

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting 18th October 2017

RSPB Leighton Moss Education Room at 2pm



AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Introductions
3. Presentation by Deco Publique on Arnside Knott 'Places and Spaces' Art Project
4. Changes to Executive Committee membership
5. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives
6. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
7. Minutes of meeting held on 30th March 2016
8. Matters arising
9. Proposed HLF Resilient Heritage Application (report circulated) **Decision required**
10. AONB Budget revised 2017/18 (report circulated) **Decision required**
11. AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)
12. AONB Management Plan Review (report circulated) **Decision required**
13. AONB Delivery Plan update by AONB Team and partners – verbal updates
14. AONB Planning work update (report circulated)
15. Bittern Award 2017 – request for nominations
16. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs (verbal update)
17. Any Other Business
18. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Tea and coffee will be served

4.30pm finish

Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 15th March 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
Cllr Nigel Goodrich	Lancaster City Council
Sue Harrison	CLA
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside CIC)
Cllr Pete McSweeney	SLDC
Cllr Brian Meakin	Beetham Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Cllr Jim Shaw	Arnside Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer
Lorayne Woodend	South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:

Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council
Joan Jackson	NFU
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Stuart Perigo	on behalf of Cumbria County Council Development Control & Countryside Management Team
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Ian Stewart	Cumbria County Council

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

1.1 Apologies are listed above. Each person present introduced themselves

2 Presentation of national Landscapes for Life Award

2.1 The AONB Manager was delighted that Joan Jackson (NFU) and John Wilson (President of the Landscape Trust and previously Senior Warden at Leighton Moss) both received national recognition for their outstanding contribution to AONBs when they were awarded the 2016 Landscapes for Life award at the NAAONB Annual Conference in July. John was unable to attend the Conference and so was invited to the Executive Committee meeting to receive his award.

John has made an exceptional contribution to nature conservation in the Arnside & Silverdale AONB over more than 50 years being one of the most influential individuals in conserving the biodiversity of the area since the AONB was designated.

Growing up on the family farm in the AONB village of Warton, John nurtured a passion for wildlife and the local landscape and was appointed the first Warden of a new RSPB nature reserve, Leighton Moss, in Silverdale, in May 1964. At the time, Leighton Moss was a little known site which received just 375 visitors in its opening year. John worked there as Warden, then Senior Warden, until his retirement in 2000. The reserve is now one of the most popular RSPB reserves in the country receiving around 110,000 visitors each year.

John played a vital role in creating and maintaining the reedbed at Leighton Moss, the largest in the north west, making it the best possible home for the wildlife that lives there, including avocets, bitterns, marsh harriers and otters. John has carried out an incredible 40 year study into bearded tits, which breed nowhere else in the north west becoming one of the world's leading authorities on them.

As time went on John also became ever more involved in nature conservation on a wider landscape scale and he was instrumental in ensuring the RSPB acquired additional areas of habitat in the AONB. Under John's expert eye, Leighton Moss grew into a diverse reserve which now incorporates a large section of saltmarsh and mudflats in Morecambe Bay, home to thousands of waders and wildfowl, two large satellite areas of freshwater wetland where new reedbed and fen has been created and part of Warton Crag, a limestone grassland site home to rare high brown fritillary butterflies.

John has worked closely with the AONB Partnership over many years extending his influence right across the area. He became one of the first members of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust, the charity which supports the AONB, when it was formed in 1986 and subsequently became President, a role he still holds and remains active in. He has for many years provided expert advice and guidance on habitat management and monitoring at key sites. From the very first edition, John has been a regular contributor of articles to the Landscape Trust's magazine Keer to Kent.

John has been a mentor to the next generation of conservationists in the area, some of whom are now forging careers locally. This is a valuable legacy ensuring that the AONB is left in good hands.

The award was presented to John by Cllr Brian Meakin, AONB Partnership Chair

3 Presentation: Morecambe Bay Coastal Community Team

- 3.1** The formal business was preceded by a presentation by Jenny Wain of Morecambe Bay Partnership on the Morecambe Bay Coastal Community Team.

Coastal Community Teams are supported by government to help revive coastal towns and areas and to develop and deliver plans for future economic growth.

A new team for the rural areas of Morecambe Bay will be led by Morecambe Bay Partnership and South Lakeland District Council and will bring together local people, councils and businesses in the area to decide where investment and action is needed to grow the rural and coastal economy. Plans will tap into our local heritage and stunning coastal assets and develop local skills and opportunities to benefit from new jobs and investment. The Morecambe Bay Coastal Community Team will work with similar teams approved for Morecambe, Barrow and Fleetwood.

£10,000 has been awarded to help develop an economic plan to support jobs and growth for coastal communities around the Bay area. Initial work done by consultants has highlighted several emerging issues including Commuting; Under-exploited tourism potential; Local Authority spend on social care; Aging population and Declining workforce.

A draft plan will be submitted to government by the end of March 2017.

- 3.2** The presentation was followed by Q&A. Topics discussed included

- a request for consideration to be given to all users, including horse riders, when creating any new routes such as a Bay Coast Path
- a request to take into account the value of the farming/landowning industry and related sports such as shooting
- clarification that the Coastal Community Team will be made up of organisations rather than individuals and that these organisations will develop funding bids to implement the plan
- the importance of broadband and good public transport in the rural areas

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2016

- 4.1** The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting held on 19th October 2016.

5 Matters arising from the minutes

- 5.1** (16.1) The AONB Manager reported that several nominations for the Bittern Award had been received and that it had been decided it should go to Rob Petley-Jones of Natural England. Rob received his award at the AONB

Conference in January.

Rob has managed Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve since 1992 and will retire from Natural England in July 2017. In that time, Rob has developed, then shared his considerable habitat expertise, particularly around coppice management and butterfly conservation, to ensure that this special limestone landscape is managed in a way that conserves its iconic habitats and species. Working with Kew Gardens, Rob has been instrumental in the success of the species recovery programme for the Lady's-slipper Orchid including enabling the public to see and experience these rare and beautiful flowers. He has also developed a successful volunteer programme which has enabled the local community to be involved with looking after and monitoring the reserve. Rob is always generous with his time and expertise to help others to develop their interest and knowledge.

- 5.2** (15.1) Brian Jones (Ramblers) requested an update on the availability of the AONB Tramper to members of the public. The AONB Manager reported that the Tramper is freely available to members of the public for use on the reserve and has been well used to date. It is also available for other organisations to use by arrangement and under a hire agreement. It is the intention to make it more widely available in the future, however there are various operational issues to overcome. The AONB Team is willing to work with the Ramblers and RSPB to bring this to fruition and Brian Jones was invited to attend a meeting with the AONB Manager and RSPB representative to discuss this further.

ACTION: to arrange a meeting

**Brian Jones &
AONB Manager**

6 AONB Team Business Plan (report circulated)

- 6.1** The Team Business Plan 2015-18 has been reviewed and updated. It details how the AONB Team will act to contribute to the implementation of the statutory AONB Management Plan and associated Delivery Plan. It sets out the operating context of the AONB Team, and details a work programme for 2015-18, including proposed actions that require further resources to be delivered, targets for delivery in 2017/18, the 2017/18 budget and risk analysis.

- 6.2** Ann Kitchen (Bittern CIC) suggested that under *Objective 5: Make a significant contribution to Biodiversity 2020 outcomes by delivering conservation, enhancement, restoration and connectivity of the AONB's characteristic mosaic of habitats including woodlands, grasslands and coastal and freshwater wetlands and taking targeted action for key priority species* there was an opportunity for the AONB to take a lead role in pulling together the various bits of research being carried out by different organisations and developing a more coordinated approach.

It was suggested that this be an item for discussion on the Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting

ACTION: to arrange a meeting with relevant parties to discuss further and to include on the Agenda of the next committee meeting

AONB Manager

AGREED: to approve the updated Business Plan 2015-2018 (Proposed Ann Kitchen (Tourism/Business), Seconded Fiona Allan (Landscape Trust))

7 AONB Budget 2016/17 revised and 2017/18 proposed (report circulated)

- 7.1** Small in-year adjustments to the 2016/17 budget have been required to cover higher pension costs/recharges as advised by Lancaster City Council.
- 7.2** Members wished to record their thanks to the Local Authorities and Parish Councils for maintaining their level of financial support.
- 7.3** The AONB Manager advised members 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. The AONB Team will work in close cooperation with host authority, Lancaster City Council, and partner organisations, over the coming months to review current policies and practices and consider new ways of securing income. It was agreed to include an update on this on the Agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION: to undertake a review of current policies and practices and explore ways of generating additional income and to report any findings and recommendations at the next committee meeting

**AONB Manager
& AONB Chair**

AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2016/17 budget and proposed 2017/18 budget (Proposed Brian Jones (User Group/Ramblers), Seconded Cllr Pete McSweeney (SLDC))

8 Draft AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)

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

- 114 responses were received following the Draft Plan consultation held between 10 November & 5 January
- Over 250 people attended the consultation events
- Support was expressed for the joint-working approach, the general principles of the Plan and for the landscape-capacity led approach to development.
- A key challenge for the final plan is demonstrating the viability of the 50% affordable housing requirement as the Plan will only be approved if it is deliverable.
- 11 preferred development sites were included in the Draft Plan, of which one has been completely withdrawn and one has been reduced in size.
- All the responses have been summarised and are now being assessed.
- The 6 week consultation period on the final Plan is due to start in September.
- Comments supporting the Plan would be welcome in addition to any objections or concerns.

8.2 Q&A

- Q: Does the Plan in its draft form carry any weight?
- A: Plans do carry more weight as they go through the process and at the current stage, the AONB DPD should be taken into account by decision-makers but will not carry full weight until adopted and until then, current adopted policies apply.

- Q: If land is classed as a brownfield site, what development, within the curtilage of the property, is allowed under permitted rights, based on the current use, without permission being required?
- A: **ACTION:** to seek clarification

AONB Manager

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

9 AONB Planning work update (report circulated)

9.1 The AONB Officer provided the Committee with 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 October. She also highlighted some important consultations to which the AONB Team has provided responses – the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB DPD; AONB DPD Sustainability Appraisal Report; SLDC's Draft Development Management Policies DPD; Lancaster City Council Strategic Policies and Land Allocations; and Lancaster City Council Development Management DPD.

9.2 It was suggested that we also give consideration to voicing support in certain cases to avoid the perception that the AONB Partnership is anti-development. The AONB Manager confirmed that if a proposal directly and very clearly delivered an action within the AONB Delivery Plan that formal support may be given but that it was not possible to do this for the majority of applications. The Team reviews all applications and responds in line with the approved planning protocol.

AGREED: to note the report on planning work and to congratulate the AONB Officer on the quality of her responses.

10 AONB volunteer work programme update (report circulated)

10.1 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 winter have included erecting new fingerposts to maintain the AONB's well sign-posted PROW network; scrub-cutting; species-rich limestone grassland restoration and aquatic pond work. Training courses for the volunteers in drystone walling, hedgelaying and First Aid have taken place. Other volunteering opportunities have arisen through species monitoring and helping at events such as the AONB Hedgelaying Competition which took place in November.

AGREED: to note the report on the volunteer work programme. The AONB Countryside Officer was also thanked for the site management advice he provided to Beetham Holiday Homes.

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

11.1 Lancashire County Council

reported that the County Council has now decided to retain most of its countryside sites and to re-introduce its Countryside Service.

ACTION: to confirm whether or not this includes Warton Crag LNR

Elliott Lorimer

11.2 Local Business – Beetham Holiday Homes

Beetham Holiday Homes will be running several workshops in support of the Kendal Torchlight event. Members were encouraged to take part and use the opportunity to raise awareness of the AONB.

11.3 The Environment Agency

reported that two farm inspections had been carried out within the AONB since October. Areas for improvement have been identified and follow up visits will take place.

11.4 RSPB

reported that further talks have taken place with the landowner and local residents about RSPB's proposal for land at Warton. The project is looking at flood alleviation, habitat creation and community benefit. A detailed hydrology study is being undertaken to inform the proposal. The AONB Manager was thanked for attending the latest meeting and giving her support.

11.5 Silverdale Parish Council

reported that good progress is being made with bringing hyperfast broadband to the village through the B4RN project.

11.6 The Landscape Trust

reported that the 2017 events programme has now been published. The Trust now has more than 1000 members, 50% of whom live outside the area. Enhanced biodiversity is now being recorded on the Trust's reserves as a result of practical management.

11.7 The AONB Team

reported that the AONB Communications and Funding Officer is progressing the WILD! project, which will include Forest Schools activities and events for young families, encouraging families and children to spend more time outdoors.

The Priority Habitat Survey, a joint project with Natural England, has now been completed. The findings will feed into future planned work around biodiversity.

The AONB Team has also been working with Natural England on a national research project "Mapping Your Valued Places" The information collected by Natural England will help develop a better understanding of what people value about the area so that it can be considered when making decisions about landscape and nature conservation or other types of landscape change. A "word-cloud" created from the responses was tabled.

The AONB Conference – Our Local Heritage - was held in January and was well attended, with good feedback being received.

The AONB Grants Fund, which is being delivered working together with the Landscape Trust, has been fully allocated this year, with 4 projects benefitting from grant support.

12 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

12.1 The AONB Manager advised members that she has been co-opted onto the NAAONB Board as a Trustee for the Association. This will provide a good opportunity to have a direct link to national activity, which is currently focussing on agri-environment schemes (post-Brexit) and securing continued support from Defra.

The National Association's Landscapes for Life Conference will take place on 18th & 19th July in Winchester

13 Any other business

13.1 There was no further business to discuss

14 Dates for your diary

2017

**Tuesday/Wednesday
18th & 19th July** Landscapes for Life Conference
University of Winchester Business School

**Saturday 30th September
10am – 4pm** Arnside & Silverdale AONB Apple Day
Orchard Barn, Briery Bank, Arnside

**Wednesday 18th October
2pm** AONB Executive Committee meeting
Education Room at RSPB Leighton Moss

2018

**Wednesday 14th March
2pm** AONB Executive Committee meeting
Education Room at RSPB Leighton Moss,
Silverdale (TBC)

Signed Date:

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 18.10.17**

AGENDA ITEM 9

Report title: Proposed application to Heritage Lottery Fund Resilient Heritage grant programme

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager

Decision required

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with the opportunity to consider the proposal to apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Resilient Heritage Grant

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee

(1) notes the preparation and development work undertaken so far;

(2) notes the opportunity to provide feedback to the AONB Manager on initial proposals; and

(3) approves 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

Introduction

Sustaining the exceptional landscape of Arnside & Silverdale AONB is a major challenge and requires investment and support. The AONB Team aims to respond positively and proactively to this challenge.

In the current period of continuing austerity and political uncertainty, there are funding risks going forward, as identified in the AONB Team Business Plan, which need to be managed in order to provide a sustainable future for AONB management and enable the local authority partners to continue to deliver their statutory duties effectively and efficiently. In the first instance the maintenance of existing levels of core funding will be a priority but increasing income from other sources would provide further resilience.

Defra agreed a funding settlement in February 2016 to maintain core funding for AONBs in real terms until 2019/20 and have repeatedly expressed strong support for the work of AONB Teams. However, with this settlement came a clear requirement to make "best use of all available funding sources" and to "investigate and capitalise on new opportunities for income generation". It is now a requirement for AONB

partnerships to report annually on financial added value achieved, as a key performance indicator.

Background

The Executive Committee agreed at their meeting in March 2017 that, in order to manage risks around funding and resources, a review of current policies and practices be undertaken including an exploration of new ways of securing income, working in close cooperation with host authority, Lancaster City Council.

As part of this review it was identified that additional capacity and expertise in terms of fundraising and organisational development would be highly advantageous in maximising future opportunities and robustly managing these risks.

The HLF Resilient Heritage grant programme offers grants of £3,000 to £250,000 to strengthen organisations and build capacity, in order to better manage heritage in the long term. A successful application would therefore offer an opportunity for the AONB Partnership to invest in resources to better achieve its aspirations for long term financial sustainability and resilience.

The principle of making an application has been discussed and agreed with the host authority's (Lancaster City Council's) Resources Service. All aspects of the proposed application would be carried out in consultation with the Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning), Economic Development Manager and relevant staff in the Resources Service, in particular the Principal and Service Accountants, and with appropriate Council approvals wherever necessary, following due diligence and the Council's financial regulations.

It is anticipated that this project would run usefully alongside the Management Plan Review and enable the development of a series of projects to enable the delivery of the revised Management Plan 2019-24 from its inception.

The AONB staff held a team workshop this summer to start developing an application. The AONB Manager also held initial discussions with the Chairs of Bittern Countryside CIC and the AONB Landscape Trust and agreed in principle that any scheme would benefit all three organisations and seek ways of developing joint working.

A 'project enquiry' was submitted to HLF and a meeting has now been arranged with an assigned grants advisor for 3rd November.

Further work is required to develop the detail of the application, however it is proposed that a full application to the HLF Resilient Heritage grant programme is made which includes the following:

- employment of a fundraising and development officer (fixed term contract)
- production of an income generation strategy
- developing mechanisms for enhanced joint working and delivery with partner organisations and in particular the AONB Team, Landscape Trust and CIC

- development of a series of medium- to large-scale funding applications designed to deliver the Management Plan 2019-24

Feedback and suggestions for further developing the bid are welcomed from the Committee.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 18.10.17**

AGENDA ITEM 10

Report title: AONB Budget revised 2017/18

**Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry, AONB Funding and
Communications Officer**

Decision required

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with details of the revised 2017/18 AONB budget

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the revised 2017/18 budget

Background

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

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budget 2017/18

	2017/18 agreed Mar 2017	2017/18 revised Sept 2017 as part of LCC budget process (draft)
EXPENDITURE	£	
Staff Costs		
Salaries, NI, Pensions	138900	138900
Travel and subsistence	2600	1600
Training	1500	1000
Sub-total	143000	141500
Accommodation / office equipment		
Repair and maintenance	1200	1300
Host authority central property charges		4500
Cleaning	1000	1000
Electricity	500	400
Other energy charges	600	700
Rent	3100	3100
Rates	1900	2100
Water services	100	100
Premises insurance	400	400

Telephones	1900	2300
Office equipment	1000	1000
Sub-total	11700	17100
Communications and events		
Printing and stationery	600	600
Exhibitions and events	1600	5200
Communications and publicity	3100	2500
Sub-total	5300	8300
Partnership running costs		
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	7300	7600
Host authority recharges – other (provided in kind)	6100	6100
Employee related insurance	1700	1900
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	700	1200
Petrol and derv	400	400
Vehicle licence	500	200
Transport related insurance	700	600
Equipment and tools	1000	500
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	300
Consultants	4600	4600
Sub-total	27200	27300
Other Management Plan Implementation		
AONB projects and community engagement programme	5680	9580
Local Nature Reserves management programme	12200	12400
Sub-total	17880	21980
Reserve		
Contribution to reserve	2000	2000
Sub-total	2000	2000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	207080	217980

INCOME	2017/18 agreed March 2017	2017/18 revised Sept 2017 as part of LCC budget process (draft)
Local authority financial contributions		
Cumbria County Council	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8275	8275
Lancaster City Council	15600	15600
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year		1800
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		
Sub-total	44180	45980

Other income		
Defra grant	137800	137800
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	6500	10700
LNR grants income	12200	12400
Natural England	-	-
FIT payments	300	500
Income in advance b/f from previous year		
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		
Sub-total	156800	161400
Reserve		
Transfer out of reserve	0	0
Sub-total	0	0
Host authority in kind		
Lancaster City Council in kind support	6100	10600
Sub-total	6100	10600
TOTAL INCOME	207080	217980

Vehicle, plant & machinery reserve	17/18
balance in reserve at 31/03/17	17757

NOTES

- *Host authority central property charges – Lancaster City Council have revised accounting procedures to show central property costs under individual cost centres – corresponding increase in ‘in kind’ contribution*
- *Exhibitions & Events – all Apple Day expenditure (including artist in residence) rationalised and now shown against this code*
- *Vehicle R& M – increase to cover cost of installing Tracker to the AONB Land Rover*
- *Additional income (and corresponding expenditure under AONB projects and community engagement programme and events) raised in connection with the AONB Apple Day (sponsorship, FLD grant and gate money), new Access Donation Scheme (whereby people can make a donation towards high quality footpath signs within the AONB in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special event) and the Landscape Trust donation towards new interpretation panels.*

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 18.10.17**

AGENDA ITEM 11

Title of report: Report on the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document Consultation

Report prepared by: Lorayne Woodend (South Lakeland District Council) and David Porter (Lancaster City Council)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To brief Executive Committee on Progress on the Development Plan Document for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Executive Committee notes the key matters arising from the Draft Plan consultation for the Development Plan Document for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council are preparing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the AONB DPD. When adopted, the AONB DPD will identify allocations of land for development, as well as designations and policies to guide new development in a way that supports the conservation and enhancement of the AONB for the next 15 years. It will also be a key element in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan.
- 1.2 The Management Plan sets the overall vision for the AONB, whilst the main purpose of the DPD is to manage development. The DPD will undergo an independent examination by a government appointed planning inspector, and when adopted the Plan will form part of the statutory development plans for both Lancaster and South Lakeland Districts. It will have great weight in making planning decisions.
- 1.3 Previous reports presented to the AONB Executive in October 2015, March 2016 and March 2017 explained the process relating to the preparation of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan and progress made.
- 1.4 This report provides a further update, including the results of the ‘extra’ pre-publication consultation on changes proposed to the DPD in responses to the Draft Plan consultation.

2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 Following consultation on a draft of the AONB DPD between 10 November 2016 and 5

January 2017, a further pre-publication consultation was undertaken by the two Councils on changes proposed to the DPD in responses to the Draft Plan consultation. The proposed changes related to three sites:

1. **St. John's Ave., Silverdale** – Proposal for part of site S50, a site that was previously put forward for consideration and then withdrawn by the landowners, to be re-considered for residential development;
 2. **Storth** – Proposal to extend the areas proposed for allocation on Park Road and Quarry Lane to include additional sites, including areas to be kept open;
 3. **Arnside** – Proposal to amend the boundary of the site proposed for allocation on Hollins Lane (A8/A9) to include an alternative area for development and publicly accessible open space.
- 2.2 Everyone who had responded to previous consultations on the AONB DPD was directly invited by letter or email to respond to the consultation on these proposed changes. Immediate neighbours of the sites in question were also written to directly to make them aware of the proposals regardless of whether they had responded at any earlier consultation stage. In addition, there was press coverage and web-based information, as well as documentation being made available at local inspection points.

3.0 Consultation Responses

- 3.1 231 responses from 193 people were received by the end of the consultation. The majority of responses received were made by members of the community. Responses primarily comprised objections to the suggested changes, although it became clear that many of the responses to the proposed change to the Hollins Lane site had come from people who had not been involved in the process previously and who had apparently been encouraged to respond by one particular resident. This resulted in many responses that had been put together without an understanding of the context of the consultation and focused somewhat on the principle of development taking place in Arnside more generally rather than specifically responding to the proposed changes.
- 3.2 It is important to note here however that at the outset of the process, every household in the AONB was written to directly, inviting involvement, and at every stage, anyone who had responded to an earlier consultation was contacted directly.

4.0 The Final DPD

- 4.1 Taking into account responses to the consultation and further evidence gathered, including landscape evidence and biodiversity evidence, the draft Plan does not include the land at St. John's Ave. At Storth, there is no change to the site proposed at Draft Plan stage and at Hollins Lane a small extension has been made to the area proposed at Draft Plan stage to make the access options for the site more appropriate and to ensure that the site can deliver some of the benefits of the alternative proposal whilst only developing a very small portion of the field.
- 4.2 In addition to further landscape and biodiversity evidence gathered to inform the decisions on the proposed changes, the Councils commissioned further viability work to ensure that the sites proposed for allocation are viable. The work was undertaken by specialists Aspinall Verdi and found that all the sites are viable, including when the

policy requirements (such as 50% affordable housing) placed on development through the AONB DPD and existing/new district-wide plans are taken into account.

- 4.3 Consultation feedback at Draft Plan stage resulted in some changes to the policies in the DPD but these were mainly for clarification and improvement rather than substantive changes in the thrust of the policies. Responses to all consultation stages and how we have addressed the issues raised are set out in the Consultation Statement.
- 4.4 Taking into account feedback from the Draft Plan and pre-publication consultations, as well as extensive evidence, the final DPD includes 14 policies to guide new development in the AONB and 11 policies (including site mini briefs) allocating 9 sites for development. The sites are:
- A6 Land off Queen's Drive, Arnside
 - A8/A9 Land on Hollins Lane, Arnside
 - A11 Land at Briery Bank, Arnside
 - B108 Land at Church Street, Beetham
 - W88 Land North West of Sand Lane, Warton
 - W130 Land North of 17 Main Street, Warton
 - A25/A26/A27 Station House and Yard, Arnside
 - B35/B38/B81/B125 Land at Sandside Road and Quarry Lane, Sandside
 - S70 Land at the Railway Goods Yard, Silverdale

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 The final AONB DPD has now been approved for Publication by both Councils (by Lancaster on 27th September and by SLDC on 13th October). On 2nd November, the document will be published for a formal 6-week representations period. Representations at this stage must relate to the soundness or legal compliance of the DPD. Again, alongside standard publicity, anyone involved at previous stages will be contacted directly to make them aware of this opportunity.
- 5.2 All representations will be submitted alongside the DPD to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public. A Government-appointed Inspector will then consider the representations made in judging whether the Plan can be approved. Anyone who makes representations seeking changes to the Plan may ask to speak at the Examination hearings. It is important for Parishes and local people to be aware of an involved in this final stage in the process and to make representations even if they support the DPD.
- 5.2 The timetable for the remainder of the plan preparation is likely to be as follows:
- Autumn 2017: Publication of the DPD
 - Early 2018: Submission of the DPD
 - Spring 2018: Public Examination of the Plan and Adoption of the DPD

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 18.10.17**

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report title: AONB Management Plan Review Draft Project Plan

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager and Sue Hunter, AONB Officer

Decision required

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider the proposed approach, process and timetable for the review of the AONB Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

that the Committee

- (1)** formally agrees to conduct the Review on behalf of the four relevant local authority partners;
- (2)** approves the AONB Management Plan Review Draft Project Plan with or without amendments; and
- (3)** establishes a Review Working Group to support the AONB Team with the day-to-day work of the review process.

Introduction

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.

Background

It is 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. It is proposed that the AONB staff team carry out the day-to-day work of the review process supported by a Review Working Group, to include an officer representative from each local authority partner.

The Draft Project Plan shown in Appendix 1 details the proposed approach, process and timetable for the review process.

Appendix 1

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan Review 2017/18

Draft Project Plan (October 2017)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019 was published in March 2014 by the AONB Partnership on behalf of the four responsible local authorities: Cumbria County Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council.
- 1.2 Under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, the relevant local authorities must review the Management Plan within five years of the date of publication.
- 1.3 The Act requires that where a local authority reviews a management plan, they shall:
 - (a) determine on that review whether it would be expedient to amend the plan and what (if any) amendments would be appropriate,
 - (b) make any amendments that they consider appropriate, and
 - (c) publish a report on the review specifying any amendments made.
- 1.4 This Project Plan outlines how the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership intends to approach the process of reviewing the current Management Plan. It explains the various stages of work involved, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that will be undertaken as the Review develops, and the process of consultation.
- 1.5 The AONB Executive Committee will undertake the Review on behalf of the four Partner Local Authorities and will therefore have overall executive oversight of the Review and sign off the revised/amended Management Plan.
- 1.6 AONB Management Plans are statutory plans whose purpose is to provide a framework for ensuring delivery of the statutory purpose of AONBs, that of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of their designated landscapes¹. The Management Plan guides the work of the AONB Partnership. It sets the framework for action by Local Authorities, Public bodies, Businesses, Communities and Partner Organisations and informs the AONB Team Business Plan.

¹ As set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949; confirmed by Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:

- The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose of the designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and 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 the designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

1.7 AONB Management Plans are not static. They must respond appropriately to new issues and challenges, and to changing political and regulatory conditions (for example, in agricultural funding or new primary legislation).

2. The Review Approach

2.1 The Arnside & Silverdale AONB has a wealth of natural capital assets (for example geology, soils, water, habitats) which provide a wide range of benefits to society - natural, cultural and social benefits - as described in the current Management Plan (Section 3 and Appendix 2). Examples of these benefits include food, timber, climate regulation and carbon storage, flood prevention, recreation, health and wellbeing, wildlife, sense of place and tranquillity.

2.2 The Government's intention for more integrated landscape scale land management is set out in 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'. Outcome 1C of the Strategy is 'By 2020 at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas'. To contribute to this objective, the Management Plan will therefore be undertaken using this 'ecosystems approach' and a number of pieces of work have already been undertaken in preparation.

2.3 Consultants were commissioned in March 2017 to carry out a review of the linkages and influences between cultural ecosystem services, landscape character and priority habitats in the AONB. This review was carried out in two parts: a desk based review of several studies focusing on the natural capital of the area and cultural ecosystem services (for example recreation, health and wellbeing, sense of place etc.) and a follow-up stakeholder 'Natural Capital and Resilient Landscapes' workshop to explore the findings of this review. The workshop participants endorsed the full range of ecosystem services provided by the AONB landscape as set out in the current Management Plan and put forward a range of future land management opportunities/approaches that will be necessary to ensure the landscape is resilient to change and can continue delivering multiple benefits for people.

2.4 In addition to the above, the first stage of an 'Outcome 1C Self-Assessment' for the AONB has been undertaken. This is a self-assessment process devised by Defra which enables partnerships to evaluate how they are applying an ecosystems approach and how far they are contributing to the delivery of Outcome 1C. The emerging Arnside & Silverdale AONB self-assessment concludes that the criteria specified by Defra are largely being met but also makes a number of recommendations. Taking a stronger natural asset and ecosystem services focus in the approach to the Management Plan Review is one of these actions.

3. The Review Process

- 3.1 This Review is the third Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Management Plan Review. The process set out in this document, builds on the Partnership's previous experience and takes into account the Management Plan guidance published by the Countryside Agency in 2001, 2006 along with the Defra/Natural England/NAAONB advice note produced in 2012 (these documents are still fit for purpose in terms of how to write and review plans and have not been updated or superseded). A new document, 'AONB Management Plans, Support for their revision in England, June 2017' has been prepared by Steve Preston Associates with the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB). This document highlights significant changes that have occurred over the period of the extant AONB Management Plans to assist in their revision.
- 3.2 It is considered that there is much in the current plan that can be taken forward confidently into the next five years. A revised Plan is proposed that takes into account the important context changes since the publication of the last Management Plan and the requirement to take an ecosystems approach. The revised Plan will incorporate amendments arising from the review process and include delivery actions in the main document.
- 3.3 The AONB Executive Committee will exercise overall control over the review process and have responsibility for approving the Plan and submitting it to the relevant Local Authorities, Natural England and Government. 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. The Review Group will be responsible for agreeing new and revised content and will take general editorial control of all sections of the revised Management Plan, agree timetables, approve external contributions and oversee public consultation and participation. The Review Group will report regularly to the Executive Committee. The AONB Team will carry out the day-to-day work of undertaking the Review in consultation with the Review Group and the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 The review process will comprise three broad phases from inception to publication as described below.

4. Phase 1 – Scoping and preparing for the Review

Announce the Review

- 4.1 Formal notification of the Review will be given to the four Partner Local Authorities and agreement sought to allow the Executive Committee to undertake the Review on behalf of the Local Authorities. Agreement will be sought from the members of the Executive Committee for the Committee to act on behalf of the Local Authorities in reviewing the Plan and co-ordinate the publication of the Plan and also for the delegated responsibility for the Review Group. A copy of this Project Plan will be tabled and agreement sought for the approach, terms, scope and suggested timetable for the Review. Under Section 90 of the CROW Act, notice must be given to Natural England of the local authorities' intention to review the Management Plan. Other key stakeholders will also be notified.

Establish the context and evidence base

- 4.2 Reviewing and establishing the approach, context and evidence base is of fundamental importance for the Plan Review.
- 4.3 Reliable, up to date information is needed to understand the state of the AONB environment, to identify the natural assets and public benefits which the area provides, to assess how the environment is changing and the forces for change. A substantial amount of information about the Arnside & Silverdale area is included in or underpins the current Management Plan. This will need to be reviewed and updated. Further evidence is required, as identified through the Outcome 1C Self-assessment (see section 2.4 above), in order to support the ecosystems approach. A framework of key indicators will be drawn up as this work progresses which will form the basis for future monitoring of conditions in the AONB. A comprehensive 'State of the AONB' report will be produced.
- 4.4 Also, as important, will be to establish the current policy context within which the Management Plan is reviewed and in which it will be implemented, at the outset at least. This will involve a review of national, regional and local policy statements, strategies, plans and programmes. The information collected will be used in the first instance in the screening of the current Management Plan to establish its current relevance (see section 4.6 below) and will provide the context for potential new policy priorities.
- 4.5 A key change to the policy context of the AONB Management Plan is the production of a dedicated Development Plan Document for the AONB (the AONB DPD). This document is in the final stages of preparation and is the first of its kind in the Country. It takes a landscape capacity-led approach to identify sites for new housing and employment to contribute to meeting local needs and to set out planning policies. The AONB DPD will help to ensure that all new development reflects the AONB designation. The AONB DPD will form part of both South Lakeland District and Lancaster City Councils' Local Plans and is expected to be adopted in Spring 2018, which coincides with the early stages of the Management Plan review and will enable the final AONB DPD to be taken into account as part of the review process.
- 4.6 Establishing the policy context and the environmental baseline in this way are required initial steps in the SEA process (see section 7). It is from the analysis of this information that the sustainability objectives against which the assessment is made are derived and the key issues for the Review are identified.

Screen the current Management Plan

- 4.7 An assessment of the relevance and achievements of the current Management Plan will be undertaken. This will be informed by the understanding of the current policy context and environmental conditions and how they have changed from 2013 when the current Management Plan was drafted and also from the results of a preliminary consultation. This will gather information (via working group and partner meetings and an on-line questionnaire) about experience of working with the Management Plan over the past five years and perceptions of the plan's relevance, strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Confirmation of the identified forces for change, issues and challenges, progress with current policies/objectives and their future importance, identification of new policy priorities, and new challenges, issues and opportunities will be included.

4.8 As part of the last Management Plan Review, a consultation was undertaken to confirm the special qualities of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB and a report, 'What is special about Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?' was produced. We are not proposing to consult further on the special qualities themselves but there is an opportunity now as part of this Review to seek further expert input to update the report, which will be published alongside and in support of the AONB Management Plan.

4.9 The results of the screening process will provide a clear assessment of the nature and scale of the modifications/changes necessary to make the Management Plan an effective document for the management of the AONB over the period 2019 – 2024. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee will be in a position to confirm the scope of the Review in March 2018.

Consult on the SEA Scoping Report

4.10 Under section 12(5) of the SEA Regulations, Natural England, English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Environment Agency must be consulted in preparing the SEA scoping report. A period of 5 weeks must be allowed for this consultation. Established good practice is to consult more widely at this stage and the views of the local authorities and other key stakeholders will also be sought as has been the case for previous Management Plan Reviews.

5. Phase 2 – Undertaking the Review

Develop and produce the Draft revised Management Plan and supporting reports

5.1 This stage involves drafting the material for the new Management Plan that will direct the management of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB over the coming five years, testing the emerging objectives to ensure that they have the most positive possible effects on the environment (Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Assessment - see section 7), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), preparing the draft Action/Delivery Plan and producing various reports which support the draft Plan – the Environment Report, the HRA report and the Special Qualities report.

5.2 More explanation of the proposed approach to the assessment of the merging objectives/policies is given in Section 7 of this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

5.3 The Equality Act 2010 includes a General Equality Duty which requires public authorities to consider the needs of protected groups when deciding on policy issues, developing strategies and plans and in designing and delivering services. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to demonstrate how the AONB Partnership is fulfilling the General Equality Duty of a public authority.

Carry out public consultation on the Draft Plan, Environmental Report and HRA

5.4 Public and partner consultation for a six week period is planned in Sep/Oct 2018. Section 8 of this report deals with the approach to consultation at various points through the Review.

5.5 The consultation feedback will be assessed and responses developed to further inform revision of the Plan as required.

6. Phase 3 – Publish Management Plan 2019-24

6.1 The final draft version of the Management Plan is planned to be produced and approved by the Executive Committee in Dec 2018 and made available for final representations in January 2019, following which a Pre adoption version will be prepared. Confirmation of final draft by NE is required by NE and the four principal Local Authorities will then need to consider and adopt the Plan.

6.2 Following adoption the plan will be prepared for final publication with inclusion of maps and photographs.

6.3 The local authorities and other key partners will be encouraged to provide a statement of commitment to record and emphasise their involvement in the plan and its implementation/delivery.

6.4 The Executive Committee will send a copy of the approved documents to the Secretary of State as is required by S90 of the Act.

6.5 A Review Report is a requirement of S89(10)(c) of the CRoW Act which will describe the process followed/undertaken in the production of the revised Management Plan.

7. Assessing the Impacts of the Review

7.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a statutory requirement to ensure that land-use plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, are subjected to a strategic (high and overarching) assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation in order to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects. The European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, is applied in England through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

7.2 The process of SEA is not separate but is an integral part of the Management Plan review process. SEAs have been undertaken of the previous (2009 -14) and current AONB Management Plans.

7.3 The SEA Scoping Report will set out details of the way in which the assessment will be undertaken and reported. It will contain the following:

- A review of relevant policies, plans and programmes
- A review of the environmental baseline
- An outline of key environmental issues
- The SEA/SA objectives and a review of their compatibility
- Links between SEA objectives and ecosystem services

- Assessment of compatibility of the ecosystem services
- The appraisal framework with assessment criteria
- Monitoring indicators
- Consultation proposals

7.4 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a further development of SEA. It is very similar in its methodology but extends the appraisal to include social and economic criteria which are considered to be of equal concern to environmental criteria. SA is not a requirement for AONB Management Plans but it is recognised that some of the policies/objectives and actions of the Management Plan, while directed at conserving and enhancing the environment, are likely to or could have social and economic consequences. To help indicate the level of sustainability being achieved and to provide further opportunity for enhancement or mitigation, sustainability appraisal will be carried out, as was done during the last Management Plan Review.

7.5 European directive (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, requires any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to be screened to determine whether or not it is likely to have significant effects on such sites either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. This process is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). If the HRA finds that significant effects are likely, a further assessment (Appropriate Assessment – AA) must be undertaken to consider the likely significant effects in further detail and identify the changes to the Plan or Project required to avoid these effects. Only in exceptional circumstances could the Plan or Project be allowed to proceed if the likely significant effects cannot be avoided.

8. Consultation Arrangements

8.1 The AONB Partnership aims to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the review process in order to ensure that the resulting plan is owned and well supported and delivers on its priority of ‘working together’. A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will be prepared setting out how the Partnership will involve individuals, local communities and stakeholders.

8.2 Key stakeholders and partner organisations are involved on a continuing basis in the implementation of the Management Plan objectives and actions and both the work and strategic direction of the AONB Partnership.

8.3 A wide range of representatives took part in the Natural Capital and Resilient Landscapes Workshop (see section 2.3) and key partners will be involved in the next stage of the Outcome 1c Self-assessment (see section 2.4).

8.4 More direct consultation with organisations and the public will take place during Phases 1 and 2 of the review process in a variety of different ways such as meetings, workshops and questionnaires.

8.5 There will be formal consultation on the draft SEA Scoping Report for a period of 5 weeks, in March 2018 with the statutory environmental bodies, the local authorities and key stakeholders as outlined in 4.10 above.

8.6 The period of formal public consultation on the Draft Management Plan 2019-24 and supporting documents will be held for at least six weeks in September and October 2018.

8.7 In Phase 3 there will be an opportunity for final representations to be made.

9. Proposed Review Timetable

Review Stage	Date	Output
Phase 1 - Scoping and preparing for the Review		
Announce the Review - formal notification to Local Authorities	Sept 2017	Approval for Executive Committee to carry out review
AONB Executive Committee consider project plan	Oct 2017	Approval of project plan including terms, scope and timetable Review working group established
Statutory notice issued to NE	Nov 2017	Statutory notice issued
Establish evidence base	Oct 2017 – summer 2018	Data and maps collated and State of the AONB report produced
Review policy context – review of national, regional and local policy statements, strategies, plans and programmes	By Dec 2017	Information to inform screening and SEA
Screen the current Management Plan Initial Review	Nov 2017 – Mar 2018	Information and comments obtained about delivery of current MP and new issues, options, suggestions and priorities through workshops and questionnaire
Expert input into Special Qualities report	Nov 2017 – Mar 2018	Final report produced
Statement of Community Involvement	End Dec 2017	Statement produced
Consultation on SEA Scoping Report – 5 weeks	Feb/Mar 2018	Scoping report produced and comments gathered
AONB Executive Committee confirm scope of the Review	March 2018	Approval of scope of the Review
Phase 2 – Undertaking the Review		
Develop the Draft revised Management Plan	March - June 2018	Writing and testing content of draft revised Plan based on evidence and information gathered in Phase 1
Undertake SEA/SA/HRA	By July 2018	Assessments undertaken
Produce Consultation Draft of revised Management Plan	By Aug 2018	Draft Plan produced
Produce draft Environmental and HRA Reports	By Aug 2018	Reports produced
Undertake Equality Impact Assessment	By Aug 2018	Assessment undertaken
Public consultation on the draft Revised Management Plan, Environmental and HRA reports – 6 weeks	Sep – Oct 2018	Public consultation process

Phase 3 - Publish Management Plan 2019-24		
Prepare Final Draft of revised Management Plan taking account of consultation comments	Dec 2018	Final Draft Plan produced
Final plan approved by Executive Committee	Dec 2018	Approval by Executive Committee
Final Draft made available for final representations	Jan 2019	Final representations process
Prepare pre-adoption and publication versions of the revised Management Plan	Feb/March 2019	Confirmation of final draft by NE required
Local authorities adopt plan	Feb/March 2019	Approval needed from all local authority cabinets
Endorsement by other partners	March/April 2019	Endorsements received
Review Report published	March 2019	Report published
Publish Management Plan and submit to Secretary of State	April 2019	Final Plan published

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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AGENDA ITEM 14

Report title: Planning work update

Report prepared by: Sue Hunter, AONB Officer

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report on planning work

Introduction

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and development management and planning are a key element in achieving this.

Background

The AONB Executive Committee is a consultee on planning matters, both planning policy and planning applications; it is not a decision maker. Planning decisions are made by the relevant local planning authority.

Planning policies for AONBs are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. AONB designation and the AONB Management Plan are material considerations in the planning process. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

Planning applications

All planning applications within the AONB are reviewed and also any applications outside, but potentially impacting on, the AONB. Records are kept of all applications reviewed by the AONB Team and the responses made.

A summary is given below of the total number of applications reviewed in 2017 to date; the number of applications per individual parish is given. The number of formal responses submitted to the planning authorities is also given.

Planning applications reviewed so far in 2017 (to 30/09/2017)

Arnside	35
Silverdale	37
Beetham	25
Yealand Conyers	4
Yealand Redmayne	5
Warton	20
Total within AONB	126
Outside AONB	5
Total no. applications	131
Responses submitted	44

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 2 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- 17/00736/OUT Outline application for the erection of nine dwellings at land north of 17 Main Street, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire. An amended application has also been submitted and we have objected to this too – **no decision**.
- 17/00935/CU Application for change of use of field to install four camping pods and car parking for four cars at Gibraltar Farmhouse, Lindeth Road, Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire – **withdrawn**.

Formal objections made to applications reported at the last Executive meeting but where a planning decision had not been made at the time include:

- 16/01440/FUL Application for erection of a part single part two-storey side extensions to existing annexe to facilitate the conversion to a separate dwelling with associated landscaping and creation of a new access point at 184 Main Street, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire, LA5 9PT – **refused** as the proposal would fail to preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of the conservation area and would have a detrimental impact on this and the existing building which is considered to be a non-designated heritage asset. An amended application (17/00052/FUL) was submitted to which we objected again – **refused**. A second amended application (17/00458/FUL) was submitted which had addressed some of our concerns – **granted**.
- SL/2016/1044 Application for demolition of camp buildings and siting of 25 static caravan pitches and manager's dwelling and site reception at Leeds Children's Holiday Camp, Far Arnside, Silverdale, Carnforth – **refused**.
- 16/00221/OUT Outline application for the erection of up to 5 dwellings and creation of a new vehicular access at land north of 13 Main Street, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire – **granted**.
- 17/00009/FUL application for change of use of agricultural land to form private sand paddock at Far Waterslack, Waterslack Road, Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire – **granted**, following relocation to reduce visual impact.

Development of AONB DPD

Continued work with SLDC and LCC on the DPD policy changes following the public consultation and in preparation of the Publication Document. Support provided to the councils on the Pre-publication Consultation on 3 additional land allocation sites.

Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership

- South Lakeland Proposed Main Changes to Draft Development Management Policies
- AONB DPD Pre-publication Consultation – 3 sites
- Lancaster City Council's Sustainable Settlements Review: Draft Methodology
- Draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan Main Modifications

Other planning related work

- Statement presented at the SLDC Planning Committee meeting setting out objections to the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp application.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
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AGENDA ITEM 15

Title of report: The Bittern Award 2017

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To invite nominations for the Bittern Award 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that members of the Committee note the report and submit nominations by 1st December 2017

Introduction

Each year the Bittern Award is presented to a group, organisation or individual who has made an '*outstanding contribution*' to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

Background

The Bittern Award was donated by former AONB Manager, Ian Henderson, on his retirement in 2008. Previous recipients include:

2016 Rob Petley-Jones – for his long service and outstanding contribution to nature conservation in the AONB as manager of Gaitbarrows National Nature Reserve

2015 Peter Standing – for organising and running the comprehensive and successful Landscape Trust annual events programme

2014 Barry Ayre – for his outstanding contribution over many years including his pulling together an historical archive and also as editor of Keer to Kent

2013 David Mower – for his work as Warden at RSPB Leighton Moss and outstanding commitment to nature conservation in the AONB

2012 Ann Kitchen – for her work as Chair of the Bittern Community Interest Company, in particular for setting up the AONB community solar photovoltaics initiative; and also her longstanding contribution to biodiversity recording as part of the Arnside Natural History Society

2011 Peter Goulder and Sheila Porter – for their work to restore an important heritage orchard within the AONB and for hosting successful Apple Days in 2011 and 2009

2010 Martin Wain and Butterfly Conservation – for their work to conserve High Brown Fritillary butterflies in the AONB

2009 Colin Peacock – for his longstanding commitment as AONB Executive Committee Chairman and involvement in the governance of the AONB since its designation

Nominations for the Bittern Award 2017 are requested by 1st December. The Bittern Award will be announced and presented at the AONB Conference in January 2018.