

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

Executive Committee meeting 19th October 2016

RSPB Leighton Moss Education Room at 2pm

AGENDA



1. Welcome and apologies
2. Introductions
3. Presentation by Natural England on delivering the England Coast Path
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. AONB Team Business Plan (report circulated) **Decision required**
10. AONB Budget 2015/2016 outturn and revised 2016/17 (report circulated)
Decision required
11. Draft AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)
12. AONB Delivery Plan update by AONB Team and partners – verbal updates
13. AONB Planning work update (report circulated)
14. AONB Grants Fund update (report circulated)
15. AONB Tramper update (report circulated)
16. Bittern Award 2016 – request for nominations
17. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs (verbal update)
18. Any Other Business
19. 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 30th March at 2.00pm
The Heron Hall, Storth

MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Eve Hall	Local User Group (N Lancs Bridleways Association)
Joan Jackson	NFU
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside CIC)
Cllr Brian Meakin	Beetham Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Colin Peacock	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Cllr Jim Shaw	Arnside Parish Council

In attendance:

Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Lorayne Woodend	South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer
Cllr Nigel Goodrich	Lancaster City Council
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Alison Lax	CPRE/Friends of the Lake District
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Jane Panton	Yealand Conyers Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB
Martin Rhodes	Natural England
Maggie Robinson	Natural England

1 Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1** Apologies are listed above. Each person present introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2015

- 2.1** The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting held on 14th October 2015

3 Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** (5.2) Cllr Kevin Briggs has been contacted and has agreed to continue as Vice-Chair for another year.
- 3.2** (13.1) The AONB Grants Fund was launched at the AONB Conference in January. One application is currently under consideration and 2 further expressions of interest have been received to date.
- 3.3** (14) The Bittern Award was presented to Peter Standing for his work in managing the hugely popular and successful Landscape Trust's annual events programme since 2010.

4 AONB Budget 2015/16 outturn and proposed 2016/17 (report circulated)

- 4.1** Members were advised that it had been necessary to make some minor changes to the budget since the last meeting in order to effectively deliver the Business Plan. These changes were detailed in the report along with the proposed budget for 2016/17.
- Permission was sought from members representing the Parish Councils for a proportion of their financial contributions to the AONB Partnership received in 2015/16 to be used in 2016/17 to deliver actions identified in the AONB Management Plan, in particular the continued work to provide opportunities for young people to gain work experience in conservation and land management. This was agreed.

Q: What has the money allocated to Consultants been spent on in 2015/16 and what is planned for 2016/17?

A: In 2015/16, Graeme Skelcher was commissioned to carry out survey work on the AONB's priority habitats and Mark Sears, Chief Wild Officer of the Wild Network was invited to be the keynote speaker at the AONB Annual Conference. In 2016/17 we are planning to work closely with the Wild Network to become one of the pilot sites for their new 'Wild Local' programme. This will see local networks of organisations, schools and families working together to reduce the barriers to 'wildtime' and get more children enjoying the outdoors. Further Priority Habitat survey work is planned in 2016 as part of the Landscape Monitoring Project to be co-funded by Natural England.

AGREED: to note the report and approve the 2016/17 budget, including using a proportion of the Parish Council contributions received in 2015/16 to enable delivery of the AONB Management Plan in 2016/17.

5 Progress on the AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)

- 5.1** Members were briefed on the Issues & Options consultation for the Development Plan Document for the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB, which took place between 6th November and 18th December 2015.

Drop-in exhibitions were held in each of the parishes and these were attended by over 600 members of the public. The consultation resulted in almost 300 written responses from local residents, landowners, local employers, statutory organisations and developers.

The four most important matters arising from the consultation were:

- That the special nature and protected status of the AONB is highly valued, and should be given the strongest protection by the Plan;
- The infrastructure shortcomings of the area, especially in respect of drainage and the high risk of flooding in many parts of the AONB;
- Widespread opposition from local people to most of the development sites suggested, with support for a brownfield-first approach.
- That some of the housing needs arising within the AONB should and could be met outside of the AONB

During the consultation, 3 of the original 117 sites were withdrawn and 11 new sites were put forward and these are currently being consulted on, with the consultation finishing on 3rd May 2016.

It was requested that the information on the AONB and Council websites identifies which sites have been withdrawn.

Action: David Porter

- 5.2** The timetable for the remainder of the plan preparation is expected to be as follows:

- Spring 2016: Consultation on new site suggestions
- Autumn 2016: Draft Plan consultation
- Early 2017: Publication and Submission of the Plan
- Summer 2017: Public Examination of the Plan
- Autumn 2017: Adoption of the AONB Development Plan Document

- 5.3** Some discussion took place on protecting school playing fields and whether there was any merit in putting the Plan forward as a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 5.4** It was agreed that another stakeholder meeting should be held before publication of the Draft Plan.

Action: David Porter

- 5.5** Members thanked Lancaster City Council, SLDC and the AONB Team for running such a successful consultation exercise which generated a lot of interest and feedback.

AGREED: to note the key matters arising from the Issues & Options consultation for the Development Plan Document for the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB

6 AONB Planning work update (report circulated)

- 6.1** Members were updated on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership, including the number of applications assessed and responses submitted,

highlighting the importance of this area of our work. It is encouraging that the planning authorities are clearly taking landscape character into consideration in their decision making.

- 6.2** Three important documents have now been finalised – The Landscape & Seascape Character Assessment, the AONB Planning Protocol and the Planning Protocol between Natural England and the AONB Partnership – and formally adopted by the Planning sub-group on behalf of the full Executive Committee as agreed at the previous meeting. The Landscape & Seascape Character Assessment is available to view and/or download from the AONB website.

AGREED: to note the report on planning work.

7 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated and supplementary information tabled)

- 7.1** We continue to run a very successful volunteer programme offering numerous opportunities to engage in practical conservation work, monitoring, administration and event support. The AONB Countryside Officer leads the volunteers every Tuesday, with an average of over 11 volunteers turning out each week. The monthly litter picks have resulted in almost 200 bags of rubbish being removed (and wherever possible, recycled) from the lanes and shoreline of the AONB. Over the year, this side of volunteering alone has contributed an incredible 3128 hours of volunteer effort.

NLBA reported that they have purchased a chainsaw to facilitate maintenance of bridleways in the area.

AGREED: to note the report on the volunteer work programme

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

8.1 The Environment Agency

reported that a first ever fish survey had been carried out on Leighton Beck. Whilst numbers were lower than expected, all other tests indicate a healthy water course. The survey will be repeated later in the year. Further sampling of the water at Leighton Moss and Hawes Water has been carried out by RSPB and the Environment Agency.

8.2 Silverdale Parish Council

reported that a continued bus service connecting with Carnforth and the trains had been secured. There are current concerns about the future of the library in the village.

8.3 The Landscape Trust

reported that 2016 sees it celebrating its 30th Anniversary. A comprehensive programme of events has been organised, including a photographic competition/exhibition, a study weekend and a “Meet the villages” weekend focusing on Arnside. Coldwell Meadows, the recently acquired Landscape Trust reserve, is now open to the public.

8.4 Local Business – Beetham Holiday Homes

reported that good progress is being made with the B4YS project which will bring hyperfast broadband into the area.

8.5 Beetham Parish Council

reported that an approach has been made to Dallam Estate regarding

improving the access to Heron Corn Mill, which due to increased traffic, is now becoming unsafe for pedestrians. Following the retirement of the sub-postmaster, the Post Office has agreed that Storth PO can be run by volunteers, ensuring the shop and PO remain an important amenity for the village.

8.6 Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that the AONB Annual Conference held in January had been a very successful event. It was well attended and delegates were treated to a varied programme of entertaining and interesting speakers.

9 Any other business

- 9.1** Due to illness, the AONB Manager has been unable to present the AONB Team Business Plan for 2016-18. This will be completed and circulated to members as quickly as possible.

10 Dates for your diary 2016

7th & 8th May	Photographic Exhibition featuring the best entries to the Landscape Trust Photographic Competition – Arnside Educational Institute
21st May	Open Afternoon at the Hying (contact Sue Hunter for further information)
27th May - 11th June	A Taste of the Landscape a series of events organised by the AONB celebrating local food and products
17th – 25th September	Outstanding Week a series of events across the country celebrating AONBs
19th October (2pm)	AONB Executive Committee meeting to be held at RSPB Leighton Moss, Silverdale

Signed Date:

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16**

AGENDA ITEM 9

AONB Business Plan 2015-18

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager

Decision required

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with the opportunity to consider the reviewed and updated AONB Team Business Plan 2015-18

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) that the Committee approves the AONB Business Plan 2015-18 (2016/17 version)

Introduction

The AONB Team Business Plan details how the AONB Team will act to contribute to the implementation of the statutory AONB Management Plan and its associated Delivery Plan.

The Business Plan 2015-18 was approved by the Executive Committee in March 2015. It has now been reviewed and updated to produce a 2016-17 version. Due to illness the AONB Manager was not able to present this version to the last Executive Committee meeting. However, it has since been approved by the AONB Partnership Chair.

Background

The Business Plan sets out how the AONB Team will contribute to achieving a long-term Vision for the AONB as set out in the AONB Management Plan:

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a landscape of international importance, whose distinctive character is conserved and enhanced for future generations.

It is a place that is much loved and highly valued, for its strong sense of place, unique geology, rich wildlife and cultural heritage and the benefits it provides to society.

Its distinctive landscape character - an intimate mosaic of low limestone hills, woodland, wetland, pastures, limestone pavements, intertidal flats, coastal scenery and distinctive settlements - is enjoyed, cherished and conserved by those who live in, work in and visit the area.

The high quality landscape supports and is supported by the area's thriving rural economy and vibrant diverse local communities. There are many and varied opportunities for people to access, enjoy and understand the area's special qualities, and participate in their conservation, creating a strong connection with nature and the landscape.

Challenges and pressures are effectively and sensitively managed in an integrated way through a partnership approach. The area's natural and cultural assets are managed and used wisely for future generations.

In order to do this the AONB Partnership is aiming for 4 key outcomes:

- An outstanding landscape rich in wildlife and cultural heritage
- A thriving sustainable economy and vibrant communities
- A strong connection between people and the landscape
- A dynamic and successful AONB Partnership

The Business Plan 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 2016/17, a 3-year budget summary, the 2016/17 budget and risk analysis.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16**

AGENDA ITEM 10

**Report title: AONB Budget 2015/16 outturn and revised 2016/17
Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry, AONB Funding and
Communications Officer**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

**To provide the Committee with details of the 2015/16 AONB budget outturn
and revised budget for financial year 2016/17**

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the revised 2016/17 budget

Background

The 2016/17 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 2015/16 and 2016/17

	2015/16 budget revised	2015/16 outturn	2016/17 agreed Mar 2016	2016/17 revised Oct 2016
EXPENDITURE			£	
Staff Costs				
Salaries, NI, Pensions	128900	128885	136100	136100
Travel and subsistence	3200	2735	3200	2600
Training	1500	1135	1500	1500
Sub-total	133600	132755	140800	140200
Accommodation / office equipment				
Repair and maintenance	1500	1192	700	1000
Host authority central property charges			500	200
Cleaning	1000	961	1000	1000
Electricity	700	494	700	500
Other energy charges	600	528	600	600
Rent	3100	3120	3100	3100
Rates	1900	1908	1900	1900
Water services	100	123	100	100
Premises insurance	400	434	400	400
Telephones	1900	2017	1900	2100
Office equipment	800	403	1000	1000
Sub-total	12000	11180	11900	11900
Communications and events				
Printing and stationery	800	566	800	600
Exhibitions and events	4100	3926	1600	1600
Communications and publicity	7200	8345	3100	3100
Sub-total	12100	12837	5,500	5300
Partnership running costs				
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1469	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	8100	8100	6800	7300
Host authority recharges – other (provided in kind)	4200	4200	6500	6500
Employee related insurance	1100	1148	1100	1700
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	500	829	500	600
Petrol and derv	700	406	700	500
Vehicle licence	500	518	500	500
Transport related insurance	900	880	900	900
Equipment and tools	2000	1457	1000	1000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	97	300	300
Consultants	3300	3494	4700	8700
Sub-total	25500	25098	26900	31900
Other Management Plan Implementation				
AONB projects and community engagement programme	14600	15109	6970	7668
Local Nature Reserves management programme	13000	11215	15610	17000
Sub-total	27600	26324	22580	24668
Reserve				

Contribution to reserve	3600	3600	2500	2500
Sub-total	3600	3600	2500	2500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	214400	211794	210180	216468

INCOME	2015/16 budget revised	2015/16 outturn	2016/17 agreed Mar 2016	2016/17 revised Oct 2016
Local authority financial contributions				
Cumbria County Council	8800	8805	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8200	8275	8275	8275
Lancaster City Council	15200	15200	15300	15300
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year	5400	5409		
Less Income in advance c/f to following year				
Sub-total	49100	49189	43880	43880
Other income				
Defra grant	133200	133199	135490	135490
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	8200	8699	6500	6500
LNR grants income	13000	11215	15610	17000
Bittern Countryside CIC grant	3800	3800	-	-
Natural England				4000
FIT payments				300
Income in advance b/f from previous year	3600	3590	1700	2798
Less Income in advance c/f to following year	-1700	-2798		
Sub-total	160100	157705	159300	166088
Reserve				
Transfer out of reserve	1000	1000	0	0
Sub-total	1000	1000	0	0
Host authority in kind				
Lancaster City Council in kind support	4200	3900	7000	6500
Sub-total	4200	3900	7000	6500
TOTAL INCOME	214400	211794	210180	216468

Vehicle, plant & machinery reserve	2016/17
Balance as at 31/03/16	15257
Proposed expenditure re purchase of equipment	
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	2500
Projected balance in reserve at 31 March 2017	17757

NOTES

2015/16 outturn

- More training delivered in-house or through the NAAONB
- Electricity charges lower following installation of solar panels
- Printing and stationery costs lower as all staff working to implement Green Policy of only printing when necessary.
- Higher Communications costs incurred following migration of website to WordPress from Joomla! to ensure ongoing technical support and security.
- Vehicles R&M – higher spend due to work required following trailer service
- Fuel costs down – new Land Rover came with full tank and contributions from Silverdale & District Wood Bank who borrow the vehicle from time to time.
- Local Nature Reserves – unable to claim full Woodland Improvement Grant as it was not possible to publish & print a new Trowbarrow leaflet due to ongoing access issues.
- Capital purchase of new Land Rover completed

2016/17 revisions

- Lower travel costs following decision by Lancaster City Council to replace car allowances for essential users with pool cars and rental options
- Electricity charges lower following installation of solar panels
- Employee related insurance – advised by Lancaster City Council that increase in premiums is industry wide
- Fuel costs down – new Land Rover more efficient and contributions from Silverdale & District Wood Bank who borrow the vehicle from time to time.
- Consultants – includes £4k covered by Natural England contribution to carry out priority habitat survey
- Management Plan Implementation projects – adjusted to include income received in 2015/16 and brought forward to 2016/17, additional income generated through Solar panels FIT scheme and reduction to accommodate necessary increases elsewhere in the budget
- LNR grants income – new Stewardship Agreement including additional educational visits @£290 per visit
- First payment received from Solar Panels Feed-in tariff scheme

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19 October 2016**

AGENDA ITEM 11

Title of report: Draft Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Development Plan Document
Report prepared by: David Porter, Lancaster City Council

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To inform the AONB Executive Committee about the forthcoming consultation on the Draft Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (DPD). This report describes the preparation of this document to date, the purpose of public consultation and the next steps towards examination and adoption of the DPD. Upon adoption, this document will form part of the Local Plans for Lancaster and South Lakeland Councils.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) That the AONB Executive Committee notes the progress of the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document.
- (2) That all members of the AONB Executive Committee are invited to respond to the forthcoming consultation, which will run between 10 November 2016 and 3 January 2017.

Introduction

1. Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council are preparing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The DPD will be the first of its kind in England.
2. The primary purpose of the national AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. When adopted, the DPD will form part of both authorities' Local Plans. It will identify sites for new housing and employment and will set out planning policies to ensure that development reflects the AONB designation and has the conservation and enhancement of the landscape at its heart.
3. The DPD will also be a key element in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan which was adopted in April 2014. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a duty on all local authorities to pay due regard to the purpose of AONB designation in carrying out their functions.

The Planning Process

4. The DPD will bring up to date the existing planning policies for the AONB, and will ensure that both district councils' planning policies for the AONB are consistent.
5. The process for preparing Development Plan Documents is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF requires that local planning authorities must adopt the most appropriate development strategy based on a consideration of the alternatives, be deliverable and viable, and be consistent with national policy. The NPPF also gives specific guidance for development planning and decision making in relation to AONBs. It confirms that 'great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty' and that AONBs 'have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty'.
6. The DPD must define the area, set its purpose and the timeframe for the policies and allocations to operate. It must review the evidence available and set about collecting new evidence to fill any gaps. The DPD needs to assess the development needs for the area and the extent to which those needs can be met within a protected landscape. It must also consider the need and ability to provide for infrastructure, and for employment and community uses, including business premises, shops and open space. Importantly, the DPD must record and give protection to nature conservation, landscape and built heritage significances, and find the right balance between development and conservation.

The Draft Plan

7. Evidence gathered to inform the preparation of the DPD has involved a Housing Needs Survey, a Call for Sites and Site Assessment exercises as well as work to draw up lists of Locally Important Heritage features. This research sits alongside existing evidence such as the AONB Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment.
8. As part of the early work on the preparation of the DPD, comments were invited on an Issues and Options Discussion Paper between Friday 6 November 2015 and Friday 18 December 2015, and on further site suggestions between 29 March and 3 May 2016. These events, together with a series of stakeholder update briefings sought views on sites identified through the Call for Sites exercise and on potential policy topics and direction. Approximately 300 responses were received from local residents, land-owners, local employers, statutory organisations and developers.
9. The Draft DPD sets out to achieve two main objectives over and above the preparation of the district wide plans that are being prepared (or are already adopted) in Lancaster and South Lakeland districts. These are to:
 - allocate land for development, and identify land suitable for protection from development;
 - draft AONB-specific planning policies that supplement district-wide policies.
10. Consultation on the Draft DPD will take place between 10 November 2016 and 3 January 2017. The consultation will include a public drop-in event in each parish of the AONB, where people will be able to study the written DPD, maps, a Sustainability Appraisal Report, Habitats Regulations Report, Site Assessments and a report summarising the Councils' responses to the previous stage of consultation. The same material will also be available on the AONB's and Councils' websites.

11. There will be a Stakeholder Briefing at Arnside Educational Institute at 6.00pm on Monday 14 November, followed by local drop-in consultation events on the Draft DPD (between 2.00pm and 7.00pm) as follows:
 - Wednesday 23 November: Heron Hall, Storth
 - Thursday 24 November: Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale
 - Monday 28 November: Heron Theatre, Beetham
 - Wednesday 30 November: Yealand Village Hall
 - Monday 5 December: Arnside Educational Institute
 - Wednesday 7 December: Warton Village Hall
12. Feedback from the proposed consultation on the Draft DPD will be used to inform a Final Draft of the DPD for publication, submission and Independent Examination in 2017. The timetable for the remainder of the plan preparation is expected to be as follows:
 - Spring 2017: Publication and Submission of the DPD
 - Summer 2017: Public Examination of the DPD
 - Autumn 2017: Adoption of the DPD

Conclusion

13. Following a period of evidence gathering and preliminary consultation, a Draft Development Plan Document has been prepared for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB. The Draft DPD complements the existing Management Plan for the AONB. It identifies land suitable for development, and explains why the majority of the AONB should remain undeveloped as a valued and protected landscape. The Draft DPD also proposes planning policies that will apply across the whole AONB, which supplement those district-wide policies applicable in the two districts. The document is ready for public consultation, the feedback from which will help inform the production of the final draft which will be prepared for publication, submission and independent examination during 2017.

ENDS

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16**

AGENDA ITEM 13

Title of report: 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 2016 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 2016 (to 30/09/2016)

Arnside	26
Silverdale	38
Beetham	26
Yealand Conyers	6
Yealand Redmayne	8
Warton	22
Total within AONB	126
Outside AONB	7

Total no. applications	133
Responses submitted	41

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 4 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available).

- **16/00112/FUL Application for change of use of existing garage boat store and outbuilding to a 2 storey holiday cottage (C3), erection of a first floor extension with new raised roof above, relocation of existing vehicular access point and parking area, Crag Road, Warton, Lancashire** - granted
- **SL/2016/0412 Outline application for one dwelling at land at corner of Arnside Lane, Hale, Cumbria, LA7 7BL** - refused as would alter the character of the location causing significant harm to the character of the locality and the AONB
- **SL/2016/0520 Application for a detached dwelling at Breeze Hill, Carr Bank Road, Storth, Milnthorpe, LA7 7LD** - granted

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

- **16/00221/OUT Outline application for the erection of up to 5 dwellings and new vehicular access, Land north of 113 Main St, Warton (resubmission of 15/01000/OUT)** – no decision.
- **15/01400/FUL Erection of 18 dwellings with associated access, open space and landscaping at Whinney Fold, Silverdale, Lancashire** – application withdrawn.

Development of AONB DPD

A substantial amount of time has been spent providing support to the councils in the development of the Draft DPD including policy development, open space suggestions (in particular Key Settlement Landscapes), and reviews of Sustainability Appraisals and Habitat Regulations Assessments.

Local Heritage Lists

Support has also been provided to both councils in the preparation of their draft Local Heritage Lists for the AONB. Lancaster City Council has held a public consultation on their draft list, including a consultation event in Silverdale, which was supported and publicised by the AONB team. A detailed response to the consultation was submitted on behalf of the AONB Partnership. SLDC's draft list is under development.

Other planning related work

- Met with Mark Shipman, the SLDC Development Management Group Manager and Mark Loughlan, the SLDC Development Control Team Leader
- Met with Andrew Davison, the Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England, North West
- Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership:
 - Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16**

AGENDA ITEM 14

Title of report: AONB Grants Fund update

Report prepared by: Ruth Ainsworth, Communications and Funding Officer

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Grants Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report

Introduction

The grants fund delivers Action 11c in the AONB Team Business Plan: Deliver an AONB small grants fund to support local projects that directly conserve and enhance the special qualities of the area and/or facilitate quiet enjoyment, working with the Landscape Trust to do this.

Background

The Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Grants Fund is run by Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and the Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust, working together. The fund was officially launched at the Arnside & Silverdale AONB annual conference in January 2016, with the first application received on 15 March 2016.

Grants provide funds of up to £2500 to enable projects which conserve and enhance the AONB or connect people with the landscape. The total amount for the Fund in 2016/17 was £5000, with £2500 put in by the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust and £2500 contributed by Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership.

Grant applications must meet certain eligibility criteria, given in detail on the guidance notes. In summary, they must: deliver the Landscape Trust's constitution, deliver some part of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB management plan, not already be underway, and not involve the likelihood of financial reward for the applicant.

Grant applications

1. The first application was from Jane Lambert of Bottoms Farm in Silverdale, for renovation of the field barn known as The Row Hulls, which stands in the field between The Row and Park Road in Silverdale. Renovation included new guttering,

repairs to the roof and windows and a tie to strengthen the wall of the barn. The application, for £790, was granted and work was completed at the end of August.

2. The second application from Lancaster Beekeepers for a new fence was withdrawn as a local builder belatedly offered to do the work at a cost the Beekeepers could fund themselves.

3. The third application from Westmorland Red Squirrel Society was granted in part. The project will support the work to restore a red squirrel population in Arnside & Silverdale AONB. The application was for £2500, of which £1000 was granted, to fund the services of a professional grey squirrel trapper, two red squirrel drays, a wildlife monitoring camera and printing 2000 copies of a new leaflet.

4. The fourth application was for a £2500 contribution to the purchase of a raw milk machine for Gibraltar Farm. This project was rejected on the grounds that it would very likely involve financial reward for the applicants.

Current position

At 30th September 2016, the remaining fund is £3210. Applications forms have been sent to Lancashire Wildlife Trust for a project on Warton Crag and Swifts in the Community for a project to promote awareness and conservations of swifts in the area.

Next steps

We are currently preparing press releases and material for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB website to publicise the success of The Row Hulls field barn restoration, and to promote greater awareness of the Grants Fund.

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16**

AGENDA ITEM 15

Title of report: AONB Tramper update

**Report prepared by: Kevin Kelly, RSPB Leighton Moss Visitor Operations Manager
and Lucy Barron AONB Manager**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on operation and management of the AONB Tramper

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report

Introduction

The aim of the AONB Tramper is to provide equal opportunity for members of the public with limited mobility to have access to and appreciate the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB in a safe and enjoyable way.

The AONB Tramper has been available for public use at the RSPB Leighton Moss since March 2016.

Background

The AONB Tramper was originally purchased in 2012 when a Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) grant was awarded to the tenants of Grisedale Farm. A number of other partner organisations including the Ramblers, RSPB, Leighton Hall Estate and Lancashire County Council and other donors also contributed. Following a change in family circumstances, the Tramper could no longer be hosted at Grisedale Farm, and was therefore returned to the AONB Partnership according to the Terms and Conditions of the SDF Grant. The AONB Team then worked with partners to find a sustainable way of continuing to meet the aim of the Tramper as stated above. Following the consideration of a number of options, the RSPB agreed to accept ownership and operate the Tramper at Leighton Moss and it has been available for public use on the reserve since March 2016. The Tramper is also available for partner organisations to use by agreement.

Operation and management of the Tramper at RSPB Leighton Moss

Access improvements - In order to successfully launch the use of the Tramper, some adjustments were needed to enhance access and improve paths to accommodate the Tramper including creating turning circles outside two of the hides.

Training - Training was provided initially to a few key staff members. Since then all team leaders have been trained on the use of the Tramper. All staff involved are therefore confident and competent in being able to induct new users correctly as well as document conditions of use. Further training was provided to all staff and volunteers for taking bookings of the Tramper, using the procedure below.

Booking procedure - All bookings are taken through the main visitor centre. Users can book the Trampler for an AM or PM slot, or for all day. Their name and contact details are captured and confirmation of an available staff member to induct the user is sought before confirming the booking. After the initial period of rolling out the Trampers use, we will make some amendments to the booking sheet. These are as follows: "How did you hear about the Trampler?" and "Have you used a Trampler with us before?", to be included as part of the booking process. People can also use the Trampler if they turn up on the day and it is not already booked.

Regardless of whether the customer is a seasoned Trampler user or not, we will still induct users by explaining the risk assessed routes and emergency procedures etc. We will be introducing a card that shows when people have been inducted previously to save them time.

Risk assessed routes – The RSPB had to carry out a series of risk assessments to ensure that routes used were in keeping with their health and safety standards. Therefore currently the Trampler can only be used on these routes, which cover the paths down to Tim Jackson and Grisedale hides, as well as Lilian's hide and the sensory garden and the new boardwalk. However, the Trampler cannot currently be used on the Causeway because there are no adequate passing places (vehicles regularly use this route). Any such works would require formal consent in the SSSI from Natural England and appropriate funding.

Maintenance/servicing arrangements – RSPB wardens are available to carry out any basic maintenance, such as flat tyres. Anything more serious requires a service engineer. The Trampler is charged regularly to ensure it does not reach a low level unsuitable for visitor use. The Trampler is stored securely in a specific storage box.

Some challenges arose during its use, when a flat tyre occurred. A manual wheelchair was provided to bring the visitor back whilst wheeling the Trampler back in manual mode. This is now a consideration in the plans for "in action" maintenance.

Usage - The Trampler has been used on 25 occasions (up till 30/09/16), mainly for general use on visits. It has also been used for events on 2 occasions. Most bookings have been taken over the phone with around 8 users being offered the use of the Trampler on arrival, without prior knowledge.

Feedback - The feedback has been very positive, with many stating that it enhanced their visit. There were a few comments that they would like to take the Trampler further, but in general all were delighted that this was available for use. One comments was: "Fantastic Trampler, we have used others before, but this was great". RSPB will be seeking future feedback from users and collating this for documentation.

Publicity and promotion- A press release was sent out on its launch, and a specific blog. The blog was shared on social media platforms. BBC radio Lancashire came off the back of the press release and conducted a radio interview onsite around the use of the Trampler. This included interviews with our visitor experience manager, an elderly visitor who was using the Trampler for the day and the visitor operations manager. We talked about its current use and the benefit it brings, as well as future plans for wider use. All key partners were promoted as part of the interviews. A video was created on the same day and posted by BBC radio Lancashire on their social media platforms. This received in excess of thirty thousand views. <https://en.yahstar.com/bbcnorthwesttonight/video/576998cccebd2efa3e8b4a07-bbc-lancashire.html>



Financial arrangements					
Funds received					
Date					
17/12/15		Balance from Ailsa Robinson	£1,344.34		
Date	PO	Item	net cost	invoice number	
10/03/16	891349	Champ battery charger	£207.50	12480	
Remaining balance			£1,136.84		

Next steps

Future plans include looking at wider roll out including improved routes onsite to the Causeway hide and potentially into Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve.

Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 19.10.16

AGENDA ITEM 16

Title of report: The Bittern Award 2016

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To invite nominations for the Bittern Award 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that members of the Committee note the report and submit nominations by 1st December 2016

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:

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 2016 are requested by 1st December. The Bittern Award will be announced and presented at the AONB Conference in January 2017.