

AONB Partnership (Executive Group) Meeting

MEETING NOTES Tuesday 9 October 2018

2.00pm, Meeting Room, Porth Mellon Enterprise Centre, St Mary's

Item	Meeting Note	Action
1	Present; Sarah Mason (acting chair), David Jackson, Tom Hooper, Ricky Pender, Paul St Pierre, Kate Sugar Apologies; Jonathan Smith, Luke Humphries, Diana Mompoloki, Naomi Stratton, Mike Nelhams	
2	Comments and Actions from previous meeting	<p>Ecosystems Services; Work continues in this area, with potential projects being identified in the marine sector.</p> <p>ACTION SM, TH, LH to update as appropriate.</p> <p>Agritech – see Agenda Item 9.</p> <p>LNP update see Agenda item 5.</p> <p>Review of designated landscapes –The NAAONB have developed a list of key asks from the review body (see attached) and they have reported that an ad-hoc approach has been taken to the engagement of AONBs and National Parks, based on opportunity. Julian Glover (leading the Review) has been invited to the islands by the AONB. Lord Cameron is on the panel and is a dedicated visitor to the islands. LH and JP met with him in August during his holiday.</p> <p>Seabird Strategy – see Item 10.</p> <p>Land based (farming) sector representation – LH continues to be the main conduit for communications with this sector, supported by JS, IoSWT and Tresco Estate. Approaches are being made to the farming sector to see if anyone would like to represent the land sector on the AONB Partnership.</p> <p>ACTION LH – Update on Land based sector engagement.</p>
3	Partner Updates	<p>Updates were received from Natural England, the Council and the Duchy</p> <p>No Actions</p>
4	Delivery Partner Update	<p>No issues were raised, there was praise for the success of the educational programmes in raising awareness, which has also been reflected by positive feedback from participants in the various activities.</p> <p>No Actions.</p>
5	LNP Update	<p>A verbal update was received. The LNP meeting hosted on the islands in September was regarded as a success, stimulating a good deal of discussion by the visiting Board members and showcasing the sustainability and “circular economy” work on the islands. There is still considerable concern about effective engagement with the LNP and the specific ask/value that the islands require from them.</p>

		ACTION CD/TH/JP/JS – Review engagement and attendance at LNP meetings.
6	Landscapes for Life Conference Report	<i>It was noted that these NAAONB meetings are interesting to attend from a networking perspective but value of attendance was questioned unless there was direct relevance to the islands. It appears as though the key messages coming out of the Conference are outdated compared to the updates and communications from the NAAONB.</i> <i>No Actions.</i>
7	Balloon Releases –restriction policy	<i>There was support from partners to adopt this approach across the islands.</i> ACTION ALL – Consider application of similar or supporting policies or ways of formalising current approaches to support this policy and the work of the Plastic-Free Scilly initiative.
8	AONB Website	ACTION JP/SM – Add meeting notes to the website. Include IP as a strategic member in the Partnership section.
9	Agritech	<i>Verbal reminder of details for the Agritech programme and their updates, including their visit in Nov 2017.</i> ACTION JS to provide update on potential event on Scilly
10	Sea Bird Conservation Strategy	<i>The strategy was endorsed by the Partnership. The IoSWT will publicise the strategy through the usual WT and AONB channels. Partners are encouraged to re-tweet messages. The desire to raise the profile of St Mary's in respect of sea bird conservation with the aim of increasing community engagement was discussed. It is intended that the work programme in the strategy will address this, particularly through the educational aspects taking place on St Mary's and in the school. The consultation and work on the SPA extension will also increase inclusion of the islands as a whole.</i> ACTION ALL – Support promotion of the Strategy.
11	Any Other Business a. Next Meeting 12 th February 2019, 1400hrs b. Hedge and Verge Management c. Next Discussion Meeting – TBA – 2019/20 Delivery Plan Future subject – Biosecurity. d. Landscapes for Life Chairman's Conference 29 th November – Diary date	ACTION JP – Circulate meeting dates for 2019/2020. ACTION SM – Liaise with Council to provide revision to guidelines for hedgerow management. ACTION JP – Circulate meeting date. ACTION JP/LH – Review attendance following publication of agenda.

Glover Review of Protected Landscapes

Key asks – Draft

Link future rural support with AONB management plans

- AONB management plans to provide a key framework for the development of a new Environmental Land Management scheme support.
- AONB partnerships to have a central role in delivery and targeting of the new ELMs post Brexit
- Position and resource AONB teams to guide/deliver a new environmental land management framework

Strengthen the impact of the designation in planning terms

- AONB Management Plan should be integral to setting policy for development management for the designation
- The AONB partnership enabled and resourced to create a strategic AONB development plan/local plan
- The recognition of AONBs as having the ‘highest status of protection’ needs to be significantly increased at local authority level
- Consider the benefit/disbenefit of statutory consultee status for AONB partnerships/conservation boards
- Strengthen section 85 of the CROW Act 2000 by moving to a model of ‘due regard’ based on the principles of proportionality and relevance
- Ensure AONBs have parity with National Parks in planning terms

Strengthen the Management Plan

- Proper accountability of Local Authorities to Defra/ DCMS – consider a duty to implement management plans
- Consider better aligning delivery to that of the 25-year environment plan

Resource adequately

- Define the funding base for landscape management within designated areas based on expected outputs
- Explore the issue of critical mass and address deficiencies
- Support stable, multi-year and long-term commitment to funding

Advocate for Landscape

- Review the AONB brand, locally and nationally. Consider alternatives within a wider brand development programme.
- AONB partnerships and NPAs to become advocates for landscape quality regardless of designation.
- Strengthen the role of the NAONB and AONB Family to improve education by better integrating environment and landscape within the national curriculum.

Strengthen local governance and improve accountability

- Consider greater independence from local authorities
- Confirm where accountability lies recognising the local government connection, whilst not reducing the freedom to operate.
- Support flexible models of governance – no one size fits all
- Reflect the national interest with independent appointments to AONB partnerships in line with National Park Authorities and Conservation Boards