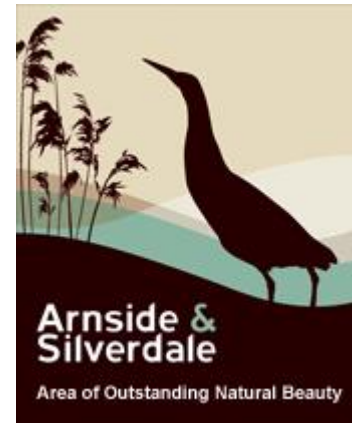


# Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Leighton Moss education room, Silverdale at 2pm



## AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Presentation: Dementia Friendly Walks project
3. Minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018
4. Matters arising
5. Update on review of Designated Landscapes
6. AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated) **Decision required**
7. AONB Team Business Plan 2019/20
8. AONB Budget 2018/2019 and 2019/20 (report circulated) **Decision required**
9. AONB Development Plan Document adoption update (report circulated)
10. Planning work programme update (report circulated)
11. Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)
12. AONB Grants Fund update
13. AONB Delivery Plan update by partners
14. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs
15. Any Other Business
16. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Tea and coffee will be served

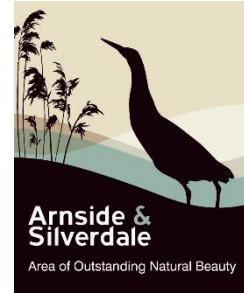
4.30pm finish

# Arnside & Silverdale

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 2.00pm  
RSPB Leighton Moss



### MINUTES

#### Attending

##### Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Joan Jackson	NFU
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen (Vice Chair)	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Co)
Cllr Pete McSweeney	South Lakeland District Council
Julian Oston	Farming/Landowner (Dallam Tower Estate)
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB

#### In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Helen Rawlinson	AONB Countryside Officer
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council

#### Apologies:

Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Laura Chamberlain	South Lakeland District Council
David Harpley	Wildlife Trusts
Sue Harrison	CLA
Damian Law	South Lakeland District Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
Gemma Wren	National Trust
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)

## **1 Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1** The Vice Chair welcomed everyone and read out apologies received (listed above).

## **2 Introductions**

- 2.1** The AONB Manager welcomed three new members - Julian Oston who is the farming/landowner representative, Ailsa Gibson from North Lancashire Bridleways and Rachel Whaley from Cumbria County Council.

Each person present introduced themselves.

## **3 Presentation by Jarrod Sneyd, RSPB, about Warton Mires**

RSPB has recently purchased 32.5 hectares of land in Warton with funding from a range of partners including the Landscape Trust and Lancashire County Council. The local community have been involved throughout the process and the project has strong support from local residents. The aim is to restore the wet grassland habitat for iconic species such as lapwing and redshank, while at the same time reducing flood risk for properties on Gardner Road and improving the footpath network.

Feasibility studies, impact assessments etc. are currently being carried out with a view to submitting a planning application in the Spring.

Q: There appears to be great potential to create a safe route between Warton & Millhead. Can this be a multi-user path? (Ailsa Gibson, NLBA)

A: As RSPB does not own the land all the way through to Millhead, discussions would need to be held with the current landowner and Lancashire County Council PROW officers. This will be pursued.

Q: Will there be any flood risk benefit to properties lying further down the catchment area? (David Porter, LCC)

A: Ongoing feasibility works will determine this

Q: With modern technology, why could this land not be returned to productive agricultural land? (Joan Jackson, NFU)

A: The land will still be farmed – just less intensively. It is important to strike the right balance for farming, flood risk and wildlife.

## **4 Changes to Executive Committee membership**

- 4.1** As above in 2.1

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

- 5.1** Under the terms of the Constitution, representatives of the local interests are subject to annual re-endorsement by the other members. The current members – Ailsa Gibson (User Group: NLBS), Brian Jones (User Group: Ramblers), Ann Kitchen (Business: BCCIC), Craig Russell (Business:

Beetham Holiday Homes) and Julian Oston (Farming/landowner: Dallam Tower Estate) - were re-endorsed en bloc.

## **6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

- 6.1** Under the terms of the Constitution, the Chair is to be elected from among the voting members of the Executive Committee. Nominations for the position were requested. Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) has advised that he is willing to stand for a further year. This was the only nomination and he was elected unanimously as Chair. The appointment is for one year.
- 6.2** Nominations for the two positions of Vice Chair were requested. Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) indicated she was willing to stand for a further year and Cllr Pete McSweeney also agreed to stand. These were the only nominations and both were elected unanimously as Vice Chairs. The appointment is for one year.

**ACTION: to circulate an up-to-date list of members**

**AONB Comms &  
Funding Officer**

## **7 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

## **8 Matters arising**

- 8.1** (2) The AONB Manager gave an update on the AONB Geology Audit & Assessment which has been carried out by Cuesta Consulting. Following extensive consultation and site visits, a draft report has been produced and this has been circulated to Natural England's geology specialists and other contributors and local experts for comment. It is hoped that the final report - a detailed geological framework for the area, an assessment of the natural capital value of the geodiversity of the AONB and an evaluation of how it influences natural beauty, landscape character, biodiversity and cultural heritage, along with guidelines, recommendations, digital maps and photographs – will be available soon.
- 8.2** (4.1) The AONB Manager reported that, as part of the Places and Spaces project (part of the Headlands to Headspace Landscape Partnership Scheme being led by Morecambe Bay Partnership), a dance performance by About Time Dance Company entitled 'Longways/Crosswise' had taken place and had been very well received in Silverdale. Interpreting tales of those that once crossed the sands in the last of the light, this was a celebration of the ever-changing landscape of the Bay. A short video of the production can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_5a7m7klfw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_5a7m7klfw&feature=youtu.be)
- 8.3** (4.2) The appointment of an ecologist by the National Trust is still in progress.
- 8.4** (4.3) Habitat restoration and access management works by Natural England at Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve are largely completed.
- 8.5** (4.7) The AONB Manager reported that she continues to request regular updates from Lancashire County Council Highways on the legal diversion of the Public Right of Way which will open up access at the Moss Lane entrance to Trowbarrow.
- 8.6** (11) The AONB Manager thanked everyone for their kind words and contributions on the retirement of former AONB Countryside Officer, Tony Riden.

## **9 AONB Budget revised 2018/19 (report tabled)**

- 9.1** A report detailing the 2017/18 outturn and revised 2018/19 budget was tabled. No queries were raised but the Chair did point out that clarification is still awaited from the AONB's accountant at Lancaster City Council on the final year-end adjustments which have resulted in a difference between total income & expenditure.

**AGREED: members accepted the revised budget unanimously but requested an update on the 17/18 outturn following clarification from Lancaster City Council**

## **10 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) (report circulated)**

- 10.1** David Porter (Lancaster City Council) updated the committee on progress with the AONB DPD. Following the formal Planning Inspectorate examination, some modifications to the Plan were required. These changes have now been made and there will be a further 6 week consultation period running from 25<sup>th</sup> October until 6<sup>th</sup> December. Any comments received will be collated and forwarded to the Inspector who will then write his report. It is hoped that the Plan will go to both Councils for adoption in February 2019.

**AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD**

## **11 Management Plan Review (report circulated)**

- 11.1** The AONB Manager updated the Committee on progress with the Management Plan Review and outlined key steps that had been completed including establishment of the Review Group, consultations and preparation of the Draft Plan.
- 11.2** Some feedback has already been received including comments from the Environment Agency on the water quality data. The AONB Manager and AONB Officer will continue to work closely with Andrew Frankish (Environment Agency) to amend certain wording to ensure improved interpretation of the current data.
- 11.3** Cllr Pete McSweeney highlighted SLDC's ongoing work on rural housing, car parking, sustainable transport and broadband in the AONB.
- 11.4** The AONB Manager asked for the Committee's approval to proceed with a formal public consultation on the Draft Plan.

**AGREED: To note the report and approve the Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24 for public consultation during October/November 2018 (unanimous decision)**

## **12 National Review of Designated Landscapes (report circulated)**

- 12.1** The AONB Manager briefly summarised the report previously circulated, underlining the significant opportunity this National Review gives us to set out the case for changes needed in order for AONBs to remain fit for purpose and to deliver our full potential. Members were encouraged to participate in the 'Call for Evidence' consultation. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

**ACTION: to advise members when the 'Call for Evidence' has been issued and to circulate the NAAONB's position statement**

**AONB Manager**

### **13 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)**

The AONB Officer gave an update on the planning work undertaken since the last meeting.

**AGREED: To note the report**

### **14 AONB Grants Fund update (report tabled)**

The AONB Manager updated the Committee on the AONB Grants Fund which is run jointly with the Landscape Trust. Three grants have been considered in this financial year. £229 has been awarded towards an arts project with children from Arnside Primary School and £1300 to RSPB towards their habitat restoration work at Challan Hall Allotment. The decision on the third application is still pending.

**AGREED: To note the report**

### **15 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners**

#### **15.1 The Landscape Trust**

reported that they have successfully purchased 2 new reserves -15% of Warton Mires (which will be managed by the RSPB) and a parcel of land which will connect the two current reserves of Coldwell Parrock and Coldwell Meadows. A fund raising appeal will be launched in November.

#### **15.2 Natural England**

gave an update on the England Coast Path where staff have now been assigned to carry out Habitat Regulations Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments on the preferred route. Good progress has been made with the Gait Barrows/Hawes Water project with woodland, grassland and access work completed. Unfortunately, delays have meant that the proposed renovation works on the summerhouse have had to be postponed as it is now the bat roosting season. The Management Plan for Gait Barrows NNR is currently being reviewed and as part of this process, consideration is being given to the creation of a Trumper route through the reserve. NE have also been scoping a project with University of Cumbria, People's Trust for Endangered Species and other partners to reintroduce dormice at Gait Barrows.

#### **15.3 Ramblers**

The Lancaster Group will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019.

**ACTION: to send a copy of the original report on footpath improvements compiled when the group first started to the AONB Manager**

**Brian Jones**

#### **15.4 The Environment Agency**

reported that a stakeholder meeting has been held with farmers and landowners to encourage appropriate management to reduce diffuse pollution in the Leighton Moss catchment area.

#### **15.5 RSPB**

were delighted to report that Leighton Moss has seen breeding bitterns this

year for the first time in 9 years. They also reported on the work they have been doing on Warton Crag for the benefit of butterflies and linking their management at Challan Hall woodlands to the proposed project to re-introduce dormice at Gait Barrows.

#### **15.6 AONB Team**

The AONB Communications & Funding Officer reported on the work recently carried out on the AONB website, in particular the design of the Home page and Events page and improvements to the navigation of the site. Members were also shown the newly designed 4-panel display which sets out why the AONB is so special and what we do to conserve and enhance the area. The display is available for partners to borrow for events.

The AONB Countryside Officer advised members that the annual AONB Hedgelaying Competition will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The AONB Manager reported that the Team is currently undertaking a survey to collect information from the area's landowners/farmers to help inform the Management Plan and plans for a future network. Members were asked to encourage any of their relevant farming/landowner contacts to complete the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AONBLandSurvey>

#### **15.7 Bittern Countryside CIC**

wished to formally record their thanks to staff from SLDC, Lancaster City Council and the AONB Team for all their hard work preparing the AONB Development Plan Document.

#### **16 The Bittern Award 2018 request for nominations (report circulated)**

**16.1** Each year the Bittern Award is presented to a group or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the AONB. The AONB Manager asked for nominations for the 2018 award to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> December. The final decision will be made by the AONB Team and Chairman, with the award to be presented at the AONB Annual Conference in January.

**ACTION: to submit nominations for the Bittern Award by 1<sup>st</sup> December All members**

#### **17 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs**

**17.1** The AONB Manager advised members that the National Association for AONBs has been working closely with Julian Glover and is drawing together a series of key points to feed into the Review. Further information can be found at [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk)

#### **18 Any other business**

**18.1** There was no further business to discuss

**19 Dates for your diary**

**2018**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> December** Draft Management Plan 2019-24 consultation

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** AONB Hedgelaying Competition

**2019**

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January** AONB Annual Conference in The Gaskell Hall, Silverdale

**Wednesday 20 March – 2pm:** AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 4pm** AONB Apple Day at Orchard Barn, Arnside

**Wednesday 16 October – 2pm:** AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss)

Signed ..... Date: .....



**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 20.03.19**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Report Title: AONB Management Plan 2019-24**

**Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager**

**Decision required**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To provide the Committee with an update on progress with the Management Plan Review and an opportunity to consider the Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Committee:

- (1)** notes the progress to date with the AONB Management Plan Review; and
- (2)** approves the Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (subject to final minor amendments if necessary); and
- (3)** approves the submission of the Plan to the four local authorities for adoption.

**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**

The AONB Executive Committee agreed at their October 2017 meeting to formally conduct the required Review on behalf of the four relevant local authority partners.

It was agreed that a Review Working Group be established to support the AONB staff team to carry out the day-to-day work of the review process according to the approved Project Plan; responsibility for the Review process was delegated to this Review Group. The AONB Executive Committee approved the scope of the Review at their March 2018 meeting.

**Review Working Group**

A Review Working Group was established in late 2017 comprising the Chair of the Executive Committee, one representative of each of the principal local authorities and Natural England, the AONB Manager and AONB Officer and up to three

representatives of the Executive Committee. The current membership of the group is as follows:

Chair of AONB Executive Committee: Cllr Brian Meakin

Executive Committee representative: Brian Jones

AONB Manager: Lucy Barron

AONB Officer: Sue Hunter

Natural England: Elizabeth Knowles

Lancaster City Council: David Porter

South Lakeland District Council: Damian Law/ Laura Chamberlain

Cumbria County Council: Rachel Whaley

Lancashire County Council: Elliott Lorimer

The group has overseen and supported the process so far and will continue to do so until the Plan is adopted.

### **Progress to date**

The following key steps of the Review have been completed:

#### Phase 1 (Scoping and preparing for the Review):

- Announcement of Review – formal notification to Local Authorities – October 2017
- AONB Executive Committee approved Project Plan – October 2017
- Statutory Notice issued to NE – November 2017
- Review Group established and terms of reference agreed – December 2017
- Consultation workshop at AONB Conference – January 2018
- Expert input into Special Qualities Report – received February 2018
- Online consultation survey completed – February 2018
- Statement of Community Involvement completed – February 2018
- AONB Executive Committee approved scope of the review – March 2018
- SEA Scoping Report completed and consultation undertaken – March 2018
- Final SEA Scoping Report prepared – April 2018
- Evidence Base preparation – key data and information collected – progress with mapping/ data analysis to contribute to State of the AONB Report – September 2017 – March 2019
- State of the AONB Report completed – March 2019

#### Phase 2 (Undertaking the Review):

- Biodiversity/Landscape and Heritage workshops held to inform and test Plan – May 2018

- Indicators developed – July-September 2018
- Draft AONB Management Plan developed and completed – May-October 2018
- Environmental Report completed – October 2018
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) completed – October 2018
- Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan published – October 2018
- Formal 6 week public consultation on Draft AONB Management Plan, Environmental Report and HRA Report completed – November – December 2018

#### Phase 2 (Publish Management Plan 2019-24):

- Consultation comments considered and Draft Plan revised - January - March 2019
- Final Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24 completed – March 2019

### **Outcome of Public Consultation**

The Draft Management Plan has been well received with no major issues or concerns raised. The majority of comments relate to minor clarifications required to the text. Key points made in response to the consultation include: giving more emphasis to the role of farming and land management in creating the beauty of the landscape; being more specific about contributing to improving the viability of farming; identifying key species for nature conservation; and more emphasis on the need for collaboration, co-operation and investment to sustain this exceptional landscape.

A number of consultees asked whether more details could be given on how actions will be delivered and which lead partners would be involved. We have provided more information about key partners and the need for collaboration in the final version of the Plan. However in the current period of political uncertainty and with many upcoming significant policy changes, and the fact that a major national review of designated landscapes is currently underway, the partnership is not in a position to be able to be fully specific about lead partners, funding, costs and timetables. The Review Group agreed to take a general approach and set out a framework for action rather than a costed delivery plan that will become out of date very quickly. More specific detail would be given in the annual AONB Business Plans. This is consistent with the approach being taken by other AONB Partnerships.

### **Next steps**

The Executive Committee is asked to consider and approve the Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan (subject to final minor amendments if necessary) and the submission of the Plan to the four partner local authorities for adoption.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 20.03.19**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**AONB Budget 2018/19 and 2019/20**

**Decision required**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To provide the Committee with details of the revised 2018/19 AONB budget and proposed budget for financial year 2019/20**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the budget for 2019/20**

**Background**

The 2018/19 budget has been revised to take into account of a number of changes and to enable effective delivery of the AONB Business Plan. An approved 2019/20 budget is required by Defra as part of the application for allocation of funding.

## Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budget 2018/19 and 2019/20

	2018/19 agreed Oct 2018	2018/19 budget final in-year adjustments	2019/20 proposed Mar 2019
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			£
<b>Staff Costs</b>			
Salaries, NI, Pensions	139000	137200	138200
Travel and subsistence	1100	1100	1100
Training	1500	1500	1500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>141600</b>	<b>139800</b>	<b>140800</b>
<b>Accommodation / office equipment</b>			
Repair and maintenance	700	700	700
Host authority central property charges	1800	1800	1800
Cleaning	1000	1000	1000
Electricity	400	400	400
Other energy charges	700	700	700
Rent	3100	3100	3100
Rates	2300	2300	2300
Water services	100	100	100
Premises insurance	400	400	400
Telephones	1000	1000	1000
Office equipment	1000	1000	1000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>12500</b>	<b>12500</b>	<b>12500</b>
<b>Communications and events</b>			
Printing and stationery	600	600	600
Exhibitions and events	1600	1600	4600 <sup>1</sup>
Communications and publicity	3100	3100	3100
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>8300</b>
<b>Partnership running costs</b>			
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	7600	7800	6500
Host authority recharges – other (provided in kind)	6900	6900	8700
Employee related insurance	2100	2100	2100
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	600	500	500
Petrol and derv	400	300	300
Vehicle licence	200	200	200
Transport related insurance	700	700	700
Equipment and tools	2000	2000	1000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	300	300
Consultants	11600	13400	6700
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>36300</b>	<b>38100</b>	<b>30900</b>

<b>Other Management Plan Implementation</b>			
AONB projects and community engagement programme	18171	18471	19082
Local Nature Reserves management programme	22400	22400	16100
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>40571</b>	<b>40871</b>	<b>35182</b>
<b>Reserve</b>			
Contribution to reserve	2000	2000	2000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>238271</b>	<b>238571</b>	<b>229682</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018/19 agreed Oct 2018</b>	<b>2018/19 budget final in-year adjustments</b>	<b>2019/20 proposed Mar 2019</b>
<b>Local authority financial contributions</b>			
Cumbria County Council	8805	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8275	8275	8275
Lancaster City Council	16000	16000	16400
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year	1800	1800	
Less Income in advance c/f to following year			
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>46380</b>	<b>46380</b>	<b>44980</b>
<b>Other income</b>			
Defra grant	140191	140191	142602
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	6500	6500	9500
LNR grants income	22400	22400	16100
Natural England	3000	3000	
Awards for All	4100	4100	
FIT payments	500	500	500
Income in advance b/f from previous year		1800	
Less Income in advance c/f to following year			
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>176691</b>	<b>178491</b>	<b>168702</b>
<b>Reserve</b>			
Transfer out of reserve	6500	5000	5500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5500</b>
<b>Host authority in kind</b>			
Lancaster City Council in kind support	6900	6900	8700
Lancaster City Council Property Services funded R&M	1800	1800	1800
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>8700</b>	<b>8700</b>	<b>10500</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>238271</b>	<b>238571</b>	<b>229682</b>

<b>AONB reserve</b>	<b>18/19</b>
Balance as at 31/03/18	23757
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	2000
Less transfer out of reserve	-5000
Projected balance in reserve at 31/03/19	20757

#### **Notes**

1. Increased due to Apple Day 2019 (event runs very two years)

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 20th March 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Title of report: Adoption of the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document**

**Report prepared by: Damian Law (South Lakeland District Council) and David Porter (Lancaster City Council)**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To brief Executive Committee on the intention to adopt the Development Plan Document for the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Executive Committee notes the key matters arising from the report.

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council have prepared a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The two councils have worked closely with the AONB Management and Executive Committee in the preparation of the plan. The AONB DPD is the first plan in the country that has been prepared in this way to apply policies and allocations across an AONB.
- 1.2 The DPD forms part of both authorities' Local Plans. It brings up-to-date the existing planning policies for the AONB, and ensures that both district councils' planning policies for the AONB are consistent. The DPD identifies sites for new housing and employment and sets out planning policies to ensure that development reflects the AONB designation and has the conservation and enhancement of the landscape at its heart.
- 1.3 The DPD is also a key element in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan which was adopted in April 2014 (and is currently under separate review).

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the national AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, as set out in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).
- 2.2 The process for preparing Development Plan Documents is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The AONB DPD was prepared and examined under the 2012 edition of the NPPF.



- 2.3 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’.
- 2.4 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 must 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.
- 2.5 The 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;
  - prepare AONB-specific planning policies that supplement district-wide policies.

### **3.0 Final stages of preparation of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB DPD**

- 3.1 The earlier stages of preparation for this DPD include evidence gathering and public consultation: these are summarised in the report to the AONB Executive Committee in October 2017. This culminated in the Publication, and then the Submission of the AONB DPD to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public, along with the representations made, on 28 February 2018, under Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 3.2 The Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) appointed an Inspector, Mr Philip Lewis, to examine the soundness of the Plan and whether it meets the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and Associated Regulations. The examination hearings took place between 19 and 21 June 2018, attended by officers from both Councils and from the AONB Unit.
- 3.3 Following the hearings, the Inspector wrote to the Councils confirming the need for modifications to make to the DPD sound, together with changes to two of the associated documents, the Local Development Schemes (LDS) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A final stage of public consultation took place on these modifications between 25 October and 6 December 2018. Following the conclusion of the consultation the representations were sent to the Planning Inspector.
- 3.4 The Councils received the Inspector’s report on 30 January 2019. The Inspector concluded that DPD “provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB”, providing that a number of modifications are made to the plan. He concluded that the document was soundly prepared and can now be adopted

providing that it is adopted with his recommended modifications. Now that the independent examination process is complete, no other revisions may be made to the document.

- 3.5 Once a Council resolves to adopt a DPD no further consultation is needed: the DPD will become part of the Local Development Plan for Lancaster City Council and for South Lakeland District Council. Following a resolution to adopt the DPD, the Councils must publicise the decision to adopt the document under Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012. There is a six-week period from the date of adoption during which a legal challenge to the decision to adopt the plan may be made.

#### **4.0 Principles and Modifications to the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB DPD**

- 4.1 The Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB DPD has been prepared for an important protected landscape. The vision for the plan is that within the AONB, housing, employment, services, infrastructure and other development is managed to contribute towards meeting the needs of those who live in, work in and visit the area in a way that:

- (I) conserves and enhances the landscape, the natural beauty, and the Special Qualities of the AONB; and
- (II) creates vibrant, diverse and sustainable communities with a strong sense of place; and
- (III) maintains a thriving local economy.

- 4.2 The Objectives for the AONB DPD are:

- (I) To conserve and enhance the landscape, and the natural beauty of the AONB, including landscape character and visual amenity, wildlife, geology, heritage and settlement character;
- (II) To ensure that all development is appropriate and sustainable in its location and design and is of high quality;
- (III) To ensure that planning policy is shaped by effective community engagement;
- (IV) To provide sufficient supply and mix of high quality housing to contribute to meeting the needs of the AONB's communities, with an emphasis on affordable housing and without adverse impact on the landscape character of the AONB;
- (V) To support rural employment and livelihoods, and sustainable tourism;
- (VI) To provide the necessary services and infrastructure to support both existing and new development;
- (VII) To support the development of a safe and sustainable transport network, including paths and cycleways, to improve connectivity, reduce the need to travel and encourage sustainable forms of transport.

- 4.3 The Inspector accepted the principles of the case set out by the Councils in the Publication DPD for:

- Meeting the Duty to Co-operate requirements;
- Housing requirements;
- The sites allocated for development;
- Major development;
- The Development Strategy, including the use of a landscape capacity-led approach to development;
- Open Space and Key Settlement Landscapes;
- 50% of all new housing in the AONB on sites of 2 dwellings or more to be affordable;

- The policy approach to camping, caravan and visitor accommodation;
- The policy approach towards water quality, sewerage and sustainable drainage in areas where there is no mains drainage.

4.4 The Inspector also accepted the Main Modifications, with some amendments to their detailed wording where necessary. He has recommended their inclusion in the DPD after considering all the representations made in response to consultation on them.

4.5 The Main Modifications may be summarised as changes to policies so that they are justified, effective and consistent with national policy. In particular:

- To adjust the requirements for development in small villages to accord with national policy;
- To clarify that the policies do not apply outside of the AONB and that any issue of its setting is addressed elsewhere in the development plan;
- To adjust and clarify the requirements for affordable housing;
- Revising the policy in respect of Key Settlement Landscapes so that it is not unduly restrictive in regards to development needs of existing land uses;
- To adjust policy in respect of the historic environment to accord with national policy;
- Amending the policy for camping, caravan and visitor accommodation to allow for the redevelopment of existing sites and to address the issue of the occupancy of holiday accommodation;
- Amending the policy in regards to advertisements so as not to conflict with or duplicate the Advertisement Regulations; and
- Adjusting and clarifying the site specific development requirements of the proposed site allocations;
- Adjusting the Habitats Regulation Assessment following a recent judgement in the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

4.6 The resulting plan allocates relatively few sites for development and its policies are more restrictive towards development than elsewhere in the districts (excluding National Parks). This approach was informed by the evaluation of evidence collected in preparing the DPD, was subject to public consultation and finally subject to independent examination. The DPD complements the approach taken to development in the district-wide DPDs, which establish that the majority of the growth and development is planned at sustainable locations outside the protected landscapes of the AONBs.

4.7 The DPD is scheduled for adoption by Lancaster City Council on 13 March and by South Lakeland District Council on 28 March 2019. Once the adoption resolutions have been passed, the Councils will publicise the decisions as set out in paragraph 3.5 above, and will begin to apply the policies in dealing with planning applications within the AONB.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

5.1 This DPD is one of the key elements of the Local Plans for Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council. It is the result of a collaborative approach by the two councils, involving many interested stakeholders within the AONB. The Councils gratefully acknowledge the support received, including from the AONB Management and Executive Committee. The plan contains some innovative features designed to

provide a strong and consistent approach to managing the delivery of sustainable development within the AONB.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 20.03.19**

**AGENDA ITEM 10**

**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 2018 and also in 2019 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 in 2018

Arnside	42
Silverdale	49
Beetham	54
Yealand Conyers	8
Yealand Redmayne	17
Warton	32
<b>Total within AONB</b>	<b>202</b>
Outside AONB	7
<b>Total no. applications</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Responses submitted</b>	<b>77</b>

#### Planning applications reviewed so far in 2019 (to 28/02/2019)

Arnside	15
Silverdale	5
Beetham	7
Yealand Conyers	2
Yealand Redmayne	1
Warton	7
<b>Total within AONB</b>	<b>37</b>
Outside AONB	2
<b>Total no. applications</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Responses submitted</b>	<b>15</b>

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 6 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- 18/01239/FUL Creation of hardstandings for 37 caravan pitches and associated access roads at Gibraltar Farm, Silverdale – **permitted**
- 18/01343/FUL Land to the side of 5 Wallings Lane, Silverdale, Carnforth. Amended plans were submitted - **permitted**
- 18/01415/FUL Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey rear extension, construction of raised terrace and construction of a front porch - **permitted**
- SL/2018/0253 – Siting of 20 static holiday units to replace 20 touring pitches at Beetham Holiday Homes, Hale - **permitted**
- 18/01492/FUL Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a part single part two storey detached dwelling and change of use of agricultural field at 5 Well Lane, Yealand Redmayne - **awaiting decision**
- SL/2019/0038 Erection of eco cabin dwelling at Knott Wood, 5 Far Close Drive, Arnside – **awaiting decision**
- 19/00113/FUL Change of use of existing garage, boat store and outbuilding to a 2-storey dwelling, erection of a first floor extension with new raised roof above, relocation of existing vehicular access point and parking area at Coach House, Crag Road, Warton - **awaiting decision**

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

- SL/2018/0233 Three detached dwelling houses at High Close, Knott Road, Arnside – **withdrawn**
- SL/2018/0355 and 0356 Variation of conditions: extending opening time at Hollins Caravan Site, Far Arnside – **permitted**

**Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership**

- Written representation submitted for the Main Modifications of the AONB DPD.
- Draft Revised Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- Cumbria Coastal Strategy.

**Other planning related work**

- Written representation submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the AONB Partnership regarding the appeal against the refusal by Lancaster City Council for the erection of a two storey dwelling at Hawthorn Bank, Silverdale.
- Attendance to North West Marine Plan workshop (Iteration 3). Public consultation in winter 2019.
- Attendance to Cumbria Coastal Strategy meeting and comments submitted regarding policies.
- Statement presented at the SLDC Planning Committee meeting setting out our objections to the Beetham Holiday Homes application.

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
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**AGENDA ITEM 11**

**Report title: AONB Volunteer Programme update  
Report prepared by: Helen Rawlinson, AONB Countryside Officer**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To provide the Committee with an update on the work carried out through the AONB volunteer programme facilitated by the AONB Countryside Officer

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1)** that the Committee notes the report on the AONB volunteer programme

**Introduction**

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and the AONB volunteer programme is a key mechanism in achieving this.

**Background**

Volunteers are recruited and registered by the AONB Countryside Officer and allocated to the most appropriate voluntary role to help achieve the community involvement and practical management elements of the AONB Management Plan.

Practical tasks that are undertaken have public benefit for example access improvements, management of Parish Council land and Lancaster City Council Local Nature Reserves, nature conservation management for key habitats and species, community woodfuel initiatives, community orchards, events, monitoring and recording etc.

**Seasonal work programme and commitments**

The busiest time is winter - September to February. Tasks include grassland management and restoration, scrub removal and management, woodland management (coppicing, tree thinning and management of notable trees) and aquatic pond work. Tasks in the spring and summer months - March to August - include dry-stone wall repairs, finger-post installation, vegetation cutting on permissive paths and species monitoring and recording.

The AONB Partnership is committed to looking after, maintaining and carrying out practical site management tasks on two Local Nature Reserves owned by Lancaster City Council at Warton Crag LNR and Trowbarrow LNR, both of which are managed with 5 year Countryside Stewardship agreements on behalf of LCC. Warton Crag



runs 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021. Trowbarrow runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023.

The AONB Partnership also help look after and maintain:

- Ashmeadow and Crossfield Wood, Arnside on behalf of the Barnes Charitable Trust
- Beachwood, Arnside on behalf of Arnside Parish Council
- Bank Well and Woodwell on behalf of Silverdale Parish Council
- Sandside Cutting on behalf of Beetham Parish Council
- Dobshall Wood on behalf of the Woodland Trust
- Arnside station platform wildflower grassland
- Orchard Barn orchards in Arnside
- Sandside orchid verge
- The Hyning historic garden
- Landscape Trust reserves when required

A litter pick around various lanes or sections of shoreline, and recycling, is carried out on the second Thursday every month.

6 new volunteers have been recruited September – December 2018.

#### **Other volunteer work**

- Butterfly transect surveys, with this area having one of the greatest concentrations of transects in the country
- Pilot project for Dementia friendly walks is being developed to offer walks for people living with dementia and their carers. Weekly walks on a Tuesday starting 23<sup>rd</sup> April and continuing through to September. Volunteers will be crucial to both leading and supporting the walks.

#### **Events & Training**

- Our annual Hedgelaying Competition was held on land owned by John Bland just outside Arnside on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 as part of the Lancashire & Westmorland Hedgelaying Association Grand Prix
- Chainsaw refresher course for 4 volunteers in January 2019
- Emergency First-Aid at Work training for 11 volunteers in February 2019

#### **Coming up:**

- Walk leader training for Dementia friendly walks 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- Habitat Assessment training jointly run by Arnside and Silverdale AONB and Butterfly Conservation is being organised for 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- Volunteer task leader training is being organised for 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 with Silverdale and Arnside Wood Bank
- Drystone walling training is organised for 6 volunteers in May 2019