

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

Date: Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Committee:
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Date: Wednesday, 31 March 2021
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING

Members of the public will be able to listen to this meeting by clicking on this link:

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/ShropshireHillsAONBPartnership31March2021>

Please note that this meeting will be made available through Microsoft Teams Live Events - your device will need to meet the minimum specification as detailed on the Microsoft website at this link: [Device Specification](#)

- You will need to download MS Teams (free) and click on the link to listen to the meeting if you are using a PC
- If using a mobile device, you will need to download the MS Teams app (free) before clicking the link
- Use the link at 9.30am on the day of the meeting and click on 'Join as Guest'
- You may receive an error message or a request for login details if you try to gain access before 2.00 pm

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) | Gillian Binks |
| Hilary Clayton-Smith (Vice Chairman) | Sarah Bury |
| Cecilia Motley (Vice Chairman) | Veronica Cossons |
| Heather Kidd | Helen Dale |
| Robert Tindall | Ian Dormor |
| David Turner | Charles Edwards |
| Chris Turley | Patrick Edwards |
| Alison Caffyn | Rhona Goddard |
| George Chancellor | Carol Griffiths |
| Adrian Cullis | Robert Harris |

Chris Naylor
Andrew Wood
Mark Hughes
John Long
David Mills
Steve Pennington
John Pritchard
Sonja Belchere

Alan Jones
Bill Klemperer
Sue Lee
Hazel MacDowell
Ronald Repath
Leo Smith
Donna Tavenor

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 - 6)

The note of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 is attached for confirmation

3 Nature Recovery Plan - Draft for Consultation (Pages 7 - 8)

This paper introduces a full draft of the Shropshire Hills AONB Nature Recovery Plan for consultation.

4 ELM advocacy and Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme - Update (Pages 9 - 10)

This paper updates members on the recent small programme of advocacy for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, and the forthcoming 3 year 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' funding programme from Defra.

5 South Shropshire Climate Action - Land & Biodiversity Group Plan (Pages 11 - 14)

This paper provides information on the plan being developed for the Land & Biodiversity aspects of South Shropshire Climate Action's plan.

6 NAAONB Collaboration Group on Climate Change (Pages 15 - 24)

This paper updates members on recent collaboration by the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) and the AONB team's involvement.

7 Collaboration for Visitor Management (Pages 25 - 26)

This paper updates members on collaboration between partners in the Shropshire Hills for visitor management during the 2021 season and especially in relation to post-lockdown pressures expected.

8 AONB Team Work Programme Update (Pages 27 - 34)

This paper updates members on work of the team in 2020-21 as the Financial Year draws to a close.

9 Partner Activity

10 Dates of Future Meetings

Members are advised that future meetings of the Partnership will be held on: -

Wednesday 14th July 2021 and
Tuesday 19th October 2021

All meetings at 9.30am



Shropshire Hills AONB
Partnership

9 March 2021

9.30 am

Item

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Public

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2020

9.35 - 11.35 AM

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams Live

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council

Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)

Cllr Robert Tindall

Cllr David Turner

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member

Alison Caffyn

Individual Member

Adrian Cullis

Individual Member

James Williamson (Chair)

Town & Parish Council representative

Hilary Claytonsmith (Vice Chair)

Town & Parish Council representative

David Mills

British Horse Society

Ronald Repath

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Sarah Bury

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

Lizzie Hulton-Harrop

National Farmers Union

Carol Griffiths

Natural England

Hazel McDowall

Ramblers Association

Charles Edwards

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Veronica Cossons

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Edward West (Principal Planning Policy Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Steph Hayes (Promotions Officer)

Staff Team

Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

Joy Howells (Funding and Programmes Officer)

Alison Jones (Clun Catchment Officer)

Mike Kelly (Natural Environment Officer)
Cath Landles (Community & Landscapes Officer)
Nigel McDonald (Sustainable Tourism Officer_

21 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 21.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 21.2 Apologies had been received from George Chancellor, Heather Kidd, Sue Lee, Leo Smith and Chris Turley

22 Minutes of the last meeting

- 22.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2019 had been circulated.

22.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership held on 8 October 2019 be approved as a true record.

23 South Shropshire Climate Conference and Shropshire Climate Action Partnership

- 23.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided information on two complementary community climate action partnerships.
- 23.2 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that two community led partnerships had been set up, one covering South Shropshire and one covering the whole of the county and drew members attention to the various links to the partnerships contained in the report.
- 23.3 Members received a short presentation from Mark Fermor, Director Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP). He explained that the Partnership was made up of local businesses, groups and individuals and was supported by both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council and that there was currently in the region of 200 volunteers working to create a plan to show what the sustainable future of Shropshire looked like. He informed the meeting that the draft plan would be published at the end of the year and urged all members of the Partnership to become involved.
- 23.4 The AONB Partnership Officer advised the meeting that Nick Read had been unable to join the meeting and explained that the South Shropshire Climate Action Group had been formed following a public event held in 2019 and had held a conference in September 2020. He commented that whilst the group shared the same aims as the SCAP it also concentrated on the problems specific to South Shropshire. Members who had attended the conference commented that it was good that Philip Dunne had been involved, especially as he was Chair of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee.
- 23.5 The Chairman thanked Mark Fermor for attending and urged all members to get involved with the Partnerships.

24 **Shropshire Local Plan and Planning Policy for the AONB**

- 24.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which summarised some of the key issues raised in the AONB Partnership's response to the Shropshire draft Local Plan and setting out future approached to planning policy affecting the AONB.
- 24.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded Members that the Partnership had responded to the latest consultation on the Local Plan and that the response had been circulated to members. He welcomed the inclusion of a specific Local Plan policy for the Shropshire Hills AONB and commented that this along with the reference to the AONB in a number of other policies gave added protection for the AONB.
- 24.3 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded Members that the possibility of developing an AONB-specific Development Plan Document had been discussed at previous meeting. However it was felt that a separate planning document was not viable at the present time and in light of what is contained in new Local Plan the AONB Team would continue to work with Planning Policy Team in other ways to advance the cause of the AONB.
- 24.4 The Principal Planning Policy Officer advised the meeting that there had been a large response to the latest consultation, and that some changes had been made to the plan as a result. He explained that the revised plan would be taken to a forthcoming meeting of Cabinet for approval to conduct a Regulation 19 consultation which if approved would last for a period of seven weeks and that following this a report would be taken to Council in March for approval to submit the plan for examination.
- 24.5 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Partnership
- a) note the report and
 - b) support the proposal not to take further at the present time the idea of a Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Shropshire Hills AONB.

25 **Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme tests & trials in the Shropshire Hills AONB**

- 25.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided background material to support presentations on the various ELM Tests and Trials currently operating in the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- 25.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that Tests & Trials were being carried out over the whole of country and that all trials reported into DEFRA. He commented that each trial was independent of each other and not linked.
- 25.3 Presentations were received from Andrew Hearle (National Trust), Karen Fisher (Soil Association) and Lizzie Hulton Harrop who outlined what work they were carrying out within their trials. The AONB Partnership Officer updated the meeting briefly on trials being carried out by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the NFU.

25.4 The Chair thanked all those that had given presentations.

26 National Association for AONBs and Europarc Federation

26.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on relevant recent activity of the National Association for AONBs and the Europarc Federation.

26.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that representatives of the NAAONB were meeting with DEFRA representatives to discuss the Government action following the Glover Review.

26.3 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the meeting on the Art in the Landscape Project which aimed to produce a National Arts Strategy for AONBs. He advised that Funding & Programmes Officer had undertaken the online training and would be rolling out a programme in the new year.

26.4 RESOLVED:

That the AONB Partnership

- a) Note the information in the report and;
- b) Adopt the NAAONB 'Art in the Landscape' Strategy

27 AONB Management Plan Progress Report, Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids and partner activity

27.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which gave updates on progress with the AONB Management Plan and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids.

27.2 The AONB Partnership Manager informed Members that it was good practice to update on actions contained in the Management Plan periodically, he asked Partners to update him where necessary in order that the Plan was fully updated.

27.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that the bid made by the AONB Partnership and the Wildlife Trust to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund had been unsuccessful. He commented that the Fund had been oversubscribed and that Government had added a further £40M to the fund and would open a second round of bidding.

27.4 The Chairman asked all Members of the Partnership to let the AONB Partnership Manager have any updates on the action plan so that the update could be as complete as possible.

28 Shropshire Community and Rural Strategy consultation

28.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which gave details of the current consultation on a Community and Rural Strategy for Shropshire.

- 28.2 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the Partnership on the current consultation on a Community and Rural Strategy for Shropshire being carried out by Shropshire Council. He advised the meeting that he hoped to make a response on behalf of the AONB Partnership.

29 **Date of Next Meeting**

29.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the date of the next meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership would be confirmed in due course.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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| Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 31 st March 2021 | 3 |

SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB NATURE RECOVERY PLAN

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

Summary

This paper introduces a full draft of the Shropshire Hills AONB Nature Recovery Plan for consultation (sent separately to members).

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to comment on the draft Plan.

Background

The NAAONB's Colchester Declaration of July 2019 set out the ambition for a Nature Recovery Plan to be prepared for all AONBs. This aligns with the Glover Review recommendations for national landscapes to focus more on nature recovery. A small group of AONB representatives have been working nationally and have developed some guidance. Some important data and documents have been released by Natural England in the last year or so. Locally we have been developing the framework of the nature recovery plan over the last 20 months or so and consulting informally on directions as opportunities have arisen in our work with partners.

We are co-ordinating closely with work of other partners on this topic, especially the Wildlife Trust, Natural England, National Trust and Shropshire Council. Work is active and ongoing in this field and quite rapidly evolving. This Nature Recovery Plan cannot aim to be the last word on this topic for the AONB, but it does aim to move forward the discussion and raise awareness, build support for the main strategies and indicate areas for further development and work. The delivery section could be more detailed and specific, and the input of partners and interested parties during a consultation period on this draft will be very welcome.

List of Background Papers

The draft Nature Recovery Plan will be sent separately to members and made available on the AONB website.

Previous papers of the AONB Partnership are available at

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=265>.

The Colchester Declaration is available at

<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/projects/colchester-declaration>.

A nature recovery web page has been set up at <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/our-work/aonb-partnership/nature-recovery>

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



| <u>Committee and Date</u> | <u>Item</u> |
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| Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 31 st March 2021 | 4 |

ELM ADVOCACY AND FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME - UPDATE

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

Summary

This paper updates members on the recent small programme of advocacy for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, and the forthcoming 3 year 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' funding programme from Defra.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the update.

Background

ELM Advocacy

In the closing weeks of 2020, the National Association for AONBs secured a contract with Defra to deliver a programme of advocacy for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. Each AONB team was awarded £7,500 towards farmer engagement on ELM and on the current Countryside Stewardship scheme as a route into ELM. Three training sessions for AONB and National Park staff were run before Christmas. We were asked to encourage farmers to book onto NAAONB online webinars during March. Unfortunately the first of these was cancelled due to staff sickness and the second was also cut as information on schemes had not been forthcoming from Defra. The third planned webinar is scheduled for 23rd March, and a verbal update on this will be given at the meeting.

We opted to deliver the advocacy work with in-house capacity from the team rather than contract the work out. As well as raising the knowledge levels of members of our team on the topic and using their contacts to best effect, by this means we have achieved the highest number of bookings onto the webinars from the Shropshire Hills (65) of any AONB or National Park. Thanks are due to partner organisations locally who have helped to promote this.

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme announced in the Agricultural Transition Plan on 30th November is still in preparation by Defra and we await further information before being able to set this up. It is a 3 year programme for AONBs and National Parks to be delivered across two elements:

(A) Farm level projects to diversify incomes, prepare for our Environmental Land Management offer and create more green jobs.

- Support for farmers for delivering environment/landscape outcomes. Examples might include peat restoration, planting woodland, hay meadow restoration, creation of heathland and scrub, moorland management, enhancement of wetlands, and dry-stone wall repairs
- Support to farmers on areas such as carbon capture, business planning, and skills development including apprenticeships

(B) Wider infrastructure investment and projects supporting farmers and rural economies

- Infrastructure, such as better access, clearer and simpler signage, dedicated cycling/electric bike access – to attract more diverse groups of visitors (to farm businesses, camping barns, etc.) as well as creating jobs (e.g. expansion of landscape rangers supporting farmers and visitors)
- Strengthened public engagement with landscapes to attract more, and more diverse, visitors, improving mental health outcomes and better disabled access; walking routes to better connect landscapes.

Apart from this, no written information has been provided to date. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

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| <p>List of Background Papers</p> <p>2 pages on Farming in Protected Landscapes pp44-45 in the Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-transition-plan-2021-to-2024</p> <p>Winter 2021 Farming with nature video, commissioned by NAAONB https://youtu.be/JQNU3vqLom8</p> |
| <p>Human Rights Act Appraisal</p> <p>The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.</p> |
| <p>Environmental Appraisal</p> <p>The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.</p> |
| <p>Risk Management Appraisal</p> <p>Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.</p> |
| <p>Community / Consultations Appraisal</p> <p>The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.</p> |
| <p>Appendices</p> <p>None</p> |



| <u>Committee and Date</u> | <u>Item</u> |
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| Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 31 st March 2021 | 5 |

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION – LAND AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN

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

Summary

This paper provides information on the plan being developed for the Land & Biodiversity aspects of South Shropshire Climate Action's plan.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to comment on the issues raised.

Background

The group is working to the area of the Ludlow constituency, of which slightly over half is within the AONB. The full 30 page draft document is not included with these papers but can be made available to members on request. Summary messages and extracts from it are included below. Nick Read who chairs the Land & Biodiversity group will attend the Partnership meeting to speak on this and take part in discussion.

Land Management for the climate and ecological crisis

Just like in other sectors (energy, transport, etc), fairly fundamental changes are needed in farming and other land management practices, both to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to significantly improve ecological health. Systems based on the integration of ecology and agriculture are needed, characterised locally by mixed farming, use of legumes to fix nitrogen, high biodiversity for soil nutrient cycling and pest control, effective recycling of nutrients, lower inputs, minimal or no use of pesticides and avoidance of over-stocking.

Key messages for land management:

- Protect the environmental assets we already have
- Recognise the inter-relationships between food production and biodiversity
- Increase land use practices that support an agro-ecological approach, thereby reducing GHG emissions, enhancing soil carbon sequestration and supporting nature's recovery
- Develop widespread stakeholder engagement locally and a policy framework that supports transformational change

Summary of local actions for land management:

- Work with local stakeholders to generate and deliver local solutions
- Do no harm, protect our existing fauna and flora, trees, woodland, rivers and hedges
- Recognise that nature exists everywhere and that all land is a habitat for some form of life
- Provide help and advice to all land managers wanting to care and conserve
- Stop emissions from modified peatlands, and reverse this into becoming a carbon sink by rewetting these soils
- Link those areas of habitat that are in favourable condition and restore those that have deteriorated to create a Nature Recovery Network
- Reduce emissions from energy use in farming, including in vehicles, buildings, use of materials and bought in resources
- Improve the biology of local soils by reducing compaction and soil run-off, manage soils to improve soil health and fertility
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from methane and nitrous oxides, through management of livestock, manures and fertilisers
- Increase carbon sequestration by increasing soil organic content, and increasing tree and woodland cover in appropriate ways for the local landscape
- Naturalise existing watercourses, create more diverse riverine habitats and employ natural approaches to support flood alleviation, be prepared to reverse some past drainage
- Ensure that farmers are rewarded for the quality of the food they produce and for delivering public benefits, enable policy drivers to support a low carbon and high biodiversity trajectory
- Improve people's access to, and connectivity with, their local natural environment to improve health and well-being and generate local support for farming-led initiatives

The landscape is of high environmental value but also strongly influenced by socio-economic factors as it is a product of human agency, Options for change must be considered within the parameters of what the natural environment can accommodate without further harm and also responding to cultural, economic and technical drivers. Our priority must be to value what already exists and enable a transition to more effective ways of reducing GHG emissions and protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

The UK Government's commissioned report on the economics of biodiversity (Dasgupta 2021) makes the following points:

- Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature
- We have collectively failed to engage with Nature sustainably, to the extent that our demands far exceed its capacity to supply us with the goods and services we all rely on.
- Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations.

Whatever terminology we use to address climate change and nature recovery, the balance of land uses will need to encompass sustainable food production, habitat protection and restoration, ecological processes and carbon sequestration. Farmland which has high environmental value will need to be maintained as such by continuing low intensity or sustainably intensive farming methods. To achieve this often requires public support both financially and through social acceptance of what is being proposed, so that farming methods

remain both socially and economically viable. The report "Farming for Change" [FFCC 2021] argues for a vision that connects food, health, nature and climate and demonstrates how, with the right enabling conditions, we can grow enough food for a future UK population, release land for more flexible uses such as recreation and biodiversity and reduce GHG emissions.

GHG emissions from land use include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane. Soil is an important carbon store and the 4per1000 initiative is an international commitment linked to the Paris agreement to try and increase soil carbon stocks by 0.4% (4 parts per thousand) year on year.

A traffic light table of land management measures and their effect (positive or negative) in relation to both climate and biodiversity is presented in the report.

Principles of land management strategies for climate change and nature recovery:

- Value and safeguard what we already have before making significant changes. In addition to new woodland, restore existing woodland, maintain tree cover and allow hedgerows to thrive. Expand tree cover in nature-friendly ways, mimicking natural patterns and using native species
- Survey for existing conservation interest first when planning new planting. Consider the suitability of steep banks, upland gullies and streams, f corners, hedges, agro-forestry and wood pasture.
- Avoid simplistic assessments, land-use is not one-dimensional. Whilst livestock contribute to GHG emissions, they are also important grazing managers and income earners. Existing permanent pasture is a carbon store that needs active management, so consider alternatives such as lower stocking densities, small areas of market gardening etc.
- Prioritise the role of agro-ecological farming systems based on ecology, diversity, integration of farming and wildlife, and soil biological activity.
- Consider the whole life cycle and effects of the farming system. Cattle housed indoors may offer better management of GHG emissions, but this may ignore environmental factors such as inputs, soil and water management, and biodiversity - for which grazing systems may be essential – as well as the emissions generated in producing the inputs used.
- Recognise the importance of economically viable food production. This may lead to areas being utilised to produce "sustainable intensification" (raising yields), so that other land is available for biodiversity and carbon storage.
- Wherever possible, ensure that multiple uses or values of land overlie in the same place. Avoid thinking of land as arable, pasture, or woodland, but look at the benefits or "ecosystem services" that come from intact ecosystems on all land.
- Riverine management is important for flood management and biodiversity. Where possible, re-naturalise rivers and enhance river corridors with tree and shrub cover, which may also involve controlling stock access and restoring floodplain wetlands.
- Maximise community interest in South Shropshire's natural environment so that people value what it contains and will be encouraged to make behavioural changes to lower carbon emissions. It will require the combined impact of the public, private and voluntary sectors to effectively tackle net zero and nature recovery in the next decade

South Shropshire woodland cover is 17.6% which is quite well above the national average. Current levels of new woodland creation are low. 83% of carbon storage in a woodland is in soil, below ground biomass and leaf litter.

Hedgerows can store 15 tonnes of carbon per hectare (tC/ha) for short hedges (up to 1.5m high) and 30-40 tC/ha for tall hedges (up to 2.7m), with a similar amount of carbon in below-ground biomass.

Connections are made between land use and food. Most plans for net zero expect some dietary changes to be necessary as well as reducing food waste. There is a significant opportunity for improvement and the promotion of a "healthy" diet, for both people and the environment, bringing Public Health and its resources into the debate about carbon reduction.

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| List of Background Papers |
| Information on South Shropshire Climate Action was included in the paper for item 3 at the 24th November 2020 meeting, and more is available at https://shropshireclimateaction.co.uk/ . Extensive resources are available in the Land section. |
| 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 31 st March 2021 | <u>Item</u> 6 |
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NAAONB COLLABORATION GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Summary

This paper updates members on recent collaboration by the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) and the AONB team's involvement.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the update.

Background

The National Association for AONBs formed at the beginning of 2021 a small collaboration group between 3 members of AONB teams and 3 people external to the sector who applied as volunteers to work with the AONB network to share their expertise. The group decided to focus its attention on climate change. It then lost a couple of members due to circumstances and Phil Holden was asked to join the group. Through February and March the group has met online weekly and has scoped the topic of climate change in relation to the AONB remit, and prepared workshop sessions for the NAAONB Lead Officers meeting held online on 11th March. Some slides used in that meeting and generated from it are included in Appendix 1. These contain many ideas which can guide our own future work.

The intention is now to recruit further members of AONB teams to work collaboratively on climate change, with sub-groups on particular topics such as land management, transport and sustainable tourism, planning, etc. It will be very valuable to tap into the knowledge and experience of Partnership members in developing this work.

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| List of Background Papers |
| None |
| 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 Slides relating to NAAONB Lead Officers meeting 11th March on Climate Change

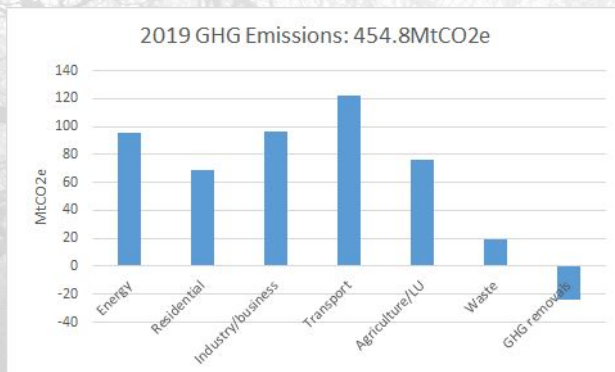
Introduction: the scale of the challenge

A **climate emergency**: scientific and societal consensus that we must dramatically reduce GHG emissions to avoid catastrophic levels of warming

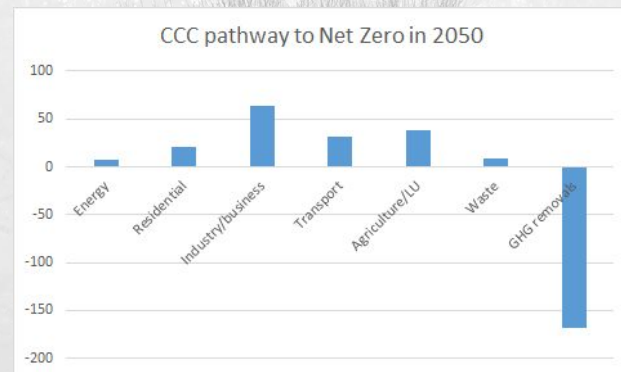
There will be **impacts on AONBs**: species loss, extreme weather events, coastal inundations BUT unpredictable worldwide extreme events likely to have even greater impact

The **UK's role**: 1% of global direct emissions, high per capita emissions -> significant leadership role e.g. COP26

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Action
needed now



What is our role?

- *What can we do on the ground in each of our AONBs?*
- *How do we collaborate across the AONB network and across protected landscapes?*
- *Can we lead, providing a hopeful, positive voice for change?*

Proposed Topic Groupings

Land Use & Issues

| Grouping | Relevant Elements | Current Action | Opportunities |
|----------|---|---|---|
| | Carbon Sequestration - Woodland - Peatland - Soils | Planting, repair, regeneration Active management | Regional collaboration National position & status Overlap with Nature Recovery actions National funding |
| | Agriculture | ELM FiPL Farm clusters CSF programmes Countryside Stewardship Sustainable agriculture initiatives | Soil health management Habitat restoration Apply ELM audit process to all regions Overlap with Nature Recovery actions |
| | Flooding Drought Wildfires Erosion (Incl coastal) | Nature based solutions | Influence Agriculture Bill/ELM to ensure public money for public good brings funding where it's needed Riparian tree planting |

Proposed Topic Groupings

| Grouping | Relevant Elements | Current Action | Opportunities |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Society / Culture / Behaviour | Lifestyle, consumption, tourism, waste | Statements on sustainable tourism Local education initiatives | Promote sustainable lifestyles Sustainable tourism initiatives - develop partnerships with operators and local businesses Develop national & local initiatives |
| Transport / Mobility | Public transport / accessibility Travel for tourism | Local shuttle bus initiatives | Develop national position & comms Advocate for rural public transport - EV Local tourism transport schemes Promote cycle tourism |
| Energy Generation | Renewables | Local micro schemes | Develop national position on Renewables (Wind, Solar etc) in AONBs Advocate for deployment |
| Building / Development | New housing efficiency Historic building efficiency | ? | Develop national position on planning requirements Respond to development / planning applications Advocate for stricter regulations |

Proposed Overall Approach

- National collaboration in support of local actions & success
- Use combined weight and expertise of AONBs and teams together:
 - National communications, position, policy advocacy
 - National requests for funding
 - Educating & messaging on the causes and effects of climate change
 - Educating & messaging on sustainable actions & lifestyles
 - Share best practice, knowledge, research & data
 - Develop partnerships, work with other organisations
- Local action for regional diversity and place-based approach

What teams are doing currently on climate change:

- **Cross-cutting** – embedding into everything
- **Farming & land management** – farm carbon audits, regenerative agriculture
- **Nature** – peatlands, trees & woodlands, habitats, ecosystems work, catchment work & natural flood management, coastal
- **Planning input** – policy, design for net zero
- **Team operations** – office, transport
- **Governance** – discussing with Partnership
- **Local authority and local climate partnerships** – taking part
- **Sustainable tourism & transport** – public transport, EV charging, cycling & active travel
- **Grants and advice** – SDF, working with businesses
- **Engagement** – with public, schools

Alignment with National Parks...?

- **Highlights from "National Parks Delivery Plan for Climate Leadership"**

- Helping support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for land-based sectors, ensuring that land use change delivers sustainable land management, and improvements to soils/increased carbon sequestration.
- Demonstrating how nature-based solutions can help develop resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.
- Using our planning powers to deliver highly sustainable homes, raise the bar in terms of design and build standards via the use of incentives.
- Promoting sustainable tourism and demonstrating the benefit of "low carbon" holiday destinations, thereby spreading positive lifestyle messages.
- Advocating through NPE policy change in Government that will provide NPAs with the tools locally to deliver net zero.
- Promoting collaboration at strategic level between NPAs and AONBs
- Using our convening power to energise a coalition of the willing to take forward our vision.

Top suggested AONB Partnership actions for Climate Change – related to Land Use & Agriculture

- Protect/maintain habitats, build resilience, create/restore habitats at landscape scale. Natural flood management
- Work with farmers and promote regenerative agriculture, soil management, farm carbon audits
- Improve sequestration through various ecosystems (e.g. peatlands, woods and trees, coastal habitats)
- Understand what we've got. Need for data, upskilling, carbon literacy, natural capital reviews.
- Work with local communities => develop engagement, raise knowledge and involvement

Top suggested AONB Partnership actions for Climate Change – related to Transport, Energy, Buildings and Development

- Encourage renewable energy and reducing energy waste. Guidance/ policy - how low carbon infrastructure can fit into the AONB
- Planning: oppose carbon intensive schemes, a 'climate change objection'?
- Focus on community planning, for more sustainable, self-contained communities, localised ways of living, broadband
- Sustainable transport: use our influence, especially re. visitors driving in, public transport, active travel
- Design guidance: carbon neutral buildings fitting AONB special qualities and sustainable materials.
Improving existing housing stock

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PARTNER COLLABORATION FOR VISITOR MANAGEMENT IN THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS

Responsible Officer Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager
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Summary

This paper updates members on collaboration between partners in the Shropshire Hills for visitor management during the 2021 season and especially in relation to post-lockdown pressures expected.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the update.

Background

The AONB Partnership team convened a meeting on 9th March attended by 15 people from partner organisations, in preparation for the visitor season, to share ideas and plans, see how we can work together better, and identify gaps where further joint work is needed.

Organisations represented at the meeting were: Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, National Trust, Church Stretton Town Council, Bishop's Castle tourism group, Ludlow Destination Partnership, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry England, Natural England, English Heritage, Shropshire Hills Tourism, Shropshire Tourism.

The main priorities (slightly refined) of the Shropshire Hills Sustainable Tourism Strategy were recapped, as still highly relevant:

- **Encouraging green business** – to achieve zero carbon in tourism
- **Dispersing visitors** – for better experiences, shared economic benefit and reducing pressure
- **Increasing enjoyment and wellbeing** – through active engagement with nature and heritage
- **Promoting and safeguarding what is outstanding** – an ethos of care and consideration
- **Working in partnership** – destinations, businesses, groups, local councils, communities

It was agreed that we don't collectively have all of the tools or resources to manage pressures properly, and this is important longer term. Collaboration can help however, and planned and potential activity across six main themes to address visitor pressures was discussed:

Best possible public information, to prevent problems at source if possible

Key on-line platforms and sites, alignment of messages, listing of sites and locations

Managing popular sites and encouraging dispersal

Social media parking information initiative

Encouraging responsible visitor behaviour

Lessons from behavioural science – positive messages, connecting with people's motivation

Monitoring and understanding visitor use

Lessons from 2020 Church Stretton visitor survey, potential data collection in 2021

Support for businesses, farmers and people impacted by visitor pressure

Co-ordinated messaging, troubleshooting capacity

Feed into longer term plans to develop and improve visitor infrastructure

Walking & cycling routes, small scale parking, sites with facilities

There has also been useful sharing of ideas and action through the National Association for AONBs. Further update will be given verbally at the meeting.

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| List of Background Papers None |
| 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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AONB PARTNERSHIP TEAM WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE 2020-21

Responsible Officer Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager
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Summary

This paper updates members on work of the team in 2020-21 as the Financial Year draws to a close.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the update.

Background

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

'Unmuddying the Waters' project work (Environment Agency funded, Year 2 of 2 year agreement)

- Broadward Highway Drain Diversion. Working very effectively in capturing runoff.
- Clunton Brook – complete. Riparian tree planting completed in February.
- Wetland restoration in the Redlake Valley – de-culverting complete. Tree planting carried out by landowners and volunteers from Severn Tree Trust.
- Sustainable drainage schemes at The Down. Fencing of ditch and wetland now completed.
- Folly Brook crossing – upgraded with new fencing and river gates.
- Fencing of Cabin Gutter, to protect watercourse and dingle woodland.
- Fencing at Brynmawr to protect dingle woodlands and wetland in progress, plus installation of new water supply for stock.
- The project will end March 2021 but further funds are pledged (see Project development).

Water Environment Grant (WEG) Teme-Onny-Clun (TOC) project

The adviser for the Clun project left in December and after a two rounds of recruitment by Severn Rivers Trust, Farzana Azad has been appointed as Clun advisor and started work with the Trust 15th Feb. Claims and variations have been submitted. Due to Covid impacting on farm visits (staff furloughed), the project has been extended until September 2021. The advisors have continued to work through the winter lockdown, but face to face visits have not

really be possible and this has set the project back further. Severn Rivers Trust and ourselves are negotiating with the Natural England WEG team to explore options.

Brook Vessons Hydrological/Headwater Restoration project

This site is contiguous with Stiperstones and Hollies SSSI/SAC (Brook Vessons SWT reserve) and extends wildlife habitats further down the hill. The zone of influence for these works is estimated at c.28 ha. Land-drain fracturing has been undertaken across 15.6ha of formerly drained land, ditch blocking/leaky dams installed along 646m of ditch and 2 scrapes and 2 ponds completed and fenced to exclude livestock. Surface flow is increasing as planned, areas of wet flush have already appeared and reduced runoff within the channel is apparent. The landowner is in discussions with Natural England re Countryside Stewardship.

Woodland creation (Woodland Trust funded) - MOREwoods, MOREhedges + special projects

Main river Clun. Tree planting to restore riparian woodland and create new wet woodland. Advisory work on potential schemes continues. MOREwoods sites can take a couple of years to come to realisation – some sites from 2019 are being planted this season.

Crayfish Ark - surveys identified a White-clawed crayfish ark site in the Clun Catchment.

Environment Agency staff have now translocated crayfish from River Redlake to the ark site.

'Our Common Cause' Upland Commons project (national project)

The national Programme Manager Sam Caraway started in the autumn and recruitment for the Area Project Officers was completed with Sylvia Edwards being appointed to the Shropshire Hills post (employed by National Trust and hosted with our team). Phil now sits along with representatives of the other protected landscape boides on the national Project Board. A press release was issued on 19th February 2021, an update has been sent to the Area Group and a well attended online meeting was held on 24th February.

Young Rangers project

Joe Penfold the Project Officer started at the beginning of December and has been working up procedures for health and safety and safeguarding within current guidelines and undertook a first session at Poles Coppice before Christmas. South Shropshire Youth Forum have delivered four sessions so far, two with each of their groups in Craven Arms and Clee Hill. Rich Morley from SSYF is also scoping out and liaising with partner organisations on possible project sites.

We are letting a facilitation contract for the 'Youth Voice for Nature' strand of the project, working to support an older cohort of young people to highlight their environmental concerns and link with the AONB Partnership structure and other organisations. This will give the young people personal development opportunities and improve youth representation in our work.

Stepping Stones project

Cath and Phil have been working closely with the National Trust on development of further stages of the project. Cath has continued contracted work on the Upper Onny Farmers Group Whole Farm Plan Defra ELM Test & Trial, working on Phase 2 of the project and a farmer attitude survey. A further Test & Trial proposal is being developed to integrate the historic environment into Whole Farm Plans (WFP). Opportunities to implement some of the recommendations from the WFPs, across several farm holdings, are also being explored, including a possible application to Severn Trent's Boost for Biodiversity Fund for creating and enhancing hay meadows. The National Trust awaits confirmation on a second bid to the

Green Recovery Challenge Fund, including payment for more of Cath's time to continue her work with the Upper Onny Farmers Group, including delivery of a programme of knowledge transfer events and farm visits.

Sustainable Tourism delivery:

Destination Partnership – Discussions with tourism organisations, land and heritage management partners and attractions at a local and county level have reinforced the value of a coordinated approach to managing the destination. The joint response to visitor pressure as a result of the pandemic has heightened the priority for all partners. We hope to continue this new working practice to address future concerns regulating climate change, sustainable economies, nature recovery and place management.

The pandemic has created challenges for many of our closest partners and we are continuing to work widely, providing advice and support to Visit Shropshire, and for Visit Shropshire Hills, Destination Ludlow and the Clun Business & Economic Working Group. The inclusion of the AONB Partnership in the work of the Shropshire Tourism Action & Recovery (STAR) Group, set up between Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire Council and Visit Shropshire has been important to ensure that our work for sustainable management is at the core of countywide plans. The next stage is to coordinate an audit of the facilities and parking capacity at our key countryside sites and beauty spots. Many partners have already signed up to help collate this. The potential to use volunteers to gather further information will also be explored.

The results of the visitor survey in Church Stretton and Carding Mill Valley conducted by us in August have been analysed and findings shared with partners. An approach to helping keep visitors informed of congestion at key sites, using social media hashtags, involving all of the managing organisations and where appropriate, local volunteers, is being piloted this Easter. Evaluation after the Easter holidays will help establish how the system could be improved. This work has put the AONB Partnership in the centre of a new collaborative network, helping to manage visitor pressure at the most popular outdoor locations. The enthusiasm for this piece of work is very evident.

Discussions have started with partners about revisiting/improving the Much Wenlock to Craven Arms cycle route, and also developing networks of craft and local producers.

Shuttle Buses – We intend to run the service in 2021, using the proposed changes for the 2020 service involving a revised route with the bus turning at Stiperstones village on an hourly timetable. Details and budgeting is being finalised with key partners. It is proposed that the new service will no longer include the concessionary fare scheme, but instead offer a discounted season ticket for regular users. We will evaluate the response to this but it is hoped that this will enable us to run a break-even service on reduced grant funding. We would like to thank Church Stretton and Shropshire Council for their continued support.

'Fix the Fort' – Covid restrictions allowing, we hope to make a start on practical work using the funds raised so far as well as seeking further funds. Work to arrange and coordinate this will start in spring, with practical work planned for late summer.

'Learning the Landscape through Language' (children's education project on place names) Cath continues to support this project. New resources are being developed for schools. The project was suspended, due to closure of schools during the current Covid lockdown but is due to restart again in April 2021 and schools have reopened.

Undergrounding of electricity cables – we are liaising with Western Power and intend to contact Parish Councils for further suggestions for schemes.

Project development:

Peatlands – Unfortunately our bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund was not successful. Funding offered by Environment Agency for 2020-21 was allocated too late in the year (September) to allow the work to be progressed and cannot be carried over to next Financial Year. Our proposals have been shared with a new Regional Peatlands Officer at Natural England. The new Defra Peatland Fund looks a more appropriate option and will be explored.

Upper Habberley Brook mini-catchment – The REAction catchment project (WEG) is going to invite landowners in this sub-catchment to get together to discuss co-ordinated action for improvements to habitats and water quality and natural flood management.

Linking Landscapes (Trees Outside Woods) – NLHF is reopening applications for relevant programmes in February so work will be picked up on this, although NLHF criteria have been reviewed and amended. The context continues to change rapidly, with Shropshire Council now having some Defra funding for a 2.5 year Trees Outside Woods project focused on agro-forestry and orchards.

Environment Agency – We are in continued discussion with EA over current and potential funding streams. EA have pledged £40,000 for 2021/2022 to continue partnership working in the Clun Catchment.

Woodland Trust – Partnership arrangement confirmed c.£20,000 for 2021/2022 in the Clun Catchment.

A49 corridor - We are in discussion with Kier over a potential application to one of the Highways Agency environmental funds and supplied them with a comprehensive report of suggested activity.

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

AONB Management Plan

A progress report on actions was taken to the November AONB Partnership meeting and published. The 2019-2020 Annual Review was published.

Climate partnerships

We have maintained strong input in meetings and draft documents to both South Shropshire Climate Action and the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP), including through their Land & Biodiversity sub-groups. These have been valuable groups for debating issues and raising understanding. SCAP published the Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan on 31st December. Phil also attends Shropshire Council's Climate Emergency Officer Group.

Nature Recovery Plan

Mike Kelly has been liaising with local partners on opportunity mapping and we have been linking with NAAONB who have employed a Nature Recovery Officer. We have taken the opportunity of talks and meetings to disseminate key principles and ideas and gain feedback on these. Phil has led the plan writing and discussions with key partners and the draft has been released for consultation on 22nd March (see agenda item 3).

Environmental Land Management (ELM) Advocacy

We were allocated c£7,500 of funding from Defra in November to undertake a small programme of advocacy for the ELM scheme by the end of March. We opted to do this work in house, and most team members attended three briefing sessions run by NAAONB during December. We contacted farmers during January and February to encourage participation in some national on-line seminars and to discuss with them the transition to ELM. We used existing networks as much as possible and are grateful to partners who have helped publicise the webinars. (see agenda item 4).

Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

Defra announced this three year programme of funding in December, due to start in April. To date no further information has been received, so the start seems inevitably delayed (see agenda item 4).

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

AONB Conservation Fund – the 2020-21 projects have been progressing as far as possible. Project ideas are being received for applications for 2021-22. 8 projects are going forward to the grant award panel on 23rd March.

Friends – newsletters were sent out in February & March. Renewal letters were sent to members who pay by cheque.

AONB Trust and fund-raising – Successful bids to *the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust* has brought in an extra £6,000 to the Conservation Fund. The AONB Trust has appointed Neil Willcox as a new trustee. Data Sharing Agreement drafted. List of local shows and events to attend this year is being put together.

Planning

We submitted a detailed response on the Shropshire Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation in October. Around half of our comments and suggested improvements were taken on board in the Regulation 19 draft. We submitted a Reg 19 response in February which has been circulated to members. We have made substantive comments on three planning applications.

Other influencing

We have commented on or provided input to:

- a number of Ordinary Watercourse consultations
- ICCAN consultation on aircraft noise
- Forestry Commission/Countryside Stewardship woodland creation plans
- FC Felling Licence proposals
- APPG on Covid-19 impacts on leisure & hospitality - NAAONB & LEP
- Shropshire and T&W Visitor Economy Strategy
- Buglife B-lines nature recovery corridors
- Defra Rural Tourism roundtable
- Shropshire Visitor Economy Covid recovery plan
- England Peat Strategy Consultation
- Europarc Federation Strategy consultation

Local partnership working

An online meeting was held of the Shropshire Council officer group for the AONB in November. We are planning briefings and discussion with some relatively new senior SC

managers. We have participated in SC Culture, Leisure & Tourism meetings for managers and staff. Alison Kay participates in the SC Employee Reference Group. Mike has been working with SC Highways and Drainage and Flooding Teams to share knowledge of Clun highways drainage network. We work closely with SC Natural Environment, Tree and Climate Change teams, the Visitor Economy Officer Andrea Fox, and with Telford & Wrekin's Tourism and Natural Environment teams.

Phil has taken part in meetings of the Marches Nature Partnership.

A Clun Catchment Partnership meeting was held on 18th March with 18 attendees. The Clun Freshwater Pearl Mussel Steering Group is to be reinstated (still pending).

Mike sits on the Teme Partnership Steering Group and the Shropshire Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative Steering Group. Alison and Mike attend the Clun Field Officers meetings.

Joy attended the West Midlands Environment Funding Advisory Group meeting in November.

Cath is supporting CPRE's new Shropshire Hedgerow project, specifically, Sarah Jameson with the educational/John Muir Award element and Rob Rowe with farmer engagement and identifying potential sites.

Communications & public awareness

Website and social media – we continue to update and improve the website and maintain output on various social media platforms now also including Instagram, which is linking us with younger audiences. Guidance on tree planting and establishment is being prepared.

E-newsletter sent out in December through Council Gov Delivery system – mailing list is over 2,500.

We participate in the NAAONB Comms meeting and remain involved in the NAAONB arts project – Joy attended four NAAONB organised training sessions during November and a follow-up session with the Arts Council.

Phil gave a talk to the University Centre Shrewsbury MSc course in Sustainable Heritage, to a group from Worthen with Shelve Parish Council in March, and has a talk to the Pontesbury environment group in April.

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

A second online meeting of the Partnership was held on 24th November, attended by 15 members plus most of the staff team. Team members have been contacting Partnership members one to one for catch-up discussions. The Strategy & Performance Committee has met online on 2nd September and 14th January.

Glover Review

We attended a Defra online meeting for AONB and National Park Lead Officers and a Europarc Atlantic Isles seminar on implementation of the Glover Review, with several Defra speakers. The full government response to the Review is still awaited, but it is clear that Defra wish to progress many of the recommendations. Proposals for a National Landscapes Service are being pursued but there has been no formal consultation so far.

Defra funding

The Defra funding settlement for 2021-22 was received in March and is a flat settlement at the same level as 2020-21, with no inflation rise.

AONB Team and office

Joy's contract as Funding & Programmes Officer has been extended to the end of September and Alison Jones' contract as Clun Catchment Officer extended to June 2021 and both will be extended further. We are hosting a month's placement for a 2nd year Geography student from Chester University in April-May 2021.

We have vacating Unit 13 at Drovers House to go to a shared meeting room, and are reconfiguring the office for more of a mix of home and office working.

We continue to make more use of online tools such as SharePoint and build the skills of team members on IT.

National Association for AONBs and Europarc Federation

We continue to contribute actively to on-line discussions in the national AONB forums and have taken part in a number of Europarc online events.

Phil has been part of a small national collaboration group through NAAONB on climate change (see agenda item 6), and took part in the Lead Officers meeting in March.

We have had quite a lot of links with other protected areas through the ELM Advocacy programme.

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| List of Background Papers None |
| 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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