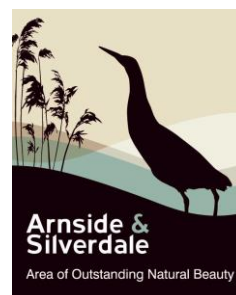


Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2017 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Eve Hall	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Joan Jackson	NFU
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company)
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Cllr Pete McSweeney	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Brian Meakin	Beetham Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB
Cllr Phillipa Williamson	Lancashire County Council

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Paul Haggin	Cumbria County Council
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer
Lorayne Wall	South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:

Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Cllr Nigel Goodrich	Lancaster City Council
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr George Taylor	Arnside Parish Council
Gemma Wren	National Trust

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies are listed above.

2 Introductions

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed everyone, in particular two new members - Cllr Phillippa Williamson from Lancashire County Council and Paul Haggin from Cumbria County Council. It was noted that Cllr George Taylor would be the new representative for Arnside Parish Council. Each person present introduced themselves.

3 Presentation: Places and Spaces

- 3.1 The formal business was preceded by a presentation by Elena Gifford of Deco Publique and Clare Mander of the Royal British Society of Sculptors who are working with Morecambe Bay Partnership on the 'Places and Spaces' project, part of the Heritage Lottery funded Headlands to Headspace scheme.

As part of the Project, Morecambe Bay Partnership wishes to commission a number of artistic works inspired by Morecambe Bay's unique heritage and landscape. They are looking for new artworks or creative projects that use, celebrate, engage with and interpret the Bay's landscape and heritage, either on a temporary or permanent basis. These contemporary artworks are aimed at encouraging people to visit and engage with the heritage of the Bay.

Three sites with potential for artistic intervention have been identified - Heysham Head, Arnside Knott and Birkrigg Common – but the importance of consulting with and engaging with local communities at an early stage in the process is recognised.

A brief has been sent out to artists and a series of site visits and interviews is to be arranged over the coming weeks. The commissioned artworks should be in situ by June 2018.

Ann Kitchen asked about the potential damage to Arnside Knott, a particularly sensitive and important site for many rare flowers, plants and insects. It was confirmed that these considerations formed an important part of the project brief, and that any proposals would need to be fully compatible with the management of the SSSI and may require consent from Natural England.

4 Changes to the Executive Committee membership

- 4.1 As above (2.1).

5 Annual re-endorsement of user Groups, Business and Farming representatives

- 5.1 Under the terms of the Constitution, representatives of the local interests are subject to annual re-endorsement by the other members. The current members – Eve Hall (User Group NLBS); Brian Jones (User Group Ramblers); Ann Kitchen (Business BCCIC) and Craig Russell (Business Beetham Holiday Homes) - were re-endorsed en bloc.

- 5.2** The AONB Manager advised members that we still do not have a farming/landowner representative and requested help in filling the vacancy. Several local farmers were suggested.

ACTION: to promote the vacancy via the e-newsletter and to contact suggested farmers/landowners

AONB Manager

6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 6.1** Under the terms of the Constitution, the Chair is to be elected from among the voting members of the Executive Committee. Nominations for the position were requested. Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) was proposed by Cllr Phillippa Williamson (Lancashire County Council) and seconded by Craig Russell (Tourism/Business). This was the only nomination. Cllr Brian Meakin was elected unanimously as Chair. The appointment is for one year.

- 6.2** Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were requested. Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) indicated she was willing to stand for a further year. Proposed by Cllr Phillippa Williamson (Lancashire County Council) and seconded by Craig Russell (Tourism/Business). This was the only nomination and Ann Kitchen was elected unanimously as Vice Chair. The appointment is for one year.

7 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2017

- 7.1** The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 15th March 2017.

8 Matters arising from the minutes

- 8.1** (5.2) Brian Jones (Ramblers) reported that a meeting had taken place with Jarrod Sneyd (RSPB) and the AONB Manager and requested an update on the availability of the AONB Trumper to members of the public. The AONB Manager reiterated that it is the intention to make it more widely available in the future, but this is a work in progress and there are still a number of challenging operational issues to overcome. In the meantime, the Trumper is available 7 days a week for members of the public to use on the Leighton Moss reserve and is also available for other partner organisations to hire by agreement. Discussions have also been held with Morecambe Bay Partnership to consider it being promoted as part of the wider 'More to Explore' network.

- 8.2** (6.2) The AONB Manager reported that discussions had been held with the National Trust and it has been proposed that part of the role of their forthcoming ecologist post to be recruited for the area will be to pull together the various bits of biodiversity research and monitoring being carried out by different organisations and to develop a more coordinated approach.

- 8.3** (8.2) Further clarification was sought on the use of brownfield sites, what development is permitted and the definition of 'curtilage' of the property (is this just the footprint of the actual building or does it include any hard landscaping?)

ACTION: to forward SLDC's policy wording to the AONB Manager for circulation to members

Lorayne Wall

9 Proposed HLF Resilient Heritage Application (report circulated)

9.1 The AONB Manager reported that since the meeting in March when members were advised that Defra is encouraging AONB Partnerships to look at adding value in terms of income generation and diversifying funding streams to help deliver AONB Management Plans, an opportunity has arisen to submit an Expression of Interest to the HLF Resilient Heritage Scheme which focuses on investing in organisations to put them on a more sustainable footing for the future. An HLF officer has been allocated to help us with an application and the support of Lancaster City Council, as our host authority, has been obtained. It is hoped that this piece of work can run alongside the Management Plan review so that the AONB Partnership can be in a strong position to deliver the new plan from the outset.

AGREED: to note the preparation and development work undertaken so far; to note the opportunity to provide feedback to the AONB manager on initial proposals; and to approve the proposal that the AONB Team proceed with the further development and submission of an application to the HLF Resilient Heritage grant programme, under the host authority's financial regulations and procedures. (proposed by Ann Kitchen (Bittern CCIC), seconded by Cllr Pete McSweeney (SLDC) and unanimously AGREED by the members)

10 AONB Revised Budget 2017/18 (report circulated) and 2016/17 outturn (tabled)

10.1 The 2017/18 budget has been revised to take into account a number of changes and to enable effective delivery of the AONB Business Plan.

AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2017/18 budget (proposed by Cllr Pete McSweeney (SLDC), seconded by Cllr Keith Palmer (Silverdale Parish Council) and unanimously AGREED by the members)

11 AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)

11.1 Lorayne Wall of South Lakeland District Council updated members on progress made with the AONB DPD to date. Key points included:

- 231 responses from 193 people were received by the end of the pre-publication consultation
- The Final Plan includes
 - 14 policies to guide new development in the AONB and
 - 11 policies (including site mini briefs) allocating 9 sites for development
- The Final AONB DPD has now been approved for publication by both Councils
- A 6 week consultation period on the Final Plan is due to start on 2nd November
- In addition to any representations relating to the soundness or legal compliance of the DPD, comments supporting the Plan would be welcome
- The timetable for the remainder of the plan preparation is
 - Autumn 2017: Publication of the DPD
 - Early 2018: Submission of the DPD to the Planning Inspectorate
 - Spring 2018: Public Examination of the Plan and Adoption of the DPD

AGREED: to note the report on progress of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document.

11.2 A stakeholder meeting planned for 16th October had to be rearranged due to severe weather warnings. It is hoped this will now take place the week beginning 6th November. In the meantime, the AONB Manager offered to send out the link to the documents on the Council websites.

ACTION: to send out the link to the DPD documents

AONB Manager

12 AONB Management Plan Review Draft Project Plan (report circulated)

12.1 The current AONB Statutory Management Plan requires review, in accordance with section 89(9-10) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; it is a requirement of the Act that the relevant local authorities jointly carry out a periodic review. It was proposed that the AONB Executive Committee formally conducts the required Review on behalf of the four relevant local authority partners, as was the case for previous AONB Management Plans.

12.2 The AONB Manager outlined the proposed approach, process and timetable for the review process.

12.3 A Review working group is to be established which will have delegated responsibility from the Executive Committee to oversee and direct the review process. It is anticipated that the Review Group will comprise the Chair of the Executive Committee, one representative of each of the principal local authorities and Natural England, the AONB Manager and the AONB Officer and up to 3 other representatives. Jarrod Sneyd (RSPB) stated that he would like RSPB to be represented and Brian Jones (User Group – Ramblers) also volunteered to be part of the working group.

AGREED: that the AONB Executive Committee conducts the Review on behalf of the four relevant local authority partners; that the AONB Management Plan Review Draft Project Plan is approved; that a Review Working Group is established to support the AONB Team with the day-to-day work of the review process

(proposed by Craig Russell (Beetham Holiday Homes), seconded by Fiona Allan (Landscape Trust) and unanimously AGREED by the members)

13 AONB Delivery Plan update from the AONB Team and partners – verbal updates

13.1 The Landscape Trust

reported that their ‘Story of Silverdale’ weekend of walks, talks and exhibitions spread over 4 days had been very successful. A review of how the Trust communicates with its members (currently 1150) is being undertaken and they are pleased to have been given the opportunity to get involved in other projects in the AONB such as the RSPB Warton Mires Project and the England Coast Path.

13.2 The NFU

reported an increase in the number of incidents of livestock worrying by dogs. Members were asked to help highlight the problem and to encourage people to observe the Countryside Code at all times.

13.3 Ramblers

reported they have also been involved with the England Coast Path consultations and the Natural England led project to try and 'Discover Lost Ways'. Legislation in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 means that any historic footpaths not recorded on the definitive map by 2026 will be extinguished and no longer accessible to the public. Ramblers are carrying out research to try to identify any historic routes in our area.

13.4 The Environment Agency

reported that two follow up visits had taken place following earlier farm inspections and were pleased to report that improvements to silage plants, slurry stores etc. had been made.

13.5 RSPB

reported that progress is being made with the feasibility study and fundraising for the Warton Mires Project which is looking to include flood alleviation, habitat creation and community benefit. They are also hoping to carry out further conservation management work on their Warton Crag reserve for the benefit of the High Brown Fritillary.

13.6 Cumbria County Council

Paul Haggin is new to the post but expressed support for the AONB Partnership, pointed out that his team in Development Control and Countryside Management also has responsibility for heritage and PROWs and offered his help in these areas.

13.7 South Lakeland District Council

Cllr Pete McSweeney stated that more information on the work of the AONB Partnership would be welcomed by SLDC Councillors. Members were advised that in addition to the AONB DPD consultation, there is also an opportunity to comment on the district-wide development policies.

ACTION: to work with SLDC to provide the information required

AONB Manager

13.8 The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company

reported that they had begun a project to install low energy lighting in community buildings and had also been pleased to support the new community information panels which the AONB Team has been working on with the parish councils.

13.9 Beetham Holiday Homes

Craig Russell reported on the joint Kendal Torchlight/AONB project which saw local artists working with children from Beetham, Storth and Arnside schools to make 'woodland' lanterns which were also on display at the AONB Apple Day. Moth surveys are continuing on site, with 98 species recorded so far.

13.10 Silverdale Parish Council

congratulated the Landscape Trust on their 'Silverdale weekend' which had proved to be very popular and thanked SLDC and Lancaster City Council for their work on the DPD. It is hoped that problem with the Moss Lane entrance to Trowbarrow LNR will be resolved in the near future. (The AONB Manager confirmed that responsibility for this rests with Lancashire County Council but that the AONB Team is continuing to press council officers on this matter).

13.11 The AONB Countryside Officer reported on the continued success of the volunteer programme, with a good number of volunteers turning out regularly for the Tuesday tasks. Volunteer tasks over the summer have included erecting new fingerposts to maintain the AONB's well sign-posted PROW network; permissive path vegetation cutting; restoration work in the historic gardens at the Hyning; grassland management on Warton Crag LNR; and monthly litter picks. Other volunteering opportunities have arisen through species monitoring and assisting with events such as the AONB Apple Day, which attracted over 800 people in September.

13.12 Natural England

reported that a major project is proposed at Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve, an important internationally designated site. The site's marl grasslands, marl lake, fen and limestone grassland and pavement habitats are particularly important and distinctive for their biodiversity. The proposal is designed to restore priority habitats and bring the site into favourable condition status; it includes raising the water levels in Little Hawes Water through the installation of a sluice, felling an area of beech plantation, scrub clearance works, implementing an improved grazing regime and replacing two old boardwalks with a single improved structure for walkers and Trammer users. 4 public guided walk events had taken place in October to explain and discuss the scheme and a special AONB e-newsletter was distributed. Further information about the proposals is available from Maggie Robinson or Glen Swainson, site manager. NE is also working with the University of Cumbria on a Species Reintroduction project funded by the Heritage Lottery. Progress continues to be made with the section of the England Coast Path which will pass through the AONB.

14 AONB Planning work update (report circulated)

14.1 An update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership since the last meeting in March was provided. Some important consultations to which the AONB Team has provided responses were highlighted – South Lakeland proposed Main Changes to Draft Development Management Policies; AONB DPD Pre-publication consultation; Lancaster City Council's Sustainable Settlements Review Draft methodology; and Draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan main Modifications.

AGREED: to note the report on planning work

15 Bittern Award 2017 – request for nominations (report circulated)

15.1 Each year the Bittern Award is presented to a group or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the AONB. The AONB Manager asked for nominations for the 2017 award to be submitted by 1st December. The final decision will be made by the AONB Team and Chairman, with the award to be presented at the AONB Annual Conference in January.

ACTION: to submit nominations for the Bittern Award by 1st December All members

16 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

16.1 The AONB Manager advised members that the National Association Chairman met with Defra Under-Secretary of State to discuss Defra's 25 year environment plan and the role of the AONB Family. The National Association is also working with a large number of environmental organisations to secure a sustainable future for the UK's landscapes post-Brexit. Further information can be found at www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

17 Any other business

17.1 Brian Jones stated that in 2005, the Countryside Agency undertook a review of protected areas and it was agreed that Farleton Knott and Hutton Roof were worthy of AONB designation. Has any progress been made on this extension to the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB?

The AONB Manager advised that the NAAONBs is working with Government on the designation of new areas. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

18 Dates for your diary**2017**

Saturday 4th November AONB Hedgelaying Competition at Beetham Hall

2018

Wednesday 24th January AONB Annual Conference, The Gaskell Hall, Silverdale

**Wednesday 21st March
2pm** AONB Executive Committee meeting
Education Room at RSPB Leighton Moss,
Silverdale

**Wednesday 17th October
2pm** AONB Executive Committee meeting
Education Room at RSPB Leighton Moss

Signed Date: