

North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

30th September 2014

North Devon golf Club, Northam.

Meeting attendees

Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman)
Cllr. Gaye Tabor (TDC)
Lesley Garlick (DCC)
Cllr. Derrick Spear (North Devon Plus)
Hannah Harrington (NDC)
Paula Ferris (Coastwise North Devon)
Richard Butler (Community Rep.)
Alasdair Barclay (TTEF)
Richard Dyer (NFU)
Alison Boyle (Community Rep)
Cllr. Rodney Cann (NDC)
Caroline Leaver (Community Rep)
Rose Day (Community Rep.)
Richard Prowse (Tarka Country Trust)
Jonathan Fairhurst (NT)
Paul Green (Community Rep)
Jenny Carey-Wood (ND+)
Brett Grosvenor (Environment Agency)

Officers

Dave Edgcombe (AONB Project Officer)
Natalie Gibb (Clean Marine)
Elaine Hayes (AONB Manager)
Gigha Klinkenborg (Admin)

Apologies

Pete Burgess (DWT)
Michael Winter (BR Partnership Chairman)
Hon. John Rous (CLA)
Cllr Robin Julian (DCC)
Andy Bell (ND Biosphere)
Charlotte Russell (EH)
Terry Green (Community Rep)
Lee Dawson (Forestry Commission)
Cllr. Andrea Davis (ENP)
David Appleton (NE)

Barbara Fryer (Community Rep.)
Kate Little

Action/ Decision

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Alison Boyle back to the Partnership as a community member. Cllr. Brian Redwood has now stepped down from the Partnership, Cllr. Gaye Tabor remains as TDC representative. The Chairman also welcomed Natalie Gibb, as our new Clean Marine officer, to her first meeting. He thanked Richard Dyer for hosting the previous meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising:

The minutes were amended to include Paul Green and agreed. LG updated the Partnership members on the Biosphere Review. Of the 12 options being considered, it was agreed that there would be a further investigation of external partnerships option which was considered the most favourable. The AONB remains an independent body.

Election of Rose Day as Vice Chairman

Rose has been acting Vice Chairman for the previous twelve months. The Chairman proposed that she be appointed as Vice Chairman and this was supported unanimously.

3. AONB Manager's Report (incl. SDF)

Taken as read. EH gave a presentation on projects, including SDF. The North Devon Show was a very successful event for both the AONB and the

Biosphere teams. The targets set for the show were all met or exceeded.

We have produced a North Devon Map which highlights the special qualities of the AONB.

The Explore the Coast website is getting a facelift and simplified menus and drop-down lists.

Projects:

- The Greater Horseshoe Bat (GHB) project is still looking for landowners to allow placement of detectors.
- North Devon Aquaculture Centre (NDAC) – project starts in October.
- CaBA – The North Devon Catchment (Catchment 48) is working together on statutory targets more efficiently – Alison asked that the purpose and aim be clarified: *To deliver the Water Framework directive to the benefit of everyone with the least cost.*
- Seascape Assessment – in partnership with Plymouth University and Exmoor National Park
- Combe Woods – lots of small woodlands at present without a management regime, Chrissie and Dave working on submission to HLF.
- Tranquillity Map – Cranbourne Chase AONB have developed a new methodology that is a series of simple tick sheets. Elaine is looking at putting a project together to implement this methodology. Hopefully it will encourage more people to go out and experience the AONB.

4. Management Plan Monitoring

The enclosed colour-coded A3 sheet is designed to be easy to read and print on just one sheet. Progress will be highlighted in bold. Agencies are asked to feed into this. Transport and Highways is the largest gap.

Planning Update

5. Dave presented his planning report. He expressed thanks to Cllrs. Gaye Tabor and Alison Boyle for their strong support in objecting to the Route 39 Academy.

RD was asked to write to the NAAONB - possible conflict of policies between Protected Landscape Policy and Education Policy. She will report back.

GT asked if the Route 39 Academy had contacted the NIA – they hadn't. There are conflicting statements from the school as the site is home to 17 species of bat. They want to use the school as a community building for all kinds of activities outside of school hours and they also state that the bats will not be affected as the school will be in darkness!

Fighting the appeal will have serious resource implications for the AONB.

Paula offered help to strengthen the AONB case – Any help is very much appreciated.

6. CIC Proposal

Taken as read –

This will offer greater flexibility in

- who we can apply to for funding
- help when dealing with smaller amounts of money
- will be a gateway for selling AONB items

Surrey Hills AONB has already created their own CIC. LG felt that a fully justified case needs to be made for the benefits of establishing a CIC to deliver AONB objectives. She explained that DCC did have systems in place that could address some of the issues raised. She suggested that should the Partnership wish to pursue establishing such a vehicle then the recommendation should be to endorse the principle and agree to further investigations taking on advice from the host authority as to the appropriate mechanisms to achieve the desired aims.

Proposal - Creating a CIC in principle – RD proposed, seconded by RC. 1 abstention – all others in favour.

7. NAAONB Update.

An update has been circulated to Partnership members.
The funding disparity between National Parks and AONB is not clear.

8. MOA Update

The current MOA expires in March 2015. Defra have indicated that they will not sign up to a new MOA. There is concern about the transfer of redundancy liability to the host authority. DCC are looking to develop a local MOA. There will be a meeting between Defra, LAs and NAAONB.
There is no longer a Scilly Isles AONB unit.

Clean Marine

9. Natalie gave a presentation

AOB

10. None.

DONM

11. Gigha will send out Doodle polls for all next year's meetings. The January partnership is likely to be at the Civic Centre.

