



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership  8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	<u>Item</u>  <b>3</b>
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## SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB TRUST UPDATE AND TRUSTEE NOMINATION

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### Summary

This paper gives members an update on recent activity of the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust including launch of the Business Supporters Scheme, and seeks confirmation of a trustee nomination from the Partnership.

### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the update, approve the nomination of George Chancellor as a trustee, and members are asked invite businesses they know to become Business Supporters of the Trust.

### Background

The Shropshire Hills AONB Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed in 2016 to promote the conservation of the natural beauty of the Shropshire Hills landscape. It supports activities which protect the wildlife and heritage of the Shropshire Hills area and which spread knowledge and understanding of the importance of the natural environment. An important aim is to encourage local people and organisations to become actively involved in caring for the countryside around them.

The charity has up to eight trustees whose terms of 2-3 years are phased to ensure continuity. Four of the trustee seats are directly appointed by the other trustees, the manager of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is an *ex officio* trustee, and the AONB Partnership may also nominate up to three other trustees.

The current appointed trustees are Anthony Morgan, Alastair Warrington and Neil Willcox (with one vacancy). The AONB Partnership nominated trustees are Veronica Cossons and Charles Edwards. George Chancellor has served two terms as a trustee and then sat out for a year, so he is now eligible to be renominated by the Partnership and is the recommended nominee. George is Treasurer of the Trust.

The Trust's income comes from subscriptions to the Friends of the Shropshire Hills scheme together with funds from other charitable bodies (particularly from the Millichope Foundation) and general donations. It also receives donations for specific appeals such as the Fix the Fort project and Shuttles supporters. The main way the Trust's funds are used is in

awarding grants from the AONB Conservation Fund. Currently a total of around £12k - £15k is given annually in grants, of up to £2k each. The Trust seeks to expand the size of the Conservation Fund and the number of projects supported. Details of all the activities supported are presented on the Trust's website [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/conservation-fund-projects](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/conservation-fund-projects).

The Friends scheme was originally established by the AONB Partnership in 2008 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AONB, but with the creation of the Trust in 2016 it was agreed that the Friends should be seen to be supporting the Trust as well as the Partnership and all subscriptions from then have gone to the Trust.

At the AONB summer Forum in July 2022, a Business Supporters Scheme for the AONB Trust was launched. This will be an additional income stream for the Trust as well as a means of engaging with local businesses. Business Supporters will make an annual donation of £250 and will gain recognition, and opportunities to participate in events and projects. Members of the Partnership can help by inviting businesses they know who may be interested to become Business Supporters of the Trust through the scheme. Leaflets will be distributed to members at the meeting and further information is available at <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/business-supporters-scheme>.

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
None
<b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b>
The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.
<b>Environmental Appraisal</b>
The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.
<b>Risk Management Appraisal</b>
Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.
<b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b>
The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.
<b>Appendices</b>
None