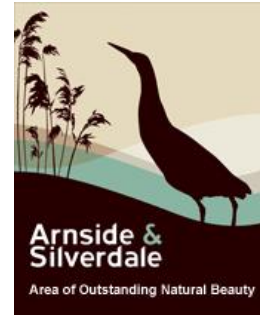


## Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

RSPB Leighton Moss Education Room (The Holt) at 2pm

### AGENDA



1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Presentation by Glen Swainson, Natural England, about Gait Barrows NNR Management Plan
3. Changes to Executive Committee membership
4. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives
5. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
6. Minutes of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019
7. Matters arising
8. AONB Budget revised 2019/20 (report circulated) **Decision required**
9. AONB Team Business Plan (report circulated) **Decision required**
10. AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)
11. AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated) **Decision required**
12. National Review of Designated Landscapes (report circulated)
13. AONB Planning work update (report circulated)
14. AONB volunteer programme update (report circulated)
15. AONB Grants Fund update (verbal update)
16. AONB Delivery Plan update by AONB Team and partners – verbal updates
17. Bittern Award 2019 – request for nominations
18. European Garden Award (verbal update)
19. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs (verbal update)
20. Any Other Business
21. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Tea and coffee will be served

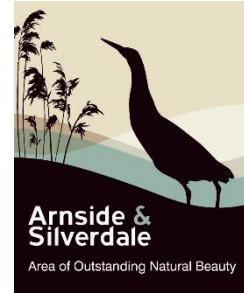
4.30pm finish

# Arnside & Silverdale

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2.00pm  
RSPB Leighton Moss



### MINUTES

#### Attending

#### Members of the Executive Committee:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Fiona Allan                      | Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust                    |
| Cllr Kevin Briggs                | Warton Parish Council                                      |
| Cllr Helen Chaffey               | South Lakeland District Council                            |
| Andrew Frankish                  | Environment Agency   |
| Ailsa Gibson                     | Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)     |
| Sue Harrison                     | CLA  |
| Brian Jones                      | Local User Group (Ramblers)                                |
| Ann Kitchen (Vice Chair)         | Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Co) |
| Cllr Pete McSweeney (Vice Chair) | Cumbria County Council                                     |
| Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)        | Beetham Parish Council                                     |
| Julian Oston                     | Farming/Landowner (Dallam Tower Estate)                    |
| Cllr Keith Palmer                | Silverdale Parish Council                                  |
| Craig Russell                    | Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)                     |
| Sam Stalker                      | National Trust   |
| Andrew Tait                      | CPRE (Friends of the Lake District)                        |

#### In attendance:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Ruth Ainsworth     | AONB Funding & Communications Officer  |
| Lucy Barron        | AONB Manager                           |
| Barbara Henneberry | AONB Communications & Funding Officer  |
| Sue Hunter         | AONB Officer                           |
| Damian Law         | South Lakeland District Council        |
| David Porter       | Lancaster City Council                 |
| Rachel Whaley      | Cumbria County Council                 |
| Feleena Taylor     | Dementia-friendly walks project leader |

#### Apologies:

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Joan Jackson             | NFU                             |
| Cllr Mike Macklin        | Yealand Redmayne Parish Council |
| Helen Rawlinson          | AONB Countryside Officer        |
| Cllr Philippa Williamson | Lancashire County Council       |

## **1 Welcome, apologies and introductions**

- 1.1** The Chair welcomed everyone, and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.

## **2 Presentation by Feleena Taylor: Dementia-friendly walks project**

- 2.1** The AONB Partnership is launching a new series of weekly guided walks aimed at people living with dementia and their carers to help them retain a sense of adventure by getting outdoors and connecting with nature and their community in a safe and secure environment.

Feleena Taylor, the Project Leader, gave the background to the project which will initially run for a trial period of April to October, when an evaluation of its popularity and benefits will be undertaken.

Training for the walks leaders and support volunteers by Dementia Adventure will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March, with the official launch being held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the first walk planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Walks will be taking place every Tuesday morning, starting at 10am and lasting no more than an hour and afterwards there will be a chance to relax over a chat and some refreshment in one of the local cafes.

The AONB Manager thanked Feleena for the presentation and all her hard work in getting this excellent project off the ground and opened up the floor for comments from members which included:

- Recommended reading – ‘Somebody I used to know’ by Wendy Mitchell
- A suggestion to contact Arnside Ramblers who may be able to help with suggested routes
- An offer to help publicise the project

## **3 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## **4 Matters arising**

- 4.1** (16.1) The AONB Manager thanked members for submitting nominations for the Bittern Award and reported that this year had been very unusual in that all nominations received had been for the same person!

We were delighted to be able to present the award at our Annual Conference in January to Tony Riden, the former AONB Countryside Officer, who was in the role for almost 25 years before retiring last August and during that time made a huge contribution to the biodiversity of the area and to the success of the volunteer programme. His knowledge of the flora and fauna of the AONB and his enthusiasm to inspire others was second to none.

## **5 Update on the Review of Designated Landscapes**

- 5.1** The AONB Manager advised members that Julian Glover, Chair of the Review Panel, will be visiting Arnside & Silverdale AONB on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April when we will have the opportunity to discuss any issues, challenges and successes with him.

Recommendations from the Review are due to be submitted in the Autumn.

Andrew Tait (Friends of the Lake District) reported that he had submitted a response to the Call for Evidence on behalf of Friends of the Lake District and that he felt the AONB DPD was a key document.

## **6 AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated)**

- 6.1** The AONB Manager apologised that the AONB Management Plan text had not been finalised in time for circulation before the meeting but would circulate it as soon as possible. Members will be given two weeks from the date of receipt to submit any final comments/amendments to the Review Working Group before the document is submitted to the Local Authorities for adoption.

As the timescales for adoption are tight, it was

**AGREED: that the Review Working Group would have delegated powers to sign off the Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-14 and to submit it to the 4 Local Authorities for adoption.**

**ACTION: to circulate the final text for comment**

**AONB Manager**

## **7 AONB Team Business Plan 2019/20**

- 7.1** The AONB Manager advised members that as this document is intrinsically linked to the Management Plan, it would be finalised and circulated as soon as possible after the Plan has been submitted for adoption.

**ACTION: to circulate the Team Business Plan for approval**

**AONB Manager**

## **8 AONB Budget revised 2018/19 and 2019/20 (report circulated)**

- 8.1** A report detailing the in-year adjustments to the 2018/19 budget and the proposed 2019/20 budget was circulated.

The AONB Manager advised members that the AONB's accountant at Lancaster City Council has confirmed that the Council's contribution in 2018/19 will be increased to rectify the 2017/18 discrepancy caused by last minute changes to internal recharges which was reported at the last meeting.

Q: Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked if the necessary funding is available to cover the Countryside Officer's upcoming maternity leave as it is vital that this full-time post be maintained

A: The AONB Manager confirmed that Lancaster City Council has agreed to advertise a one year contract based on a 37 hour week for maternity cover. The 4 local authorities have been approached to see if they are able to make a contribution to the additional circa £5000 costs. Lancashire County Council has agreed to make a contribution but we are still waiting to hear

from the others. Any shortfall will be covered by monies in the AONB reserve or in-year adjustments.

**AGREED: members accepted the revised 18/19 and proposed 19/20 budgets unanimously**

**9 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) adoption update (report circulated)**

**9.1** David Porter (Lancaster City Council) updated the committee on progress with the AONB DPD.

The Councils received the Planning Inspector's final report on 30th January 2019 in which he concluded that the DPD 'provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB' subject to a number of modifications. He concluded that the document was soundly prepared and can now be adopted.

The Plan has subsequently been adopted by Lancaster City Council at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March and is due to go before South Lakeland District Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The challenge now is to ensure the policies are applied consistently across the two districts. Training will be given to all planning officers and the two councils will continue to collaborate closely.

Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) thanked David Porter, Dan Hudson and other council officers for their hard work and achievement in getting such an innovative and important plan adopted.

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

**10 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)**

An update on the planning work undertaken since the last meeting was circulated.

Q: Craig Russell (Beetham Holiday Homes) asked if it would be possible to work more closely with the private sector and to give consideration to the local economy.

Q: Brian Jones (Ramblers) asked if was possible to indicate where our responses have had an effect on the planning decision.

A: the AONB Manager replied to say that she does feel our responses are taken into account and that even if applications are approved, sometimes improvements are negotiated or relevant conditions imposed to achieve better outcomes in relation to the AONB purpose. The Partnership's responses are not always objections and we often give positive suggestions. Good working relationships have been established between the AONB team and the local planning officers.

Q: Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) said that if the AONB Partnership is asked for an opinion on an application that it would be helpful to the Planning Committees if they avoid 'No comment' responses.

A: The AONB Manager responded by confirming that in circumstances where the AONB Partnership is consulted but have no concerns that wording is used to confirm the 'applications have been assessed and there are no objections'.

Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) took the opportunity to remind members that if specific planning applications are discussed at meetings, then members must declare any interests, and also that members cannot use their position on the AONB Executive Committee to try to influence any decision, where they have an interest.

**AGREED: To note the report**

**11 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)**

An update on the volunteer work programme including tasks undertaken, sites managed and events & training was circulated.

The AONB Manager congratulated Helen Rawlinson, the new Countryside Officer on her achievements since taking up the role in August. The AONB Volunteer Programme is thriving, Countryside Stewardship agreements for Warton Crag and Trowbarrow LNRs are being implemented and an Ash Dieback workshop for 70 delegates was held to launch a series of events and activities for farmers, land managers and woodland managers. The Team would like to develop closer relationships with the land management community and it is hoped to host further workshops on deer management and soil management to build up a land management network. Suggestions for further topics welcome.

Q: Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked if a summary of the Ash Dieback workshop could be placed on the website

**AGREED: To note the report**

**ACTION: to upload Ash Dieback information**

**AONB Comms  
& Funding  
Officer**

**12 AONB Grants Fund update**

The AONB Communications & Funding Officer updated the Committee on the AONB Grants Fund which is run jointly with the Landscape Trust. Two grants have been awarded 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 final decision on a third application from Westmorland Red Squirrels is still pending. An expression of interest has also been received in connection with the restoration of an historic designed landscape in Silverdale.

**13 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners**

**13.1 Friends of the Lake District**

reported that they would like to build stronger/better relationships with both Arnside & Silverdale and Solway Coast AONBs.

**13.2 The Landscape Trust**

reported that a fundraising appeal launched in November in connection with their 2 new reserves has raised over £30,000. Work is now being undertaken on writing a business plan and drafting management plans and

they are also working with other organisations to develop an access programme to benefit people with mental health issues. A new events programme for 2019 has been launched with a new Events Team in place following the retirement of Peter Standing.

### **13.3 Ramblers**

Natural England has now finalised the proposed route for the section of the England Coast Path passing through the AONB and consultation on this is expected in the summer.

### **13.4 The Environment Agency**

reported that as part of their work on reducing diffuse pollution in the Leighton Moss catchment area they are now undertaking their own monitoring at 7 different sites and this will continue for 2 years.

### **13.5 CLA**

reported an increase in the number of incidents locally of sheep worrying by dogs and urged partners to encourage people to keep their dogs on a lead, especially at lambing time.

### **13.6 Dallam Tower Estate**

has been working on Catchment Sensitive Farming schemes to help reduce diffuse pollution and has also been supporting the Westmorland Red Squirrels Initiative. Adding to the CLA's comments on sheep worrying, they would also urge partners to encourage people to clean up after their dogs following an increasing number of cases of Neosporosis, which can cause abortion in cattle.

### **13.7 Bittern Countryside CIC**

reported that a new advice leaflet on reducing use of plastic is available to download from their website [www.bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk](http://www.bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk)

### **13.8 Silverdale Parish Council**

confirmed their continued financial support for the AONB Partnership and thanked the AONB volunteers for their hard work in managing sites in Silverdale.

### **13.9 National Trust**

are working to update their site management plans and undertaking an audit of their signage.

### **13.10 North Lancs Bridleways Association**

thanked the Landscape Trust for the work they are doing to improve the bridleway network by creating a route through the Coldwell Reserves. The NLBA is able to help fund any hardware such as gate latches if required.

### **13.11 Beetham Parish Council**

owns Sandside Cutting and will be carrying out some tree felling on site.

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

**14.1** The AONB Manager advised members that being on the Board provides a useful link with national activity which at present is focussed on the Glover Review. We are also delighted to be playing an active part in their 'Taking

the Lead' programme which aims to encourage AONB Partnerships to work more collaboratively - Ruth Ainsworth, AONB Communications & Funding Officer, is an active member of the focus groups.

The National Association for AONBs continues to liaise with Defra, Natural England, Forestry Commission, CLA, NFU and other bodies at a national level on behalf of all AONBs and it is essential we continue to support them.

## **15 Any other business**

**15.1** Julian Oston (Dallam Tower Estate) wished to address the rumours over the Estate's intentions through registering their manorial rights.

Manorial rights are rights which were part and parcel of a manorial title and which were usually retained by the Lord on any disposal of manorial land. Such rights might include for example, the right to hunt, shoot or fish.

Prior to 13 October 2013, manorial rights were "overriding interests" which could affect a property even if they had not previously been protected in the register maintained by the Land Registry. The Government's intention with the Land Registration Act 2002 was to ensure that all matters affecting property are apparent from inspection of its title register and therefore required owners of Manorial Rights to register their interest against the title to a property.

Dallam Tower Estate, in line with landowners all over the country, is therefore undergoing this process of formal registration of their historic rights. They are not claiming any new rights.

If anyone has any concerns, the Estate is happy to meet and discuss further.

## **16 Dates for your diary**

### **2019**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May               | National Geo-week – WILD! Project family geology walk in Trowbarrow |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> July  | National AONBs Landscapes for Life Conference, University of Essex  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept | Outstanding week – celebrating AONBs                                |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept           | AONB Apple Day, Orchard Barn, Arnside                               |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October       | Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss                     |

### **2020**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March   | Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss (tbc) |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October | Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss (tbc) |

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



**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 16 October 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 11**

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

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

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To brief Executive Committee on the adoption of the Development Plan Document for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB and the subsequent award for Spatial Planning from the Royal Town Planning Institute.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the 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 Arnside & 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 May 2019.

**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 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.

### **3.0 Adoption of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB DPD**

- 3.1 At its full council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March Lancaster City Council resolved to adopt the Arnside and Silverdale AONB DPD. Similarly South Lakeland District Council, at their Council meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, adopted the plan. The plan has now become part of the Local Development Plan in each district and the policies within the plan are now being implemented across both councils when determining planning applications within the AONB. Following a resolution to adopt the DPD, the Councils publicised the decision to adopt the document under Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012. There was a six-week period from the date of adoption during which a legal challenge to the decision to

adopt the plan may be made. No such legal challenge was made. The plan and the related policy maps for the area can be found on the Councils' websites.

#### **4.0 Principles of 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 resulting plan allocates relatively few sites for development and its policies are more restrictive towards development than elsewhere in the districts. 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 propose that the majority of the growth and development is planned at sustainable locations outside the protected landscapes of the AONBs.

#### **5.0 Implementation and Monitoring**

5.1 Following adoption of the DPD it will be important that the policies are applied consistently across the two authorities, and that planning decisions support the objectives of the plan. To this end the Councils will maintain the working relationships that have been established during the development of the plan and officers are establishing a joint monitoring framework. The monitoring framework will consider key indicators that reflect the principles set out in paragraph 3.1 above and will then form part of each districts Local Plan Annual Monitoring Reports. Through the monitoring process and the ongoing dialogue between the authorities it may be necessary to update the evidence base that supports the plan in order to better inform the decision-making process.

#### **6.0 Royal Town Planning Institute – Awards for Planning Excellence**

6.1 The Royal Town Planning Institute is the principal body representing planning professionals in the United Kingdom and more widely promotes and develops policy affecting planning and the built environment.

6.2 Each year they make awards at the regional and national level that recognise good practice and are the most prestigious and widely recognised within the planning sector. The Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD is the first of its kind in the Country and the two Councils put the DPD forward at the regional level in the 'Spatial Planning' category. The submission was subsequently shortlisted and representatives of the Councils and the AONB Partnership were invited to make a presentation to the awards panel in Manchester. The Councils presentation emphasised the ground-breaking nature of the document and the focus on a landscape led approach and the need for a strong and robust evidence base to support the policies.

- 6.3 The RTPI subsequently announced that the DPD had been awarded the prize as ‘Spatial Planning’ category. Their citation reads as follows:-

*‘The plan, which specifically covers a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is the first of its kind to be adopted within the country. It was adopted in March 2019 and was prepared jointly by Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council, collaborating with a range of partners.*

*The judges were impressed by the plan’s positive approach to affordable housing provision, supported by a comprehensive evidence base including a Household Needs Survey Form which was sent to every household within the AONB area. They were also particularly impressed with the Landscape Capacity approach to identifying potential development sites. This approach has helped the plan to achieve the delicate balance of preserving the natural beauty of the area, whilst providing for the specific housing needs of the community.*

*The plan is an excellent example of joint working and positive planning, which has successfully addressed competing policy objectives at the national and local level. It is an innovative and ground-breaking plan, which showcases a wide range of skills and the high quality of planning work involved in its preparation.’*

- 6.4 All those involved in the development and drafting of the plan are delighted with the award and the relevant portfolio holders in each Council have thanked all those involved and released a joint press release to promote the success of the plan.
- 6.5 The DPD now goes forward for consideration as the overall regional winner at the RTPI’s annual dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Manchester. If it should win this prize then it goes forward for an award at the national level.
- 6.6 Special thanks need to go to David Porter and Loryane Woodend who led on the preparation of the document. David has since retired and Lorayne has moved on to another position, however, they have both been invited to attend the awards presentation event taking place in October.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

- 7.1 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 Team 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. This approach has been recognised by the RTPI in their annual awards and is being held up as an exemplar for other AONBs to follow.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 16 October 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Report Title: AONB Management Plan Review**  
**Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To provide the Committee with an update on adoption of the AONB Management Plan 2019-24 and an opportunity to endorse the final AONB Management Plan 2019-24

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Executive Committee:  
(1) notes the key matters arising from the report  
(2) endorses the final AONB Management Plan 2019-24

**Introduction**

The AONB Statutory Management Plan has been reviewed 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. The AONB Executive Committee approved the scope of the Review at their March 2018 meeting. The Review is now complete and the AONB Management Plan 2019-24 has been adopted by each of the four relevant authorities.

**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 group oversaw and supported the process. The membership of the group was 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

## **Progress to date**

### 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 and approved by AONB Executive Committee – March 2019
- AONB Management Plan 2019-24 published and made available for final representations – April-May 2019
- Final AONB Management Plan 2019-24 adopted by each of the four relevant local authorities – July 2019
- Designed version of the AONB Management Plan 2019-24 produced – Sept 2019

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 16 October 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 13**

**Report Title: National Designated Landscapes Review**  
**Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager (including reference to information published by Defra)**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To inform the Committee about the outcome of the national Designated Landscapes Review

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Committee:

**(1)** notes the key matters arising from the report

**Introduction**

In January 2018 the government published a 25-Year Plan for the Environment. It set out an approach to protect landscapes and habitats in England and committed to undertaking a review on National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

The review has been undertaken by a Review Panel led by Julian Glover. The review began in summer 2018 and reported in September 2019.

The Review is the first independent review of designated landscape in England since 1991 and it is the first time that AONBs have been included in the same review as National Parks.

**Background**

The review considered National Parks and AONBs in England, including the role of these areas in relation to other places designated for environmental purposes.

The terms of reference published by Defra, included the following important statement:

“At the outset, it is important to state one thing the review will not do: propose reductions in either the geographic extent or the protections given to England’s designated landscapes.

The review aims not to diminish the character or independence of our designated landscapes, or to impose new burdens on them and the people who live and work in the areas they cover. Instead, its purpose is to ask what might be done better, what



changes could assist them, and whether definitions and systems - which in many cases date back to their original creation - are still sufficient.”

The terms of reference later state:

“Our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are a great success. England is a more beautiful and more diverse place because previous generations took the care to campaign for their creation.

In 1945, the government set up a committee under Sir Arthur Hobhouse, who recommended that Britain establish national parks to preserve and enhance their natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities for all members of the public. In 1949, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act established these national parks, which the minister of the day described as “the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament.” That legislation created a statutory framework for National Parks and AONBs. In brief, National Parks’ purposes are to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks. For AONBs, the primary purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

Now, as the oldest National Park approaches its 70th anniversary, comes a chance to renew this mission.”

## **Objectives**

The published objectives for the review were as follows:

“In the context of meeting both local and national priorities and wider environmental governance, the review will examine and make recommendations on:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
- the financing of National Parks and AONBs
- how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
- how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
- how well National Parks and AONBs support communities

Expanding on work already underway, the review will also take advice from Natural England on the process of designating National Parks and AONBs and extending boundary areas, with a view to improving and expediting the process.”

## **Role of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), individual AONB Partnerships and partner organisations**

NAAONB took a lead in liaising with and advising Defra and the Review Panel throughout the review process and coordinated the responses and approach and collation of evidence from the AONB network.

The NAAONB, individual AONB Partnerships, numerous partner organisations and individuals responded to a Call for Evidence in late 2018.

Members of the Review Panel visited all the AONBs and National Parks in England. Arnside & Silverdale AONB hosted a visit from Julian Glover in April 2019.

## **Final Report**

The full Final Report is attached with this report. A summary of findings has also been published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review/landscapes-review-summary-of-findings>

Relevant quotes are as follows:

“The underlying argument of our review, which covers England, is that our system of national landscapes should be a positive force for the nation’s wellbeing. Big ambitions are made possible by these 44 areas working together in new ways to become more than the sum of their parts.

We want this to happen not as an end in itself but because more must be done for nature and natural beauty. More must be done for people who live in and visit our landscapes. And a lot more must be done to meet the needs of our many fellow citizens who do not know the countryside, or do not always feel welcome in it, but should be able to enjoy it. Our landscapes are open and free to all, but can seem exclusive.

We think this can only happen if we are honest about what doesn’t work at the moment and put in place a system which can do better.”

“..our central proposal is to bring National Parks and AONBs together as part of one family of national landscapes, served by a shared National Landscapes Service (NLS). This will give them a bigger voice, bigger ambition and a new way of working to meet new challenges.”

“We also think what are now AONBs should be strengthened, with increased funding, governance reform, new shared purposes with National Parks, and a greater voice on development.

We think the current cumbersome title ‘AONB’ should be replaced. Our suggestion is that they should be called National Landscapes.”

“The review focused on 5 areas:

**Landscapes alive for nature and beauty**

**Landscapes for everyone**

**Living in landscapes**

**More special places**

**New ways of working**

They are not separate but part of one ambition: to strengthen the natural beauty of England’s landscapes in order to serve the country better by improving their biodiversity, and the lives of people who work in them, live in them and enjoy them.”

## **27 Proposals have been published as follows:**

### **1. Landscapes alive for nature and beauty**

The [2010 Making Space for Nature review](#) and the most recent [2016 State of Nature report](#) are explicit about the crisis of nature and what needs to be done to bring about a recovery. There is no need, in this review, to restate the excellent and mostly chilling analysis they contain, except to say that we agree and we want to see national landscapes lead the response.

#### **Proposals**

**Proposal 1:** National landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature, and be supported and held to account for delivery by a new National Landscapes Service

**Proposal 2:** The state of nature and natural capital in our national landscapes should be regularly and robustly assessed, informing the priorities for action

**Proposal 3:** Strengthened Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery including, but not limited to, wilder areas and the response to climate change (notably tree planting and peatland restoration). Their implementation must be backed up by stronger status in law

**Proposal 4:** National landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries

**Proposal 5:** A central place for national landscapes in new Environmental Land Management Schemes

**Proposal 6:** A strengthened place for national landscapes in the planning system with AONBs given statutory consultee status, encouragement to develop local plans and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

## **2. Landscapes for everyone**

National Parks were created in part to provide a healing space, both mentally and physically, for the many who had given so much to protect our country during the Second World War. They were meant for everybody. Much has changed in the 70 years since. Modern Britain is a very different place socially and demographically. Today we recognise diversity as the mark of a healthy and resilient society. However, many landscape bodies have not moved smartly enough to reflect this changing society, and in some cases show little desire to do so.

We want our nation's most cherished landscapes to fulfill their original mission for people, providing unrivalled opportunities for enjoyment, spiritual refreshment and in turn supporting the nation's health and wellbeing.

### **Proposals**

**Proposal 7:** A stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes, supported and held to account by the new National Landscapes Service

**Proposal 8:** A night under the stars in a national landscape for every child

**Proposal 9:** New long-term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors

**Proposal 10:** Landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and wellbeing

**Proposal 11:** Expanding volunteering in our national landscapes

**Proposal 12:** Better information and signs to guide visitors

**Proposal 13:** A ranger service in all our national landscapes, part of a national family

**Proposal 14:** National landscapes supported to become leaders in sustainable tourism

**Proposal 15:** Joining up with others to make the most of what we have, and bringing National Trails into the national landscapes family

**Proposal 16:** Consider expanding open access rights in national landscapes

## **3. Living in landscapes**

Our system of national landscapes works best when it works with people on its side. We can all agree that a village that is lived in, with an active school, people who

work, and who are part of a living tradition, is better than a sterile place that is full of shuttered homes, empty pubs and derelict shops.

If we are serious about demonstrating the value of 'lived in' landscapes to the global family of national landscapes, then we need to be serious about the people who live in them, and show how it's possible to offer meaningful social and economic support for them.

### **Proposals**

**Proposal 17:** National landscapes working for vibrant communities

**Proposal 18:** A new National Landscapes Housing Association to build affordable homes

**Proposal 19:** A new approach to coordinating public transport piloted in the Lake District, and new, more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes

## **4. More special places**

Almost a quarter – 24.5% – of England is already covered by national landscapes.

We think there is a case for several larger AONBs to take on National Park candidate status, as well as for a new AONB (or National Landscape as we propose they are called in future).

The success of the National Forest is also a model which should be replicated.

We also think that a changing nation needs new ways to come together to support natural beauty and access.

### **Proposals**

**Proposal 20:** New designated landscapes and a new National Forest

**Proposal 21:** Welcoming new landscape approaches in cities and the coast, and a city park competition

**Proposal 22:** A better designations process

## **5. New ways of working**

We want our landscapes to focus on enhancing natural beauty, supporting communities and visitors. But to do it better, we think they need to change and work together more.

### **Proposals**

**Proposal 23:** Stronger purposes in law for our national landscapes

**Proposal 24:** AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes

**Proposal 25:** A new National Landscapes Service bringing our 44 national landscapes together to achieve more than the sum of their parts

**Proposal 26:** Reformed governance to inspire and secure ambition in our national landscapes and better reflect society

**Proposal 27:** A new financial model – more money, more secure, more enterprising

### **Response to the Final Report**

NAAONB has published a response (attached) to the final report and Lucy Barron, Arnside & Silverdale AONB Manager has also published a brief response on the AONB website.

The Executive Committee are invited to have a discussion about the Review proposals.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 16 October 2019**

**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) and Local Plans including in our case the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document. 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 2019/20 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 2019/20 (to 30/09/2019)

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Arnside                       | 24        |
| Silverdale                    | 28        |
| Beetham                       | 16        |
| Yealand Conyers               | 3         |
| Yealand Redmayne              | 5         |
| Warton                        | 11        |
| <b>Total within AONB</b>      | <b>87</b> |
| Outside AONB                  | 6         |
| <br>                          |           |
| <b>Total no. applications</b> | <b>93</b> |
| <b>Responses submitted</b>    | <b>42</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):

- 18/01473/OUT – Outline application for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling at Gaitbarrows Farm, Brackenthwaite Road, Yealand Redmayne - **withdrawn**
- SL/2019/0265 – Application for demolition of existing stable block and erection of dwelling at Orchard Cottage, 40 Leighton Beck Road, Slackhead, Beetham, Milnthorpe - **refused**
- SL/2019/0184 – Application for detached dwelling at Land adjacent to 4 Shaw Green, Storth, Milnthorpe – **refused**
- 19/00381/FUL – Application for erection of a single storey rear extension at 3 Bottoms Barns, Bottoms Lane, Silverdale – **amended plans permitted**
- 19/00355/FUL – Application for erection of a single storey side extension to dwelling, erection of a single storey extension to existing garage and erection of an outbuilding at 55 Yealand Road, Yealand Conyers – **amended plans permitted**
- 19/00488/FUL - Application for demolition of tearoom and erection of a 2 storey dwelling, with associated landscaping and creation of a new vehicular access point at Site of Former Garden Centre and Tearoom, Lindeth road, Silverdale – **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:

- 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 - **permitted**
- SL/2019/0038 Erection of eco cabin dwelling at Knott Wood, 5 Far Close Drive, Arnside – **permitted**
- 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 – **refused**



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

- North West Marine Plan Iteration 3
- Lancaster City Council Planning Application Validation Guide
- South Lakeland District Council Local Planning Validation Checklist

**Other planning related work**

- Contributed to the AONB DPD Planning Officer Meeting held at Lancaster City Council.
- Worked with NAAONB to produce an AONB DPD case study report.
- Held an AONB DPD workshop at the AONB national conference.
- Contributed to the RTPI NW Award submission and attended the award presentation in Manchester.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 16 October 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM 11**

**Report title: AONB Volunteer Programme update**

**Report prepared by: Dougie Watson, 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

The volunteer programme has been well supported and helped carry out valuable work across the AONB. A total of **1678** volunteer hours have been delivered with a number of new recruits and new enquiries coming in on a regular basis. They have:

- Carried out PRoW surveys then implemented improvements installing and repairing a number of finger posts, access points and waymarker discs.
- Helped restore the historic Greywalls designed garden in Silverdale.
- Carried out monthly Litter Picks
- Carried out joint work parties with the National Trust
- Carried out training in Dry Stone Walling, habitat assessment and Brushcutter/Strimmer.
- Been on an educational outing to High Lickbarrow Farm, Windermere.

Progress has been made on the delivery of the Countryside Stewardship agreements with the LNR Advisory Group meeting for the annual walkover in June then again in September for the more formal meeting. The agreements continued to be delivered at Warton Crag where the volunteers carried out habitat management, the conservation grazing cows made an impact and the butterfly surveys produced some staggering results. At Trowbarrow the CS agreement delivered habitat management, installation of bat and bird boxes and in addition a memorial bench clefted out of Oak was made and installed from a donation. Progress was made on the Moss Lane PRoW diversion which will enable the completion and opening of the new tramper route in early 2020.

Planning for a number of events in the autumn is well under way with a busy winter volunteer programme ahead.

# **Arnside & Silverdale AONB Bittern Award 2019 Nomination Form**

The Bittern Award is presented annually to an organisation, group or individual who has made an 'outstanding contribution' to Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

**Your name:**

**Your organisation (if relevant):**

**Your contact details:**

Who would you like to nominate for the Bittern Award 2019?

Please explain how your nominee has made an outstanding contribution to Arnside & Silverdale AONB (please continue overleaf if necessary)

Please e-mail your completed form to [info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk) or post to Arnside & Silverdale AONB, The Old Station Building, Arnside LA5 0HG.  
Closing date for nominations 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Thank you!