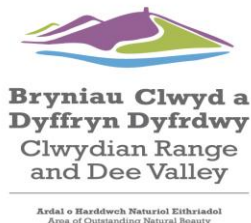


# Public Document Pack



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE  
Park Gwledig Loggerheads, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir Ddinbych CH7 5LH

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB  
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

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To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee  
Date: Friday, 18 November 2016  
Direct Dial: 01824 712589  
Email: [democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 25 November 2016 at 10.00 am in County Hall, Mold, Flintshire.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams  
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

## AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2016** (Pages 5 - 10)  
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on the 24 June, 2016 (copy enclosed).
- 3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD 21ST OCTOBER 2016** (Pages 11 - 20)  
To consider the draft minutes of the AONB Partnership meeting held on 21 October 2016
- 4 LOGGERHEADS CAR PARK**  
To receive a verbal update on Loggerheads car park.



- 5 AONB BUSINESS PLAN** (Pages 21 - 50)  
To consider The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Business Plan.
- 6 JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET** (Pages 51 - 66)  
To consider a report (copy enclosed) on the Joint Committee Budget.
- 7 SUMMARY OF ACCESS AND RECREATION GRANT** (Pages 67 - 70)  
To note a report on the Access and Recreation Grant (for information only).
- 8 OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE**  
To receive a verbal update on our picturesque landscape.
- 9 WORLD HERITAGE SITE**  
To receive a verbal update on the World Heritage Site.
- 10 FRIENDS OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY**  
To consider a verbal update on the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
- 11 SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS MARCH 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 2016** (Pages 71 - 76)  
To note a summary report (for information purposes only) on AONB planning consultations for the period from April, 2016 to September, 2016 (copy enclosed).
- 12 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 77 - 80)  
To consider the updated AONB Joint Committee work programme.
- 13 FUTURE MEETING DATES**  
To consider possible dates for future meetings of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee:-  
  
17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 or 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017.  
16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017.  
10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Councillors**

Bernie Attridge  
Derek Butler  
Hugh Evans

Hugh Jones  
Ian Roberts  
Barbara Smith

### **COPIES TO:**

All Councillors for information  
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA  
OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL ON  
FRIDAY, 24 JUNE 2016**

**MEMBERS**

Councillors Derek Butler (FCC), Hugh Evans (DCC), Hugh Jones (Chair) (WCBC) and Huw Jones (DCC).

Also Present – Andy Worthington (Chair AONB Partnership), Paul Mitchell (Natural Resources Wales), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Manager), Gary Williams (Head of Legal and Democratic Services, DCC), Martin Howarth (Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager, WCBC), Ros Stockdale (Regional Route Warden), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Manager), Ceri Lloyd (AONB SDF Officer), Huw Rees (DCC) and Marie Russell (Committee Officer, WCBC),

**1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bernie Attridge (FCC), Ian Roberts (WCBC) and Tom Woodall (FCC).

There were no declarations of interest.

**2 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

**AGREED –**

- (i) That Councillor Hugh Jones (WCBC) be appointed Chair of the Joint Committee;**
- (ii) That Councillor Huw Jones (DCC) be appointed Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.**

**3 AONB APPOINTMENTS TO WORLD HERITAGE BOARD AND CADWYN CLWYD BOARD**

The AONB Officer provided a verbal update in respect of the vacant seats.

**AGREED – The Joint Committee support the following proposals:**

- (i) That Councillor Huw Jones (DCC) be nominated to represent the Joint Committee on the World Heritage Board;**
- (ii) That Flintshire submit a nomination for the vacant seat on the Cadwyn Clwyd Board;**
- (iii) A report on the requirements of the Joint Committee member on the Cadwyn Clwyd Board and the reporting mechanisms for reporting between them be considered at the next meeting of the Cadwyn**

**Clwyd Board.**

**4 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGREED – The minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2016 be received and approved as a correct record agreed.**

**5 MINUTES OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

The Chair welcomed Andrew Worthington, Chair of the Partnership, to the meeting.

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer highlighted the main points within the minutes.

**AGREED – The minutes of the AONB Partnership meeting held on 13 May 2016 be received and approved as a correct record.**

**6 JOINT COMMITTEE OUTTURN AND ACCOUNTS 2015/16 AND BUDGET 2016/17**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer presented the report, referring in particular to the Accounting Statement for 2015/16 (Appendix 2), which required formal approval.

During discussion, the following points were noted, in particular:

- The approval and signing of the formal Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 was a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts.
- Confirmation that the proposed budget was dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities.
- Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets would help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year.
- A request was made for further detail around how the £44,752 total reserve amount for Project funding would be spent. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer agreed to circulate this information.

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) that the report be received and its contents noted.**
- (ii) that the Accounting Statement for 2015/16 be approved.**

**7 PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY**

Neville Howell, Founding Trustee, Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, gave a presentation to the Joint Committee, which provided details under the

following headings:

- Current Membership
- Approved logo design
- Object, from the Constitution (as agreed with the Charity Commission)
- Events Organised to date
- Future Events
- What Next? (promote in neighbouring areas)

The Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee, acknowledged Neville's enthusiasm and congratulated him on the progress he had made with the Trust.

It was suggested that the presentation could be given to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, at each of the three Local Authorities.

**RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.**

## **8 AONB ANNUAL REPORT**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer presented the report, referring in particular to the main points for consideration.

During discussion, the following points were noted, in particular:

- Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, and in particular its growing membership (over 130 members currently), was one of the highlights of the Joint Committee.
- Loggerheads Country Park had seen major changes and a Planning Application for a second car park had now been approved.
- Ongoing work was taking place in respect of Biodiversity.
- In noting a limited access to resources, the Joint Committee recognised the importance of sustaining connections with CADW and other working groups.
- It was noted that work was being undertaken with Colleges and the Young Farmers Association and that children in urban schools in Wrexham had hosted farms in the Dee Valley Area. It was noted that work was also continuing to take place with Young Rangers. The Chair suggested that links with the farming community should be highlighted more clearly in the report.
- In noting the importance of the agricultural community, it was suggested that an AONB surgery could be set up in Ruthin Market to promote work with farms in adjoining areas.
- The need to promote the work of the AONB. It was proposed that the Annual Report should be sent to all relevant AMs, PMs and Councillors.

The Chair thanked the AONB Officer and all the staff who were carrying out work on a daily basis.

**RESOLVED – that the Joint Committee receive and endorse the AONB Annual Report.**

9 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT**

The AONB SDF Officer presented the report, referring in particular to the main points for consideration.

During discussion, the following points were noted, in particular:

- Particular reference was made to some of the most successful projects, including 'Actif Woods Wales', 'Countryside Discovery' and 'Clwydian Range Breakfast'.
- Going forward there was currently a £5,000 reduction from last year.
- There had been over 30 expressions of interest.
- It was hoped that Welsh Government would provide additional funding.
- Acknowledgement that Community Councils had contributed towards the cost of projects and that there was a great deal of co-operation.

**RESOLVED – that the report be received and its contents noted.**

10 **SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS OCTOBER 2015 - MARCH 2016**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer presented the report for information purposes only.

During discussion, the following points were noted, in particular:

- Acknowledgement that communication was key to the success of the planning consultation process.
- Responses should be linked to statutory duties and should be evidence based.
- It was proposed that applicants should be given an opportunity to discuss their ideas at a 'drop-in' surgery prior to submission of any planning application.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

11 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer presented the report.

During discussion of the report, the following points were noted, in particular:

- A proposal was made to commission a piece of work to map out the numbers of visitors to Loggerheads and the most popular times for those visits, in order that a strategic approach could be taken to dealing with parking issues.



- The need to work in partnership with other bodies to ensure that issues in respect of congestion and parking could be addressed.
- Projects were for the benefit of the local population and not just visitors to the area.
- Other destinations within North East Wales should be promoted as part of the Strategic Plans for 2014-16.
- Confirmation that the AONB Joint Committee was working closely with the Board of the World Heritage Site.
- Recognition that a sub group was looking at national grid lines. This created an opportunity to work with farmers.

**RESOLVED – that the report be received and its contents noted.**

**12 PRESENTATION ON AONB AND NATURAL RESOURCES WALES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

Ros Stockdale and David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer) gave a joint presentation which highlighted some of the projects currently supported by the AONB and Natural Resources Wales Partnership Project.

The Chair thanked Officers for their excellent presentation.

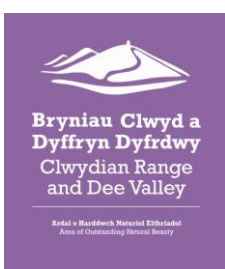
**RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.**

**13 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**Resolved – The next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 18 November 2016.**

Councillor Hugh Jones (WCBC)  
Chair

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## The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

At  
Theatre Clwyd, Mold  
at 10:30 am

### AONB Partnership Members

#### Representing Land Management

Gareth Wyn Jones

#### Representing Access and Recreation

Andrew Worthington OBE (Chair)

Sandy Archdale

#### Individual Interest

John I Roberts

#### Representing Rural Interest

Christine Evans

Roger Cragg

#### Representing Business Interest

Dewi Davies

#### Urban Interest

(Dee Valley and World Heritage Site)

Del Roberts-Jones

#### Individual Interest

David Davies

#### Representing Landscape Interest

Michael Skuse

#### Representing Historical Interest

Tony King

### Representing Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer)

David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer)

Tony Hughes (AONB Planning Officer)

Karen Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer)

Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development Officer)

Helen Mrowiec (AONB Senior Recreation Officer)

### Representing Wrexham County Borough Council

Councillor RJ Dutton OBE

Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation and Environment Officer)

### Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Merfyn Parry

Councillor Martyn Holland

### Representing Flintshire County Council

Councillor Paul Cunningham (Vice Chair)

Councillor Colin Legg

together with

Tom Woodall

(Head of FCC Countryside Service & ROW)

### Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Observer

Paul Mitchell

Apologies for Absence were submitted from: -

Cllr Hugh Jones (WCBC), Cllr Huw L Jones (DCC), Cllr Stuart Davies,

Cllr Lloyd Kenyon, Huw Rees, Ian Papworth, Helen Walker, Sharron Jones

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the autumn meeting of the Partnership.

Councillor Huw L Jones (Denbighshire County Council)

The AONB Officer said that he was pleased to report that following Councillor Huw Jones' serious illness, he was now making good progress and was currently convalescing at home.

**Action**

Best wishes to be sent to Councillor Huw Jones on behalf of the Partnership.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2016  
The minutes were agreed as a correct.

Matters arising

- 3.2 New Partnership Member

Urban Representative (Dee Valley and World Heritage Site)

The AONB Officer informed the meeting that a new member had now been appointed, Del Roberts-Jones. The Chair welcomed Del to the Partnership and said that he was looked forward to her contribution.

- 9.1 Parking within the AONB

The Assistant AONB Officer explained that the Land Management & Natural Environment / Recreation and Tourism Working Group was currently examining congestion and parking throughout the AONB. A short review had been proposed to analyse available data, and establish a wider picture of the parking situation. 'Hotspots' included the Horseshoe Falls and the World Heritage Site, Loggerheads and Moel Famau.

Upper Car Park at Loggerheads

The new car park was now open at Loggerheads, which would provide around 70 extra car parking spaces.

- 9.2 Future Landscapes Wales Working Group

The Review of Protected Landscapes in Wales

Welsh Government had undertaken a review of protected landscapes in Wales. The AONB Officer and Assistant AONB Officer attended the Working Group meetings, and the AONB Officer and that a draft report would be circulated by Welsh Government by November.

2. Update from the AONB Officer

The AONB Officer provided a brief summary of the projects that the AONB had recently been involved in: Wrexham Walking Festival, Flintshire County Council Business Week, and Prestatyn Walking Festival.

The AONB Officer had completed a presentation to Flintshire County Council Scrutiny Committee which had been well received, and he underlined the importance of keeping the three Local Authorities updated on all of the work/projects that the AONB completed.

- 2.1 National Association of AONB's (NAAONB) Annual Conference  
This year's conference was held at Lilleshall in the Midlands, and some members of the AONB Team had led a field trip for conference members. Delegates cycled from Trevor Basin to Llangollen with information provided on the World Heritage Site and Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- 2.2 National Association of AONB's (NAAONB) 'Outstanding Week'  
Outstanding Week (17<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September) was coordinated by the NAAONB, and the campaign was for all the AONB's throughout England and Wales promoting AONBs for one week on all social media about their ecological importance and economic value. The majority of AONB's also convened events for that week. The AONB Officer had led three walks on behalf of the AONB, and the Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley also contributed an event. The campaign was a success and would be held annually.
- 2.3 National Grid Visual Improvement Initiative (VIP) included the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)  
The AONB Officer explained that the LEI was a large scale national programme by National Grid to mitigate the impact of overhead lines in protected landscapes. He represented all AONBs on the VIP Steering Group. He explained that the majority of the funding would be invested in undergrounding major transmission lines in a number of National Parks/AONBs. Unfortunately our AONB was not a priority for undergrounding in this round, but would be eligible for significant grants through the LEI (up to £200k per project) to help mitigate local impact.
- The AONB would be submitting an expression of interest for projects associated with the Corwen – Treuddyn and Tremeirchion overhead lines. The projects were still being developed in partnership with farmers and landowners, and would include, for example, grants for hedgerow and tree planting works and roadside verge management. The LEI project locally was being developed and led by the Land Management and Natural Environment Working Group.
- 2.4 Scottish Power Overhead Line Undergrounding Programme  
This initiative was for low voltage schemes, the sites that had been proposed were: Moel y Parc, Horseshoe Pass (up to the Ponderosa), Ty Mawr Country Park, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Horseshoe Falls and Toll booth Café area on the A5
- 2.5 Sewage Works near Poncysyllte Aqueduct  
The AONB Officer updated members on various actions that were being taken to press for removal or remediation of this eyesore within the World Heritage Site. The Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group were leading on this item.
3. **Presentation: 'Our Picturesque Landscape Project'**  
Project Officer, Sarah Jeffery with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation provided a clear and concise presentation on the project explaining that 'key views' of the project area were currently being analysed, with proposals currently being developed to reinstate the views.  
Current deliberations included; Parking and congestion, Surveying and engaging with different groups within the community, Interpretation of the sites - to create a sense of arrival at the area.

Phase one of the project consisted of Consultations being held, and securing Match Funding. Current Work included a Community Engagement Plan. Plans for the restoration of the Dell at Plas Newydd and a plan for Wernffrwd Site - at Llangollen. Five Community Consultation events had been held, and on the whole were well attended.

Discussion ensued. It was proposed that engagement with schools/school children should be key area of the project. Del Roberts Jones said that the project had been welcomed in the Dee Valley, with good engagement from the community.

One member said that the term 'picturesque' must be emphasised throughout the project, because it might not be properly understood in this context:

"The word **picturesque** referred to an ideal type of landscape that has an artistic appeal, in that it was beautiful, but also with some elements of wildness or irregularity" - Tate Art Gallery Website

Another member shared that he was a member of the Thomas Pennant Historical Group, and the Picturesque Project had been discussed at a recent meeting.

All agreed that it was a fantastic project that would generate a lot of benefits for both the AONB and World Heritage Site. Members looked forward to hearing about the progress of the project. The Chair thanked Sarah Jeffery for a most interesting presentation.

#### 4. Partnership Working Groups

The Chairpersons of the Working Groups provided a brief verbal update on the progress of the groups.

##### Report from Chairpersons of the Working Groups

#### 4.1 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Working Group

Mike Skuse reported that there were 27 approved projects this year with a total of £58,000 awarded. The smallest application approved was for £300 for a community map of Carrog, which would be erected in the village. The largest approved project was for £5,000 which, together with further contributions from Cadwyn Clwyd, would be expended to restore the iconic red phone boxes into tourist information points or defibrillator units etc. Another worthwhile project which was awarded £1,000, was aimed to provide transport to groups who wanted to visit the AONB but lacked the funds to hire a mini bus to do so. This project supported underprivileged groups and was now in its third year. £5,000 of the funding was provided to the Countryside Grant Scheme, in partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). This fund was available to farmers for restoration schemes, providing 50% of the cost (maximum of £1,000). Five applications were currently being investigated. Mike on behalf of the Working Group thanked the Sustainable Development Officer, Ceri Lloyd and the Assistant AONB Officer, David Shiel for their continuing excellent work.

Discussion ensued. Councillor Owen Thomas said that he represented Cilcain and Nannerch Community Council, and he had attended today's meeting to raise concerns/awareness regarding the increasing number of visitors to the village accessing the countryside around. This put pressure on facilities including the public conveniences that are run and funded by the community. Councillor Thomas also raised concerns regarding parking in Cilcain, explaining that the car park was a community car park, paid for and managed by the community of Cilcain, therefore for the use of the community. The increasing number of visitors in the villages was causing problems. Councillor Thomas asked that the AONB was mindful of the impact to local communities of visitors to the AONB and asked if

there would be support to help tackle some of these issues. The Assistant AONB Officer responded that congestion was a real concern and the AONB were considering options on how to cope with the capacity of visitors in hotspot areas of the AONB. He added that the AONB were consulting the community of Cilcain regarding the local conveniences and how they could be sustained.

In summing up the Chair said that this item would be considered further by the Partnership and thanked Councillor Thomas for his contribution.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Partnership take the raised issues forward  
SDF Funding to be investigated

#### 4.2 Landscape Character and Built Environment of the AONB Working Group

Councillor Martyn Holland reported that the group had met on October 14<sup>th</sup> at which the Dark Sky initiative was discussed. It was recognised that some areas of the AONB may not be dark enough to meet a Dark Sky Reserve criteria, but there were alternative designations. Cadwyn Clwyd had confirmed funding of £10k, and the project could now be taken forward.

Undergrounding of overhead electricity lines was also discussed and it was encouraging that some of the utility companies were working in collaboration with the AONB in key areas.

The Chair also advised that the roll out of improved broad band connectivity by BT Open Reach had raised a number of issues over the siting of some of the new poles. However, BT had been contacted and discussions were underway.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was discussed, the SPG was a long standing action in the AONB Management Plan. An SPG was required to improve the quality of development in the AONB and to add value to the planning process, thus reducing the number of applications that the AONB commented on. A key issue that was considered was the change of use to Holiday Park. Land at Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen, In particular, concerns were raised about the impact on tranquillity and views from the higher ground of the AONB.

#### **Ash Die Back**

Ash Die Back had been identified at Loggerheads. Ash was a prominent tree in the area and the possible long term effects on the landscape was of great concern.

#### 4.3 Heritage, Culture and Communities

Christine Evans, reported that a second meeting was held at Trelawnyd Memorial Hall on September 29th 2016. Fiona Gale had circulated copies of the recently published Management Plan and discussed a report which has recently been submitted to NRW, of work which has taken place within the AONB.

This included:

- Management work at Gop cairn
- Excavations at Penycloddiau and Moel y Gaer, Bodfari
- Interpretive work at the Clive Engine House

Ian Grant from CPAT reported on the community archaeology work which had been taking place at Tomen y Rhodwydd, which had resulted with the motte and bailey castle being virtually free of gorse and scrub.

#### **Caves Project**

Will Davies from Cadw provided a verbal update of the Cadw funded Caves Project which was taking place in the limestone areas, partly in the AONB. There had been some excavations within the AONB at Llanarmon and Loggerheads.

The recent incident of damage at Dinas Bran (and more recently at Gop) was discussed, and focussed on the role of the Heritage Crime officers within the Police. The opportunities potentially provided by the National Grid, Landscape Enhancement Initiative were mentioned. Fiona would provide a draft Forward Work programme at the next meeting which was convened for December 15th 2016. The Chair thanked Christine for her update.

#### 4.4 Land Management and the Natural Environment

Gareth Wyn Jones reported that two meetings had been held to date, and at the last meeting the Management Plan was discussed.

##### **Alyn and Chilwer Living Landscape Project**

A verbal update on the Alyn and Chilwer project was provided by Project Officer, Amy Green. Amy explained that the Balsam Bashing Project had been successful, and traps had been now been set for minks (re: the Mink Project).

##### **BIRDS Project**

This was a potential project looking at Moorland Management across five moorland Estates, Rhug, Nantyr, Vivod, Llanarmon and Ruabon. Moorland Management, was discussed.

##### **National Grid Landscape Enhancement Scheme (LEI)**

The LEI was considered, and maps and information had been circulated for Tremeirchion and the Morwynion Valley, as the two areas that this project related to within the AONB. Bracken spraying and road side verges in Tremeirchion had been considered, and an Expression of Interest had been submitted.

##### **North East Wales Grazing Scheme (NEWGS)**

This was a Sustainable Management Scheme, and an Expression of Interest (EOI) had been submitted. The EOI bid was unsuccessful but the application did score highly. The AONB had been invited to resubmit the application into the next round which closed at the end of November.

In summing up Gareth said that he was enjoying his time on the AONB Partnership, and that he would do his utmost to assist the AONB wherever he could.

#### 4.5 Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement

Dewi Davies reported that Helen Mrowiec was investigating the possibility of receiving information from the CAMS (Countryside Access Management Software) on behalf of the group to request information regarding the status of footpaths/rights of way.

##### **Community Miles**

Hannah Arndt had circulated the list of 15 Community Miles routes including five routes that were not within the AONB. All leaflets were available as downloadable pdf's on either the AONB or Denbighshire Countryside Service websites. Dewi said that the Community Miles were an excellent project and resource.

##### **The Limestone Legacy Project**

The Limestone Legacy Project was discussed, and a new leaflet would be produced by the end of the year.

##### **Visitor Access Data**

The current statistics on visitor numbers and trends were circulated to the group, congestion, was considered and it was agreed that a review should be commissioned to address congestion across the AONB as this work would be beyond the current capacity of the AONB team it should be addressed from a Destination Management Perspective. An initial two page summary would be prepared in the interim.



### **Sustainable Tourism Plan**

Dewi explained that, the group had been asked to develop a list of suggested dormant projects, that if or when funding became available the projects would be ready go.

### **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Review**

ROIWPs were required to be reviewed every 5 years. Flintshire County Council were submitting a Plan of Intention by end of October, Wrexham CBC and Denbighshire CC are also required to do so at a later date. The group would be consulted as part of the ROWIP review process.

Discussion ensued. The Chair said that merging all the collected data together and analysing this would be a key objective for the group.

Several members noted that more than one Working Group was considering parking within the AONB. The Assistant AONB Officer explained that several Working Groups may need to consider parking/congestion. However, e.g. a Lead Group and a Delivery Group and joint meetings might held. All findings would be brought back to the Partnership for discussion.

In summing up the Chair said that it was clear that a great amount of work had been being completed within the Working Groups which would then be fed through to the full Partnership Meetings and this was commendable.

The Chair thanked the Chairpersons of the Working Groups for their updates.

#### **5. AONB Annual Forum**

This year's theme was the 'Natural Environment'

The Forum would be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at

Twm y Nant Theatre, Denbigh 6 pm – 8:30 pm

The speakers for the Forum were:

Martin Clift – RSPB

Amy Green – Alyn & Chilwer Landscape Project

Sarah Bird - Chester Zoo

All members were invited to attend

#### **5.1 Local Members & Community Councils within the AONB Annual Forum**

This year's Forum would be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at

Loggerheads Meeting Room 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

The purpose of the Forum was to update all the Local Members & Community Councils of the work that the AONB had accomplished within the last year.

#### **6. Review of AONB Familiarisation Days**

The AONB Officer said that two Familiarisation days had been held since the last meeting, Prestatyn Hillside and the steam train through the Dee Valley from Llangollen to the Berwyn Station, and Horseshoe Falls. The next event was on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> to visit Caer Drewyn Hillfort, Corwen. The AONB Officer said that the days had been a great success and had enabled members to network together as well as visiting key sites in the AONB.

It was proposed that the summer meeting of the Partnership should include a site visit. Discussion ensued. Cllr Paul Cunningham said that the Familiarisation Days had been excellent, and he along with other members had learnt a great deal about the AONB. Members asked that it be noted that in future site visits there should be some consideration for members that had limited walking. Visits to specific work projects would also be useful and this idea was strongly supported.

## **RESOLVED**

- Site visit to be undertaken in conjunction with the Summer Partnership Meeting
- Consideration to be given to members that cannot walk very far
- Specific site/project visits to compliment Familiarisation Days

### **7. Application for Dark Sky Reserve**

The Assistant AONB Officer summarised the advantages of this project in relation to conserving tranquillity and biodiversity in the AONB together with tourism development opportunities and reported progress since the last meeting. Some progress had also been made in meetings with a number of the highway authorities covering the AONB in respect of street lighting. An application to Cadwyn Clwyd for funding an initial feasibility study to take the Dark Skies project forward had been successful and a £10k grant secured. The study would encompass surveys of the quality and extent of dark skies in the AONB and an assessment of the data in relation to the criteria for formal recognition/ designation of all or parts of the AONB as a dark sky area. He advised that this was unlikely to be full designation as a Dark Sky Reserve but that there are alternative designations. An action plan to take the project forward along with public and business engagement/consultation would also be included.

### **8. AONB Award for 2016**

Eight nominations had been put forward

1. Community Shop /café Llandegla
2. Highfield Park, Llangwyfan
3. The new visitor Centre at St Teclas Church
4. The community of Llandegla
5. John Harrison
6. Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB
7. James Yale & Mike Worsley
8. Village Bakery

The AONB Officer said that there were joint winners for the award, Volunteers, James Yale & Mike Worsley, and the Community of Llandegla.

The AONB Officer suggested that the AONB had two awards:

AONB Award - for outstanding contribution to the AONB, and a

Volunteer Award – for outstanding volunteers

Councillor Paul Cunningham proposed that the AONB have two annual awards, this was second by John Roberts

Discussion was held regarding the scoring of the nominations and whether there should there be some targets to be met to receive the award. The AONB Officer responded that he did not want the award to be over complicated.

However, it was agreed that a scoring matrix would be investigated ahead of next year's awards.

## **RESOLVED**

- That the 2016 AONB Awards be presented to:
- Volunteers, James Yale & Mike Worsley
- Community of Llandegla including the Community Shop and the Visitor Centre at St Teclas Church
- A Scoring matrix to be investigated for next year's award

• • •

9. **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 The Senior Recreation Officer informed the meeting that the AONB had been successful in securing £33,000 additional funding from a Welsh Government Capital Access Grant Programme. The grant would support projects at Gop, Tan y Cut Woods work linked to Promoted Routes in the area.

The Chair thanked members for their contribution to the Working Groups and reiterated that going forward, these groups would continue to strengthen.  
Meeting closed.

10. **Future Meeting Dates:**

AONB Partnership Meetings:

Friday 10th March 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE  
Of the  
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

**Held on: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe**

**Report Author: Helen Mrowiec Senior Recreation Officer**

**Title: Item 5 Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Business Plan**

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**1. What is the report about?**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Business Plan. (Appendix1)

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Business Plan links the AONB Management Plan Actions to resources. The plan covers a period of three years, links to the forward work programme for the AONB and will be reviewed annually. It identifies current resources and current gaps in resources required for the full delivery of the management plan.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Joint Committee scrutinise and endorse the Business Plan for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, delegating its delivery to the AONB Officer.

**4. Report details.**

See attached appendix 1.

**5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?**

The Clwydian Range and Vee Valley Business Plan links directly to the actions identified within the Management Plan.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There is a zero cost other than officer time, some actions require further funding applications before they can be delivered.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

See appendix 2

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

The AONB Officers' working group have commented on the draft structure of the report. The Business Plan is based on the actions identified within the Management Plan which included public consultation.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement.**

There are no additional costs directly associated with this report

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

None

**11. Power to make the Decision**

The Legal basis to lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'



**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Business Plan 2016-19

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1. The Business Plan
2. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
3. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Purposes
4. Governance Structure of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
5. Core Budget
6. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
7. Staff Resources
8. Sustainable Development Fund
9. Project Budgets
10. Work Programme



## 1. The Business Plan

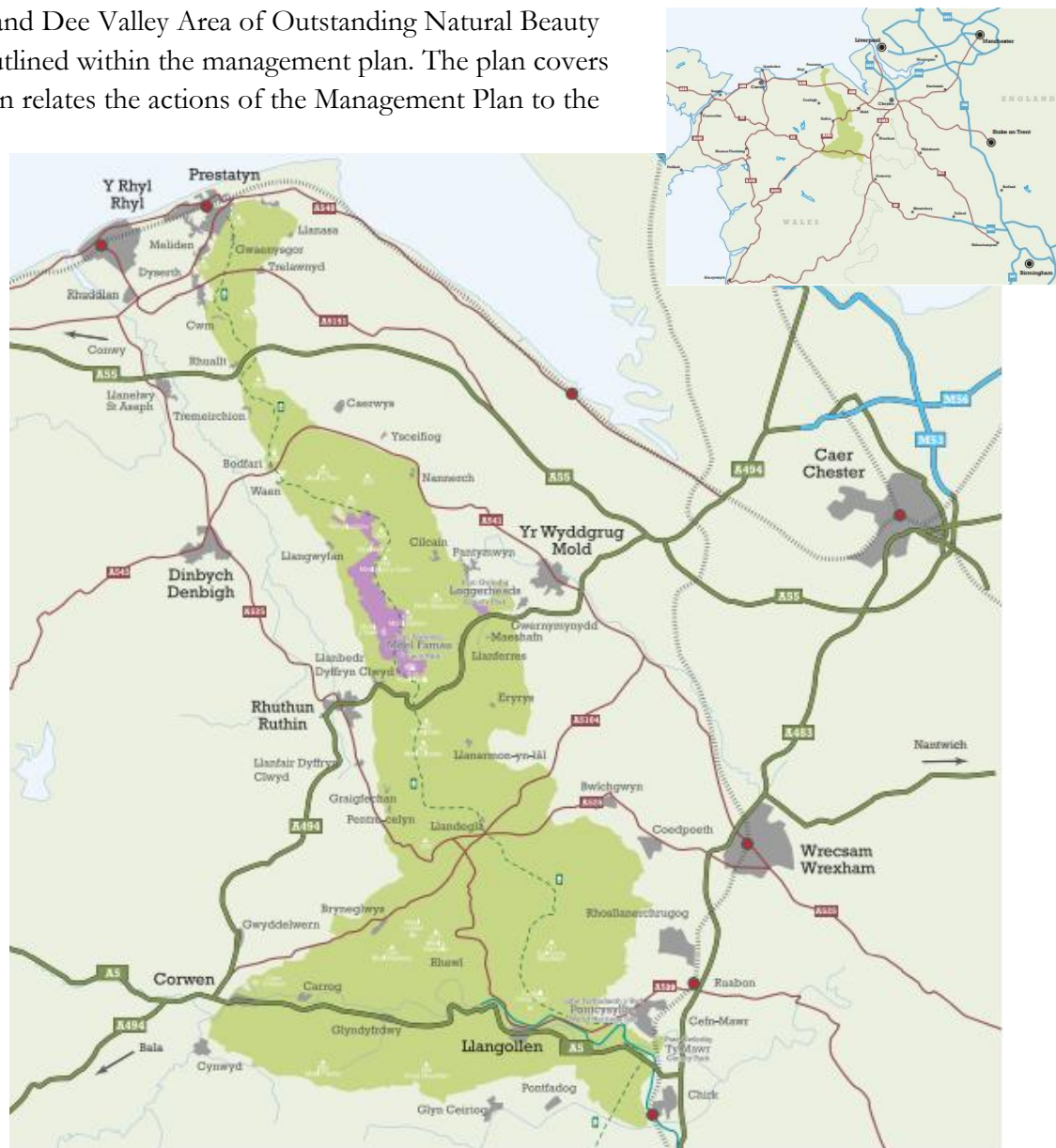
The Business Plan sets out the work programme for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) over the next three years, linking to the objectives and actions outlined within the management plan. The plan covers the period from 2016-2019 but will be updated annually. The Business Plan relates the actions of the Management Plan to the resources available for its delivery, identifying how limited resources can be used most effectively.

## 2. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB forms the dramatic upland frontier of north Wales, one of Britain's unmissable scenic highlights.

This AONB covers 390 square kilometres of windswept hilltops, heather moorland, limestone crags and wooded valleys, almost touching the coast at Prestatyn Hillside in the north and stretches as south as brooding Moel Fferna, the highest point in the AONB at 630 metres. The area embraces some of Britain's most glorious countryside, also the World Heritage Site of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal.

Undiscovered by many yet easy to explore, this magnificent landscape offers fascinating heritage, colourful culture, delicious fare and the warmest welcome. Clwydian Range is a remarkable chain of purple heather-clad summits, topped by Britain's most strikingly situated hillforts. Beneath imposing mountains crossed by the Horseshoe Pass, the Dee Valley winds its way through historic Llangollen, where Wales welcomes the world at the International Eisteddfod. Offa's Dyke National Trail is an ever-present pathway along this land's spine, linking the area's special places, as well as connecting with the southern marches and Wales Coast Path beyond.



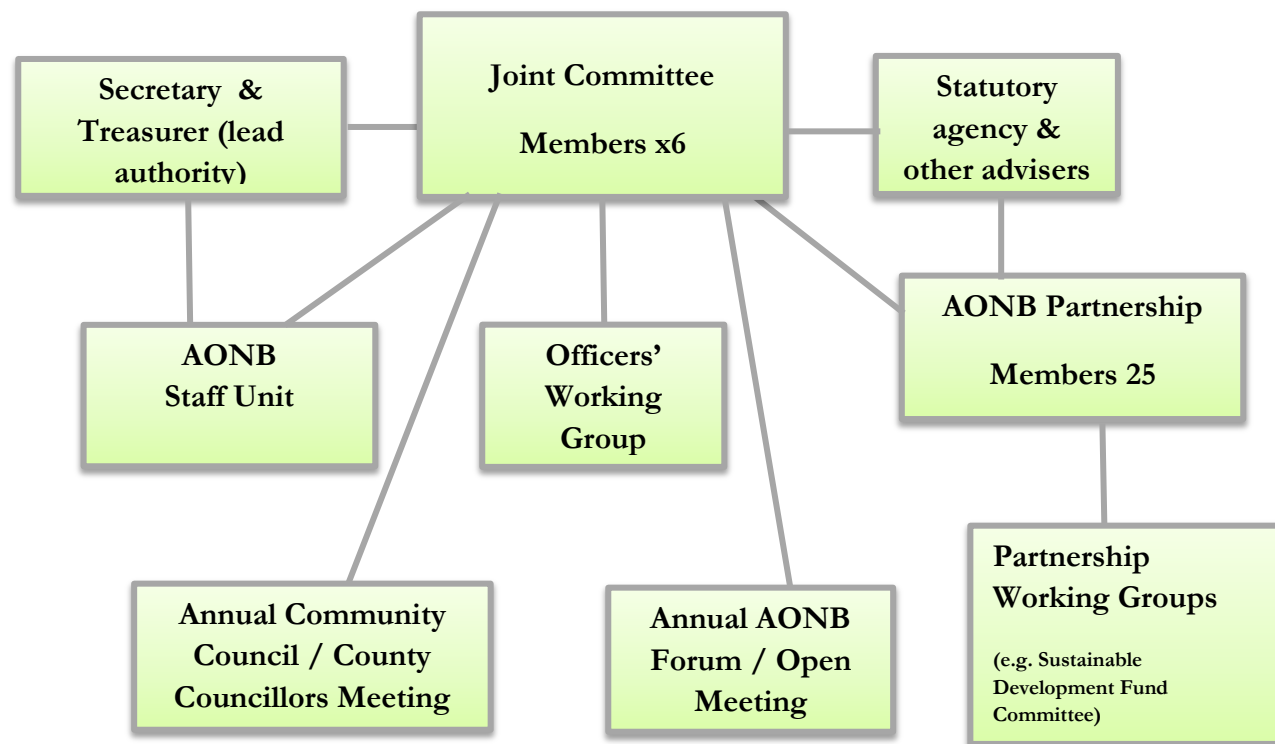
### 3. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Purposes

The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as it is not in conflict with the primary purposes.

### 4. Governance Structure of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The structure of the current governance arrangements for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB can be summarised in the following chart:



Local Authorities have delegated their responsibility for the AONB to an Executive Committee known as the Joint Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley. Two Executive / Cabinet members from Denbighshire, Flintshire County Councils and Wrexham County Borough Council are appointed to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is the decision making body for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

The AONB Partnership comprises of 25 members. 16 members are appointed following an open recruitment process. Members of the Partnership Committee represent a cross section of expertise in particular interest areas to ensure that a balance of membership is sustained (for example; Land management, Rural, Urban, Landscape, Recreation, Historic Environment, Natural Environment, and Business); three places are reserved for individual interest and three for County Councillors, one from each authority. Five working groups sit below the AONB Partnership which advise on the delivery of work:

- Sustainable Land Management
- Recreation and Tourism
- Landscape Character and Built Environment
- Historic Environment
- Sustainable Development Fund

The Joint Committee, Partnership and Working Groups are supported by the AONB team, offices from within the local authorities, but also other organisations such as Natural Resources Wales.

### **The AONB Management Plan**

The AONB Management Plan is a statutory requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The current plan runs from 2014 – 2019. The Management Plan sets out Policies, Objectives and Actions for the care and management of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. It identifies future priorities. A copy of the AONB Management Plan can be downloaded from <http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/plans-and-strategies/>

## 6. Staff Resources

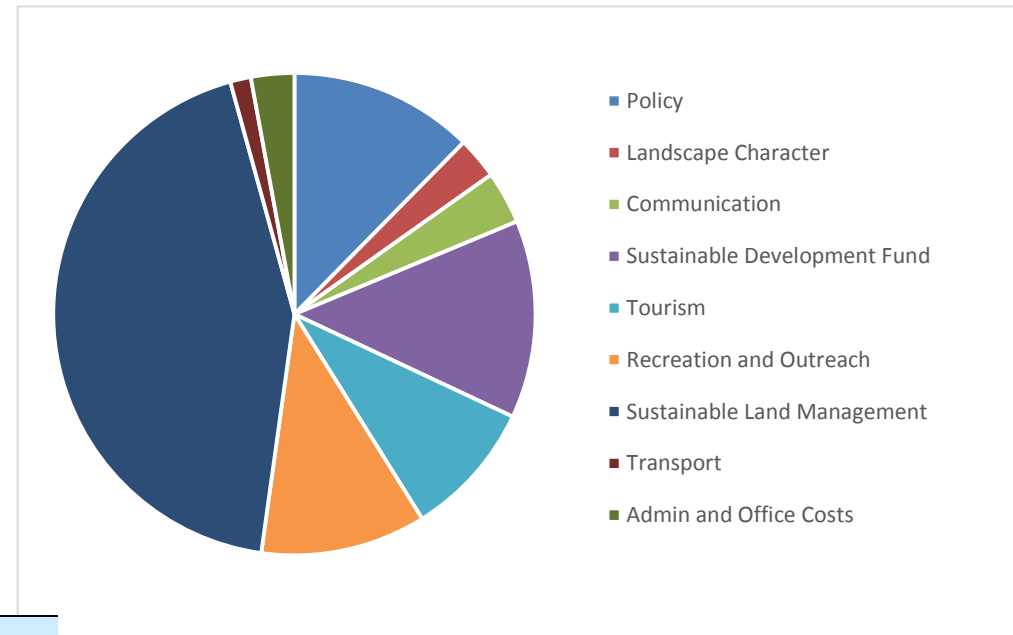
The delivery of the AONB Management Plan is led by the AONB team, who sit within Denbighshire County Council, the lead authority for the AONB in partnership with others. The following staff posts are directly linked to the AONB budget, however a number of other staff and volunteers also make a valuable contribution to the delivery of the management plan from both within Denbighshire County Council and partner organisations.

Post	Duties	Officer
Principal Countryside Officer / AONB Officer	Policy and Budget Management	Howard Sutcliffe
Senior Countryside Officer / Assistant AONB Officer	AONB Management Plan and Warden Service	David Shiel
Northern Area Partnership Warden	Community Projects & volunteering – north area	Rachel Jones
Countryside Warden	Nature conservation, access projects and volunteering	John Morris One vacant position
Sustainable Development Fund Officer	Sustainable Development Fund and Tourism	Ceri Lloyd
Senior Recreation Officer	Recreation and Outreach	Helen Mrowiec
Planning Officer	Landuse and Planning	Tony Hughes
Communications Officer	Communication	Karen Holthofer
Senior Countryside Warden (South)	Site management, conservation and access projects	Rhun Jones
Southern Area Partnership Warden	Community Projects & volunteering – south area	Ros Stockdale

## 7. Core Budget

	<b>2015/16</b>	2016/17
	£	£
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	199,852	205,968
Training & Conference	500	1,000
Subscriptions	1,500	2,900
Insurance	936	936
<b>Total Employee costs</b>	<b>202,788</b>	<b>210,804</b>
<u>Vehicle Hire</u>		
Vehicle Hire	400	450
Mileage	5,000	4,000
Use of Public Transport	300	500
<b>Total Vehicle &amp; Travel Expenses</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>4,950</b>
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	800	1,000
Uniforms	0	1,500
General Equipment	150	150
Event Expenditure	5,000	5,000
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT costs	900	900
Telephones	920	1,100
Publications	100	100
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>9,004</b>	<b>10,884</b>
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	54,545	54,545
<b>Total Project costs</b>	<b>54,545</b>	<b>54,545</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>281,183</b>
<u>INCOME</u>		
NRW Salary Grant	-117,046	-118,063
SDF Grant	-54,545	-54,545
LA Funding	-100,446	-108,575
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-272,037</b>	<b>-281,183</b>



**281,183**

## 8. Sustainable Development Fund

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB administer the Welsh Government supported Sustainable Development Fund that provides assistance to sustainable environmental projects. The 2016/17 Welsh Government awarded £55k to the Sustainable Development Funding. 10% of the fund is automatically absorbed by administrative costs, £5k each year is allocated towards the Countryside Grant Schemes. The fund levers in around £115k cash match funding annually, representing fantastic value for money. In the past two years the fund has engaged with 50+ communities/groups. Occasionally the Welsh Government put out a call for additional funds, this tends to happen towards the end of year when underspend have been identified elsewhere within the Welsh Government. In 2015 we applied for an additional £6k to support two projects. Every year the funding is oversubscribed by 50%

Examples of SDF in action (2016)

- Alyn and Wheeler Project – the creation of interpretive materials including leaflets and pop-up banners. The aim of the interpretation was to help project partners promote the project and gain interest from landowners and potential volunteers, as well as inform locals and visitors about what is happening in the area. The project has not only improved habitats but also benefited local communities through better connection with their local environment.
- Actif Woods Wales – to provide a safe, non-judgemental outdoor space allowing participants to experience a wide range of physical, social and wellbeing benefits.
- Country Trust - The Country Trust, a registered charity, worked in partnership with 3 host farms, 1 estate and woodlands and Country Parks within the AONB to offer children from 9 nearby schools with an above average number of disadvantaged children, the chance to discover how food is produced in the countryside which surrounds the towns and cities in which they live. Each school involved had an opportunity to visit a working farm in different seasons.
- Telephone Kiosk Regeneration - will provide a unique use for K6 Giles Gilbert Scott red telephone kiosks that are iconic features within the AONB. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB's Management Plan 2014-2019 have specific objectives to safeguard small historic features. The following communities are currently on board;
  - Llantysillio,
  - Llanramon yn Ial,
  - Bryneglwys
  - Nannnerch
  - Gwaenysgor
  - Eryrys

Example uses include turning a kiosks into Tourist Information Points (TIPs) with an interpretation panel, leaflets and other information which will provide added interest for those visiting the AONB and encourage them to explore the area further, prolonging their stay.

## 9. Project Budgets

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is proactive in securing further resources to conserve and enhance the special landscape features of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley and increase people's awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the landscape. The following are additional significant Project budgets secured to deliver above and beyond what is possible with the core budget and are reliant on core staff submitting funding applications to deliver specific elements of the Management Plan.

Project	Amount	Funder	Period
Our Picturesque Landscape	£ 67,900 against a total project costs of £96,612	Heritage Lottery Fund	Development Phase 2016 – 2017  Delivery Project will relate to a total project cost of 1.763 million pounds with a HLF grant of 1.3 million over a 5 year period.  Not included within the AONB Core Budget.
Active Alyn Woodland	£122,200 NRW grant against eligible costs of £250,400	Natural Resources Wales	2016 – 2018 Not included within the AONB Core Budget.
Limestone Legacy	£150,667 NRW grant against total project costs of £301,334	Natural Resources Wales	2015 – 2018 Not included within the AONB Core Budget.
Capital AONB Access Projects	£33,500	Welsh Government	2016/17

An expression of interest has been submitted to the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative which are yet to be determined.

## Work Programme

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan outlines policies, objectives and actions to conserve and enhance the special features of this outstanding landscape and can be downloaded from <http://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/plans-and-strategies/>

The policies, objectives and actions are classified under the following 14 special landscape features of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB:

- Landscape Quality and Character
- Heather Moorland and Rolling Ridges
- Limestone grassland cliffs and scree
- Broadleaved woodland and veteran trees
- River Valleys
- Historic Settlement
- Industrial Features and the World Heritage Site
- Hillforts and defensive structures
- Small Historic Features
- Boundaries
- Iconic Visitor and cultural attractions
- Offa's Dyke Path National Trail and Promoted Routes
- The Built Environment
- People and Communities

The work programme relates to the activities prioritised under each of these themes for delivery during the business plan period, linking them to resources and progress. Progress is measured as **Red**: not started, **Amber**: started but limited progress, **Green**: started and on track. Text in blue are amendments from the adopted Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Management Plan.



## Landscape Quality and Character

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19	Prog	Resources
Support Cadwyn Clwyd Renewable Energy Pilot Projects and other appropriate community based projects which seek to mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce the carbon footprint of the AONB without harming the special qualities and features of the area or its character and appearance. LQCO1	Cadwyn Clwyd / AONB	Landowners / NRW					N/A
Support the Natural Response to Flood Risk project in the Clwyd Catchment particularly in relation 3336to management works within the Clwydian Range. LQCO1	Cadwyn / AONB	Landowners / NRW	√				Sustainable Management Scheme project managed by Cadwyn Clwyd
Engage with the National Grid's Visual Impact Provision (VIP) programme to reduce the impact of high voltage transmission in the AONB and its setting. LQCO2	AONB	Landowners	√	√	√		Funding to be secured from the National Grid
Promote mast sharing to reduce clutter and impact on the local landscape character of the AONB. LQCO2	AONB			√			Staff time Mast Providers
Work with the industry to apply the seven 'Holford Rules' and develop guidance for mitigation measures. LQCO2	AONB		√	√	√		Staff time
Prepare guidance on the introduction of renewable energy technologies into the AONB and its setting, to reduce the impact on the local landscape character. LQCO3	AONB			√			Staff time
Encourage and support energy conservation measures in order to help meet national and regional targets for energy consumption. LQCO3	AONB		√	√	√		Staff time
Identify those special qualities of the AONB that are sensitive to change and monitor their state. LQCO4	AONB		√				Staff time
Conduct fix point photography monitoring of key viewpoints across the AONB. LQCO5	AONB	Friends of the CRDV		√			Staff time Volunteers
Establish a monitoring programme from key viewpoints across the AONB. LQCO5	AONB	Friends of the CRDV		√			Staff time Volunteers
Work with the 3 Highways Authorities and Trunk Roads Agency to rationalise road traffic signage and agree a set of guidelines for signage in the AONB. LQCO5	AONB / LA	NWTRA	√				Staff time
Organise community reminiscence days to engage with communities and draw upon their wealth of knowledge about the area. - 1 per year. LQCO6	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time
Support the research and recording of the area's social history. LQCO6	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time
Hold an annual AONB Forum to stimulate discussion on the areas special qualities and ensure community participation. LQCO7	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time / AONB budget
Maintain an AONB Partnership as part of the governance structure for the AONB. LQCO7	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time / AONB budget
Work with Cadwyn Clwyd's Local Action Groups to ensure that cultural diversity is reflected in RDP programmes relating to sense of place. LQCO7	AONB Cadwyn Clwyd	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time
Work with Menter Iaith to support and raise awareness of the Welsh language within the communities of the AONB. LQCO7	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd	√				Staff time

## Heather Moorland and Rolling Ridges

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Where possible, restore areas of former heathland particularly around Coed Moel Famau, Coed Nercwys, Moel Findeg and Moel Famau.. HMRO1	NRW / AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time / Core AONB Budget
Continue to support the graziers on the Clwydian Range, Llantysilio Mountain and North Berwyn in the management of heathland through cutting and burning through Glastir Commons schemes and other means. HMRO2	NRW AONB Landowners	WG	√	√	√		Staff Time
Continue to work with Coleg Cambria Llysfasi to provide training courses in upland management as part of their National Diploma course – 2 events per year. HMRO2	AONB Coleg Cambria	WG	√	√	√		Staff Time
Monitor Black Grouse populations and other upland birds every year at key lek sites across the AONB in order to inform and target specific management. HMRO3	RSPB	AONB NRW	√	√	√		Staff Time
Work with farmers and graziers to associate lamb from the upland areas with quality landscapes. HMRO4	AONB Cadwyn Clwyd	Cadwyn Clwyd Graziers AONB/ Foodtrail	√	√			Funding Required
Engage producers and retailers with the Clwydian Range Food Trail Project to promote local produce and give added value to produce associated with positive conservation works. Work with Businesses in the Dee Valley to develop a local Food Trail Project. HMRO4	AONB Cadwyn Clwyd	Cadwyn Clwyd Graziers AONB/ Foodtrail	√	√	√		Rural Development Plan application
Support the North Wales Moors partnership on Y Berwyn. HMRO5	RSPB	NRW / AONB Graziers	√	√	√		Staff Time
Attend graziers meeting where appropriate. HMRO6	AONB	Graziers	√	√	√		Staff Time
Provide practical support for burning upland areas wherever possible. HMRO6	AONB	Graziers	√	√	√		Staff Time

## Limestone grassland cliffs and scree

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Ensure that the conservation objectives of each site are understood and incorporated into project plans. LGPO1	NRW	AONB / Bionet	√	√	√		Staff Time
Plot and record cave systems and limestone pavement in the AONB and identify features at risk. LGPO1	AONB / NRW	AONB / Bionet	√		√		Funding required
Support and promote projects through the North Wales Bionet Group and Glastir. LGPO1	AONB/ NRW	AONB / Bionet		√			Staff Time Glastir
Carry out targeted scrub control to restore areas of former calcareous grassland habitat at Prestatyn Hillside, the Alyn Valley and Eglwyseg as part of the Limestone Legacy Project. LGPO2	AONB	NRW	√	√	√		Staff Time, NRW Competitive Grant
Develop a Landscape Partnership Scheme Project for HLF to address issues of visitor impacts on areas of limestone grassland, cliffs and screes particularly around Eglwyseg and the Panorama. LGPO3	AONB	NRW / CRT/ WCBC/ Friends CRDV, Aqueducts / Cadw	√	√	√		HLF, Cadwyn Clwyd DCC Funding applications
Ensure that land managers understand the importance of calcareous habitats and their sensitivity to grazing levels and the enrichment of soils from fertilisers, herbicide application, ploughing and re-seeding. LGPO3	AONB	WCBC NRW DCC	√	√	√		Staff Time
Reduce the impact of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail on the Eglwyseg Screes through path repair and consolidation. LGPO4	AONB	Our Picturesque Project Partners	√	√			HLF funding through Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership Scheme
Assess the floristic changes that recreational pressure associated with soil compaction brings about. LGPO4	AONB	NRW		√			Staff Time
Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including limestone grassland restoration projects. LGPO4	AONB	NRW	√	√	√		Welsh Government Sustainable Development Fund

## Broadleaved Woodland and Veteran Trees

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19	Status	Resources
Support measures to reduce the impacts of pests and diseases on the local landscape character ( <i>Phytophthora Ramorum</i> – Bilberry and Larch - Ash dieback, and <i>Phytophthora Alni</i> – Alder) WVTO1	NRW	AONB Landowners	√	√	√		Staff Time
Support appropriate planting programmes that strengthen woodland resilience to environmental change. WVTO1	NRW	AONB Landowners	√	√	√		Unknown
Record the current extent and condition of veteran trees in the AONB. WVTO2	AONB	Landowners NRW		√			Staff Time Funding unsecured
Identify funding to develop a programme of Parkland Tree Planting across appropriate parts of the AONB. WVTO2	AONB	Landowners NRW		√			Funding unsecured
Bring all areas of public owned / managed broadleaved woodland into favourable management schemes such as Glastir or SSSI Section 15. WVTO3	AONB / NRW	LAs/NT		√			Staff Time Section 15
Implement actions within existing Section 15 management agreements and Glastir schemes. WVTO3	NRW	Landowners	√				Staff Time Section 15 Glasdir
Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including small woodlands under 2 ha. WVTO3	AONB	Landowners FWAG	√	√	√		Sustainable Development Fund Staff Time
Develop management programmes for all Local Authority owned woodlands in particular Fishops Wood, Coed Alex, Alyn Valley Woods, Riverside Woods Llangollen, Corwen Cynwyd Railway line and Coed Pen y Pigyn and along the Dee corridor at Tŷ Mawr including Jeffrey's Wood.. WVTO4	AONB	NRW	√				Staff Time

## River Valleys

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Catchment Management Plans. RVO1	NRW	AONB	√	√	√		Unknown
Support the Alyn and Wheeler Living Landscapes Project and its work on riparian connectivity and invasive species. RVO2	NWWT	AONB/NRW/NEW Wildlife	√	√			Staff Time
Develop the Countryside Grant Scheme to include funding of all special features of the AONB including water courses. RVO2	AONB	AONB/NRW/NEW Wildlife	√	√	√		Sustainable Development Fund
Continue to work in partnership with others to control invasive species within the Alyn and Wheeler Living Landscapes Project. RVO3.	NWWT	NRW/AONB/LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time Volunteers
Support the DINNS Partnership in addressing invasive species throughout the Dee catchment.. RVO3	NWWT	NRW/AONB/LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time Volunteers
Support Big Dee Day to tackle invasive non-native plants and animals, such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam. RVO3	NWWT	NRW/AONB/LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time Volunteers
Devise and run an exemplar demonstration project on good catchment management. RVO4	Cadwyn Clwyd	NRW / AONB	√	√	√		Cadwyn Clwyd through Welsh Government Sustainable Management Scheme Fund
Hold an annual workshop on pollution control and good management for landowners, local councillors and professionals. RVO4	NRW	AONB	√	√	√		Staff Time

## Historic Settlement and Archaeology

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Produce a schedule of historic site enhancements to prioritise works and promote good practice across all types and ages of assets. Target Project Action by the use of an 'At risk' register. HSAO1	AONB	WCBC, DCC, FCC		√			Staff Time
Conduct CPD sessions with planners and Highway officers to explain Archaeology and the Planning system and the importance of these small features in maintaining the character of settlements. HSAO1	AONB	Cadw, WCBC, DCC, FCC	√		√		Staff Time
Work with Denbighshire Agricultural Estate at Caer Drewyn to establish an appropriate stocking rate and continue to control scrub around the hillfort. HSAO1	DCC	AONB	√				Staff Time Volunteers
Work with registered Historic parks and gardens landowners and other relevant agencies to undertake appraisals and to prepare and implement management plans to conserve and enhance the sites. HSAO2	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time
Raise awareness of the importance of industrial sites and features within the planning process and AONB. HSAO3	AONB	Cadw	√	√	√		Staff Time
Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Project devise and run an engagement programme for both residents (including schools, Town and Community Councils and Community Groups) and visitors, promoting awareness and understanding of the Historic Environment of the AONB and the historical links between sites. HSAO3	AONB	Cadw, LAs		√	√		HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Application
Ensure all decisions regarding the Historic Environment are evidence based. HSAO4	LAs	AONB	√	√	√		Staff Time
Ensure LANDMAP data and the Historic Environment Record are utilised to guide the determination of planning applications and inform agri-environment schemes. HSAO4	NRW / AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time

## Industrial Features and the World Heritage Site

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Work in partnership to achieve the aspirations of the World Heritage Site Landscape Management Plan. WHSO1	WHS Steering Group		√	√	√		Staff Time Funding required
Establish an HLF project with Canal and Rivers Trust and Wrexham County Borough Council to preserve the key views from and into the WHS. WHSO2	AONB	CRT, WCBC, DCC, NRW		√			HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Application
Work with Cadw and local landowners to formalise access to the Horseshoe Falls from Llantysilio. WHSO3	AONB	DCC Cadw					Completed
Work with the World Heritage Site partnership to develop an Interpretation Strategy for the whole corridor. WHSO4	CRT	AONB WCBC / DCC Cadwyn Clwyd		√			Rural Development Plan WHS Partners
Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership project assess and restore key features associated with lead mining limestone quarrying particularly, Minera and Eglwyseg. WHSO5	AONB	WCBC / Landowners		√			HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Application
Work towards the reconsolidation of industrial features on Prestatyn Hillside. WHSO5	AONB	Prestatyn TC			√		NRW Limestone Legacy Project
Through the Our Picturesque Landscape Project provide high quality interpretation for key industrial sites within the AONB – in particular the Leete at Loggerheads, Devil's gorge and Minera Lead mines. WHSO5	AONB	WHS Steering Group		√			Elements delivered through NRW Limestone Legacy Project Further Funding Required
Establish an HLF project to identify and respond to sites at risk. WHSO6	AONB	LAs / Cadw		√			HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Application

## Hillforts and Defensive Structures

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Monitor the impact of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail on the Hillforts of the Clwydian Range. DFSO1	AONB	NRW / DCC / FCC		√			Staff Time
Continue to support a partnership approach to tackling off road vehicular trespass and its impacts on the hillforts, particularly on Llantysilio Mountain - work with Police, NRW and Local Authorities. DFSO1	DCC RoW	AONB / NWP / NRW	√	√	√		Right of Way Improvement Plan
Complete the reconsolidation of the masonry at Castell Dinas Bran around the gatehouse. DFSO2	DCC	AONB / Cadw	√				Cadw / Wren
Through the Our Picturesque Landscape project take steps to minimise erosion into Castell Dinas Bran particularly from the eastern access point. DFSO2.	AONB	Cadw / DCC			√		HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Application

## Small Historic Features

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Ensure LANDMAP data and the Historic Environment Record are utilised to guide the determination of planning applications and inform agri-environment schemes. SHFO1	NRW	AONB	√	√	√		Staff Time
Conduct CPD sessions with planners and Highway officers to explain Archaeology and the Planning system and the importance of these small features in maintaining the character of settlements. SHFO1	AONB	LAs		√	√		Staff Time
Encourage the use of the Civic Trust Wales historic characterisation tool kit in the AONB's settlements. SHFO2	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff Time
Visit Local Communities to discuss recording of features. SHFO2	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd		√	√		Rural Development Plan
In line with The Welsh Historic Environment a Celebration (2009) Establish an Historic Environment Champion from within the AONB Partnership. SHFO3	AONB		√				Staff Time



## Boundaries

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Continue to support through SDF a grant scheme to facilitate boundary improvement. BO1	AONB	Landowners	√	√	√		Sustainable Development Fund / Landscape Enhancement Initiative
Continue to work with Llysfas College students and staff to provide training courses in Countryside Skills. BO2	AONB	Coleg Cambria	√	√	√		Staff Time
Continue to offer training days for Countryside Volunteers in hedge laying and dry stonewall construction. BO2	AONB	DVSC, AVOW, FLVC, NRW	√	√	√		Staff Time NRW Limestone Legacy Project
Gather information on current condition of boundaries within the AONB. BO3	AONB	AONB		√			Staff Time Active Alyn Project

## Iconic Visitor and Cultural Attractions

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Maintain Sustainable Tourism Charter status for the AONB. IVCO1	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd, FCC, DCC, WCBC	√				Funding required
Co-ordinate the development and implementation of Destination Management Plans that affect the AONB. IVCO1	AONB	AONB, Visit Wales. LAs	√	√	√		Staff time
Hold an Annual Tourism Forum. IVCO1	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Staff time
Work with Visit Wales and other Protected Landscapes to promote sustainable tourism in Wales. IVCO1	Visit Wales	LAs AONB	√	√	√		Staff time
Utilise countryside sites such as Tŷ Mawr Country Park and Loggerheads to act as gateways to the AONB through good quality interpretation and information provision. IVCO2	AONB	LAs	√	√	√		Sites operating as effective gateways. Funding required for further actions
Work with the public transport staff and companies to co-ordinate public transport to and from AONB access hubs. IVCO3	AONB / Cadwyn Clwyd	Cadwyn Clwyd / CRT / WCBC / DCC / FCC	√	√	√		Staff time
Prepare a Visitor Management Plan for the World Heritage Site and consider ways to reduce congestion that will reduce the impact on residents and improve the visitor experience. IVCO4	CRT	AONB / WCBC / DCC		√			Staff time Funding required
Implement the scheme for the development of additional car parking at Loggerheads and implement car park improvements at Tŷ Mawr Country Park. IVCO4	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd / DCC	√				Funding required for Tŷ Mawr Country Park improvements
Collect and disseminate data on actual and potential users' recreational needs and aspirations. IVCO5	AONB	NRW / NFU / FUW		√			Funding required
Develop an AONB Tourism Ambassador scheme. IVCO6	AONB	DCC / FCC / WCBC	√				Staff time / Sustainable Development Fund / FCC / Participants
Provide support to business groups in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley and continue to develop the Sustainable Tourism Forum of businesses and officers. IVCO6	AONB	DCC / FCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time

## Offa's Dyke Path National Trail and Promoted Routes

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Seek safe and convenient access for horses, cyclists and walkers when creating new routes in the AONB. ODPPRO1	AONB	DCC / RoW	√				Funding required
Create digital files of all promoted routes within the AONB and make them accessible on the web. ODPPRO2	AONB	DCC / FCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Provide support to farmers and landowners in dealing with recreational pressure. ODPPRO3	AONB	FUW / . NRW / NFU	√	√	√		Staff time, funding required
Continue to develop through partners volunteer and events programme activities that encourage the use of the countryside. Develop and promote Health Walks and Green Gyms close to AONB settlements. ODPPRO4	AONB		√	√	√		Staff time
Ensure least restrictive access is applied on all promoted trails in the AONB. ODPPRO5	AONB	DCC / FCC / WCBC / NRW	√	√	√		Staff time Funding required
Continue to provide opportunities for underrepresented groups to experience the special qualities of the AONB. ODPPRO5	AONB	NRW	√	√	√		Staff time
Through the Walking with Offa project provide support to tourism businesses in order to ensure that they are able to maximise the potential of the National Trail to the economy of the area. ODPPRO6	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd / DCC / CRT / WCBC	√	√	√		Funding required
Through the Walking with Offa cross border collaboration project with other Protected Landscapes work with business groups to increase awareness of the Offa's Dyke Path as a gateway to the AONB. ODPPRO7	AONB	Cadwyn Clwyd / DCC / CRT / WCBC	√	√	√		Funding required
Carry out erosion control measures on the Offa's Dyke National Trail at Cynr y Brain, Egwyseg, Moel Famau and the hillforts of the Clwydian Range in order to reduce the impact of the trail on the landscape and conservation features of the area. ODPPRO8	AONB	NRW	√	√	√		Funding required
Produce an annual monitoring report for key sites such as Tŷ Mawr Country Park, Loggerheads and People Counter data for the trails in the AONB. ODPPRO9	AONB	DCC / NRW	√	√	√		Staff time

## The Built Environment

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Prepare guides for development at gateway locations to complement the AONB and strengthen local landscape character. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC		√			Staff time Funding required
To work with the local planning authorities to prepare and adopt formal Supplementary Planning Guidance and design guides for development in the AONB. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC			√		Staff time
Facilitate an annual meeting with interested parties on the built environment. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Undertake characterisations studies of all settlements, initially focusing on the larger settlements and pressure points, to identify sensitivities and opportunities for change. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Consider and comment on >100 planning applications and other development proposals in and around the AONB each year, and to seek >85% adoption of the JC's views. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Increase awareness and understanding of development issues in the AONB by assisting with planning committee member training and development programmes and continued professional development for officers. BEO1	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Work with the local authorities to undertake 5 yearly reviews of the Buildings at Risk register and condition surveys covering the AONB and take action to reduce the number of buildings at risk BEO2	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√				Staff time
Carry out and/or updating Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for all Conservation Areas within the AONB, including boundary reviews and an assessment of the overall condition of the areas. BEO2	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
To promote the use of Article 4 Directions to control permitted development in Conservation Areas which is harmful to the character and appearance of the area as identified by Conservation Area Appraisals. BEO2	AONB	FCC / DCC / WCBC	√	√	√		Staff time
Ensure that Historic Parks and Gardens are protected from inappropriate development which would harm the character or recognised special features of the registered site. BEO2	AONB	Cadw / Las	√	√	√		Staff time
Develop guidance for the setting and design of agricultural and forestry buildings in the AONB to enhance local landscape character. BEO3	AONB	LAs / CLA			√		Staff time
Work with National Grid to reduce the impact of pylons in the Molwynion Valley and Tremeirchion area through their Visual Improvement Project. BEO3.	AONB	Landowners	√	√	√		Staff Time Landscape Enhancement Initiative Grant
Work with Scottish Power to under- ground overhead lines where-ever possible. BEO3	Scottish Power	AONB	√	√	√		Staff time Scottish Power

## People and Communities

Management Plan Actions	Lead	Partners	16/17	17/18	18/19		Resources
Support and promote appropriate social / community ownership and enterprise projects and initiatives such as 'The Pub's the Hub' which will maintain and improve access to local facilities and services. PCO1	Cadwyn Clwyd	AONB	√	√	√		Staff Time Funding required
Resist development proposals that involve the loss of community facilities such as local shops and public houses. PCO1	AONB / FCC / DCC / WCBC		√	√	√		Staff time
Identify current broadband provision across the AONB and work with communities and other agencies to secure the best possible coverage/speed of service, address broadband 'not-spots', and to promote the WG Superfast Scheme. PCO1	Cadwyn Clwyd	AONB		√			Staff time
Promote a profitable, high quality local food processing economy as a way of revitalising rural incomes; and to raising awareness among residents, businesses and visitors about the benefits to the landscape, economy and social fabric of purchasing locally sourced goods. PCO1	Cadwyn Clwyd / AONB	Food Trail	√	√	√		Staff time
Support initiatives that provide essential community services through the medium of Welsh. PCO1	AONB	Menter Iaith	√	√	√		Staff time Sustainable Development Fund
Support the local authorities in carrying out housing needs and affordability surveys in areas of high demand for affordable housing indicated by LA/HA waiting lists. PCO2	LAs		√	√	√		Staff time
Work with local planning and housing authorities to promote affordable housing schemes for local people, to secure affordable units as part of any new market housing development, and to encourage the provision of affordable housing for local people through conversions and the development of individual new dwellings in villages and hamlets. PCO2	FCC / DCC / WCBC	AONB	√	√	√		Staff time
Promote opportunities to encourage local businesses to become more environmentally and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that conserve the special qualities of the AONB. PCO2	AONB / Cadwyn Clwyd	AONB	√	√	√		Staff time Funding required
Support a Community Ambassador Scheme to improve communication with communities. PCO3	Cadwyn Clwyd		√	√	√		Staff time
Hold an annual Forum. PCO3	AONB	AONB	√	√	√		Staff time
Produce a volunteer programme of events twice per year. PCO4	AONB	DCC / NRW	√	√	√		Staff time AONB Core budget
Liase with community and Town Councils on an annual basis. PCO4	AONB	DCC / NRW	√	√	√		Staff time
Maintain and develop the AONB Partnership. PCO4	AONB	DCC / NRW	√	√	√		Staff time AONB Core budget
Develop a Young Ranger Scheme with a programme of activity across the AONB. PCO4	AONB	<b>DCC / NRW</b>	√	√	√		Staff time AONB Core budget



Meeting of the Joint Committee of the  
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB  
Item 5 Clwydian Range and Dee Valley  
AONB Management Plan

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 County Hall Mold

Equality Impact Assessment

## Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan

**Contact:** Helen Mrowiec, Senior Recreation Officer

**Updated:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**1. What type of proposal is being assessed?**

Other

**2. Please describe the purpose of this proposal**

AONB Business Plan

**3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment?**  
*(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)*

No

**4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken**  
*(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)*

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Business Plan will be a publically accessible document.

**5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?**  
*(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)*

No, the proposal is neutral

**6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?**



No
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**7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?**

No	This has not been necessary, as no potential negative impact has been identified.
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**8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?**

Yes	As discussed earlier, no potential negative impact has been identified. However, the actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed after implementation to see if any lessons can be learned. Certain elements with the Business Plan will include further Equalities Impact Assessment.
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Action(s)	Owner	Date
none		

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**9. Declaration**

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	07/11/2016
--------------	------------

Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Helen Mrowiec	07/11/2016

**Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.**

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**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE  
Of the  
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

**Held on: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Lead Member / Officer: Gareth O Williams**

**Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees**

**Title: Joint Committee Budget and Outturn 2016/17**

---

**1. What is the report about?**

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position for 2016/17.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position for 2016/17.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2016/17 (Appendix 1) and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

**4. Report details.**

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2016/17 and Reserve balances as detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget is £440,135. The current forecast outturn is to show a very small net overspend of £40 but there is a high degree of confidence that this will be clawed back over the remaining months.

The report also provides a copy of the signed Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (Appendix 2).

**5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?**

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

N/A

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

The proposed budget for 2016/17 was brought to the JC meeting in February and approved.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2016/17. Currently a small overspend is projected but confident that this will be clawed back from within existing budget.

Due to the better than expected draft revenue settlement from the Welsh Government Denbighshire CC is not proposing to make any reductions to the funding levels for the AONB programme for the 2017/18 financial year. At this stage we are still awaiting confirmation from Flintshire and Wrexham as to their intentions.

Notwithstanding this however the period of public sector austerity is likely to continue and it must still be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies will continue to come under increasing pressure over the coming years.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The current budget is dependent on income from NRW and the three Local Authorities. NRW have confirmed their funding level for the AONB Programme 2016-2018.

Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

JOINT AONB COMMITTEE

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

Appendix 1

CORE - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st OCTOBER 2016

	Budget 2016/17 £	Forecast Outturn 2016/17 £
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	206,265	206,265
Training & Conference	1,000	1,000
Subscriptions	2,900	2,900
Insurance	924	924
<b>Total Employee costs</b>	<b>211,089</b>	<b>211,089</b>
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	450	450
Mileage	4,000	3,600
Use of Public Transport	500	500
<b>Total Vehicle &amp; Travel Expenses</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>4,550</b>
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	1,000	1,000
Uniforms	1,500	1,500
General Equipment	150	150
Event Expenditure	5,000	5,000
Audit / Legal Fees	1,134	1,484
IT costs	900	900
Telephones	1,100	800
Publications	100	100
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>10,884</b>	<b>10,934</b>
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	54,545	50,000
<b>Total Project costs</b>	<b>54,545</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>281,468</b>	<b>276,573</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
NRW Salary Grant	-118,063	-117,608
SDF Grant	-54,545	-50,000
LA Funding	-108,860	-108,860
Private calls	0	-10
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-281,468</b>	<b>-276,478</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>



**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

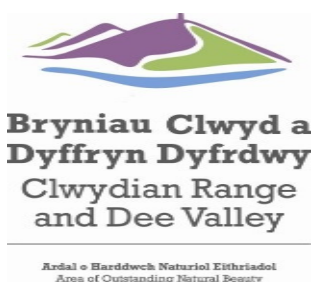
JOINT AONB COMMITTEE

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

Appendix 1

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st OCTOBER 2016

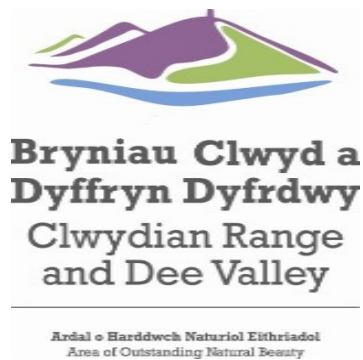
	Budget 2016/17 £	Forecast Outturn 2016/17 £
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	130,098	129,213
Insurance	589	589
<b>Total Employee costs</b>	<b>130,687</b>	<b>129,802</b>
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	4,000	4,000
Fleet	11,500	11,500
Mileage	0	800
Public Transport	200	200
<b>Total Vehicle &amp; Travel Expenses</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>16,500</b>
<u>Other</u>		
General Equipment	250	250
Site Management	6,000	6,000
IT	250	250
Telephones	350	380
Internet	70	70
Advertising	360	360
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>7,310</b>
<u>Projects</u>		
Management Plan	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Project costs</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>158,667</b>	<b>158,612</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
NRW Salary Grant	-11,466	-11,466
NRW Salary Match	-12,000	-12,000
LA Salary funding	-135,201	-135,201
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-158,667</b>	<b>-158,667</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-55</b>



**(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)**

**RESERVE BALANCES AT 31st OCTOBER 2016**

Reserve amount from budget	-22,740
Reserve amount for Project funding	-44,752
Balance of reserve at 31.10.16	<u><u>-67,492</u></u>



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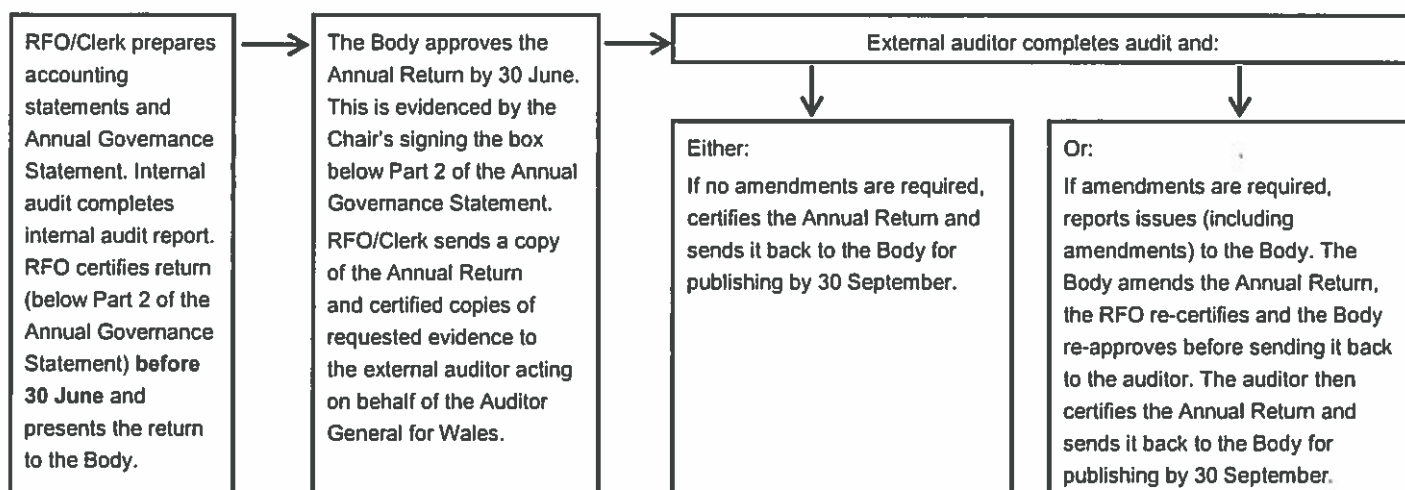


## Smaller local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

Smaller local government bodies in Wales must prepare annual accounts following proper practices as set out in the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide** (the Practitioners' Guide). The Practitioners' Guide states that bodies may prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return prepared by the Wales Audit Office.

### The accounts and audit process

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please complete all sections highlighted in red. Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs. Send the **original** Annual Return, together with all additional information requested, to the external auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. **Please note that copies of all documents provided for the purposes of the audit must be certified as true copies of the originals by the Clerk and Chair.** Unless requested, please do not send any original financial or other records to the external auditor.

Bodies should note the changes to the Annual Governance Statement. This is to be completed in full by all Bodies.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the Body for publication or display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

### Completion checklist

'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
<b>Accounts</b>	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and the body approved the Annual Return (as evidenced by the relevant signatures), no later than 30 June 2016?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do the accounts add up and does the balance carried forward from last year equal the opening balance this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations, including a quantified analysis of the changes from last year to this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016 agree to line 9?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>All sections</b>	Have all red boxes been completed and explanations provided where needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Supporting evidence</b>	Have all items and pages of supporting evidence provided to the audit been certified as a true copy of the original by the Clerk and Chair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Accounting statements 2015-16 for:

Name of body:

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2015 (£)	31 March 2016 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.  
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

## Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	0	16,268	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	211,150	260,087	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	204,658	256,302	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	-276,677	-321,194	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	-122,864	-143,971	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	16,268	67,492	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).

## Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	24,750	105,897	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	-3,078	-31,376	<b>All accounts:</b> The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	-5,404	-7,029	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	16,268	67,492	<b>Total balances should equal line 7 above:</b> Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The Body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	

## Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and proper practices.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and to ask questions about the Body's accounts.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the Body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Body.	6, 8	
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

\* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.



## Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We calculated and approved the Council/Board/Committee's budget requirement for the 2015-16 financial year in accordance the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and proper practices [and issued the precept in accordance with Sections 39 to 42 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.]*	✓	○	Properly planned its financial activities for the year and set a budget in accordance with statutory requirements.	13
2. We have received detailed financial reports setting out the [income and expenditure* receipts and payments*] and a summary of the Council/Board/Committee's financial position on a regular [monthly* / quarterly*] basis throughout the year.	✓	○	Effectively monitored its financial position, income and expenditure against that budget throughout the financial year.	13
3. We have ensured that the Council/Board/Committee's internal audit is independent of its day-to-day decision-making process and maintenance of the accounting records and have agreed appropriate terms of reference for the internal audit.	✓	○	Ensured that its internal audit function is able to undertake its work without potential conflicts of interest and with sufficient scope to provide an adequate and effective service.	8

\* Please delete as appropriate.

### Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

<b>Certification by the RFO</b> I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2016.	<b>Approval by the Council/Board/Committee</b> I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Meeting of 24/6/16
Name: GARETH WILLIAMS	Chair signature: 
Date: 24/06/2016	Name: J. H. JONES
	Date: 24/6/2016

### Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

<b>Certification by the RFO</b> I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2016.	<b>Approval by the Council/Board/Committee</b> I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature:	Chair signature:
Name:	Name:
Date:	Date:

# Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 of:

CAWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## External auditor's report

~~[[Except for the matters reported below]]~~\* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

~~[[These matters along with]]~~\* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated \_\_\_\_\_.]

## Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the Body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the Body.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

External auditor's name: ANTHONY BARLETT

External auditor's signature: 

Date: 30/9/16

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

\* Delete as appropriate.

## Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2016.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The Ledger of AONB accounts was looked at and discussion with the Finance Officer.
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A sample of invoices was looked at. Payments were found to be correctly authorised and VAT was correctly accounted for.
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The Risks both Financial and Reputational are included in the AONB Legal agreement of 9/10/2013.
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Discussion with Finance Officer with responsibility for the AONB Accounts.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	AONB Ledger scrutinised and income was as expected.
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	All petty cash items were looked at. Receipts accompanied reimbursement request and VAT was accounted for where appropriate.
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Joint committee agreement seen, Agreed points and payroll confirmed to DCC payroll data.
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	N/A

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Bank reconciliation is audited annually in another project
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Discussion with the Finance Officer with responsibility for AONB account. Statements prepared for the Joint committee meetings were looked at.
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	N/A

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
14. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text

\* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\* If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated \_\_\_\_\_.] \* Delete if no report prepared.

### Internal audit confirmation

I confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body or as a member of the body during the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:	IRENE GRIFFITHS
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:	<i>Irene Griffiths</i>
Date:	09/06/2016



## Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this annual return. For guidance, please read the Practitioners' Guide (**Governance and accountability for local councils: A Practitioners' Guide (Wales)**) – available from One Voice Wales and SLCC. It contains everything you need for the financial year-end and the statutory audit.
2. The Wales Audit Office Good Practice Exchange ([www.audit.wales/good-practice/finance/community-council-money](http://www.audit.wales/good-practice/finance/community-council-money)) provides further information on the accounts and audit process along with guidance on governance matters.
3. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. **Please do not use correction fluid.** Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
4. **There are now two boxes for certification and approval by the Body. The second box is only required if the annual return has to be amended as a result of the audit. You should only complete the top box before sending the form to the auditor.**
5. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
6. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2015) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2016). Explain any differences between the 2015 figures on this annual return and the amounts recorded in last year's annual return.
7. Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
8. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers all your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. If your Council holds any short-term investments, please note their value on the bank reconciliation. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in section 1. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide\*.
9. **Every** small body is now required to send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement. Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send **copies** of the original records (certified by the Clerk and Chair as accurate copies) to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.
10. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
11. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
12. **Do not complete the Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report.** The external auditor completes this on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on completion of the audit.
13. **Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly.** This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
14. **Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.**



## 1. Project Title: AONB Promoted Routes

### Project Outline



The AONB has a number of promoted regional routes that highlight outstanding, relatively long day walks in the area. For those who do not wish to walk over 10 miles in one day, the routes can also be split into shorter sections. Many of the Promoted Routes have been in place now in excess of 10 years and feedback has been received from walkers as to route improvements, especially as many of these routes were created before Open Access and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, which has provided many more options for access to the uplands. The AONB has also seen the value of developing a strongly branded series through the work completed by the Community Miles Project and has the vision to develop a recognised format for its promoted regional routes. Last year the Dee Valley Way was realigned and relaunched, with positive feedback received. The AONB wishes to continue its review of the routes. Route improvements are suggested particularly for the North Berwyn Way at Liberty Hall and Llangollen, revised way marking and new promotional material is proposed.

### Project Need

The Regional Routes are one of the AONB's greatest assets in terms of walking product, together with the National Trail. These routes should be of the highest quality possible, reflecting the outstanding landscape they sit within. Revisions need to be made to the route following feedback received from walkers, together with improved waymarking. There is a need to raise the standard of the promoted paths and their connectivity to other routes.

### Project Benefits

- Improved quality of the North Berwyn Way regional route.
- Better experience for walkers along the prompted route, with improved way marking.
- Providing an asset for the local tourism offer.

### Estimated Project Costs

**Total Costs £6,000** - £5,000 Welsh Government Request - £1,000 ROWIP match funding

### Delivery Against the AONB Management Plan

PolART1 To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.

PolART2 Ensure that the attractiveness of the AONB's landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas' tourism are retained.

PolART3 Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.

### Delivery against the Well-being of Future Generations Act

A prosperous Wales – through supporting walking as a tourism activity in the area

A healthier Wales – through improving routes for local people to keep active

A Wales of cohesive communities – the promoted trails link to communities

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language – all promotion material will be available bilingually.



## 2. Project Title: Beyond Ty Mawr Country Park

### Project Outline



Tan y Cut woods are located adjacent to Ty Mawr Country Park, located within the AONB and the Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site. The woods are accessible from the Llangollen Canal tow path and provides access opportunities for local people of Acrefair and Trevor, in addition to visitors to the Country Park and the World Heritage Site. The current access path within the wood is problematic as it is located along a spring line with water emerging periodically along the path, resulting in a wet sodden muddy surface. The project would reroute part of the path away from the spring line and also look at the construction of a board walk, these improvements would drastically enhance access to the site.

The second area of access improvement is proposed on the link path along the river to Pontcysyllte Bridge which is currently difficult to negotiate. Enabling people to access this area will provide an alternative experience of the World Heritage Site.

The aim of both the Tan y Cut and Pontcysyllte Bridge projects are to improve the access 'comfort zone' beyond the immediate boundary of Ty Mawr Country Park.

### Project Need

Tan y Cut and Pontcysyllte Bridge are located adjacent to the communities of Acrefair and Trevor, as a valued outdoor recreation resource, the user experience would be greatly improved through the proposed access enhancements.

### Project Benefits

- Significant access improvements in a site used by the local community and visitors, providing a better experience
- Visually improvements to Tan y Cut Woods through better managed paths.
- Demonstrates the benefits of being within the AONB, to both the local community and WCBC, strengthening the AONB Partnership.
- Restricting the width of the path from widening as people try to avoid the muddy sections, trampling the woodland understory, therefore protecting the woodland habitat.
- Enhance the visitor experience of the World Heritage Site.

### Estimated Project Costs

**Total Cost £12,000** - £11,000 Welsh Government Request, £1,000 WCBC

### Delivery Against the AONB Management Plan

PolART1 To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.

PolART2 Ensure that the attractiveness of the AONB's landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas' tourism are retained.

PolART3 Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.

PolART4 Ensure that the honey pots and other key access points are managed to a high standard and that they act as models of good practice in access and conservation delivery.

PolART5 Ensure the Country Parks and the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail provide effective gateways to the AONB in promoting understanding and awareness of its key qualities and features.

### Delivery against the Well-being of Future Generations Act

A prosperous Wales – through supporting walking as a tourism activity in the area

A healthier Wales – through improving routes for local people to keep active

A Wales of cohesive communities – the path is close to communities of Trevor and Acrefair.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language – paths links to the Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site



### 3. Project Title: Gop Hill Iconic Route

#### Project Outline



Gop Hill is one of the Special Features of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the second largest manmade mound in the UK, following Silbury hill. Over time the mound has become increasingly hidden within the landscape due to vegetation growth. Over the past year Cadw has funded a programme of vegetation clearance. The recent developments at Gop Hill have provided new impetus to improve the waymarking, access and increase awareness of this fantastic archaeological site enabling people to appreciate Gop Hill's historic significance. The project would also combine volunteering opportunities, restoring stone walls as important features within the landscape (funded by NRW) and linked to a small excavation already proposed of the area outside Gop Cave.

#### Project Need

Gop Hill is one of the UK's most significant archaeological sites, however there is a lack of knowledge and appreciation of the site which this project aims to address through improved waymarking and a walk leaflet.

Following the recent works funded by Cadw, Gop is now more connected to its landscape and providing the ideal opportunity to revisit access to the site.

Undertaking the access project at Gop would be beneficial in delivering work within the Flintshire area of the AONB.

#### Project Benefits

- Improving the visitor experience of an archaeological significant site.
- Links to local communities of Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor
- Increases awareness and understanding of the special features of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
- Providing a new resource to local tourism businesses in the north of the AONB

#### Estimated Project Costs

**Total Cost £8,500** – 7,500 Welsh Government Request, £1,000 NRW Competitive Grant

#### Delivery Against the AONB Management Plan

PolART1 To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.

PolART2 Ensure that the attractiveness of the AONB's landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas' tourism are retained.

PolART3 Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.

#### Delivery against the Well-being of Future Generations Act

A prosperous Wales – through supporting walking as a tourism activity in the area

A healthier Wales – through improving routes for local people to keep active

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language – Gop is a site of heritage significance.



## 4. Project Title: Minera Mountain Circular

### Project Outline



Minera Country Park is a link to the industrial lead mining heritage of the AONB, with engine house and winding gear remaining impressive structures within the 53 acre site. The Country Park provides a gateway to Minera Mountain with views over the surrounding countryside. It is one of the quietest Country Parks within the AONB and as such has capacity to relieve visitor pressure from other honey pot sites. It is also closely located to large urban populations such as Wrexham and therefore provides a valuable resource for people to access and enjoy the countryside.

This project proposes to undertake waymarking / access improvements and publish a walk leaflet that will also be available online to promote Minera as one of the iconic places to visit within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

### Project Need

Mineral Country Park is a relatively unknown gem within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and has great potential to relive visitor pressure from other honeypot sites. It is waiting to be discovered. The project would strengthen the AONB partnership within the extension area working with Wrexham County Borough Council and demonstrating the value of the designation to the authority.

### Project Benefits

- Reduce pressure on other honey pot County Parks within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
- Promote the access opportunities available from Minera Country Park, especially to Minera mountain to the local community and also current visitors to other sites.
- Provide people with confidence to explore further afield through new waymarking and information provision.

### Estimated Project Costs

£10,000

### Delivery Against the AONB Management Plan

PolART1 To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment and understanding of the landscape of the AONB in a way that contributes to local prosperity and social inclusiveness.

PolART2 Ensure that the attractiveness of the AONB's landscape and views as a primary basis for the areas' tourism are retained.

PolART3 Ensure that all visitors and residents are able to experience and enjoy the benefits of the special qualities of the AONB within environmental limits.

PolART4 Ensure that the honey pots and other key access points are managed to a high standard and that they act as models of good practice in access and conservation delivery.

PolART5 Ensure the Country Parks and the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail provide effective gateways to the AONB in promoting understanding and awareness of its key qualities and features.

### Delivery against the Well-being of Future Generations Act

A prosperous Wales – through supporting walking as a tourism activity in the area

A healthier Wales – through improving routes for local people to keep active

A Wales of cohesive communities – the promoted trails link to communities

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language – all promotion material will be available bilingually, Minera is a link to the past industrial heritage of the AONB.



## SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

### APRIL 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2016

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
20/2016/0215	Monfa Graigfechan Ruthin, LL15 2HA	Erection of first floor extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 09/06/16	N/A
03/2016/0299	Prince Of Wales Llangollen, LL20 8HN	Conversion of upper floors from residential to 5 bedsits	No observations, subject to views of Conservation Officer	Refused 08/09/16	N/A
P/2016/0230	Penygraig Farm, Froncysyllte, LL20 7RT	Two storey extension and detached garage/store	No objection in principle, suggest design and materials changes	Granted 15/06/16	
05/2016/0081	Yr Hen Fferm Corwen, LL21 0BD	Development of land for 2 dwellings (outline application)	No objection in principle subject to matching stone frontage walls	Granted 09/05/16	
25/2015/0321	Land adjacent to Llyn Bran , Bylchau (Pant Y Maen)	Construction of wind farm comprising of 7 wind turbines (amended plans)	Object	Refused 14/09/16	
41/2016/0217	Dinorben Arms Bodfari Denbigh, Ll16 4DA	Renovations and extensions to existing public house, alterations to access, car park and landscaping	Support in principle, but concerns over scale and design of extensions, loss of trees and landscaping	Granted 10/05/16	
P/2016/0256	The Hollies, New Brighton, LL11 3DT	Detached dwelling, garage and hardstanding	No objection in principle, suggest design changes	Granted 28/07/16	
03/2016/0335	Prince Of Wales Llangollen, LL20 8HN	Conversion of upper floors from residential to 5 bedsits (Listed Building)	No observations, subject to views of Conservation Officer.	Refused 08/09/16	N/A
20/2016/0274	Llainwen Ucha, Pentrecelyn, LL15 2HL	Extensions to existing egg production unit	No observations, subject to no loss of existing trees and additional landscaping.	Withdrawn 25/04/16	N/A
41/2015/1229	The Warren Bodfari Denbigh LL16 4DT	Removal of condition (41/2010/1177) restricting woodland based education and training centre use (amended plans)	No objection in principle, concerns over potential loss of trees and design of road improvements.	Granted 22/06/16	
41/2016/0027	The Warren Bodfari Denbigh LL16 4DT	Erection of classroom, store, wc and creation of passing places (amended plans)	No objection in principle, concerns over potential loss of trees and design of road improvements.	Granted 24/05/16	
09/2016/0346	Ysgubor Isaf Bodfari Denbigh, Ll16 4DD	Erection of extension to side and rear of dwelling (re-submission)	Concern over scale of extensions.	Granted 24/05/16	
27/2016/0249	Ty Newydd, Eglwyseg, Llangollen, LL20 8EH	Extension to existing detached outbuilding to form a garden room	No objection, suggest stone facing to match existing	Granted 11/05/16	
05/2016/0319	Pen Y Bryn Ucha Corwen, LL21 0BG	Erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection	Granted 25/05/16	N/A
17/2016/0287	Land opposite Pysgah Chapel Llandegla	Creation of access and change of use of land to create car park	No objection subject to no impact on Wildlife Site, trees or public footpath	Granted 02/06/16	
03/2016/0362	Tyn Dwr Hall Llangollen, LL20 8AR	Erection of extension to form garden room	No objection	Granted 24/05/16	N/A

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
47/2016/0413	Ael Y Bryn, Tremeirchion, LL17 OUR	Erection of extension to dwelling and replacement garage	No objection in principle but concerns over scale of garage	Granted 01/07/16	
15/2016/0444	Mast North West of Eryrys	Installation of 0.75m dish antenna on existing mast	No objection	Granted 23/06/16	N/A
P/2016/0336	Kronospan, Chirk, LL14 5NT	New melamine press and associated infrastructure	Suggest need for revised DAS, wider landscape strategy and S106 to fund landscape grant scheme	Refused 08/09/16	
ENO10055 NSIP Application	Kingmoor Park South, Wrexham Industrial Estate	Wrexham Energy Centre/Gas Fired Power Station	No observations		N/A
10/2016/0411	Land adjacent to Trem Y Foel, Bryneglwys	Construction of pumping station and associated vehicle hardstanding	No observations, subject to there being no alternative less conspicuous site.	Granted 23/06/16	N/A
27/2016/0393	Tan Y Bwlch, Pentredwr, LL20 8DG	Erection of agricultural building	No objection, suggest colour of materials	Granted 20/07/16	
08/2016/0316	Tan Y Graig, Llangar, Corwen, LL21 0HW	Erection of agricultural building (retrospective application)	Object; lack of agricultural justification.	Granted 20/08/16	
03/2016/0384	Rhiw Cottage, Sun Bank, Llangollen, LL20 8EG	Erection of first floor extension and new access and parking area.	No objection; suggest landscaping condition.	Granted 09/06/16	
055139	Penbedw Uchaf, Nannerch, CH7 5RP	Erection of 2no. yurts and composting W.C	No objection, suggest temporary permission and colour	Granted 15/06/16	
055140	Land at Moel Evan, Nannerch, CH7 5QT	Erection of 2no. yurts and composting W.C	No objection suggest temporary permission, access restrictions, colour and landscaping.	Granted 15/06/16	
03/2016/0231	Hafan Deg, Llangollen, LL20 8LN	Erection of decking	No observations	Granted 23/06/16	N/A
22/2016/0491	Wayside Cottage Llangynhafal, LL16 4LN	Erection of extension to dwelling	No observations	Granted 08/07/16	N/A
03/2016/0408	33 Maes Pengwern Llangollen, Ll20 8BA	Erection of extension to dwelling	No observations	Granted 08/07/16	N/A
16/2016/0515	Rowan, Llanbedr DC, LL15 1UP	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection	Granted 15/07/16	N/A
055385	Red Lion Inn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Listed Building application for display of new signage	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 25/07/16	N/A
055386	Red Lion Inn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Display of new signage	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 28/06/16	N/A
08/2016/0487	Tyn Y Wern Corwen, LL21 0HW	Re-roofing and installation of roof lights to outbuilding	No objection, suggest alternative rooflights	Granted 15/07/16	
16/2016/0531	Cysgod Yr Yd Llanbedr DC LL15 1UP	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 18/07/16	N/A
05/2016/0514	1 Westbourne Terrace, Corwen, Ll21 0AR	Removal of shop front, construction of bay window and reconstruction of front walled garden	No objection, commend sensitive design	Granted 28/07/16	N/A
03/2016/0300	Land Off Vicarage Road, Llangollen	Erection of 99. dwellings, together with associated roads and open space	Suggest design and landscaping changes and need for affordable homes		
03/2016/0546	56 Pengwern Llangollen, LL20 8AT	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 28/07/16	N/A
41/2016/0389	Ynys Wen, Bodfari, LL16 4DP	Erection of annex	Object, attempt to subvert planning system	Refused 02/11/16	



Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
18/2016/0400	Land adjacent to Maes Llan Llandyrnog, LL16 4HF	Development of land by the erection of 40 no. dwellings and associated works (outline application)	No observations, but suggest additional landscaping	Granted 27/07/16	
05/2016/0115	Ty Coed, Coed Dyfrdwy And Coed Hir, Glyndyfrdwy	One Planet Development including dwelling house, and other structures	Some reservations in principle, subject to meeting national tests, landscaping and design amendments.		
17/2016/0522	Ysgol Dyffryn Ial Llandegla, Ll11 3AW	Change of use of school to community shop/cafe	Support	Granted 19/07/16	N/A
21/2016/0524	Pen Y Waen Llanferres, CH7 5SH	Erection of extension to dwelling and means of escape	No objection	Granted 27/07/16	N/A
03/2016/0583	Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Llangollen, LL20 8PF	Erection of replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 27/10/16	N/A
17/2016/0503	Tegla Cottage Llandegla, Ll11 3AB	Extension to residential curtilage and erection of extension to garage	No objection, subject to finish of cladding	Refused 10/08/16	N/A
20/2016/0532	Llainwen Ucha, Pentrecelyn, Ll15 2HL	Extensions to existing egg production unit	No observations, subject to no loss of existing trees and additional landscaping.		
055302	Telecommunication Mast, Ruthin Road, Gwernymynydd	Replacement of existing 10M high monopole for a 12.5M high monopole, and equipment cabinets	No objection, subject to colour of mast	Withdrawn 19/10/16	N/A
47/2016/0489	Craig Fawr Farm Tremeirchion St Asaph, Ll17 OUR	Erection of an agricultural building	No objection, subject to materials and landscaping	Granted 08/07/16	
055453	The Barn, Fron House, Nannerch, CH7 5RW	Alterations to existing house, replacement conservatory and extension into attached barn	No objection, subject to roof light design	Granted 11/07/16	
03/2016/0653	Spar Stores, Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Installation of ATM pod	No observations subject to Conservation Officer views	Withdrawn 05/09/16	N/A
03/2016/0654	Spar Stores, Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Installation of ATM signage (non-illuminated)	No observations subject to Conservation Officer views	Withdrawn 05/09/16	N/A
03/2016/0603	Former showroom, 42 Market Street Llangollen, LL20 8RA	Change of use of part of show room to studio and gymnasium	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 02/08/16	N/A
03/2016/0604	Former showroom, 42 Market Street Llangollen, LL20 8RA	Change of use of part of show room to office and store	No objection subject to Conservation Officer views	Granted 02/08/16	N/A
17/2016/0667	The Post Office, Llandegla, Ll11 3AW	Change of use of former post office to residential use	No objection	Granted 01/09/16	N/A
10/2016/0664	Tal Y Bidwal Bach, Bryneglwys, LL21 9NB	Installation of roof windows in connection with loft conversion	No objection in principle, but concerns about extent of roof lights/ light pollution	Granted 12/10/16	
03/2016/0587	Glanffrwd, Llangollen, LL20 8SS	Erection of replacement garage and workshop	No objection	Granted 05/08/16	N/A
05/2016/0611	Land near Bryn Ffynnon, Glyndyfrdwy	Diversion of overhead electricity line	No observations	Granted 02/08/16	N/A
47/2016/0649	14 Bod Hamer, Cwm, LL18 5SL	Conversion of garage and first floor extension	No observations	Granted 16/08/16	N/A
055648	Plas Ucha, Cilcain, CH7 5NE	Construction of horse arena	Suggest landscaping, private use and lighting restrictions	Granted 23/08/16	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
15/2016/0655	Bryn Tirion Cottage Llanarmon-Yn-Ial CH7 4QE	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 26/10/16	N/A
P/2016/0616	Stone Cottage, Froncysyllte, LL20 7RR	Conservatory to front elevation	Concerns about design and impact on historic character	Refused 11/08/16	
055532	Fforest Farm, Cilcain, CH7 5NW	Erection of extension to existing cattle shed	No objection, suggest landscape strategy	Granted 10/08/16	
47/2016/0742	Ty Newydd , Tremeirchion, LL17 OUR	Erection of first floor extension to side of dwelling	No objection	Granted 14/09/16	N/A
47/2016/0442	The Marl, Cwm, LL18 5SN	Erection of replacement dwelling	No objection in principle but object to design	Granted 03/10/16	
21/2016/0226	Windyridge Loggerheads, CH7 5SB	Erection of replacement dwelling	No objection in principle but suggest design and landscaping changes.	Withdrawn 03/10/16	N/A
43/2016/0512	74 Gronant Road Prestatyn LL19 9HW	Erection of 5 apartments and 6 detached dwellings	Concerns over impact on trees screening site.		
05/2016/0630	Carrog Uchaf, Carrog, LL21 9ET	Relocation of existing agricultural building	No observations, suggest landscaping scheme		
15/2016/0594	Land to rear of 1 & 2 Dyffryn Alyn, Llanferres, CH5 5TA	Change of use of land to provide parking and creation of new access	No observations, subject to landscaping and removal of PD rights	Granted 20/10/16	
20/2016/0756	Waen Y Ffynnon PentreCoch LL15 2YF	Erection of extension to porch	No observations	Granted 21/09/16	N/A
20/2016/0719	Maes Derwen, Llanfair DC, LL15 2UW	Erection of extensions to dwelling and detached garage	No observations, subject to retention of existing hedge	Granted 07/09/16	N/A
03/2016/0647	Foel Isa Vivod Llangollen, LL20 7LP	Erection of detached garage	No objection, subject to materials.	Granted 01/09/16	N/A
03/2016/0542	Land adj to 2 Mile End Mill, Llangollen LL20 8AD	Erection of detached dwelling	No objection, subject to materials, boundary treatment and tree retention	Granted 16/09/16	
03/2016/0792	Riverside Cottage Llangollen, LL20 8RD	Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling	No objection	Granted 04/10/16	N/A
15/2016/0820	Yale Cottage Llanarmon Yn Ial, CH7 4QF	Alterations to dwelling (Listed Building)	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer		N/A
03/2016/0679	Hen Pandy, Berwyn Llangollen, LL20 8AL	Conversion of barn into holiday accommodation	No objection	Granted 16/09/16	N/A
05/2016/0700	Bryn Tyner, Corwen, LL21 0DR	Erection of replacement extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 21/09/16	
05/2016/0675	Colomendy Lodge Corwen, LL21 0DR	Demolition of existing stable and erection of dwelling	Object; no justification and contrary to planning policy	Refused 31/08/16	
27/2016/0100	Worlds End Farm, Eglwyseg LL20 8EH	Erection of agricultural building for cattle	No objection subject to materials	Granted 08/09/16	
03/2016/0648	32 Church Street Llangollen, LL20 8HY	Replacement windows (listed building application)	Support, subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 26/10/16	N/A
15/2016/0828	19 Maes Ial Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4 PZ	Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling	No objection	Granted 12/10/16	N/A
15/2016/0656	Bryn Tirion Cottage Llanarmon-Yn-Ial CH7 4QE	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer		N/A
41/2016/0793	3 Railway View Bodfari, LL16 4EB	Erection of pitched roofs over existing dormer windows and new porch	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 07/10/16	N/A
055709	Danetre, Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Erection of single storey rear extension	No objection subject to materials	Granted 05/09/16	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
054707	Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Lateral extension to existing quarry and extension of time (Amended plans)	Support changes to final restoration plan to enhance biodiversity value	Granted 23/09/16	N/A
15/2016/0805	Gelli Gynan Cottage Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Installation of 124m of overhead line	No observations subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 21/09/16	N/A
15/2016/0705	Bryn Hyfryd Llanferres, CH7 5TA	Conversion of outbuilding to create additional living space and erection of porch	No objection to conversion; object to inappropriate design of porch	Refused 13/10/16	
15/2016/0842	Ty Isa, Pant Du Road Eryrys, CH7 4DD	Extension to residential curtilage	No objection subject to landscaping and removal of PD rights		
055908	Top Farm, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5JS	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection subject to materials	Granted 29/09/16	
47/2016/0750	Wadham House Rhualt LL17 0TE	Erection of stable block	No objection subject to materials and landscaping	Granted 15/09/16	
21/2016/0879	Swn Yr Afon Maeshafn, CH7 5LU	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection	Granted 26/10/16	N/A
21/2016/0835	Greenbank Llanferres, CH7 5SF	Erection of replacement garage	No objection subject to retention of existing hedge	Granted 20/10/16	
47/2016/0872	Graig Fawr Farm Tremeirchion, LL17 0UR	Details of external materials for agricultural building	No objection	Granted 07/10/16	N/A
15/2016/0858	Land at Erw Goed Llanarmon Yn Ial, CH7 4QX	Variation of conditions for planning permission 15/2013/1080 to allow extension of time for residential development	No observations	Granted 18/09/16	N/A
03/2016/0843	The Cottage Tea Rooms, Llangollen, LL20 8PE	Erection of a steel framed canopy with glazed roof	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer and further details	Refused 01/11/16	
42/2016/0223	Land at (part garden of) Mount House, Dyserth, LL18 6BY	Details of dwelling granted outline permission (Amended Plans).	No objection	Granted 12/10/16	N/A
16/2016/0831	Bryn Derw, Llanbedr DC, LL15 1UT	Erection of detached garage	No objection subject to materials and landscaping		
03/2016/0895	Maes Y Bryn Llangollen, LL20 8HF	Erection of side extension and conservatory	No objection	Granted 27/10/16	N/A
03/2016/0837	Bryn Hyfryd, Sun Bank, LL20 8EG	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection subject to materials	Granted 26/10/16	
21/2015/0111	Car Park at Coed Moel Famau, Llanferres	Extension to existing car park	Support	Granted 26/10/16	N/A
055827	Lloyds Sand & Gravel, Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Replacement of existing shed	No objection in principle subject to need, but suggest application may be premature	Refused 24/10/16	
03/2016/0920	Cyflymen, Llangollen, LL20 8LS	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection subject to materials		
10/2016/0849	Bryn Y Ffynnon Bryneglwys LL21 9LN	Erection of extension to dwelling	No objection in principle but object to scale and design.	Withdrawn 28/10/16	N/A
05/2016/0631	Carrog Uchaf, Carrog, LL21 9ET	Construction of new access and driveway	Suggest less intrusive solution		
17/2016/0870	Land near Maes Maelor Llandegla Wrexham, LL11 3AA	Removal of Condition to secure permanent change of use of land as laser quest/family fun site	No objection but need to comply with landscaping conditions first	Granted 26/10/16	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
055991	Plas Yn Llan Farm, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Erection of detached garage	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Withdrawn 11/10/16	N/A
03/2016/0845	Pen Y Bedw Cottage Llangollen, LL20 8LN	Listed Building Application for replacement roof structures and alterations.	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer		N/A
<b>Total Number of Applications: 105</b>					

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1234/5678**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

[http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG\\_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lg.Planning](http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lg.Planning)

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated 09/11/16.
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.



## Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme November 2016 Update				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started Red Started but limited Progress Amber Started and on track Green	Cost –ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
<b>Finance</b>				
Finance and Funding	To be a standing item on the Forward Work programme	Report to each JC		Neutral
<b>Strategic Plans 2014-16</b>				
Management Plan	Approved with translation May 2016	Printed for June 2016 Complete		+ve
Communications/ Branding Strategies	To assess monitoring and effectiveness of AONB Communication	Summer 2016 Complete		+ve
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	To provide a policy statement, engagement plan and action plan	Summer 2016 Volunteers Strategy Internal consolation		Neutral
Business Plan	To write a five year business plan	Autumn 2016 Draft to Autumn JC		Neutral
<b>AONB Joint Committee</b>				
Joint Committee Meetings	2 per annum	ongoing		Neutral
AONB Forum	Theme(s) in principle proposed by Partnership	Programmed in 30.11.16. Natural Environment theme		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors	Annual Meets	Programmed in December 5th		Neutral
<b>AONB Partnership</b>				
Increase Full Meetings from 2 to 3	Agreed at partnership meet with the third meeting themed	Further consultation have finished the Familiarisation trips. Field meet for summer 2017		+ve
<b>Partnership Working Groups:</b> Sustainable Development Fund, Landscape Character and Built Environment, Land Management and the Natural Environment , Heritage, Culture and Communities and Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement				

Forward Work Programme June 2016 Update Continued				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Progress	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
<b>AONB Special Projects</b>				
World Heritage Site	World Heritage Site	Timescale Group and Sub Groups. Possible reorganisation autumn 2016		Neutral
<b>Partnership Working Groups:</b> Sustainable Development Fund, Landscape Character and Built Environment, Land Management and the Natural Environment , Heritage, Culture and Communities and Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement				
Sustainable Development Fund	Deliver Full Spend	Spring 2017		Neutral
Dark Skies	Joint Initiative with NPs/Visit Wales. DS Meet Visit Wales HS Discuss with LAs and TRA	Land Management group talk by SNP Officer		+ve
Limestone Legacy	Received Approval year 1 Project underway	2018 Year1 Complete		Neutral
Active Alyn Valley	Received Funding Offer and Accepted	2019		Neutral
River Wheeler/Alyn Project (NWWT Led)	AONB involved in implementing	2017 NWWT Officer on Land Management Working Group		Neutral
Supplementary Planning Guidance	Under discussion in Built Environment	Consultation carried out with LAs. Offer by SNP		Neutral
Traffic congestion and Car Parking	TBC	Potential Cadwyn Bid		
Tourism Strategy	To implement the action plan	Autumn 2016 AONB Badge, FCC Contribution, Tourism Growth Plan		Neutral
Distribution of Information	Forming a partnership with TICs and Country Parks for Info Distrib N Wales and N West	Spring 2017 Plan created , Summer distribution		Neutral
Working with businesses	Investigate working in partnership with businesses	Spring 2017 To Develop folder visit Go Outdoors		Neutral

The Picturesque	Joint AONB/WHS Bid for Landscape Scale HLF Project	Autumn 2017 Awarded start up fund Project Officer appointed. Further funding from Cadwyn.		+ve
Friends of CR and DV AONB	Support the group where requested within resources	Spring 2017 170 members and series of ongoing events		Neutral
Climate Change Education Project	To train and deliver the programme	Spring 2017 2 <sup>nd</sup> education round commissioned with Plas Derw		Neutral
Art Project	To deliver AONB art Projects across the AONB	Spring 2017 Local artists exhibitions in Oriol and Caban		Neutral
Site Management	Specific Projects to improve visitor enjoyment and Payback	Spring 2017		+ve
<b>Section 85 Organisations</b>				
Future Landscapes	Officer support for WG Project	Summer 2016 Draft commissioned		
SP Network Lines	To continue to investigate undergrounding possibilities	Spring 2017 5 project under investigation mainly within WHS		Neutral
Landscape Enhancement Initiative (National Grid)	Submit Bid for 2 Projects	Autumn 2016 EOI submitted		Neutral
Urbanisation	To enter into an agreement with NEWTRA and LA Highways to respect the rural nature of the AONB	Spring 2016 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting NWMTRA June, DCC and FCC in respect of lighting.		-ve
Tourism	Investigate how best to integrate the NE Wales and AONB Brands	Spring 2016 SDF and AONB Officer invited to NE Wales Officer Meet		Visit Wales E4G Neutral
WG Access Funding Project	Several new project given WG funding	Spring 2016		

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