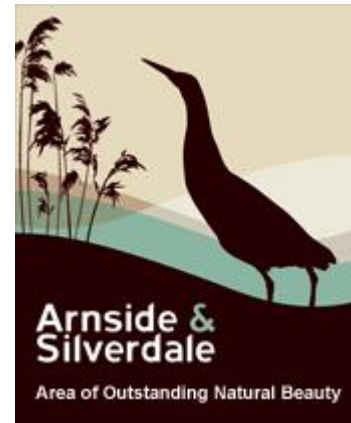


Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting 28th March 2020

Leighton Moss education room, Silverdale at 2pm



AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Presentation: Warton Crag Gateway Project (Belinda Barclay, Local Nature Reserve Warden)
3. Minutes of meeting held on 16th October 2019
4. Matters arising
5. AONB Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21 (report circulated) **Decision required**
6. AONB Team Business Plan 2020/21 (report to be circulated) **Decision required**
7. Group discussions on key topics:
 - a. Climate Emergency
 - b. Landscapes for everyone
 - c. Nature Recovery
8. Planning protocol and work programme update (report circulated) **Decision required**
9. Communications work programme update (report circulated)
10. Volunteer work programme update (presentation by AONB Countryside Officer Dougie Watson)
11. AONB Delivery Plan update by partners
12. Update from the National Association for AONBs
13. Any Other Business
14. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Tea and coffee will be served

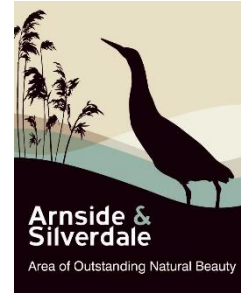
4.30pm finish

Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Cllr Helen Chaffey	South Lakeland District Council
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Cllr June Greenwell	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Keith Halford	Arnside Parish Council
Joan Jackson	NFU
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
Richard Miller	RSPB (substitute)
Julian Oston	Farming/Landowner (Dallam Tower Estate)
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Andrew Tait	CPRE (Friends of the Lake District)

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Dougie Watson	AONB Countryside Officer
Damian Law	South Lakeland District Council
Adam Briggs	NFU

Apologies:

Richard Camp	Lancaster City Council
Ruth Colbridge	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Sue Harrison	CLA
Cllr Iain Harbison	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB
Sam Stalker	National Trust
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria 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 Glen Swainson: Gait Barrows NNR management plan review 2019-24

- 2.1** The presentation began with a few facts and figures about Gait Barrows NNR, its key habitats and species, the historic environment and the conservation management work carried out.

Gait Barrows is a 'core area' for biodiversity central to the AONB. It is recognised that through partnership working to restore habitats and natural processes and developing 'ecotones', this will contribute to achieving Lawton's aspirations for habitats to be "Bigger, Better and more Connected".

A review of the Gait Barrows site management plan is currently being undertaken. The new Gait Barrows Management Plan 2019-24 will go out to public consultation in November. The documents will be available to view on the AONB website and a drop-in session will also be held at the Gaskell Hall in Silverdale.

3 Changes to Executive Committee membership

- 3.1** The Chair welcomed new members Cllr Keith Halford (Arnside Parish Council) and Cllr June Greenwell (Lancaster City Council) and thanked their predecessors for their valuable contributions.

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

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.

5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 5.1** 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) indicated that he was 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.
- 5.2** Nominations for the two positions of Vice Chair were requested. Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) and Cllr Pete McSweeney indicated they were willing to stand for a further year. These were the only nominations, and both were elected unanimously as Vice Chairs. The appointment is for one year.

6 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2019

- 6.1** The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 20th March 2019.

7 Matters arising

- 7.1** There were no matters to discuss.

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

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

The AONB Communications & Funding Officer confirmed that Lancaster City Council has rectified the 17/18 year-end discrepancy previously reported by making a contribution of the corresponding amount to the AONB reserve.

**AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2019/20 budget.
Proposed: Ann Kitchen (Bittern CCIC) Seconded: Andrew Tait (CPRE)**

9 AONB Team Business Plan (report circulated)

- 9.1** The AONB Manager apologised that the AONB Team Business Plan was not completed in time for the meeting. It will be circulated for comment as soon as possible.

ACTION: to circulate the AONB Team Business Plan for comment

AONB Manager

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

- 10.1** Damian Law (South Lakeland District Council) informed the committee that the AONB DPD was formally adopted by Lancaster City Council on 13th March 2019 and by SLDC on 28th March 2019. The two councils are now working closely to ensure the policies are being applied consistently across the AONB.

He also reported that the DPD had been submitted to the Royal Town Planning Institute for consideration in their Regional Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 and was delighted to report that it won the Spatial Planning category.

Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) thanked the council officers and the AONB Team for their hard work and achievement and congratulated them on a well-deserved award.

The AONB Manager reported that there has been a lot of interest nationally in the DPD and that she had been asked to give a presentation on it at the National Association for AONBs Annual Conference. The work was also highlighted as an example of good practice and helped to inform some of the proposals in the recent Review of Designated Landscapes Report.

AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD

11 AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated)

- 11.1 Since the last meeting, the AONB Management Plan 2019-24 has been finalised and adopted by all four Local Authorities.

AGREED: to note the key matters arising from the report and to endorse the final AONB Management Plan 2019-24

Proposed: Cllr Keith Halford (Arnside Parish Council) Seconded: Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council)

12 National Review of Designated Landscapes (report circulated)

- 12.1 The Review, undertaken by a Review Panel led by Julian Glover, is the first independent review of designated landscapes in England since 1991 and it is the first time that AONBs have been included in the same review as National Parks.

The Review focussed on 5 areas

- Landscapes alive for nature and beauty
- Landscapes for everyone
- Living in landscapes
- More special places
- New ways of working

and 27 proposals have been published.

The AONB Manager welcomed the Review and in particular its proposals to strengthen AONBs (Proposal 24 "*AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes*"). The report recognises the value of AONB designation and acknowledges the hard work and achievements of AONB staff, representatives and volunteers. It also makes a clear case for AONBs to expand their purposes and to receive more funding and resources.

- 12.2 Members of the Executive Committee were invited to discuss the Review proposals and the following comments were made:

'A change of name or a National Landscape Service could result in AONBs being subsumed by National Parks'.

'National Parks aim to encourage visitors, AONBs are about the landscape'.

'Encouraging access must not outweigh nature benefit' and 'only quiet recreation should be promoted'. 'There are many areas in National Parks where there is too much disturbance for nature recovery networks'.

'What makes an AONB special should be retained'.

'AONBs should be statutory consultees in planning matters'.

There was some concern that the Government has no obligation to implement the Report's findings. The AONB Manager reported that both Natural England and the National Association for AONBs (NAAONBs) had responded to the Report and that the Chair of the NAAONBs had already

met Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Margaret Paren, Chair of National Parks England and that the proposals are being taken very seriously at a national level.

The AONB Manager stated that regardless of what is happening at a national level, Arnside & Silverdale is already following up some of the proposals and will continue to do so. A meeting has been arranged in November with Richard Leafe, CEO of the Lake District National Park Authority. Ecologist Naomi Dalton, a shared appointment with the National Trust and AONB Partnership, is now in place and will be working on a Nature Recovery Plan for the AONB; and more work is being done on health and wellbeing projects with under-represented groups (e.g. the Dementia-friendly Walks for All project)

AGREED: to note the key matters arising from the report

13 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)

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

The AONB Officer was asked whether it is possible to work more closely with applicants in the planning process. Can help and advice be given before an application is submitted and/or supportive responses made endorsing an application?

The AONB Team unfortunately cannot provide pre-application advice to applicants and does not have the capacity to do so. Providing pre-application advice is the role of the Local Planning Authority. However, there is a longer term aspiration to work with the Local Authorities to produce a design guide for the AONB to support the implementation of the DPD if appropriate resources can be identified.

AGREED: To note the report

14 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)

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

Dougie Watson has taken over the role of Countryside Officer on a one year contract to cover Helen Rawlinson's maternity leave.

A total of 1678 volunteer hours have been recorded since April.

AGREED: To note the report

15 AONB Grants Fund update

15.1 The AONB Grants Fund is run jointly with the Landscape Trust. In this financial year, grants have so far been awarded to the 'Westmorland Red Squirrels' and 'Grey Walls Historic Garden Restoration' projects.

16 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners

16.1 The Landscape Trust

reported that a first draft of the Landscape Trust Business Plan has been completed, along with management plans for each of their reserves. A photographic competition was held over the summer, with the 13 winning images featuring in a Landscape Trust 2020 calendar which will be available to purchase shortly.

16.2 Ramblers

Consultation on the proposed route for the section of the England Coast Path passing through the AONB has been delayed and is now due to be launched in mid-November.

16.3 Friends of the Lake District

reported they are currently leading a project to gain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status in Cumbria.

16.4 The Environment Agency

reported that as part of their work on reducing diffuse pollution in the Leighton Moss catchment area they are monitoring water quality with the help of South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

16.5 Arnside Parish Council

While the village has been successful in setting up Arnside Community Wheels – a demand responsive transport for residents of Arnside and Carr Bank – support from members was requested with the bid to save the local 552 bus service to Kendal by signing the petition which is currently circulating. Members were also advised of a Cumbria County Council consultation which is currently taking place on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for Arnside.

16.6 South Lakeland District Council

is currently reviewing its district-wide Local Plan.

16.7 Cumbria County Council

Cllr Pete McSweeney reported that he has problems establishing who is responsible for clearing ditches, dykes and becks. Is it the Environment Agency or the landowner?

The AONB Manager offered to circulate any relevant information and put it on the AONB website advice pages.

16.8 Dallam Tower Estate

has been carrying out useful work on Catchment Sensitive Farming schemes.

16.9 Natural England

A review of the Gait Barrows NNR Management Plan is currently being undertaken and a Habitats Regulations Assessment has been completed for the proposed section of the England Coast Path

16.10 Bittern Countryside CIC

reported that the solar panels have been replaced at Silverdale School following roof repairs and that RSPB Leighton Moss is to increase the number of panels it has on the reserve. The CIC continues to work with

Westmorland Red Squirrels.

16.11 Beetham Parish Council

owns Sandside Cutting and has been carrying out tree felling on site.

17 Bittern Award 2019 – request for nominations

17.1 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 2019 award to be submitted by 1st December. The final decision will be made by the AONB Chairman and Manager, with the award to be presented at the AONB Annual Conference in January.

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

18 European Garden Award

18.1 The AONB Manager was delighted to report that at the European Garden Awards in September, Arnside & Silverdale AONB was awarded second prize in the “Best Development of a Cultural Landscape of European Relevance” category for our work to research and promote the cultural landscape of the AONB.

19 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

19.1 It was decided that the AONB Manager would circulate the report via email.

AONB Manager

20 Any other business

20.1 This year is the 70th anniversary of Parliament passing the pioneering legislation that paved the way for the designation of the UK’s 46 AONBs, and to commemorate this milestone, the National Association for AONBs commissioned a poem by the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. We were delighted that he chose Arnside Knott to read the poem, *Fugitives*, for the first time.

This coincided with a ‘National Moment’ when AONBs across the country formed hearts in the landscape to show their love for our precious landscapes and the health benefits being in nature brings. Members were encouraged to watch the video of the event at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC_2e_MHggM

Dates for your diary

Light up Lancaster

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd November
5.30pm

Maritime Museum

AONB Hedgelaying Competition

Sunday 3rd November 2019
9.30am – 3pm

Arnside – just off the B5282

AONB Annual Conference

Thursday 23rd January 2020
9.30am – 3pm

The Gaskell Hall, Silverdale

AONB Executive Committee meetings

Wednesday 18th March 2020 2pm – 4.30pm RSPB Leighton Moss
Wednesday 14th October 2020 2pm – 4.30pm RSPB Leighton Moss

Signed Date:

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee 18.03.20

AGENDA ITEM 5

Title of report: AONB Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21

Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry (AONB Funding and Communications Officer) and Lucy Barron (AONB Manager)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with details of predicted outturn of 2019/20 AONB budget and provisional AONB budget for 2020/21

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the provisional budget for 2020/21

Background

The 2019/20 budget agreed at the October Executive Committee meeting has been revised to take into account of a number of changes. The provisional 2020/21 budget is required by Defra.

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21

	2019/20 agreed Oct 2019	2019/20 predicted outturn	2020/21 provisional budget Mar 2020
EXPENDITURE			£
Staff Costs			
Salaries, NI, Pensions	142900	142900	160500 ¹
Travel and subsistence	1100	2800 ²	1100
Training	1500	2200 ²	1500
Sub-total	145500	147900	163100
Accommodation / office equipment			
Repair and maintenance	700	50	700
Host authority central property chgs	1800	1800	1800
Cleaning	1000	900	1000
Electricity	400	400	400
Other energy charges	700	700	700
Rent	3100	3120	3100
Rates	2300	2330	2300
Water services	100	150	100
Premises insurance	400	355	400
Telephones	1000	1300	1000
Office equipment	1000	380	1000
Sub-total	12500	11485	12500
Communications and events			
Printing and stationery	600	660	600
Exhibitions and events	4600	1150 ³	1600
Communications and publicity	3100	3000	3100
Sub-total	8300	4810	5300
Partnership running costs			
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	6500	6500	9600
Host authority recharges – provided in kind	8700	8700	6400
Employee related insurance	2100	1927	1900
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	500	105	500
Petrol and derv	300	500	300
Vehicle licence	200	200	200
Transport related insurance	700	740	700
Equipment and tools	1000	700	1000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	450	300
Consultants	6200	0 ⁴	9723
Sub-total	30400	23722	34523
Other Management Plan Implementation			
AONB projects and community engagement programme	25657	20200 ⁵	25020
Local Nature Reserves management programme	41100	24400 ⁶	33400
Sub-total	66757	44600	58420
Reserve			
Contribution to reserve	2000	2000	2000

Sub-total	2000	2000	2000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	265457	234517	275843

INCOME	2019/20 agreed Oct 2019	2019/20 predicted outturn	2020/21 provisional budget Mar 2020
Local authority financial contributions			
Cumbria County Council	8805	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8275	8275	9000
Lancaster City Council	16400	16400	30300
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year <i>plus additional contributions towards increased salary costs</i>	4775	4775	7240
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		-7240 ⁴	
Sub-total	49755	42515	66845
Other income			
Defra grant	142602	142602	144598 ⁷
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	9500	8000 ³	6500
LNR grants income	37400	37400 ⁶	5700
Light Up Lancaster - Areti Trust grant	5000	5000	
Light Up Lancaster - Wilson Trust grant	1000	1000	
Light Up Lancaster & Morecambe – Areti Trust			10000
WILD! project – Areti Trust			5800
FIT payments	500	500	500
Income in advance b/f from previous year (LNRs)	3700	3700	16700
Less Income in advance c/f to following year (LNRs)		-16700 ⁶	
Gateway to Warton Crag additional contribution - LCC			11000
Sub-total	199702	181502	200798
Reserve			
Transfer out of reserve	5500	0 ⁵	0
Sub-total	5500	0	0
Host authority in kind			
Lancaster City Council in kind support	8700	8700	6400
Lancaster City Council Property Services funded R&M	1800	1800	1800
Sub-total	10500	10500	8200
TOTAL INCOME	265457	234517	275843

AONB reserve	19/20
Balance as at 31/03/19	31,472
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	2,000
Less transfer out of reserve ⁵	0
Projected balance in reserve at 31/03/20	33,472

Notes:

¹ new pay model following a Job Evaluation by Lancaster City Council. It is proposed that salary increases will be covered in the first instance by an increased financial contribution from Lancaster City Council, however a senior representative of the City Council will be writing to other local authority partners to explain the changes and request a review of contributions.

² increased costs incurred as a result of Ruth Colbridge's participation in the NAAONBs Future Landscapes Training Programme

³ Events budget and corresponding income reduced as flagship event Apple Day did not take place due to the venue becoming unavailable at short notice

⁴ Suitable projects have been identified in 20/21

⁵ Delays to proposed website development work. This was to be funded by the AONB reserve so monies will remain in the reserve until we are in a position to proceed.

⁶ All Countryside Stewardship works completed as per agreements but have been unable to finalise interpretation in this financial year. Gateway to Warton Crag project extended into 2020/21 by Lancashire County Council. Income therefore treated as Income in Advance for 20/21.

⁷ Defra grant for 2020/21 confirmed.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 18.03.20**

AGENDA ITEM 8

Title of report: Planning protocol and work programme update

Report prepared by: Sue Hunter, AONB Officer

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with a reviewed and updated Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership Planning Protocol for consideration along with an update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee:

- (1)** approves the updated AONB Planning Protocol; and
- (2)** 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 key mechanism 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.

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership Planning Protocol

The AONB Planning Protocol sets out how the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and Local Authority partners will work together regarding planning matters affecting the AONB. The Planning Protocol has been reviewed, following the adoption of the AONB DPD and the revised National Planning Policy Framework, and has been updated – see attached.

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 28/02/2020)

Arnside	35
Silverdale	41
Beetham	33
Yealand Conyers	4
Yealand Redmayne	11
Warton	14
Total within AONB	138
Outside AONB	9
Total no. applications	147
Responses submitted	69

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, most registered no objections or incorporated positive recommendations for improvements. Three included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- SL/2019/0848 – Application for detached single storey home office/garden store at Bramley Bay, Carr Bank Road, Carr Bank, Milnthorpe - **awaiting decision**
- SL/2019/0924 – Application for construction of a fenced equine menage (including lighting) at land near Fell End, Hale Moss, Milnthorpe - **refused**
- 19/01389/FUL – Application for construction of menage at Edenmount, Well Lane, Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth, Lancashire, LA5 9SX - **permitted**

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

- 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 – **permitted**

Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership

- Cumbria Coastal Strategy
- Lancaster City Council Planning Application Validation Guide

Other planning related work

- Contributed to submission of the AONB DPD into the 'Excellence in Plan Making Practice' category of the national RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2020.

Our entry has been shortlisted as a finalist for our category and the winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony in London on 30th April.

- Attended a Marine Management Organisation North West Marine Plan implementation session. Working on draft NW Marine Plan consultation.
- Responded to England Coast Path consultation

AGENDA ITEM 9

Title of report: Communications and funding work programme update

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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide and update for the Executive Committee on communications and funding work carried out by the AONB Team since the last meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Committee notes the report.

Communications & Funding update

Regular updates to AONB website and social media are undertaken. There are now 3,353 followers in Twitter and 2,167 on Facebook. E newsletters are produced and sent out every second month to over 800 subscribers. Landscape Trust trustees and members are consistently supported. A wide variety of phone and face to face enquiries are handled each day at the AONB Office from visitors, residents, Landscape Trust members and partners.

Other updates:

- October
 - Friends of Warton Crag volunteers group met for the first time to carry out conservation management tasks as part of the Gateway to Warton Crag project. Monthly tasks planned Oct - March
- November
 - Project with artists and local schools with the finished piece displayed at the Maritime Museum as part of Light Up Lancaster
 - AONB Hedgelaying competition – 14 competitors with Craig Proctor taking the overall winner award
 - AONB Team received a Special Recognition Award from Lancaster City Council at their Celebrating Success Awards
- December
 - AONB volunteers gathering – an annual get-together to say thank you to the volunteers for their huge contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB
- January
 - AONB Annual Conference – keynote speaker Dame Fiona Reynolds who spoke about the Fight for Beauty. Great feedback received

- Bittern Award presented to Feleena Taylor for her contribution to the Dementia-friendly Walks for All project

- February
 - AONB DPD announced as a finalist in the RTPI National Planning Excellence awards 2020. The winners will be announced during a ceremony in London on 30 April
 - The Areti Trust offered two grants, one of £5800 for the Wild! Project, working with Chadwick Pupil Referral Unit and one of £10,000 for Light Up Lancaster and Morecambe 2020
 - New social media volunteer recruited to assist and support AONB staff with

- March
 - Extension to Gateway to Warton Crag project and additional contribution of £11,00 agreed.
 - After a short winter break, the dementia-friendly Walks for All resumed, following a successful launch event with the volunteer group.

- Planned Future events
 - April
 - Great British Spring Clean
 - Website review and refresh
 - May
 - Woodland Family Fun Day
 - An event in Trowbarrow in support of 'GeoWeek', an initiative that aims to promote 'active geoscience' via a week of field trip activities taking place across the UK
 - July
 - 7th – 9th Landscapes for Life Conference 2020, University of Exeter
 - August
 - Woodland Family Fun Day
 - September – October
 - Light up Lancaster 2020 project with local schoolchildren

AONB Grants Fund (Current balance £5798.12)

- Awarded - £596.98 to the 'Plants for Conservation' project which will see a small nursery area set up to grow plants for conservation
- Awaiting decision - Arnside Sailing Club's 'Paddle-boarding in Arnside' application