Adams is helping 2 days/week.

This winter 3,000 trees have been planted alongside the River Clun and Kemp. Once established, these trees will help to stabilise the riverbank and provide an excellent buffer between field and river, reducing soil and nutrient losses from the land. A further 1,000 trees are being planted by volunteers on a single woodland creation site near Mainstone.

Gateway works have been carried out. Liaison with landowners is being picked up to progress work on Recovery Site 1.

Sustainable Tourism practical delivery

Leaflet Swap and tourism business networking event on March 29th at Stokesay Court organised jointly with Shropshire Hills Tourism, was very successful, and attended by over 100 people.

'Great Days in the Shropshire Hills' leaflet launched with Shropshire Hills Tourism.

Shuttles service started at Easter – publicity and promotion put in place. Numbers over the May Bank Holiday were good. Not running in June due to budget constraints.

Investigations into proposed 'supporter giving' pilot project.

Education & Events

John Muir Award work completed with Kinlet School. 2017-18 programme set up with Clunbury and Farlow Primary Schools.

Guided walk in the Clun uplands put on as part of Bishop's Castle Walking Festival.

Project development

Meeting with partners about proposed AONB-wide education project focusing on John Muir Award and Young Rangers.

Discussion on reformulation of Resilient Heritage bid for resubmission – after Defra decision on Conservation Board.

Attended Stepping Stones project workshop formulating detailed project proposals.

Invitation to join project steering group. Contracted to co-ordinate and carry out some farmer interviews as part of engagement process.

Upland Commons project to be resubmitted to HLF by Foundation for Common Land.

Proposals submitted to Plantlife for proposed national bid on road verge biodiversity project. Proposals also submitted to Highways England regarding possible trunk road verge project.

Workshop meeting held on possible Upper Teme ecological networks project.

Liaison with Herefordshire Radnorshire Wildlife Trusts regarding possible Marches project.

INFLUENCING OTHERS - lead and champion the delivery of public benefits from the AONB, working strategically and collaboratively from policy to grassroots level.

Comments submission on Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy and meeting requested with new Group Manager for Business Growth and Prosperity.

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Partnership to merge with Herefordshire to form a Marches LNP, to facilitate better links with the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum reports circulated.

Undergrounding – proposal being put forward for Church Pulverbatch Conservation Area.

The Heartland Project is in full swing with singing workshops, sculptures on the slopes of Carding Mill Valley and plans under way to set up camp 'Iron-Age' style on Earl's Hill in July.

Social media. Facebook page has 1,853 likes and Twitter 3,064 followers. Some staff attended an informal social media course run by one of our volunteers. Regular input to NAAONB's #outstandinghour on Twitter on Wednesdays 1-2pm.

Clun Catchment

Clun Catchment Partnership meeting held 17 May.

Natural England's Freshwater Pearl Mussel specialist visited Recovery Site 2 and was favourably impressed with the works carried out.

Highways Sediment survey on the Redlake and Clun Catchment Fords surveys completed.

Planning

AONB Manager attended the South Planning Committee meeting on 4 April 2017 and spoke against the Hurst Barn poultry application. This was granted permission.

An appeal regarding the Hoptonheath poultry application has been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate. This application was the subject of a Judicial Review brought by Clungunford Parish Council, subsequently refused by Shropshire Council, and then taken to appeal by the applicant.

Sustainable Tourism strategic work

EU funded tourism co-operation project. Feedback from Gravity consultants who have had contact with over 100 businesses. On-line 'product' proposals are now in development.

Meeting of Destination Partnership 25 April.

Discussions held on renewal of European Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

Renewal of Sustainable Tourism Strategy starting.

Involvement with county level tourism & environment co-ordination group 'Discover Shropshire'.

MANAGING OUR BUSINESS - develop a robust, effective and financially sustainable AONB organisation.

Transition process

Business Case for creation of Conservation Board refined to criteria set out in the Minister's letter. Informal comments are awaited from Defra before formal resubmission.

Attended NAAONB workshop on future priorities for the Association 31st March 2017.

Meeting held with Natural England regarding joint working.

2016-17 Defra final claims and reporting completed. Year end budgets completed.

Staffing

Nigel McDonald (Sustainable Tourism Officer) is dropping from full time to 3 days/week from 1st June.

List of Background Papers

AONB Partnership Spring Newsletter

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSHROPSHIRE/bulletins/18f204e>

Landscape Partnership Scheme newsletter 31 May 2017

<http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/2017/05/3276/>

https://www.facebook.com/stiperstonesandcorndon/#_

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

none

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<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 13 th June 2017
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<u>Item</u> 6

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB TRUST

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

Summary

This paper seeks reappointment of George Chancellor as a Partnership-nominated trustee on the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, and if possible to fill a further nominated trustee vacancy.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to appoint to the two trustee vacancies if possible.

Background

Of the eight trustees on the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, three are 'Nominated Trustees' appointed by the AONB Partnership. These appointments will not always happen together, due to differences in the terms of the founding trustees, but the term of subsequent appointments will be two years. George Chancellor was one of the founding trustees and had a term of one year, and is therefore now due for reappointment. George is happy to serve for a further term, and is currently the Treasurer for the Trust.

A further vacancy for a Partnership-appointed trustee has been created as Sarah Bury has decided to stand down. Members of the Partnership have been made aware of this vacancy, but at the time of writing there are no nominations.

The third Partnership-appointed trustee is Janine Hayter, whose term runs to 5th Dec 2018. In addition Phil Holden, as the AONB Partnership Manager, is an *ex officio* trustee while holding this post. The other trustees are appointed by the group of trustees themselves, and are currently Anthony Morgan (Chairman), Diane Lyle, Alastair Warrington and Sue Cooper.

List of Background Papers

Information on the AONB Trust (including Constitution) at
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/>.

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 Key extracts from Shropshire Hills AONB Trust Constitution

Appendix 1 Key extracts from Shropshire Hills AONB Trust Constitution**3. Objects**

The objects of the CIO are:

To promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife and historic value of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), for the benefit of the public.

To advance understanding, education and awareness, in and around the AONB, of the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife and historic value of the Shropshire Hills AONB, for the benefit of the public.

9. Charity trustees**(1) Functions and duties of charity trustees**

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. It is the duty of each charity trustee:

- (a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions in his or her capacity as a trustee of the CIO in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO; and
- (b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:
 - (i) any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and,
 - (ii) if he or she acts as a charity trustee of the CIO in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.