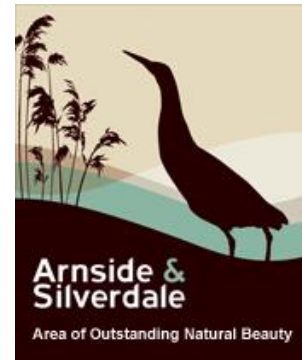


# Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting

2pm, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Arnside Educational Institute



## AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Presentation: AONB Volunteer Programme
3. Minutes of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021
4. Matters arising
5. AONB Budget 2021/22 and 2022/23 (report circulated) **Decision required**
6. AONB Team work programme update (report circulated)
7. Communications work programme update (report circulated)
8. Planning Protocol and Planning work programme update (report circulated)  
**Decision required**
9. Brief updates from partners
10. Update on Glover Review and the National Association for AONBs
11. Any Other Business
12. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

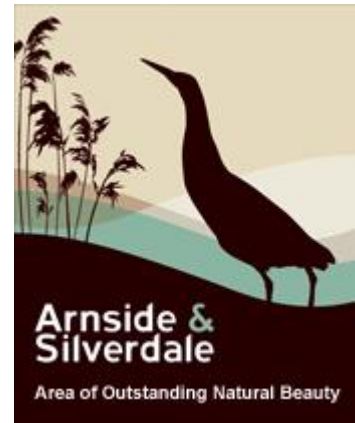
Latest 4pm finish

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

**20/10/2021**

**2pm**

**Online (via Microsoft Teams)**



## **MINUTES**

### **Attendees**

#### **Members of the Executive Committee:**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Cllr Brian Meakin   | AONB Partnership Chair & Beetham Parish Council Chair (Meeting Chair)   |
| Cllr June Greenwell | Silverdale Parish Councillor & Lancaster City Councillor                |
| Ann Kitchen         | Bittern Community Interest Company Chair                                |
| Brian Jones         | User Group Rep, Ramblers  |
| Cllr Helen Chaffey  | SLDC Councillor (Arnside & Milnthorpe Ward) & Arnside Parish Councillor |
| Fiona Allan         | AONB Landscape Trust Chair  |
| Andrew Frankish     | Environment Officer, Environment Agency                                 |
| Jarrold Sneyd       | Senior Site Manager, RSPB Leighton Moss & Morecambe Bay                 |
| Cllr Jim Ferguson   | Silverdale Parish Councillor  |
| Julian Oston        | Landowner/farmer representative, Dallam Tower Estate                    |
| Cllr Keith Halford  | Arnside Parish Councillor   |
| Glen Swainson       | Senior Reserves Manager, Natural England                                |
| Cllr Pete McSweeney | Cumbria County Councillor (Kent Estuary)                                |

#### **In Attendance:**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Lucy Barron LB     | AONB Manager  |
| Sue Hunter SH      | AONB Officer  |
| Dougie Watson DW   | AONB Countryside Officer                              |
| Helen Rawlinson HR | AONB Countryside Officer (until 3.30pm)               |
| Caroline Howard CH | AONB Comms and Funding Officer (Minutes, from 2.45pm) |
| Richard Park RP    | AONB Farming in Protected Landscape Officer           |
| Richard Camp       | Planning Policy Officer Lancaster City Council        |
| Damian Law         | South Lakeland District Council                       |
| Elliott Lorimer    | Lancashire County Council                             |
| Rachel Whaley      | Cumbria County Council                                |

#### **Apologies:**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Maggie Robinson           | Team Leader, South Cumbria, Natural England                               |
| Representative            | Friends of the Lake District & Campaign to Protect Rural England, Cumbria |
| Sam Stalker               | Lead Ranger, South East Cumbria & Morecambe Bay, National Trust           |
| Cllr Kevin Briggs         | Warton Parish Councillor  |
| Cllr Phillippa Williamson | Lancashire County Councillor  |

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone, and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.
2. **Presentation: Farming in Protected Landscapes programme**
  - 2.1 RP delivered a presentation on the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme. RP gave an introduction to the national programme, what it means and how it's being administered by Arnsdale and Silverdale. The presentation included a very brief summary of the applications the team are currently hoping to progress under the programme. Elliott Lorimer enquired about numbers of applications, as Forest of Bowland AONB have had a very large number of applicants thus far. Julian Oston mentioned that a tenant from the Dallam Estate has been in touch but has not heard back – RP will follow this up. The value of projects compared to more beneficial ongoing management was discussed.
3. **Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives**
  - 3.1 No members stepping down, and all committee representatives proposed by Cllr Pete McSweeney, seconded by Fiona Allan.
4. **Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**
  - 4.1 Cllr Brian Meakin would like to step down as chair in the future to ensure good practice but as no members have yet expressed an interest to take over is prepared to continue for another year.
  - 4.2 Cllr Pete McSweeney and Ann Kitchen are the Vice Chairs and agreed to continue for another year.
  - 4.3 Chair and Vice Chairs duly elected; Keith Halford proposed, Julian Oston seconded. Anyone interested in the roles for the future are asked to contact LB to discuss.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting (28/4/2021)**
  - 5.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
6. **Matters Arising**
  - 6.1 Under item 4.1: To ensure a legacy following on from the Gateway project, the AONB Team has put a formal funded agreement together with Lancashire County Council to take over the day-to-day management of the Warton Crag Quarry and Car Park. This work includes management of the Friends of Warton Crag Volunteer group who are taking a more active role in managing the site. The Local Nature Reserve Warden is delivering this work.
  - 6.2 Under item 4.2: Waymarking to Warton Crag from other parts of the AONB is being considered as part of the wider AONB waymarking project, which is continuing well.
  - 6.3 Under item 7.2: Ann Kitchen raised the issue of safety on the sands which is still a significant concern and asked what more can be done in terms of signage. LB responded that the AONB Team have consistently included safety on the sands messaging in communications and indicated that there was already a great deal of safety signage in key locations and that there was a need to find new and creative ways to get the message across. Jarrod Sneyd raised recreational disturbance of birdlife on the estuary as a related concern. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to work together to see how these multiple concerns could be best managed.

**ACTION: CH to investigate Safety on the Sands and Recreational Disturbance as Interpretation Topics for the AONB Team.**

## **7. AONB Team work programme update (report circulated)**

- 7.1** We have welcomed Richard Park and Tonia Armer as the new Farming in Protected Landscapes Officers.
- 7.2** Helen Rawlinson has been working on the Meadow Makers Project and has made significant progress during the first half of this financial year: 16 meadows have been surveyed in the AONB and a range of sites have had some kind of management or enhancement. Some meadows are acting as donor sites and seed has been harvested by hand, brush harvester or vacuum harvester, and spread on receptor sites. This project is having a significant impact on meadow restoration in the AONB.
- 7.3** AONB Volunteer programme has re-started and has been undertaking many activities:
- Tree nursery
  - Dry stone walling
  - Litter picks
  - Planting for the Bee on the Verge project

There are 25 new volunteers since March, and induction sessions are now being held as group inductions monthly. Thanks were given for the work that goes into the volunteer programme. Cllr Helen Chaffey specifically thanked the AONB Team for their support and facilitation with the roadside verges project in Arnside.

## **8. Planning work programme update (report circulated)**

- 8.1** SH discussed the Planning work programme report. 97 planning applications have been reviewed and 31 responses submitted. Policy consultation responses have also submitted for the Lancaster City Council Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan, the Lancaster District Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, and the South Lakeland Local Plan Review – Issues and Options Consultation.
- SH raised that light pollution is a priority for the AONB Team due to the impact on climate and dark skies.

## **9. Communications work programme update (report circulated)**

- 9.1** LB / CH discussed the Communications work programme report.
- 9.2** In addition, an update was given on the Walks for All programme, which has re-started and is offering a welcome opportunity for people who would like to access the countryside in a supported way, in particular those living with dementia and their carers, to get back out and about and enjoy the AONB.
- 9.3** Wheelchair accessibility within the AONB was discussed; work has been done in Trowbarrow LNR and a new tramper route can be taken through the AONB. There has also been additional accessibility information added to the AONB website.

## **10. AONB Budget 2020/21 (outturn) and 2021/22 (revised) (report circulated)**

- 10.1** CH discussed the Budget report. Some slight changes have been made in reporting to show the Countryside Stewardship income more clearly. A Farming in Protected Landscapes budget for 2021/22 was also reported.
- 10.2** Ann Kitchen enquired why electricity & misc. energy charges increased substantially between the 20/21 outturn and 21/22 budget. CH explained this was due to the lower office costs whilst staff were working from home during Government Covid restrictions, reducing electricity use (computers) and the boiler / woodburner use in the office.

## **11. Update on Glover Review and the National Association for AONBs**

- 11.1** LB gave a brief overview of the Glover Review and current progress. A National Contact Group with representatives from AONBs and National Parks is working with Defra to advise on the response to the review. LB was on the Contact Group, but has now stepped

down to allow another AONB Manager to participate. The Government is expected to give a response to the Glover Review within the next few months. As soon as further information becomes available LB will update the Committee.

- 11.2** Howard Davies – the Chief Exec of the NAAONBs has left (September 2021) – the new Chief Exec is John Watkins, who started in Summer 2021. John has a background working for the Welsh Government. The NAAONB is firmly focussed on getting the best possible outcome for AONBs across the country following on from the Glover Review. Their national role is vital in supporting AONB Partnerships across the country.

## **12. Brief updates from partners**

### **Lancashire County Council**

Elliott Lorimer

The Lancashire County Council Environment and Climate Programme includes a close look at woodland creation and tree planting and how that is delivered across the county, and also work on Nature Recovery. This includes surveying Local Wildlife Sites in preparation for development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy as well as covering a broad range of other work streams including energy efficiency etc. Further information about the Lancashire County Council Environment and Climate Programme is available here: [Report to Cabinet or Cabinet Committee \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/cabinet/cabinet-committee-reports/).

### **Cumbria County Council**

Cllr Pete McSweeney

South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council will cease to exist on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 due to local government reorganisation; the new shadow authority will be created in May 2022. Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB currently receive funding from both; so will need to progress discussions to ensure that the funding continues.

**ACTION: A joint discussion between CCC, LCoC, SLDC and LCiC on future funding for the AONB Partnership.**

Work is also underway considering light pollution. Could the AONB deliver a campaign to promote dark skies to residents?

LB highlighted that we have been working with Lancaster University on a project about dark skies within the AONB and are hoping that this will enable more data to be collected and interpreted/ presented in new ways.

**ACTION: CH to investigate options for interpreting dark skies / light pollution issues to residents.**

### **Cumbria County Council**

Rachel Whaley

As far as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is concerned the Council is waiting to see what guidelines are developed by Defra for the national roll-out. As a Pilot area we anticipate having some further discussion with Defra about this once they have considered the response to the current public consultation on the LNRS process.

We now have a new Environment and Sustainability Lead Officer in post (Hannah Girvan) who will be overseeing the increasing range of environmental and biodiversity related projects the county council and other partners are getting involved in. Additional posts are also being recruited to support delivery of this work including some funded as part of the Planting for Pollinators project working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust: [Jobs | Cumbria Wildlife Trust](https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/jobs/).

### **Lancaster City Council**

Richard Camp

There are two consultations running at the moment: Climate Emergency Local Plan and Green/Blue Infrastructure Strategy Review. Initial consultations have finished; the documents will be amended accordingly and consultation on final versions will take place in the new year. Green & Blue Infrastructure data gathering is ongoing and the Council will liaise with AONB team.

### **South Lakeland District Council**

Damian Law

Current consultation on Local Plan Issues and Options – the consultation is ongoing, due to finish at the end of October, but may be extended. SLDC holding public drop in events at present. [Please see website for details.](#)

Cumbria LPA has had discussions with Friends of the Lake District about a possible Dark Skies Supplementary Planning Document to cover the county.

### **Environment Agency**

Andrew Frankish

Discussed the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan – to improve water quality in the Leighton Moss and Haweswater catchment; the letters to householders whose properties are within the catchment providing guidance on septic tank maintenance are still to be sent. Following a more detailed examination of the data, the estimate for the number of households in the catchment is now up to 350 (from 200).

### **Landscape Trust**

Fiona Allan

The Landscape Trust committee have been significantly impacted by the Covid 19 restrictions, but activities are starting up again now. The Trust are working with the AONB and BCCIC on a collaborative events programme. An observatory has been suggested for the Coldwell Meadow reserve, supporting the dark skies interest. Opening the reserves to a wider range of people is an increasing priority and this period of reflection has helped to identify new activities and priorities. The Landscape Trust needs people to step up and volunteer to join the committee.

### **RSPB Leighton Moss**

Jarrold Sneyd

There were 6 male bitterns booming this year and 4 nests. This is great progress. The RSPB have been developing a rejuvenated hydrological reed bed cell; this should create further suitable habitat for Bitterns.

There has been a high amount of recreational disturbance on the Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area within the AONB.

Water quality data being collected at Leighton Moss is broadly mirroring monitoring work being done by the EA.

Membership recruitment at Leighton Moss has skyrocketed post covid; along with the percentage of non-members visiting the reserve – potentially indicating new audiences within the AONB. Does the Eden project progress require a focus group for the AONB to consider the potential impact and opportunity of new audiences?

The RSPB has a strategic shift which prioritises working in collaboration on conservation projects.

### 13. Any Other Business

#### 13.1 Jim Ferguson: Traffic in Silverdale remains a problem.

This may be a concern with the Eden project. LB has raised this with the senior management at Lancaster City Council. CH stated that the AONB comms have shifted to try to include public transport for locations advertised on the website and walking routes.

### 14. Dates for your diary / dates of future meetings

#### 14.1 Executive Committee Meetings in 2022 will be 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 & 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 2pm – 4pm.

Depending on Covid 19 restrictions this may or may not be in person. Further information will be circulated closer to the time.

### Table of Actions

| Action   | Assigned to | Deadline     |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Investigate Safety on the Sands and Recreational Disturbance as Interpretation Topics for the AONB team. | CH          | Next Meeting |
| Organise a joint discussion between CCC, LCoC, SLDC and LCiC on funding.                                 | LB          | Next Meeting |
| Investigate options for interpreting dark skies / light pollution issues to residents.                   | CH          | Next Meeting |

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 18.5.2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**AONB Budget 2021-22 and 2022-23**

**Report prepared by: Caroline Howard, AONB Funding & Communications Officer**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To provide the Committee with details of the outturn for the 2021-22 AONB budget and proposed budget for financial year 2022-23**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the budget for 2022-23**

**Background**

The proposed 2022-23 budget is required by Defra.

Please note the AONB Budget as reported includes the Local Nature Reserves management income and expenditure, including staffing.

These figures are subject to final adjustment.



## Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budget 2021-22 and 2022-23

### Expenditure

| Category                | Description                              | Budget Agreed Oct 21 | Projected Outturn 21-22 | Proposed Budget 22-23 |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Staff                   | Salaries, NI, Pensions                   | 188,800 <sup>1</sup> | 203,382.62 <sup>2</sup> | 197,900               |
|                         | Travel & Subsistence                     | 1,100                | 333.05                  | 1,100                 |
|                         | Training                                 | 1,500                | 3,391.33 <sup>3</sup>   | 1,500                 |
|                         | <b>Staff Sub-total</b>                   | <b>191,400</b>       | <b>207,107.00</b>       | <b>200,500</b>        |
| Office                  | Repair & Maintenance, Property Charges   | 3,500                | 1777.76                 | 3,500                 |
|                         | Electricity                              | 400                  | 337.99                  | 400                   |
|                         | Misc. Energy Charges                     | 700                  | 206.80                  | 700                   |
|                         | Rent                                     | 3,100                | 2860.00 <sup>4</sup>    | 3,100                 |
|                         | Rates                                    | 2,400                | 2370.25                 | 2,400                 |
|                         | Water Services                           | 100                  | 198.99                  | 100                   |
|                         | Premises Related Insurance               | 400                  | 467.41                  | 500                   |
|                         | Office Equipment                         | 1,000                | 401.57                  | 1,000                 |
|                         | Telephones                               | 900                  | 900.00 <sup>5</sup>     | 900                   |
|                         | <b>Office Sub-total</b>                  | <b>12,500</b>        | <b>9,520.77</b>         | <b>12,600</b>         |
| Communications & Events | Printing & Stationery                    | 600                  | 292.83                  | 600                   |
|                         | Exhibitions & Events                     | 4,600                | 1,009.40 <sup>6</sup>   | 1,600                 |
|                         | Communications & Publicity               | 3,100                | 1,758.32                | 3,100                 |
|                         | <b>Comms. Sub-total</b>                  | <b>8,300</b>         | <b>3,060.55</b>         | <b>5,300</b>          |
| Partnership             | Employee Related Insurances              | 1,200                | 1073.82                 | 1,100                 |
|                         | Repair & Maintenance of Vehicles         | 1,100                | 626.88                  | 1,000                 |
|                         | Petrol & Derv                            | 500                  | 299.39                  | 500                   |
|                         | Vehicle Licences                         | 200                  | 277.5                   | 200                   |
|                         | Transport Related Insurance              | 1,200                | 1217.06                 | 1,200                 |
|                         | Equipment and Tools - General            | 1,000                | 1168.84                 | 1000                  |
|                         | Clothing & Uniforms                      | 300                  | 448.59                  | 300                   |
|                         | Support - Internal Recharges (System)    | 16,300               | 16,300.00               | 16,600                |
|                         | AONB Executive Support                   | 3,900                | 6,736.50                | 3,900                 |
|                         | <b>Partnership Sub-total</b>             | <b>25,700</b>        | <b>28,148.58</b>        | <b>25,800</b>         |
| Programme               | Management Plan Projects <sup>7</sup>    | 47,900               | 59,684.94               | 40,700                |
|                         | LNR Management Programme                 | 6,600                | 7,989.15                | 4,300                 |
|                         | <b>Programmes Sub-total</b>              | <b>54,500</b>        | <b>67,674.09</b>        | <b>45,000</b>         |
| Reserve                 | <b>Contribution to Reserve Sub-Total</b> | <b>2,000</b>         | <b>14,348.39</b>        | <b>2,000</b>          |
| <b>Total</b>            |  | <b>294,400</b>       | <b>329,859.38</b>       | <b>291,200</b>        |

<sup>1</sup> Includes additional 0.4 Countryside Officer (covered by Meadow Makers Project income in 2021/22).

<sup>2</sup> Includes IAS19 Adjustments for pensions.

<sup>3</sup> Includes NAAONB Conference 2022 fees.

<sup>4</sup> April rent (paid in advance) now allocated to 22/23 financial year for more accurate reporting.

<sup>5</sup> To be confirmed.

<sup>6</sup> No Apple Day 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Includes consultants.

## Income

| Category                             | Description                               | Budget Agreed Oct 21 | Projected Outturn 21-22 | Proposed Budget 22-23 |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Government Grants                    | DEFRA                                     | 144,600              | 154,598.00              | 165,800               |
|                                      | LNR Countryside Stewardship (CS)          | 5,100                | 9,613.64 <sup>8</sup>   | 1,800                 |
|                                      | <b>Government Grants Sub-total</b>        | <b>149,700</b>       | <b>164,211.64</b>       | <b>167,600</b>        |
| Contributions from Local Authorities | Cumbria County Council                    | 8,800                | 8,805.00                | 8,800                 |
|                                      | Lancashire County Council                 | 9,000                | 9,000.00                | 9,000                 |
|                                      | LNR Lancashire County Council             | 5,500                | 5,500.00                | 3,300                 |
|                                      | Lancaster City Council                    | 32,600               | 34,400.00               | 39,600                |
|                                      | LNR Lancaster City Council                | -                    | 15,394.25 <sup>9</sup>  | 16,300                |
|                                      | South Lakeland District Council           | 11,500               | 11,500.00               | 11,500                |
|                                      | <b>LAs Sub Total</b>                      | <b>65,400</b>        | <b>84,599.25</b>        | <b>89,600</b>         |
| Parish Council Donations             | Arnside Parish Council                    | -                    | 0 <sup>10</sup>         | -                     |
|                                      | Beetham Parish Council                    | -                    | 700.00                  | -                     |
|                                      | Silverdale Parish Council                 | -                    | 500.00                  | -                     |
|                                      | Yealand Conyers Parish Council            | -                    | 100.00                  | -                     |
|                                      | Yealand Redmayne Parish Council           | -                    | 0 <sup>11</sup>         | -                     |
|                                      | Warton Parish Council                     | -                    | 925.00                  | -                     |
|                                      | <b>Parish Council Donations Sub-Total</b> | <b>-</b>             | <b>2,225.00</b>         | <b>-</b>              |
| Other Income                         | ARETI Grants                              | 15,800               | 15,800.00               | 5,300                 |
|                                      | Meadow Makers (NHLE/Plantlife)            | 23,900               | 26,409.84               | 0                     |
|                                      | LNR Other Income                          | 0                    | 765.21                  | 0                     |
|                                      | Parish Councils & Vol. Days               | 9,500                | -                       | 6,500                 |
|                                      | Volunteer Days                            | -                    | 2,736.67                | 0                     |
|                                      | AONB Other Income (Misc.)                 | -                    | 1,167.74 <sup>12</sup>  | 0                     |
|                                      | Fingerpost Donations                      | -                    | 1,900.00                | 0                     |
|                                      | <b>Other Bodies Sub-Total</b>             | <b>49,200</b>        | <b>48,779.46</b>        | <b>11,800</b>         |
| Feed In Tariff                       | <b>FIT Credits</b>                        | <b>500</b>           | <b>478.79</b>           | <b>500</b>            |
| Reserve                              | <b>Transfer out of Reserve</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>              |
| Recharges                            | <b>FiPL Staff Time Re-charge</b>          | <b>9,500</b>         | <b>12,594.24</b>        | <b>4,400</b>          |
| Host Authority In Kind               | LCiC in kind support                      | 16,300               | 16,300.00               | 16,600                |
|                                      | LCiC Property Services                    | 1,800                | 670.99                  | 1,800                 |
|                                      | <b>HA In Kind Support Subtotal</b>        | <b>18,100</b>        | <b>16,971.00</b>        | <b>18,400</b>         |
| <b>Total</b>                         |   | <b>294,400</b>       | <b>329,859.38</b>       | <b>291,200</b>        |

<sup>8</sup> Warton Crag CS (£3916.25) allocated to 2021/22 budget on accruals in error, shown on this income line for reporting, but showing on LCC Authority Financials as LNR Lancaster City Council contribution. This line also includes CS Education Visits supplement for Trowbarrow and Warton Crag.

<sup>9</sup> Warton Crag Countryside Stewardship income budgeted to 21/22 re-allocated to LNR CS (as above).

<sup>10</sup> Cheque for £350 received in March 2021, allocated to 2021/22, no contribution received as yet during 2022.

<sup>11</sup> E-mailed regarding £200 contribution March 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Includes Plantlife / Meadow Makers contribution to National Meadows Day events. No Apple Day 2021.

| <b>AONB reserve</b>                       | <b>22/23</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Balance as at 31/03/21                    | £52,303.00   |
| Annual budgeted contribution into reserve | £2,000.00    |
| Additional contribution to reserve        | £12,348.39   |
| Less transfer out of reserve              | 0            |
| Projected balance in reserve at 31/03/22  | £66,651.39   |

## Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

### Expenditure

| Category                    | Description                                   | 2021-22 Budget | 2021-22 Projected Outturn | 2022-23 Budget |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Staff                       | Salaries, NI, Pensions                        | 21,300         | 17,556.42                 | 29,400         |
|                             | Travel & Subsistence                          | 500            | 141.75                    | 500            |
|                             | AONB Staff Recharges                          | 9,500          | 12,594.24                 | 4,400          |
|                             | <b>Staffing Costs Sub-total</b>               | <b>31,300</b>  | <b>30,292.41</b>          | <b>34,300</b>  |
| Advice & Guidance and Admin | Office  | 2,400          | 1,502.69                  | 700            |
|                             | Events  | 2,400          | 1,615.79                  | 500            |
|                             | Print & Postage                               | 200            | 573.33                    | 200            |
|                             | Clothing & Uniforms                           | 500            | 243.31                    | 200            |
|                             | Equipment                                     | 1,000          | 1038.53                   | 2,000          |
|                             | <b>Advice, Guidance &amp; Admin Sub Total</b> | <b>6,500</b>   | <b>5,104.48</b>           | <b>3,600</b>   |
| Grants                      | <b>Grants</b>                                 | <b>132,600</b> | <b>55,779.54</b>          | <b>127,200</b> |
|                             | <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>170,400</b> | <b>91,045.60</b>          | <b>165,100</b> |

### Income

| Category          | Description  | 2021-22 Budget | 2021-22 Projected Outturn | 2022-23 Budget |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Government Grants | <b>DEFRA</b> | <b>170,400</b> | <b>91,045.60</b>          | <b>165,100</b> |
|                   | <b>Total</b> | <b>170,400</b> | <b>91,045.60</b>          | <b>165,100</b> |

### Budget Projections (N2000 – Core AONB Budget Only)

|                  | Description                     | Budget<br>2022/2023 | Budget<br>2023/2024 | Budget<br>2024/2025 | Budget<br>2025/2026 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Expenditure      | Staff                           | 190,600             | 208,100             | 218,200             | 228,000             |
|                  | Office                          | 12,600              | 12,600              | 12,700              | 12,700              |
|                  | Partnership                     | 8,200               | 8,200               | 8,200               | 8,200               |
|                  | Programmes                      | 40,000              | 27,700              | 27,700              | 27,700              |
|                  | Communications                  | 5,300               | 5,300               | 5,300               | 5,300               |
|                  | LCC Recharges                   | 16,600              | 16,600              | 16,600              | 16,600              |
|                  | Capital Charges (Notional)      | 4,200               | 4,200               | 4,200               | 4,200               |
|                  | Reserve                         | 2,000               | 2,000               | 2,000               | 2,000               |
|                  | <b>Total Expenditure</b>        | <b>279,500</b>      | <b>284,700</b>      | <b>294,900</b>      | <b>304,700</b>      |
| Income           | Government Grants               | 165,800             | 165,800             | 165,800             | 165,800             |
|                  | Contribs. From Other LAs        | 28,600              | 28,600              | 28,600              | 28,600              |
|                  | Contributions from Other Bodies | 5,300               | 0                   | 0                   | 0                   |
|                  | FIT Credits                     | 500                 | 500                 | 500                 | 500                 |
|                  | Staff Time recharges (LNR/FiPL) | 11,700              | 11,700              | 7,300               | 7,300               |
|                  | Income - General                | 6,500               | 6,500               | 6,500               | 6,500               |
|                  | LCC Contribution                | 17,400              | 17,700              | 18,100              | 18,500              |
|                  | LCC JE staff increases          | 22,200              | 25,400              | 27,000              | 26,600              |
|                  | LCC Support Recharges           | 16,600              | 16,600              | 16,600              | 16,600              |
|                  | LCC Capital charges (notional)  | 4,200               | 4,200               | 4,200               | 4,200               |
|                  | LCC Central property costs      | 700                 | 700                 | 700                 | 700                 |
|                  | LCC Contribution (total)        | 61,100              | 64,600              | 66,600              | 66,600              |
|                  | <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>279,500</b>      | <b>277,700</b>      | <b>275,300</b>      | <b>275,300</b>      |
| <b>Shortfall</b> | <b>0</b>                        | <b>-7000</b>        | <b>-19,600</b>      | <b>-29,400</b>      |                     |

**Arnsdale & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 18.05.22**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**AONB Team work programme update**

**Report prepared by: Lucy Barron (AONB Manager)**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To provide the Committee with an update on the delivery of the AONB work programme**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1) that the Committee notes the report**

**AONB Team work programme update**

Since October 2021, key achievements of the AONB Team include:

**Outstanding landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage**

- We have worked, taking a landscape-scale approach, as a key or supporting partner in projects/steering groups including the Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership, Cumbria and Lancashire Local Nature Partnerships and the Back On Our Map (BOOM) project.
- Support for and participation in activities of National Association for AONBs
- As part of the Undergrounding for Visual Amenity scheme, which involves undergrounding of powerlines for landscape benefit, Electricity Northwest are making good progress with delivery of the 'Warton to Barrow Scout' scheme.
- Participation in the national 'Coastal Cluster' of AONBs, working across the national AONB network on nature recovery.
- The 'Meadow Makers' project funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and led by Plantlife has led to significant habitat restoration of species-rich grassland within the AONB and has now come to an end.
- Ongoing conservation management of Trowbarrow and Warton Crag SSSIs/LNRs via Countryside Stewardship agreements. Preparatory work undertaken and application submitted in April for new Countryside Stewardship agreement for Warton Crag and Trowbarrow.
- Provision of independent landscape-related planning and policy advice to local authorities, including reviewing and making formal responses to planning applications according to an agreed Planning Protocol, and responding to other consultations, as detailed under agenda item 8. Planning Protocol reviewed and updated.

- We have continued to work with Lancaster University to develop a Dark Skies project work. Lancaster University have successfully bid for funding to support Dark Skies monitoring work in the AONB.
- Delivery of AONB Volunteer Programme including practical conservation and enhancement works at key sites across the AONB.
- *Bee on the verge* project progressed with Beetham Parish Council now actively engaged in supporting wildflowers and pollinators in the parish. With help from the AONB volunteers, the verge at Four Lane Ends was dug over and prepared before being sown with locally sourced wildflower seed. The long-term plan is to supplement the seeding with pre grown plugs at the end of the summer when the verge gets cut.
- Native tree nursery continues

### **Vibrant and sustainable communities**

- Provision of bespoke advice and support to landowners and managers on land management practices which help conserve and enhance the landscape and natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- Continued to develop the Farming and Land Management Group to strengthen relationships and provide support and information as we go through the agricultural transition period and prepare for the launch of ELM.
- Successfully delivered first year of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. Five projects funded in 2021/22:
  - 1940 metres of new hedges at Arnside Tower Farm, including planting 100 native hedgerow trees. This will help to accommodate mob grazing, a system of grazing that helps sequester carbon into the soil.
  - A retort for the Coppice Co Op. This machine will be portable and bring less accessible woodlands back into a coppice rotation and ultimately make low emission charcoal and biochar.
  - Infrastructure and equipment to allow more flexible grazing by cattle on Warton Crag and the Black Hedges marsh.
  - Renewal of leaking water tanks for the Landscape Trust to allow grazing animals to continue their conservation grazing.
  - A carbon audit for the Morecambe Bay Conservation Grazing Company. This will help to lead the way for other farmers and landowners to find out more about their own soils and how to increase the carbon content of them.
- Supported social forestry initiative Silverdale District Wood Bank.
- Provided advice and support to partners and Parish Councils to assist with visitor management.
- Development work carried out to plan a Visitor Welcome volunteer programme to launch in 2022.
- The Friends of Warton Crag volunteer group continued to meet monthly. Activities included: grassland and woodland management, drystone walling repairs, visitor management, general maintenance.
- Delivered the AONB Grants Fund - run jointly by the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust, working together to support projects which conserve and enhance the AONB or connect people with the landscape. Grants Fund fully reviewed and new guidance and application form now available.
- Ongoing and continued support for the AONB Landscape Trust and Bittern CIC including early development of an organisational resilience project.
- Delivered the practical AONB Volunteer Programme

## **A strong connection between people and the landscape**

- Preparations to reopen the AONB Info Centre to the public in June following a period of closure due to the pandemic.
- Implemented the AONB Communications Strategy – provided and distributed a range of online, social media and printed communication and information materials. More details under agenda item 7. Used social media to promote the Countryside Code and ‘safety on the sands’ messages to promote responsible tourism
- Continued essential maintenance and warden duties at Warton Crag and Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserves.
- Continued access sponsorship programme to assist with upgrades of waymarker posts.
- Development of a Woodland Oasis outdoor classroom at Trowbarrow LNR, working with Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
- Preparation of an Arnside & Silverdale Geological Story booklet which will outline the geology of the area, telling a story of time, including photographs showing a range of geological features and highlighting some interesting places to visit. Will be available later in 2022.
- Delivery of AONB events programme including relaunch of face to face events, more detail under agenda item 7.
- Delivered programme with the Chadwick Pupil Referral Unit in Lancaster to deliver arts, forest school and outdoor education activities and successfully bid for funding from the Areti Trust to extend this work in 2022. More details in agenda item 7.
- Delivered second project funded by Areti Trust: worked with schools to create artworks inspired by the AONB landscape for Light Up Lancaster event in Nov 2021. More details in agenda item 7.
- Started Walks for All 2022 programme (supported walks suitable for people living with dementia and their carers, and anyone else who needs to support to access the countryside) in August, with weekly walk on Tuesdays. More details in agenda item 7.
- Bittern Award 2021 presented to Back on Our Map project.



## **Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Executive Committee 18.5.2022**

### **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Title of report: Communications and funding work programme update**

**Report prepared by: Caroline Howard, 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 Update**

#### **Social Media & Website**

Current Social Media following is as follows:

Twitter: 4,335 followers (on year increase of 498 followers)

Facebook: 3,252 page followers (increase of 727 followers)

Instagram: 750 followers (increase of 317 followers)

The following streams are set up but not yet in regular use:

YouTube: 16 subscribers (increase of 7 subscribers)

TikTok: 21 followers (increase of 19 followers)

Pinterest: 2 followers (no increase/decrease)

Top posts saw a reach of 13,527 people on facebook and 30,985 impressions on twitter (reach data not available for Instagram).

The website had a reach of a total of 46,052 users (1/4/2021 – 31/3/2022, increase of 9,246 users), with 260,238 page views (increase of 61,005 views).

We are continuing to update the website, including the 'Discover' pages to facilitate and utilise increased online pre-visit searching.

Social media posting has been assisted by volunteers, who contribute content via a SharePoint folder and also use hootsuite (a content management system for various social media streams) to schedule and duplicate posts across platforms.

## Events

During 2021/22 we held the following events:

- National Meadows Day Schools Event (July 2021)
- National Meadows Day Online Event (July 2021)
- National Meadows Day Public Event (July 2021)
- Brunch with Butterflies at Warton Crag (August 2021)
- Bat Walk at Warton Crag (August 2021)
- Volunteer Celebration (December 2022)
- Talking the Landscape: About the AONB (January 2022)
- Talking the Landscape: Woodland Management in the AONB (February 2022)
- Walking the Landscape: The Wells of Silverdale (March 2022)
- Woodland Fun Day (postponed from February 2022, delivered April 2022)

## Walks for All Programme

The Walks for All Programme was re-started during Summer 2021, led by Feleena Taylor and supported by a dedicated volunteer team. The volunteer introduction session held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, and the programme delivered 18 weekly walks throughout the late summer and autumn, with the Christmas Get Together held at the Silverdale Hotel in December. A gathering was held each month during January and February, and the weekly programme resumed 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

A training session was delivered by Dementia Adventure on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, and first aid training was also provided in spring 2022 to ensure a high level of first aid certification within the Walks for All volunteer base.

## Projects

We completed two projects funded by the Areti Trust in Autumn/Winter 2021:

### *Light Up Lancaster with the AONB*

Working with local artists Shane Johnstone and Anna Read, this project brought 120 children from four different schools (two within the AONB, and two outside the AONB) to the Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve, to set them the challenge of creating a mythical creature to live in the reserve. Inspired by a hands-on workshop from the team at Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, the children worked with the artists in school to create sections of a giant serpent; 'The Wyrms of Trowbarrow'. We then attended Light Up Lancaster in November with the children, who paraded the Wyrms around the pedestrianised zone at the centre of the city during the event.

### *Into the Woods with Stomping Ground*

This project brought a small group of young people from Chadwick Pupil Referral Unit into the AONB for a series of sessions in Silverdale, helping them develop their confidence exploring outdoors. They put up shelters and hammocks, created rope swings, lit and cooked over a campfire, made land art sculptures and learned about the wildlife of the area.

Following the success of initial *Into the Woods* pilot we have secured funding from the Areti Trust and are currently delivering a second series of sessions for the summer term.

## Bittern Award

The 2021 Bittern Award was presented to the Back On Our Map (BOOM) Project. Following a press release by BOOM, the award was presented at Gait Barrows with Border TV in attendance on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Communications, Photography & Events Volunteer Programmes**

The Communications Volunteers programme is now well established, with a mailing list of 17 volunteers and monthly meetings in the AONB office or online.

The Photography Volunteers programme now has a mailing list of 15 volunteers, with a regular update with species in season circulated, alongside requests for volunteer photographers at events. One of our photography volunteers produced an excellent short film at the Hedgerow Competition in January.

The Events Volunteer programme has a mailing list of 6 volunteers (with other volunteers also currently assisting with events) and is building slowly as we re-build our events programme.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 18.05.2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Planning protocol and planning 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 and 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 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.

**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 North West Marine Plan and the revised National Planning Policy Framework, and has been updated. The updated Planning Protocol is attached with this report and now requires approval by the Committee.

**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 2021/22 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 2021/22 (to 31/03/2022)

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Arnside                       | 50         |
| Silverdale                    | 38         |
| Beetham                       | 60         |
| Yealand Conyers               | 3          |
| Yealand Redmayne              | 7          |
| Warton                        | 19         |
| <b>Total within AONB</b>      | <b>177</b> |
| Outside AONB                  | 9          |
| <br>                          |            |
| <b>Total no. applications</b> | <b>186</b> |
| <b>Responses submitted</b>    | <b>64</b>  |

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

- 21/01277/FUL - Application for demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached dwelling with associated driveway and patio, erection of a garden shed, and installation of a package treatment plant at Lane East of 61 Stankelt Road, Silverdale - **permitted**
- 22/00235/REM – Reserved matters application for the erection of nine dwellings at Land North of 17 Main Street - **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:

- 20/01349/FUL – Application for erection of a detached dwelling (C3) and creation of a new vehicular access at Land North of 13 Main Street, Warton - **permitted**
- SL/2020/0933 – Application for formation of manege for personal use only (Resubmission SL/2019/0924) at Land near Fell End, Hale Moss - **refused**
- 20/01428/FUL – Application for construction of a manege and creation of temporary storage area at Land adjacent to Fell View Barn, Moss Lane, Yealand Redmayne - **withdrawn**
- 21/00412/FUL – Application for erection of a two-storey detached dwelling and a detached garage with associated access and hardstanding and installation of package treatment plant at 25 Townsfield, Silverdale - **awaiting decision**
- 21/00694/REM – Reserved matters application requesting consideration of scale and appearance for 213 dwellings at Land East of Scotland Road, Carnforth – **permitted**. The proposed house wall red bricks, red roof tiles and red ridge tiles, and red chippings on some external surfaces were removed, and these changes addressed our concerns.
- 21/00552/FUL – Application for erection of dwelling (C3) with associated access and landscaping, re-grading of land and installation of package treatment plant at Land Adjacent, 27A Coach Road, Warton - **permitted**

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

- Lancaster City Council Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan

#### **Other planning related work**

- Attending online to Shoreline Management Plan 22 Protected Sites task group.