

# **Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Partnership Panel Meeting  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
**East Knoyle Village Hall**  
9.30am for a 10.00 start**

**MINUTES**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Zam Baring	Vice Chairman	√	
Cllr Barbara Manuel	East Dorset District Council		√
Gary Foyle/Wilbert Smith	EDDC Officer		√
Cllr Dick Skidmore	Mendip District Council		
Robert Palmer	MDC Officer		√
Cllr Audrey Burch	North Dorset District Council		
Cllr Catherine Langham	North Dorset District Council	√	
Hilary Jordan	NDDC Officer	√	
Cllr Edward Heron	New Forest District Council		
Martin Peacock	NFDC Officer		
Cllr Lucy Wallace	South Somerset District Council		
Katy Menday	SSDC Officer		
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe	Wiltshire Council	√	
Cllr Bridget Wayman	Wiltshire Council	√	
Cllr Jose Green	Wiltshire Council		√
Richard Broadhead	Wiltshire Officer	√	
Cllr Steve Butler	Dorset County Council		
Cllr Mervyn Jeffery	Dorset County Council SUB		
Phil Sterling/Ed Gerry	DCC Officer		√
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine	Hampshire County Council		
Garry King	HCC Officer		√
Cllr William Wallace	Somerset County Council		
Barry James	Somerset C C Officer		
Susan Batstone	Natural England		√
Ian Briscoe	Forestry Commission		
Alistair Fitzgerald	NFU / Farmer		√
Phil Matthews	Wiltshire Association of Town & Parish Councils		
Mike Jones	Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils	√	
Vacant	Historic England		
Paul Cottington	National Farmers Union		

Francis Taylor		Campaign to Protect Rural England		√
Gavin Fauvel		Chair of Land Managers Advisory Forum		√
Vacant		Chair of Planning & Transportation Topic Group /		
Vacant		Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust		
<b>AONB Team</b>		<b>Position</b>		
Linda Nunn	FT	AONB Director		√
David Blake	FT	Project Development Officer	√	
Anne Carney	PT	Funding / Partnership Officer	√	
Richard Burden	PT	Landscape and Planning Advisor	√	
Tracy Adams	PT	Farmland Conservation Officer	√	
Harry Bell	PT	GIS Officer		
Shirley Merrick	PT	Team Support Officer		√
Julie Harding	PT	Communications Officer	√	

Robert Palmer has replaced David Clark of Mendip District Council as their representative on the Panel.

## 1. WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Zam Baring (ZB), Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Zam gave the very sad news of the death of our Chairman Michael Mounde and the details of the funeral arrangements.

ZB discussed the challenging year the AONB team has endured with staff sickness, and the changes within the team. Ruth Coulthard was seconded in from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to take forward the Dark Night Skies project. LN and AC's hard work in being awarded The Heritage Lottery Fund for the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

### ACTION 1

1. ZB noted that the 'value for money' figures should have been circulated to show how well the AONB is doing with the Local Authority partners' contributions. Linda Nunn has detailed the methodology of her figures, but ZB will add to this and circulate to Panel members.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AND MATTERS ARISING

### ACTION 2

1. No matters arising.
2. ZB signed off the minutes at the end of the meeting.

### 3. REPORT A – AONB BUDGET UPDATE - 2016/17

**Purpose:** To inform the Panel of 2016-17 budget expenditure to date.

ZB reported that the total expenditure in the AONB Project Budget 2016-17 (sent out as Report A) was incorrect and should read £21,242. Monies remaining is £1,812.

Additionally ZB told members that the salary, travel and training budget will be spent in the final three months of the financial year, as will the 'other core costs', provided all invoices are received as expected.

He discussed team issues, including Linda Nunn's absence, Shirley Merrick taking on the team's finance role and the new appointment of a Communications Officer to raise the profile of the AONB.

The appointment of an HLF funded Development Officer for the Landscape Partnership Scheme, has led to more office space being needed. This has been negotiated at the Wimborne office site, with space for 2-3 people and potential meeting space at only a small increase in monthly rental. The office remains very economical for the team.

Six projects have been ongoing, with any remaining monies fully spent by 31 March 2017. Projects include:

- Sustainable Rural Tourism – the Taste the Chase event may, due to various factors, be rearranged for later in the year;
- International Dark Sky Reserve Bid – Ruth Coulthard has been seconded from Brecon Beacons NPA to progress the project, including vital work on the Lighting Management Plan. Linda Nunn and Richard Burden will lead on training for light pollution issues via the planning system;
- Landscape Partnership Scheme – money has been spent on developing the bid during 2016-17;
- Foundations of Archaeology – funded by AONB project match funding and HLF grant monies. The HLF grant is £66,600 and not as originally circulated. The project has been extended to 31 March 2018.
- Landscapes in Planning – a booklet produced by Fiona Fyfe.  
[http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/uploads/docs/Planning/FactSheet9\\_LCANeighbourhoodPlanning.pdf](http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/uploads/docs/Planning/FactSheet9_LCANeighbourhoodPlanning.pdf)
- Local Initiative Fast Track (LIFT), project funds to encourage woodland owners to attend a demonstration day.

Monies have been allocated for work to take forward the Countryside Centre.

The Sustainable Development Fund (£4,000) has allocated

- £550 to Sutton Veny History Project for the production of a book
- £200 to the Maiden Bradley Community Shop
- £1,590 for the River Allen Crayfish Project
- £1,660 to the Cecil Memorial Hall in Cranborne.

The AONB 2017-18 grant bid to DEFRA was submitted by the end of the January 2017 deadline. The AONB has been informed of its grant allocation until 2020, with £212,974 available for 2017/18.

Local Authority contributions are slightly lower than figures provided at the last Panel meeting. Total LA contributions are £61,817.70.

Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe from Wiltshire Council noted that WC has a statutory duty to fund the AONB, and has put in significant funds already. With no increase in the contribution WC would just be able to maintain what it already contributes. Richard Broadhead said that WC contributions come from the rights of way budget, but this is being cut year on year. It was mentioned that some local authorities charge a hosting fee.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
1. The Panel notes the final expenditure during 2016-17 in core, project and SDF budgets.
2. The Panel notes the 2017-18 proposed Local Authority contributions in the Partner Agreement.

#### **4. REPORT B – DELIVERY PLAN AND TEAM WORK UPDATE**

**Purpose** To inform the Panel on progress on the Delivery Plan and of work undertaken by the team since the last meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

##### **Delivery Plan 2016-17**

There are 84 actions in the Delivery Plan. Ten are on hold due to staff/finance restrictions. Twenty two items have had some work undertaken. Fifty two actions are actively ongoing.

Members had previously received a full report of the work being undertaken by the team. Specific items were further expanded on by those staff members. Due to illness, LN did not have time to bring the Delivery Plan for 2017-18 for approval. It will be emailed to members after her return to work.

**Richard Burden** – Landscape and Planning Advisor (PT)

Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan update

This plan is reaching its final consultation stage. Sites for collection, transfer, treatment, and disposal are being evaluated and the new household waste and waste transfer site at Bridport visited. Additionally the Dorset Waste Partnership is looking for a central Dorset location for a combined collection vehicle park / maintenance unit, household waste centre, and waste transfer facility. Two greenfield sites at Blandford within this AONB are being considered.

In principle an AONB is not a place for waste, but the site at Langton Lodge Farm would be easier to incorporate into the landscape because it is a sloping site. The consultation period was due to run for a further three weeks.

### Re-active responses to planning applications

108 planning applications have been received. Those requiring longer input from Richard are:

Shaftesbury Estate at Wimborne St Giles - alternative use of a dairy unit and a four-day festival

Telephone communications masts - The AONB assisted with the 'not spots' project but approved masts (from consortiums) do not appear to be being erected. Further applications are now being received for smaller masts which could, if approved, mean that there are duplicate masts in a sensitive area

Longleat Enterprises – a proposed hotel resort, business conference center, water park and 'immersive animal centre' apparently to get young people involved with animals. The planning application is in outline, with only the access being determined. Unfortunately that means the level of detailed information that would normally feed into a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is not available.

RB also noted that during Longleat's approach to the AONB designation it was clear that the significance of the views from Cley Hill had not been considered.

### Proactive landscape and planning

RB attended the following meetings

- South East and South West Protected Landscape Forums
- training for development management committees and staff teams
- the engagement of Dr Sean Beer from Bournemouth University in a range of AONB activities.

RB has also been working with Ruth Coulthard to enable Planning Authorities to have consistent policies for the prevention of light pollution and the provision of effective lighting.

### **David Blake** – Project Development Officer (FT)

- Ancient & Veteran Trees – trees are being planted by the Donhead Group and recorded by the Vale of Wardour Group. The Wessex Ancient Tree Forum will facilitate further events.
- Stepping Stones – plants are being prepared for transplantation to chalk grassland sites.
- Big Chalk - South Downs NPA is investigating a bid to the EU Climate Directorate to coordinate the Big Chalk Programme.
- Foundations of Archaeology project, now in its final year, has become a major sponsor of the Chalke Valley History Festival. On 6th – 7th May the FoA will hold its conference at Dinton.
- Fixed Post Photography – consent given to install two more base plates at Wyllye Down.
- SDF 2016/17 fund is now spent on four projects. There is a £3,000 grant for next year for two or three separate projects. One allocation has been agreed to the Deverills Music Festival.
- Forestry Machinery Collaborative Event – ‘Making your woodlands work for you’ is being held at Dinton on 3 May.
- Road Verges collaborative project – a £multi-million project to improve the biodiversity of road verges in English AONBs in conjunction with Plant Life.
- NAAONB Landscapes for Life Conference – will be held in Winchester in July 2017. It will be a two-day conference with a limited number of field trips.

### **Tracy Adams** – Farm Conservation Advisor (P/T)

- TA reported on three ponds that have been restored in the parishes of East Knoyle and Motcombe.
- TA's post comes to an end on 31 March, but she will continue to work reduced hours until further funding can be found.
- TA has now joined the board of the Chalke Valley Farm Cluster comprised of 16 landowners. The group's first training event was held at the beginning of February on identifying farmland birds and to encourage more farmers to record what they see on their farms.
- HLF is being sought for a Turtle dove project.
- The Farmland Conservation Project has been shortlisted for a Wiltshire Life Award. (Post meeting note: the project won first prize!)

### **Anne Carney** – Funding and Partnerships (P/T)

- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) notification of the successful outcome was received on 28 October 2016. Permission to start was granted on 21 January 2017.
- The AONB has been awarded just over £100,000 to develop the second stage bid. A development officer will be employed. If the second stage is successful the LP scheme will be delivered over five years with a total budget of £2.4 million.

- Studies will be undertaken as part of the Development Stage, including Landscape Character Assessment, archival survey, branding, promotion and publicity, and disability access audits.
- KF Designs from Fordingbridge will work on the branding and logo
- Dr Sean Beer is working as a facilitator to see if any universities he has links with may be interested in being involved with the LP scheme.
- AC is researching potential funding for the Countryside Centre. Brightspace is drawing up plans.

**David Blake on behalf of Linda Nunn – Director (FT)**

- International Dark Night Sky Reserve bid – work towards a bid submission is ongoing, although slow due to the need for further resources. Malcolm Mackness is working on a Landscape Management Plan.
- Several stargazing events have been held, including one after the Annual Forum.
- Ruth Coulthard, DNS officer from Brecon Beacons NPA, has assisted with furthering the bid.
- ‘Taste the Chase’ due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Dinton Village Hall may be rearranged. Cllr Bridget Wayman suggested the Nadder Centre as the ideal venue.

**Shirley Merrick – AONB Team Support Officer P/T** provides support for Richard Burden on planning matters and assistance for the rest of the team, plus new duties with finance. The Panel wished to record its thanks to SM for all her hard work under difficult circumstances.

**Harry Bell – Provides GIS assistance and will be assisting in mapping for the LPS.**

**Julie Harding – Communications Officer (P/T)** is working through a variety of communications initiatives, including increased social media presence, placing articles in the press, revamping the website and the E-bulletin and launching Instagram.

<b>ACTION 4</b>
1. Panel members to investigate ‘not spots’ for telephone masts and inform the AONB of any solutions to possible duplication of masts.
2. ZB and the Panel noted the need in the area for a hotel and conference centre of the type proposed by Longleat Enterprises as the area is short of such facilities, but there was a request to see more work done by Longleat Enterprises on traffic, design elements and screening. Reservations were voiced about the water park and immersive animal centre and ZB noted the wish for the Panel to be kept informed during the planning process.
3. RB has until 5 April to put in a formal response on Longleat’s proposals – members to receive a copy of his response.
4. RB will provide planning training, and Panel members were asked to provide him with contact details of those with responsibility for planning.
5. The Panel endorsed the ongoing work of the team to achieve the aims of the AONB Management Plan 2014-2019

6. LN to email the Delivery Plan to members after her return to work.

**5. AOB**

ZB reported that the Memorandum of Agreement is finally now ready and will be sent out for signature with as April 2017 date.

ZB reported that The Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust received another Trustee resignation recently and adverts have been placed for new Trustees. The CCLT requires significantly more members.

ZB said that he is moving to Hampshire in June and therefore felt he would need to bring his role as Vice Chair of the AONB to an end. He is keen to stay on until replacements for the Chair and Vice Chair had been found.

<b>ACTION 5</b>
1. The Panel to send suggestions for Trustees to the CCLT to ZB, AC or SM.
2. The Panel to consider candidates for the chairman and the vice-chairman's positions.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

TBA.

The meeting ended at 12.20pm.

Minutes signed as a true record

**By Zam Baring**

**(Vice Chairman)..... 2017**