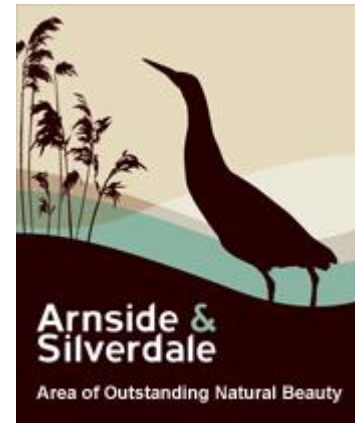


# **Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership**

**Executive Committee meeting**

**2pm, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
Leighton Moss education room**



## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives and election of Chair and Vice Chairs
3. Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022
4. Matters arising
5. AONB Budget 2021/22 Final Outturn and 2022/23 Mid-Year Report (report circulated)
6. AONB Partnership team work programme update (report circulated)
7. Communications work programme update (report circulated)
8. Planning work programme update (report circulated)
9. Discussion topic: A Super National Nature Reserve for the AONB?
10. Discussion topic: AONB Management Plan Review timetable changes
11. Update on the National Association for AONBs
12. Brief updates from partners
13. Any Other Business
14. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Latest 4.30pm finish

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

18/5/2022

Arnside Education Institute

## MINUTES

### Attendees:

#### Members of the Executive Committee:

Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Fiona Allan	Landscape Trust
Sarah Wilson	Natural England
Glen Swainson	Natural England
Liz Cheslett-Davey	Environment Agency
Cllr June Greenwell	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Helen Chaffey	South Lakeland District Council
Dan Taylor	National Trust
Jarrod Sneyd	RSPB
Cllr James Ferguson	Silverdale Parish Council
Julian Oston	Landowner Rep – Dallam Tower Estate
Brian Jones	User Group Rep – Ramblers
Ann Kitchen	Business Rep – BCCIC
Laura Partington	Friends of the Lake District/ CPRE
Craig Russell	Business Rep – Beetham Holiday Homes

#### In Attendance:

Damian Law	Officer Rep – SLDC
Adam Briggs	NFU
Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Dougie Watson	AONB Countryside Officer
Tonia Armer	Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer
Caroline Howard	AONB Communications & Funding Officer (minutes)

#### Apologies

Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Pete McSweeney (Vice Chair)	Cumbria County Council
Sam Stalker	National Trust
Rachel Whaley	Officer Rep – Cumbria County Council
Richard Camp	Officer Rep – Lancaster City Council
Elliott Lorimer	Officer Rep – Lancashire County Council
Helen Rawlinson	AONB Countryside Officer

Belinda Barclay  
Richard Park

Local Nature Reserves Warden  
Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer

### **Did not attend**

David Harpley	Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council
Cllr Iain Harbison	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Cllr Jane Panton	Yealand Conyers Parish Council
Cllr James Keith Halford	Arnside Parish Council
Ailsa Gibson	User Group Rep – Bridleways Association
Joan Jackson	NFU Representative

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone, and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.
- 1.2 The Chair thanked Sue Harrison, Maggie Robinson, Andrew Frankish and Craig Russell, who have stepped down or are stepping down from the AONB Executive Committee.
- 1.3 Sarah Wilson has joined the Executive Committee in place of Maggie Robinson, as a representative for Natural England.
- 1.4 Liz Cheslett-Davey has joined the Executive Committee in place of Andrew Frankish, as a representative for the Environment Agency.
- 1.5 A Business Representative will be advertised for to replace Craig Russell, and a representative for CLA will be proposed by CLA.

### **ACTION: CH to advertise for a new Business Representative.**

### **2. Presentation on the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Volunteer Programme (DW)**

DW gave a summary of recent activities and reported that the programme has been developing well over the last year.

Activities have included:

- management of the Sandside cutting orchid verge,
- management of the historic lime kilns,
- installation and maintenance of footpath waymarkers,
- works on roadside verges (plug planting & seeding) in both Arnside & Beetham,
- coppice works (predominantly at Dobshall Wood),
- pond management in Silverdale,
- hedgelaying,
- fencing,
- making hazel hurdles,
- site management at Ashmeadow,
- hedge planting at Waterslack (200m in a day),
- works on the Local Nature Reserves (Trowbarrow and Warton Crag) – dealing with storm damage and footpath access, ash dieback, making pockets and glades for butterflies, and managing health and safety for public access of the reserve,
- dry stone walling at Hyning Scout Wood,
- creation of wildflower growing nursery at the AONB warehouse.

Voluntary work is providing benefits to local people in terms of getting out into green space, making connections and social interaction. This provides important mental health benefits.

There was a lot of public engagement at the Hedgelaying Competition – over 100 people found out about the competition by engaging with the AONB team & volunteers.

A record 24 volunteers attended the post-Hedgelaying Competition tidy up (the AONB team are not infrequently seeing volunteer numbers of over 15!).

The Litter Pickers are gathering for a monthly litter pick, rotating around the parish. There are 16 volunteers at present and they usually collect ½ trailer of rubbish to take to recycling.

There is a local provenance tree nursery set up at Trowbarrow LNR, being managed by volunteers.

Volunteers have contributed over 2000 hours of time to the programme already this year.

There have been 54 new volunteers inducted, with a more even male/female split.

The AONB is now supporting a wider range of volunteer programmes, including monthly Friends of Warton Crag sessions, weekly Habitat & Access Management sessions, monthly Communications volunteer sessions, a monthly Photography volunteers mailout, regular Events volunteering opportunities and the monthly Litter Pickers sessions.

Friends of Warton Crag has proved successful following on from the Gateway to Warton Crag project. They are meeting each month on a Saturday morning.

CR asked if the wildflower growing be commercialised and sold to the private sector locally to allow people to purchase local seeds (difficult to source otherwise). There would be plenty of interest!

DW responded that current capacity is not likely this year, but going forward, dependent upon resources and funding this could be expanded. The current project is a trial, with seed collected last year as part of Meadow Makers, thanks to a funded project.

The committee applauded the work of the AONB volunteers in the various parishes – their ongoing efforts are much appreciated in conserving and enhancing the AONB.

### **3. Mins of last meeting**

Points of discussion:

6.3 – Silverdale Parish Council have produced a video on Safety on the Sands. However, the Silverdale tide timetable in google can come up with the wrong location. JS and the AONB team had involvement in the video (during the later stages), which was beneficial as it was possible to discourage the use of drone footage and steer the video to use high vantage points and stop motion.

**ACTION: CH to include link to Silverdale tide timetable on web page with the Silverdale Safety Video.**

AK raised a question about the DPD with the change to the new Unitary Authority. The DPD should not be affected. DL confirmed that the plan will remain in place until it is superseded by a replacement document. The new Unitary Authority is likely to adopt the documents adopted by its predecessors (e.g. SLDC) until they are reviewed. The committee agreed that it is important to emphasize the importance of the AONB during this transition.

Minutes approval Proposed – AK

Minutes approval Seconded – FA

#### **4. Budget – Report Circulated**

CH presented the budget report.

Budget approval Proposed – AK

Budget approval Seconded – JS

LB has had a meeting with Cllr Pete McSweeney and agreed a route to take regarding approaching other Local Authorities with regard to future funding. There is a letter being drafted by Lancaster City Council to ask the other Local Authorities to increase their contributions, highlighting the benefits of supporting the AONB and the AONB's work. This is in process.

#### **5. AONB Work Programme Update – Report Circulated**

LB thanked the Committee for support throughout the pandemic.

LB encouraged all Executive Committee members to get in touch with the team at any point to discuss our activities, not just at the Executive Committee Meetings.

Highlights of the Work Programme Update:

- Undergrounding for visual amenity (led by Electricity Northwest) is progressing. There has been a long stretch of line between Warton and Barrow Scout undergrounded for landscape enhancement purposes. The team hope that the long-term benefit will be valued.
- Meadow Makers, a Plantlife-led project funded by the National Lottery's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, has led to habitat restoration of species rich grassland at 11 sites in the AONB. This project has had legacies in terms of the wildflower nursery and engagement with private landowners to be part of a landscape scale approach with the network of habitats across the AONB.
- Bee on the Verge has been working with the Parish Councils in Arnside and Beetham to plant wildflowers in verges in the AONB. The AONB Team would love to work with some of the other parish councils on the project.
- The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme has completed Year 1. This is a National Programme 100% funded by Defra and is being implemented in National Parks and AONBs across the country. The AONB team recruited Tonia Armer and Richard Park in August 2021 to work on the programme, which is now in year 2 of 3. The AONB Team would like to thank Adam Briggs for chairing the assessment panel, and to thank the other panel members for their work in assessing applications. The AONB Team are keen to hear from anybody who has ideas or would like to discuss possible Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme projects.
- The AONB Grants Fund, run jointly with the Landscape Trust, is a small grant for up to £2500. The panel have reviewed the documentation and issued an updated guidance document and application form. A summary of funded projects has also been produced to help promote the grants fund and guide applications.

There was a discussion about carbon auditing within the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme. The team confirmed that they would be interested in supporting further carbon audits and hosting further events to discuss carbon auditing – Defra are keen to support discussion about carbon auditing. It was raised that there is inconsistency in carbon auditing models, depending upon precise location, time of year etc. TA stated that it is likely that there will be guidance from the government soon that will set a standard which everyone should use.

It is important to feed back to Defra that the uncertainty of different processes is impacting the interest in uptake. Carbon Metrics who ran the recent event stated that the precise figures may be variable, but that they do highlight areas for improvement and/or work. Multiyear projects are necessary to see the impact and benefit of carbon auditing. There is a network of Farming in Protected Landscapes Officers to discuss this type of issue.

**ACTION: LB / FiPL Officers to feed this discussion back via the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.**

*CR raised a discussion point regarding Lakeland Wildlife Oasis' planning application.*

CR has been lobbied by Lakeland Wildlife Oasis on a planning issue with their application SL/2021/0647. The AONB Team initially raised some concerns about this application but following amended plans being submitted, responded that concerns had been largely addressed. The decision then sits with SLDC as the relevant local planning authority, and they determine the planning application based on their interpretation of the Local Plan and AONB DPD. It is to be noted that the AONB Team is a consultee in planning, not the decision maker. The AONB rarely 'supports' an application – there are either no concerns, concerns or an objection. In this instance the planning permission was refused by SLDC.

There are key distinctions between the AONB as a designation, the AONB DPD and the AONB Team – SLDC can take a different view from the AONB Team as they have a greater number of issues that must be considered.

Recommended advice for the applicant was given: to discuss the issue direct with the SLDC Planning Officers who can advise them about the decision and what amendments need to be made to their proposal. The AONB Team does not provide that kind of advice to applicants because they are not the decision-making body. HC offered to assist the applicant in contacting the SLDC.

The AONB DPD is an adopted planning policy and is applied in all cases so an application would not be routinely referred to the Planning Committee unless specifically requested by a Local Councillor.

## **6. Communications Report (circulated)**

CH gave an update on Communications and Events in the AONB (report circulated).

Visitor demographic data were discussed; the AONB has access to some demographic data about followers, depending upon the platform. The use of volunteer support for social media posting was discussed, which has been successful largely due to the high competence of Sandy Felton, the primary social media volunteer, and the use of the Hootsuite content management system.

CR asked if the Wyrms of Trowbarrow could be brought to Kendal Torchlight – CH will approach Arnside School to ask if they would like to attend, as they did not attend Light Up Lancaster as a group. The lanterns are still available (although some need repair works).

**ACTION: CH to contact Arnside School / organise taking Wyrms of Trowbarrow to Kendal Torchlight.**

## **7. Planning Protocol Update**

SH presented several amendments to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Planning Protocol (circulated). These were:

Section 2. Additional section on developments in the setting being sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated area

Section 2. Additional policies included regarding the Marine Plan & other policies.

Section 7. addition of 'archaeologists'

Questions:

*SW: Will this be changed if following the Glover Review / Levelling Up Bill etc. impact this?*

Response: Yes

*HC: What constitutes a major development?*

Response: The concept of what is a major development is dealt with in the AONB DPD. LB happy to discuss with HC separately.

*JG: Will there be any change to the DPD following on from this?*

Response: Not from these amendments. When National Policy changes this will need to be taken into account.

RC sent notes in his absence that he is in support of the planning protocol updates.

Planning Protocol approval Proposed – Julian Oston

Planning Protocol approval Seconded – Brian Jones

JS raised that there is a discussion to be had about planning policy and the withdrawal of resources from local authorities (e.g. ecologists) impacting the ability for pragmatic assessments.

## **8. Planning Report (circulated)**

SH gave an update on planning matters in the AONB.

AK stated that it is important to retain a balance between conserving and enhancing the AONB landscape and providing the affordable housing that the area needs. LB confirmed that the DPD strongly advocates for the delivery of the affordable housing that the wider area needs on the small sites within the AONB that are suitable for development.

JG noted that Silverdale Parish Council has identified that holiday rentals are causing loss of local population in the area.

## **9. Partner Updates**

### **GS – Natural England**

At Gait Barrows following the reintroduction of hazel dormouse into the reserve 19 dormice were found during the box checks on the 17/5/2022. A further introduction is planned later in the year.

There is a Festival of National Nature Reserves this year, because the first National Nature Reserves were designated 70 years ago. There will be some events at Gait Barrows – e.g. guided walks.

**ACTION: GS to send information about events at Gait Barrows to AONB to promote.**

The Summerhouse has been restored, and the team will tie re-opening in to 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of national nature reserves. The Cow Barn is due for restoration as a shelter / picnic area. Natural England are considering developing engagement potential at their current reserve base to include toilets, kitchen facilities and possibly a classroom, whilst continuing to including storage facilities for onsite work.

Gait Barrows has been selected as one of the chosen sites for the Queen's Green Canopy – 70 ancient woodland sites are being highlighted. Gait Barrows was first designated for the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

### **RSPB – JS**

The RSPB team have been dealing with incidences of Recreational Disturbance – there are a range of complex issues, many of which are national. LB is on the Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership subgroup on recreational disturbance. There is a project manager within the RSPB doing work on Recreational Disturbance, looking to escalate this nationally with Natural England. There is a need to understand what the impacts are and how we manage the impact. JO stated that Hazelslack Marsh suffers with recreational disturbance. Birders report a substantial reduction of waterfowl and wading birds. Microlites, drones etc. are impacting birds. There needs to be a national conversation about the impact of airspace use on wildlife, especially in Special Protection Areas. There are also issues with sheep worrying and responsible dog ownership.

### **Beetham Holiday Homes - CR**

CR has been on the committee for 16 years as a voice from the private sector and is stepping down from the AONB Executive Committee. He emphasized that it is vital to include the voice from the private sector on the committee, and therefore it is important to recruit a new business representative.

CR also works with the Kendal Torchlight – this year the theme is 'Scrap Legends', and the 2023 theme is 'Beck to Bay'.

### **Landscape Trust – FA**

The Landscape Trust had a face-to-face meeting earlier this month and the AGM is on 20<sup>th</sup> July at the Heron Theatre at Beetham. The Trust has ~960 members at present and a robust group of volunteers happy to do practical tasks but is struggling to attract trustees. The Trust are working closely with the AONB and working to promote the Landscape Trust through social media.

## **10. Glover Review Update – LB**

LB gave an update on the National Landscapes Review. The Review was a 2019 independent review about National Parks and AONB. The Review made a suite of recommendations including strengthening the powers, purposes and resources of AONBs. The government response was given in late 2021, and there was then a government consultation in March / April 2022.

The government are considering changes to statutory purposes of AONBs to give them a greater role in Nature Recovery. This is a longer-term process as it requires legislative change.

One recommendation is to ensure that AONB partnerships have statutory consultee status in planning. Currently AONBs are a consultee, but Natural England are the statutory consultee. This would have a series of implications around resourcing, staffing and relationship with Local Authorities. There are many issues to be considered, but the NAAONB are in principle supportive of this recommendation as long as it comes with the resources required to provide a professional service.

Additionally, AONBs might have a greater role within supporting recreation, although this also needs to be resourced. AONBs are not currently resourced to carry out that type of work.

A further element was to work more closely with Farmers and Landowners. This is starting to come to fruition through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme – the AONB Team hopes to take a greater role with the new Environmental Land Management schemes when they come in (2024). The



relationship building through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is providing a base for this.

There has also been a proposal to rename AONBs as 'National Landscapes'. Defra are currently considering this actively as an option. The NAAONB is making the case that if that was to go ahead it would need to be more than a re-brand / name change. A suite of measures to strengthen AONB would also need to be delivered.

The NAAONB is working with Defra on a daily basis to inform and guide these discussions with lead officers (including LB) taking part in workshops and discussions to inform decision making but there are still a lot of questions.

Questions

*JO: If you are a statutory consultee would you need to respond to each application?*

Response: There may be an agreement as to which kinds of applications the AONB would be responding to. Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Team currently review all applications.

CR raised a concern that if AONBs take on a statutory role they would risk undermining the democratic process. LB stated that the governance process is one of the issues Defra are considering as part of this.

## 11. AOB

As part of upgrading the educational facilities at Trowbarrow LNR there has been some work done on the track. This does not include parking for visitors as there is no vehicle access for the general public.

It was asked whether Morecambe Bay Partnership are part of the AONB Executive Committee. Whilst they are not represented on the Executive Committee, the AONB Team work with them on various forums.

An update was requested on the Arnsdale Viaduct route. Currently there are feasibility works being undertaken to assess options, and a draft report is imminent. Once this comes through it will be available to partners to comment on.

### Table of Actions

Action	Assigned to	Deadline
Advertise for a new Business Representative	CH	Next Meeting
Include link to Silverdale tide timetable on web page with the Silverdale Safety Video.	CH	Next Meeting
Feedback discussion on Carbon Auditing via the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.	TA / RP	Next Meeting
Contact Arnsdale School / organise taking Wym of Trowbarrow to Kendal Torchlight	CH	September
Send information about events at Gait Barrows to AONB to promote.	GS	As Available

**Next Meeting: October 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm**

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 19.10.2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**AONB Budget 2021-22 Final Outturn and 2022-23 Mid-Year Report**

**Report prepared by: Caroline Howard (Funding and Communications Officer)**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

**To provide the Committee with details of the final outturn of 2021-22 AONB budget and current AONB budget for 2022-23**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**Background**

The 2022/23 budget has been revised to take into account of a number of changes and to enable effective delivery of the AONB Business Plan.

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

## Expenditure

Category	Description	2021-22 Budget (Reported May 2022)	2021-22 Outturn	2022-23 Budget (Approved May 2022)	2022-23 Budget (Revised Oct 2022)
Staff	Salaries, NI, Pensions	203,382.62	203382.62 <sup>1</sup>	197,900	207,500
	Travel & Subsistence	333.05	333.05	1,100	1,100
	Training	3,391.33	3391.33	1,500	1,500
	<b>Staff Sub-total</b>	<b>207,107.00</b>	<b>207,107.00</b>	<b>200,500</b>	<b>210,100</b>
Office	Repair & Maintenance etc.	1777.76	1777.76	3,500	3,500
	Electricity	337.99	337.99	400	400
	Misc. Energy Charges	206.80	206.80	700	700
	Rent	2860.00	2860.00 <sup>2</sup>	3,100	3,100
	Rates	2370.25	2370.25	2,400	2,400
	Water Services	198.99	198.99	100	100
	Premises Related Insurance	467.41	467.41	500	500
	Office Equipment	401.57	401.57	1,000	1,000
	Telephones	900.00	927.03	900	900
	<b>Office Sub-total</b>	<b>9,520.77</b>	<b>9,547.80</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>12,600</b>
Communications & Events	Printing & Stationery	292.83	292.83	600	600
	Exhibitions & Events	1,009.40	1009.40	1,600	1,600
	Communications & Publicity	1,758.32	1758.32	3,100	3,100
	<b>Comms. Sub-total</b>	<b>3,060.55</b>	<b>3,060.55</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,300</b>
Partnership	Employee Related Insurances	1073.82	1073.82	1,100	1,100
	Repair & Maintenance of Vehicles	626.88	626.88	1,000	1,000
	Petrol & Derv	299.39	299.39	500	500
	Vehicle Licences	277.5	277.50	200	200
	Transport Related Insurance	1217.06	1217.06	1,200	1,200
	Equipment and Tools - General	1168.84	1168.84	1000	1000
	Clothing & Uniforms	448.59	448.59	300	300
	Support - Internal Recharges (S)	16,300.00	16300.00	16,600	16,600
	AONB Executive Support	6,736.50	6736.50	3,900	3,900
	<b>Partnership Sub-total</b>	<b>28,148.58</b>	<b>28,148.58</b>	<b>25,800</b>	<b>25,800</b>
Programme	Management Plan Projects <sup>3</sup>	59,684.94	59684.94	40,700	69,900
	LNR Management Programme	7,989.15	7989.15	4,300	4,300
	LNR Trowbarrow Interpretation	-	-	4,200	4,200
	<b>Programmes Sub-total</b>	<b>67,674.09</b>	<b>67,674.09</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>78,400</b>
Reserve	<b>Contribution to Reserve Sub-Total</b>	<b>14,348.39</b>	<b>14,321.36</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>329,859.38</b>	<b>329,859.38</b>	<b>291,200</b>	<b>334,200</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes IAS19 Adjustments for pensions.

<sup>2</sup> April rent (paid in advance) now allocated to 22/23 financial year for more accurate reporting.

<sup>3</sup> Includes consultants.

## Income

Category	Description	2021-22 Budget (Reported May 2022)	2021-22 Outturn	2022-23 Budget (Approved May 2022)	2022-23 Budget (Revised Oct 2022)
Government Grants	DEFRA	154,598.00	154,598.00	165,800	165,800
	LNR Countryside Stewardship	9,613.64	9,613.64 <sup>4</sup>	1,800	2,800
	<b>Government Grants Sub-total</b>	<b>164,211.64</b>	<b>164,211.64</b>	<b>167,600</b>	<b>168,600</b>
Contributions from Local Authorities	Cumbria County Council	8,805.00	8,805.00	8,800	8,800
	Lancashire County Council	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000	9,000
	LNR Lancashire County Council	5,500.00	5,500.00	3,300	5,600
	Lancaster City Council	32,400.00	32,400.00	37,600	37,600
	LNR Lancaster City Council	15,394.25	15,394.25 <sup>5</sup>	16,300	16,300
	South Lakeland District Council	11,500.00	11,500.00	11,500	11,500
	Parish Council Donations	2,225.00	2,225.00	-	-
	<b>LA's Sub Total</b>	<b>84,599.25</b>	<b>84,599.25</b>	<b>89,600</b>	<b>88,800</b>
Other Income	ARETI Grants	15,800.00	15,800.00	5,300	31,200
	Meadow Makers (NHLF/Plantlife)	26,409.84	26,409.84	0	9,600
	LNR Other Income	765.21	765.21	0	4,200
	Parish Councils & Vol. Days	-	-	6,500	6,500
	Volunteer Days	2,736.67	2,736.67	-	-
	AONB Other Income (Misc.)	1,167.74	1,167.74 <sup>6</sup>	-	-
	Fingerpost Donations	1,900.00	1,900.00	-	-
	<b>Other Bodies Sub-Total</b>	<b>48,779.46</b>	<b>48,779.46</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>51,500</b>
Feed In Tariff	<b>FIT Credits</b>	<b>478.79</b>	<b>478.79</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
Reserve	<b>Transfer out of Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Recharges	<b>FiPL Staff Time Re-charge</b>	<b>12,594.24</b>	<b>12,594.24</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>
Host Authority In Kind	LCiC in kind support	16,300.00	16,300.00	16,600	16,600
	LCiC Property Services	671.00	671.00	1,800	1,800
	<b>HA In Kind Support Subtotal</b>	<b>16,971.00</b>	<b>16,971.00</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>18,400</b>
Reserves	<b>LCiC Contribution to Reserves</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>329,859.38</b>	<b>329,859.38</b>	<b>291,200</b>	<b>334,200</b>

<sup>4</sup> Warton Crag CS (£3916.25) allocated to 2020/21 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>5</sup> Warton Crag Countryside Stewardship income budgeted to 20/21 re-allocated to LNR CS (as above).

<sup>6</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 01/04/22	£66,624.36
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	£2,000
Less transfer out of reserve	0
Projected balance in reserve at 01/04/23	£68,624.36

## Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

### Expenditure

Category	Description	2021-22 Budget (Reported May 2022)	2021-22 Outturn	2022-23 Budget (Approved May 2022)	2022-23 Budget (Revised Oct 2022)
Staff	Salaries, NI, Pensions	17,556.42	17,556.42	29,400	30,000
	Travel & Subsistence	141.75	141.75	500	500
	AONB Staff Recharges	12,594.24	12,594.24	4,400	4,400
	<b>Staffing Costs Sub-total</b>	<b>30,292.41</b>	<b>30,292.41</b>	<b>34,300</b>	<b>34,900</b>
Advice & Guidance and Admin	Office	1,502.69	1,502.69	700	100
	Events	1,615.79	1,615.79	500	500
	Print & Postage	573.33	573.33	200	200
	Clothing & Uniforms	243.31	243.31	200	200
	Equipment	1038.53	1038.53	2,000	2,000
	<b>Advice, Guidance &amp; Admin Sub Total</b>	<b>5,104.48</b>	<b>5,104.48</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Grants	<b>Grants</b>	<b>55,779.54</b>	<b>55,779.54</b>	<b>127,200</b>	<b>127,200</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>165,100</b>	<b>165,100</b>

### Income

Category	Description	2021-22 Budget (Reported May 2022)	2021-22 Outturn	2022-23 Budget (Approved May 2022)	2022-23 Budget (Revised Oct 2022)
Government Grants	<b>DEFRA</b>	<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>165,100</b>	<b>165,100</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>91,045.60</b>	<b>165,100</b>	<b>165,100</b>

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 20.10.21**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**AONB Partnership team work programme update**

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

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**AONB Partnership team work programme update**

Since April 2022, key achievements of the AONB Partnership team include:

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

- Worked, taking a landscape-scale approach, as a key or supporting partner, in numerous partnerships/projects notably Cumbria, Lancashire and Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnerships, Warton Mires project, Back on Our Map (BOOM), Eco-CoBS project and Becks to Bay Catchment Partnership.
- Facilitated partnership meeting regarding management of Sandside Cutting Local Geological Site, undertaking subsequent management actions.
- Continued to support Hazel Dormouse and Green-winged Orchid species reintroductions in the AONB as part of the BOOM project.
- Supported Electricity North West with overhead wires undergrounding project. Undergrounding scheme at Warton Barrow Scout completed in summer 2022.
- Participated in preparation work for both Lancashire and Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Completed and finalised the *Meadow Makers* project funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and led by Plantlife; this project has undertaken activities to conserve and enhance 11 species-rich grassland sites in the AONB. Initial work has been undertaken on a follow up project working on 8 fields totalling 9ha across the AONB. Further conversations have also been held with another 4 farmers and landowners managing 6 fields totalling 6.4ha, which have been put forward for a Cumbria Wildlife Trust led project 'Networks for Nature – Coast to Fells'.
- Ongoing direct conservation management of Trowbarrow and Warton Crag SSSIs (in part via delivery of Countryside Stewardship agreement) to maintain favourable condition status. Countryside Stewardship Implementation Plan completed for both sites. Worked closely with Natural England advisor to prepare and submit new multi-site Countryside Stewardship agreement to secure management of both these sites for a further 5 years.

- Carried out a programme of habitat management on key sites across the AONB including roadside verge enhancement, control of invasive species, species monitoring and species-rich grassland enhancement via the AONB Volunteer Programme.
- 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. 87 planning applications reviewed, with 43 formal responses submitted. Also, formal response submitted to consultation on the Westmorland & Furness Council Plan, the new unitary authority in Cumbria.
- In formal responses to 17 planning applications raised awareness of the importance of heritage assets (NDHA, Scheduled monuments and Listed buildings).
- Provided ongoing advice and support regarding landscape management to a wide range of landowners, farmers, residents and partners.
- Continuation of a Dark Skies project in conjunction with Lancaster University.
- Continued development work with Natural England and other partners on development of an Arnside & Silverdale Super National Nature Reserve.
- Continuation of AONB native tree nursery project, growing local provenance oak, elm, crab apple and rowan trees. A water retention facility has been created, alongside additional growing space and a sustainable compost source.
- Established an AONB Wildflower Nursery to collect local provenance seed and grow plug plants to assist with meadows restoration and verge enhancement, growing over 3000 plug plants.
- Progressing the *Bee on the Verge* project with enhancement for pollinators on 8 sites in Arnside, Beetham and Yealand parishes including providing advice on mowing regimes, seed collection and sowing, cutting and strewing 'green hay', fundraising, ground preparation and plug planting.
- Participation in and active support for activities of the National Association for AONBs, including being a host AONB for the National Conference in Lancaster in September 2022.
- Collaboration with other AONBs and National Parks on a wide range of work areas.
- Various work to address issues around recreational disturbance along the coast affecting Morecambe Bay SSSI.
- Supporting butterfly transect monitoring, working with Butterfly Conservation.

### **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.
- Publication and circulation of local farming and land managers newsletter *Land Matters* Editions 3 & 4, including an issue with a focus on Catchment Sensitive Farming, Sustainable Farming Incentive and the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.
- Ongoing administration and delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, approving 9 grant applications so far in Year 2.
- Participation at the Westmorland Show to promote the work of the AONB Partnership and the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
- Supported social forestry initiative Silverdale District Wood Bank.
- Provided advice and support to partners through the Visitor and Access Management Group, bringing together land managers and other stakeholders to address issues concerning visitor welcome, visitor behaviour and barriers to access.
- Supporting Silverdale Parish Council with community-led Transport and Access working group aiming to address issues around parking, disabled access, and connectivity of routes
- Establishment of new Visitor Welcome Volunteer scheme for the AONB.
- Working with Lancashire County Council to continue AONB Partnership management of the Warton Crag Quarry Local Nature Reserve and car park site, a key arrival point for the AONB.
- 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. One project, installing a stone plinth for the display of an interpretation panel on a local historic feature, has been successfully completed, and there are several potential applicants being supported in developing grant applications.



- Ongoing and continued support for the AONB Landscape Trust and Bittern Countryside CIC.
- Delivery of Bittern Sustainable Schools Programme with Bittern Countryside CIC, including working with schools to develop forest school activities and supporting sustainable energy practices within the schools themselves.
- Delivered the practical AONB Volunteer Programme (including Habitat & Access Management Group weekly tasks and Friends of Warton Crag monthly tasks) throughout April – Sept 2022, facilitating a total of 49 volunteering events and activities. A total of 2322 hours of volunteer time have been contributed since April 2022. 10 new volunteers have been inducted, and 2 volunteers completed chainsaw refresher training.
- Delivered 8 AONB litter picks across the area, with volunteers contributing a total of 268 hours of time to support litter picks.
- Supported Communications Volunteers, Visitor Welcome Volunteers and Photography volunteers to offer a wider range of volunteer activities. These volunteers have contributed over 170 hours of time since April 2022.
- Presentation of the Bittern Award to recognise outstanding contribution to AONB, the award being presented at the national conference.
- Wildlife survey for the National Tick Survey, supporting public health programmes supporting safe access to the outdoors.

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

- Continued implementation of the AONB Communications Strategy – provided and distributed a range of online, social media and printed communication and information materials.
- Produced 3 e-newsletters, providing updates on the AONB team's activities, information about local 'species in season' and promoting events.
- Updated information on our website to highlight local walks and nature reserves and provide additional useful information for visitors to the AONB.
- Increased following on social media. We now have 4,453 followers on Twitter, 3,436 followers on Facebook, 837 followers on Instagram and 1,525 subscribers to our e-newsletter.
- Ongoing operation of the AONB Information Centre at Arnside Station.
- Addressing issues around responsible behaviour in the countryside used social media to promote the Countryside Code.
- Continued essential maintenance and warden duties at Warton Crag, Warton Crag Quarry and Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserves.
- Delivery of Dementia-friendly Walks for All Programme – a programme of weekly supported walks in different locations across the AONB, from April – Sept 2022.
- Delivered a Meadows Day celebration as part of a BioBlitz event at Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve, with a 24-hour wildlife survey onsite and public engagement activities.
- Delivered an AONB events programme including 3 *Walking the Landscape* events, with a total of 35 participants, a Bat Walk at Warton Crag with 30 participants, two *Explore the Landscape* events at the historic garden at Mawsons with 40 participants and a *Marvellous Moth Morning* for families at Warton Crag with 15 attendees. We also joined in with the Cross Bay Walk on the 8<sup>th</sup> August as a celebratory event for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, joined by volunteers and other stakeholders.
- Continued the Waymarking the AONB programme, installing 7 waymarkers within the AONB.
- Successful delivery of Summer 2022 *Into the Woods* project funded by Areti Trust to increase involvement of children and young people in the outdoors and nature. Successful launch of 2022/23 full year *Into the Woods* Project with Stomping Ground CIC, bringing students from Chadwick Pupil Referral Unit into the AONB for a weekly session throughout Autumn and Summer terms in the 2022/23 academic year.
- Establishment of Woodland Oasis outdoor classroom at Trowbarrow, working with Lancashire Wildlife Trust. This site has been used for forest school workshops with both school groups and young people outside of school (DirtWorks sessions), and as a venue for forest school leader training and assessment. Two AONB staff members attended the forest school training and are working towards certification.
- Hosted 2 school visits to Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve and one to Warton Crag Local Nature Reserve, as well as 12 forest school sessions at the Woodland Oasis. Hosted an activity for 24 children from Storth School to plant wildflower plus as part of the *Bee on the Verge* project.

- Undertaking preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, including a celebratory dinner and awards ceremony.
- Established a peregrine survey volunteer group, to monitor populations and potential breeding activity at Warton Crag, and enabling positive communications with the British Mountaineering Club.
- Working with landowners and partners to develop options for projects to improve access to the countryside.
- Editing a Geological Story booklet and liaising with the graphic designer to develop the product to increase engagement with the geology of the AONB.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 19.10.2022**

**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: 4,467

Facebook: 3,492 followers

Instagram: 843 followers

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

YouTube: 15 subscribers

TikTok: 35 followers

Pinterest: 2 followers

Top posts saw a reach of 26,952 impressions on facebook, 5,071 impressions on twitter, 1,002 impressions on Instagram.

Since April 2022, the website had a reach of a total of 23,238 users (1/4/2022 – 30/9/2022), with 115,976 page views.

We are continuing to update the website, including the 'Discover' pages to facilitate and utilize 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**

Since April 2022 we have hosted the following events:

- *Woodland Fun Day* (postponed from February 2022, delivered April 2022)

- *Walking the Landscape: Limestone Heritage Trail* (May 2022)
- *Walking the Landscape: The Orchids of Arnside* (June 2022)
- *National Meadows Day BioBlitz* at Trowbarrow (July 2022)
- *Explore the Landscape: Mawsons* (2 sessions in July, 2 sessions October 2022)
- *Cross Bay Walk* with AONB Stakeholders & Volunteers (August 2022)
- *Bat Walk* at Trowbarrow (August 2022)
- *Marvellous Moth Morning* at Warton Crag (August 2022)
- *Walking the Landscape: The Fairy Steps* (August 2022)

The *Walking the Landscape: Historic Warton* walk had to be rescheduled to next year as it was originally scheduled for mid-September 2022.

### **Walks for All Programme**

The *Walks for All* Programme has continued to run throughout the year, led by Feleena Taylor and supported by a dedicated volunteer team. This year the group have been delighted to be able to attend RSPB Leighton Moss and even make use of their pond dipping equipment. We are currently discussing options for a *Forest Schools for All* session at Trowbarrow LNR.

### **Projects**

#### *Into the Woods with Stomping Ground*

Following the success of initial *Into the Woods* pilot with Chadwick Pupil Referral Unit, we secured funding from the Areti Trust to deliver a summer term programme in May and June 2022 and a full year programme which has just welcomed the students into the AONB for their first sessions. Students learn to put up shelters and hammocks, create rope swings, learn to light and cook over a campfire, make land art sculptures and learn about the wildlife of the area.

#### *Bittern Sustainable Schools (with BCCIC)*

We have been working with the Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company to develop a programme within the AONB to encourage our local schools to promote sustainable behaviours (and appreciation of the landscape) and increase their own sustainability measures. Current progress includes:

- Delivering a workshop for Beetham School on sustainability (facilitated by Larksfoot CIC).
- Commissioning Larksfoot CIC to develop a workshop on climate change and light pollution, focusing on moths. This workshop will be offered to the 6 primary schools in the AONB.
- Donating AONB wildlife atlases to all 6 local schools.
- Creating a child friendly moth trap ID guide, tailored to the AONB.
- Purchasing forest school equipment for use at Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve.
- Supporting forest school sessions for Silverdale School.
- Investigating options to support Arnside National School in acquiring solar panels (awaiting final quotes).
- Investigating options to support Archbishop Hutton School in improving their pond (awaiting final quotes).
- Investigating options to support LED lighting projects at Beetham School and Yealand School.

### **Bittern Award**

The 2022 Bittern Award was presented to Brian Meakin at the National Association of AONBs Conference in September. A press release will be going out shortly.

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

The Communications Volunteers programme continues to flourish, 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 16 volunteers, with plans to establish a regular meeting for these volunteers in the new year.

The Events Volunteer programme has a mailing list of 8 volunteers (with other volunteers also currently assisting with events), who have been out to assist with events such as the *Walking the Landscape* guided walks.

### **NAAONBs Conference 2022**

In September we supported the National Association of AONBs in hosting the National Conference at Lancaster University. As one of the Northern AONB we were one of the conference hosts, and the team took on various responsibilities, from welcoming delegates to roving mic duty.

We also facilitated several events and activities as part of the conference:

- We delivered a 'pub quiz' style event at the first night dinner, celebrating 50 years of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB. Delegates even had to make an origami bittern sculpture!
- Caroline facilitated two workshops on how to make a TikTok video.
- We hosted delegates on two separate field trips – one themed around Nature & Heritage and one themed around Audiences.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
Executive Committee 19.10.2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**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 Partnership team on behalf of the AONB Executive Committee

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(1)** that the Committee notes the report on planning work

**Introduction**

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and development management and planning are a key element in achieving this.

**Background**

The AONB Executive Committee is a consultee on planning matters, both planning policy and planning applications; it is not a decision maker. Planning decisions are made by the relevant local planning authority.

Planning policies for AONBs are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. AONB designation and the AONB Management Plan are material considerations in the planning process. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

**Planning applications**

All planning applications within the AONB are reviewed and also any applications outside, but potentially impacting on, the AONB. Records are kept of all applications reviewed by the AONB Team and the responses made.

A summary is given below of the total number of applications reviewed in 2022/23 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 2022/23 (to 30/09/2022)

Arnside	20
Silverdale	17
Beetham	32
Yealand Conyers	3
Yealand Redmayne	3
Warton	11
<b>Total within AONB</b>	<b>86</b>
Outside AONB	3
<b>Total no. applications</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Responses submitted</b>	<b>43</b>

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 5 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- 21/00899/HYB – Land between Brewers Barn and the A601 (M), North Road, Carnforth – **awaiting decision**
- 22/00106/DIS – Formed Walled Garden, Ridgeway Park, Silverdale - **awaiting decision**
- **22/01080/RCN** – 35A Lindeth Road, Silverdale - **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:

- 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**
- 22/00235/REM – Reserved matters application for the erection of nine dwellings at Land North of 17 Main Street - **permitted**

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

- Met online with Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council (Richard Camp and Damian Law) to review planning matters relevant to the AONB (design guidance, ways of increasing awareness of AONB DPD, timber cladding).
- Westmorland & Furness Council Plan consultation.
- Natural England updating the Protocol between Natural England and A&S AONB.
- Informal consultation about a planning proposal at Sandside on a site allocation in AONB DPD.