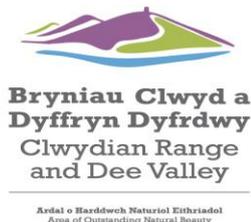


Public Document Pack



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE
Park Gwledig Loggerheads, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir Ddinbych CH7 5LH

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

Ffon | Tel: 01352 810614 | Ffacs | Fax: 01352 810644
E-bost | E-mail: clwydianrangeanddeevalley@denbighshire.gov.uk
Gwefan: www.ahnebryniauclwydadyffryndyfrdwy.org.uk/
Web: www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/

 [www.facebook.com/Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB](https://www.facebook.com/ClwydianRange&DeeValleyAONB)
 [@Clwyd_De_AONB](https://twitter.com/Clwyd_De_AONB)

To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee
Date: Friday, 12 March 2021
Direct Dial: 01824 712589
Email: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 19 March 2021 at 10.00 am in Video Conference.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AT ITS USUAL LOCATION. THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
- 2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020 (Pages 3 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 11 September 2020 (copy attached).

3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2021 (Pages 9 - 16)

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 (copy attached).

4 JOINT COMMITTEE FINANCES UPDATE (Pages 17 - 20)

Standing Item report (copy attached) presented by Steve Gadd – Head of Finance and Property and Paula O’Hanlan – Senior Finance and Assurance Officer.

5 FIELD UPDATE:

- **WENFFRWD POCKET PARK AND MOEL FAMAU PROJECT (Verbal) (DS)**
- **SMS AND VISITOR PRESSURE IN COVID (Verbal) (RJ)**
- **OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE (Verbal) (KT)**
- **MOORLAND PROJECT (Verbal) (GB)**

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 21 - 24)

To receive revised updated work programme (copy attached).

7 FUTURE MEETING DATES

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Derek Butler
Bobby Feeley
Hugh Jones

David Kelly
Carolyn Thomas
Tony Thomas

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held in on Friday, 11 September 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Bobby Feeley and Tony Thomas (Denbighshire County Council)
Councillors Carolyn Thomas and Derek Butler (Flintshire County Council) and
Councillor David Kelly (Wrexham County Borough Council).

ALSO PRESENT

Steve Gadd (Head of Finance and Property DCC), Lisa Jones (Deputy Monitoring Officer DCC), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer DCC), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer DCC), Karen Weaver (AONB Co-ordinator DCC), Tom Woodall (FCC), Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation and Environment Officer WCBC) and Alun Price (NRW).

1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies were received from Councillor Hugh Jones, Wrexham County Borough Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21.11.19

The minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 21st November 2019 were submitted. They were agreed as accurate and there were no matters arising.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 21st November 2019 be approved.

3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP 14.2.20

The draft notes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on 14th February 2020 were provided for information.

Matters Arising.

Item 4 page 9:

- DCC Corporate Services Review. The role of Communications Officer had been reviewed and rewritten as A.O.N.B. Coordinator.
- Designated Landscapes – additional capital funding. The Pembrokeshire coast national Park won the bid to host the Protected landscape Forum.

RESOLVED that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership draft notes be received.

4 JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETURN

The Head of Finance and Property, Steve Gadd, introduced the report (previously circulated) drawing attention to the following aspects:

- summary of the financial outturn;
- Statutory Return (requiring agreement and signatures from the meeting) and
- draft budget for approval for 2021 (delayed due cancelled meetings resulting from Covid-19).

The Chief Finance Officer's statement (page 16) highlighted no change to contributions from either Flintshire County Council or Wrexham County Borough Council and the level of grant from Natural Resources Wales remained consistent with 2019/20/

The Committee were advised that the Reserves shown on the balance sheet of £315,000 included monies allocated to specific projects. The actual balance available to support the 2020/21 budget and manage risk of future delivery of projects was £47,000.

Covid-19 had had a significant impact on Local Authority finances. Welsh Government had indicated that in addition to the ad hoc funding received to date that there would be a financial package for the rest of the year (details yet to be announced). Future contributions to AONB Committee funding could not be confirmed.

The Management Accounts for the final Outturn (page 19 &20) showed that:

- I. there had been grants received;
- II. there had been more expenditure and
- III. contributions had been used from reserves.

The Core Draft Budget (appendix 2) showed that the employment costs remained consistent. There was an increase in the Sustainable Development Grant and slight increase in expenditure but nothing that raised any concerns.

The Balance Sheet (page 24) reflects all the AONB reserves - £315,000 net worth – appendix 4 explained how they were funded.

The Annual (Statutory) Return – required passing by internal and external audit review. Due to the delays (caused by Covid-19 lockdown) the return had undergone a preliminary review by Audit Wales and would be sent for their approval following agreement by the Joint committee that day.

There had been some amendments to the return statements following advice from Internal Audit:

- Statement 1 – additional text - “Due to Covid 19 the meeting to approve the annual return has been delayed until the 11 September. If approved this will

enable WAO to sign off the Accounts by the statutory deadline of 15 September.”

- Statement 5 – additional text – “The Internal Audit report highlighted the need for a formal risk register to be brought together which will be undertaken during the current financial year.”

[action Paula O’Hanlon, Howard Sutcliffe and Steve Gadd to meet to produce list of risk for register for next AONB Joint Committee meeting]

RESOLVED that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee:

- I. note the financial outturn for 2019/20 (Appendix 1);**
- II. formally approve the 2020/21 draft budget (appendix 2);**
- III. reviewed and authorised the Annual Return for 2019/20 (Appendix 3) and**
- IV. Note the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2020 (Appendix 4).**

5 UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The AONB Senior Countryside Officer, David Shiel informed the Committee that JBA Consultancy had been appointed prior to the lockdown who had carried out a Stakeholder mapping exercise to ensure engagement with as many people as possible in producing the plan. An initial questionnaire had been sent out to the Partnership and Joint Committee to agree the scope of the review.

They were attempting to find ways of undertaking meaningful consultation under the pandemic restrictions and were about to send out a Survey Monkey questionnaire on the key features of the AONB for views on what broader issues might be to the whole of the stakeholder partnership in addition to attaching it to the website.

It was envisioned that a series of consultation events would be held to aid the objective and policy setting of the plan. It had been intended that these would be face to face meetings /workshops themed around the key elements of:

- the management plan;
- historic environment;
- natural environment;
- land management and
- tourism/recreation.

However the change to WG guidance and restriction regarding people meeting meant that these would probably now have to be online meetings – probably around October time. A schedule of the stakeholder engagement events would be circulated as soon as it was available.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6 ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT 2019-20

The report (previously circulated) was introduced by the AONB Officer, Howard Sutcliffe highlighting the excellent co-operation between the local authorities that had seen them achieve some supplementary planning guidance (SPG) already and they hoped to get further SPG on Dark Skies.

The report showed that the majority of planning applications were granted – 87% with 83% of those having either the Local Authorities taking part of or the representations of the AONB.

Members raised the following:

- That due to the Covid-19 restrictions there was a significant backlog of planning applications;
- There was increasing pressure for sustainable energy which see an influx of applications;
- Queried the approval of planning consent on flood plain areas and heard that there were different categories of flood plain – some categories could mitigate risk by taking relevant action;
- Noted the increase in applications for tourism, particularly camping cabins / pods. AONB JC members who also sat on their respective planning committees sometime felt a conflict of interest. They asked if the AONB JC could have a policy/rule to guide on such instances?
- Asked to undertake a review across the 3 local authorities to look at the accumulative impact of tourism and development on the AONB and
- Highlighted that some residents were afraid of the potential expansion of the AONB but the 87% approval rate for planning would indicate their fears to be groundless.

The AONB Officer suggested that the AONB SPG could be amended in relation to camping cabins/pods but first there needed to be an understanding what was already happening with regards these.

RESOLVED that:

- I. Information be gathered on the location and concentration of camping cabins/pods in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham;***
- II. The current policy regarding camping cabins/pods within each Local Authority and***
- III. The Annual Planning Report be noted.***

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The AONB Officer presented the AONB JC forward work programme (previously circulated). He explained that whilst on lockdown the Chairs of the five working groups, the Partnership and the Joint Committee for a virtual meeting which had

worked well. It was anticipated that those meetings would continue in the same format going forward.

If the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions remained it was hoped that small groups could meet at the end of October to look at the work around Plas Newydd with Our Picturesque Landscape.

The AONB Officer advised the Committee that:

- Scottish Power had removed the lines and poles that led up to their station at the edge of the ancient monument on Moel Hiraddug.
- Unauthorised occupants had caused some destruction on the Offa's Dyke at Chirk – CADW had intervened to halt further damage.
- 35 acres of land had been purchased as part the main route up to Dinas Bran.
- Work was being undertaken with the new NRW Landmap Officer on development guidance regarding Climate Change.

The Committee discussed the impact of increasing visitor pressure on the AONB, particularly in relation to car parking, toilet facilities and litter. Welsh Government had provided some funding to look at congestion and a minister would be meeting with the Chair of JC at Moel Famau the following Monday to discuss further. Over tourism needed to be managed and the visitor sites which were protected landscapes made fit for purpose – sustainable tourism. It was agreed to relook at the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

The AONB Award had been reviewing two nominations – Llanberis Art Group who had public exhibitions at Loggerheads and Cilcain Primary School in Flintshire who were working to become Carbon Neutral.

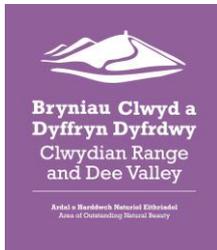
RESOLVED that:

- I. The Sustainable Tourism Strategy be reviewed and***
- II. The AONB Joint committee forward work programme be noted.***

8 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting for Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee was scheduled for 13th November 2020.

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Agenda Item 3

Meeting of the
AONB Partnership
Friday 19th February 2021
At 10 am Online Teams Meeting

AONB Partnership Members

In Attendance

AONB Partnership Members

Councillor Tony Thomas	DCC
Chair of Joint Committee	
Councillor Christine Marston	DCC
Councillor Martyn Holland	DCC
Councillor Hugh Jones	WCBC
Councillor Sonia Benbow-Jones	WCBC
Councillor Frank Hemmings	WCBC
Councillor Paul Cunningham	FCC
Vice Chair of the Partnership	

Chair of the Partnership
Andrew Worthington OBE

Representing Rural Interest
Christine Evans, Roger Cragg

Representing Business Interest
Dewi Davies

Representing Landscape Interest
Michael Skuse

Representing Historical Interest
Tony King

Representing Urban Interest
Ian Papworth, Rajan Madhhok,

Representing the Natural Environment
Les Starling, David Davies

Representing Land Management
Sandy Archdale, Huw Morgan,

Representing Recreation and ROW
John Roberts

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Howard Sutcliffe	AONB Officer
David Shiel	AONB Area Manager
Karen Weaver	AONB Coordinator
Ceri Lloyd	AONB SDF Officer
Kate Thomson	OPL Partnership Officer
Rachel Jones	AONB Senior Ranger (North)
Rhun Jones	AONB Senior Ranger (South)
Graham Berry	Moorland Field Officer
Paul Williams	Plas Newydd Site Manager
Tony Hughes	AONB Planning Officer

Representing Flintshire County Council
Tom Woodall Head of FCC Countryside
Service & ROW

Representing Natural Resources Wales
Alun Price



Apologies for absence were submitted from, Allan Forrest, Councillor Colin Legg, Del Roberts-Jones, Huw Rees, Phil Durrell, Rhian Peirce, Councillor Owen Thomas,

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the first online Partnership meeting.

2. Covid Update

AONB Area Manager, David Shiel explained that apart from the Ranger Team all staff were still working from home. The Ranger Team staffing had been doubled up over weekends. They were working in close partnership with the police.

The sites had seen increased visitor numbers over the Christmas period, this was followed by a fall of snow and there was again an increase of visitors. During a national lockdown this was unacceptable. The road leading up to Moel Famau was closed, and this was manned by the police. The road has since reopened for access for locals who live there. Signs had been erected to inform that the car parks remained closed. Social media key messaging was increased.

It was expected that the sites would be busy over the Easter holidays, and the Team was now preparing for this.

Discussion was held regarding the capacity of the car parks and how visitors could be diverted to other areas of the AONB. A concern was raised that in some areas the roads were very narrow and the infrastructure was not in place to cope with large numbers. Visitors to the Countryside getting lost was also raised with the expectation that landowners with tractors would assist them when they became stuck. The possibility of signage to inform when the car parks were full was proposed.

The AONB Area Manager reported that Welsh Government Green Recovery Programme. Funding had been made available to invest in sustainable tourism, and to take account of the increasing numbers visiting the sites and parks. The capacity of the car parks at Moel Famau was currently being developed.

This was a joint project with DCC Highways Department. A report had been commissioned and during the next months some capital work should commence.

It was acknowledged that the dispersion of pressure of visitors throughout the AONB was not always straightforward and the AONB had submitted another bid to Welsh Government to consider how the visitor pressure could be spread around the AONB, car parks would also be considered. It was hoped that this would be taken forward within the next twelve months if the funding bid was successful. The police had reported that most visitors who had broken the travelling rules by visiting sites were from local areas.

Cllr Martyn Holland said that Moel Famau was a key part of his ward and that he was very grateful to David and Ranger Team, the Police and Enforcement Team. Everything had been well managed.

3. Update from the AONB Officer

Membership of the Partnership

AONB Officer, Howard Sutcliffe, said that he was currently reviewing membership of the Partnership and asked if members would confirm if they were willing and able to carry on with their membership. Also if they knew of anyone that would be suitable for membership he would be grateful to receive details.

Action

The Coordination Officer would email to all members to enquire if they are willing to continue to serve on the Partnership.

Highway Design Guide

The AONB Officer referred to the Wye Valley AONB Highway Design Guide (previously circulated) and explained that that a similar protocol was required to ensure that the AONB were consulted on highway design, as there was currently a lack of partnership working. This would be recommended at the next Joint Committee meeting. As an example, yellow salt bins had distributed throughout Denbighshire in unsuitable areas, with some being visible from the top of the Horseshoe Pass. Another example was thick double yellow lines within the AONB. Discussion was held. Cllr Martyn Holland said that the bins had been distributed to ease the pressure on gritting vehicles, and it was noted that green or brown bins would have been preferable. It was felt that 'clear ways' signs or 'restricted parking zone' could be used in the AONB instead of double yellow lines. However, it was acknowledged that people seemed to give more regard to double yellow lines.

Action

- The Chair proposed that a Task and Finish Group to be convened to consider Highway Design as a one off issue.
- Any members that would like to be part of the group were asked to contact Karen.

Ash Trees

A member enquired about the removal of ash trees in the area between Dyserth and Lloc area and the impact this had had on the views from the Gop. Discussion was held and it was felt that any trees felled should be replaced by a suitable alternative native species. Consideration should be given on how they could be replaced. Flintshire County Council (FCC) Countryside Service Manager, Tom Woodall said that the trees had been removed purely for highway safety, and that was why the removal was not part of a consultation. However, the tree scape should be given consideration and FCC did have a Woodland Plan, but the present focus had to be risk of the diseased and dying trees.

Dinas Bran	30 acres of land had been obtained, Rhun Jones was currently drafting a Management Plan.
Treatment Works at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct	A meeting had been held with lead members of Dwr Cymru, and landscape options were being considered for the site.
National Association of AONBs	NAAONB were having regular meetings with lead officers. Ian Rappel had convened 4-weekly AONB Wider Teams meetings.
National Grid	There would be another round of funding. And also for the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI).
Management Plan	There had been some difficulties with the consultations. The structure of the plan had been agreed, and data was being collected for the State of the AONB report.

Parity between National Parks & AONB's Review

The AONB Officer said that 425k had been provided for joint working with National Parks. The Protected Landscapes for Wales Group had also been created. The annual budget from NRW had not been released to date.

4. Progress of the Dark Sky Project

AONB Area Manager, David Shiel explained that the project had been delayed due because of Covid. The draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was complete and had been agreed by the three Local Authorities. The draft would now be submitted to the planning committees to start the consultation process.

Quick Guide to Dark Skies	A quick guide to dark skies had been completed that included the 'dos and don'ts' for lighting. This document would complement the SPG.
Dark Sky monitoring	Dark Sky monitoring would commence shortly and the results would be included in the Dark Sky for Wales report.
Dark Sky Festival	All events were held online. Astro photography had been taken to showcase the quality of the skies along with time lapse films.
Lighting at Loggerheads	Funding had been obtained from Welsh Government for improvement to the lighting at Loggerheads. Working in partnership with DCC all of the lighting would be replaced and it would include movement sensors. This was a pilot project for other AONBs and National Parks.
Dark Sky Nation	Dark Sky Wales had approached Visit Wales regarding Wales becoming a Dark Sky Nation. However, the current priority was for the AONB to achieve 'Dark Sky Community Status'.

Discussion was held and it was raised how existing housing with extensive lighting should be addressed, it was agreed that this was a challenge however, it was hoped that by changing the lighting at Loggerheads this might lead to a change in mindset for those responsible. It was noted, though, that dark sky friendly lighting was currently hard to find and purchase and this was another difficulty.

The possibility of the lighting guidance being rolled out to areas just outside the boundary of the AONB was raised, and it was explained that the AONB were working in partnership with the three Local Authorities and it was hoped that this would lead to increased take up.

5. Projects Update

To receive an update from:

Plas Newydd

Planning and preparation

Plas Newydd Site Manager, Paul Williams said that the gates and grounds had been kept open in order for locals to have their daily exercise and that, and they were now planning for the upcoming season and hoped to open from Easter. Risk assessments were being completed, and funding had been submitted for an audio trail. Tour companies were starting to get in contact, and there was optimism that there would be a season.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

SDF Officer, Ceri Lloyd, said that she was now closing down the 2020 projects, and 18 projects had been supported. The Annual report would be drafted shortly. Most projects had been affected by Covid. However, only one project had not been able to make any progress. The 2021 Expressions of Interest process was now underway.

Discussion was held and concerns were raised regarding the outcome for a failing project due to Covid, and whether it's funding would continue. It was explained that only funding for one project had been withheld as it had not been possible to undertake proposed activities. The SDF Officer had worked closely with project applicants and all of the other projects had been able to fulfil expectations. However, if there had been a concern, the terms of the approval letter would cover that.

It was proposed that long term business cases should be considered for some projects. The Chair of the SDF Group, Roger Cragg, assured members that the most serious consideration was given to all applications and he praised his colleagues for their attention to detail and the high standard of debate.

Action

SDF processes to be added to the agenda of the next working group meeting.

AONB North

Senior AONB Ranger for the North, Rachel Jones completed an update on some of the projects in progress:

SMS Grazing Project	The project had struggled with the Covid situation, grazing on sites and habitat work has been successful. Currently working on community engagement, scrub clearance. Belted Galloways were grazing at a site in Prestatyn and the Carneddau ponies had been grazing on the dunes and were now at Moel Findeg. Soay sheep had been grazing on Butterfly Glade at Loggerheads. Wool felting sessions would be held with schools.
Loggerheads Flood	Loggerheads had flooded once again. However, owing to previous work the damage had been minimal. The area was now drying out.
Offa's Dyke Path 50th Anniversary	The anniversary was in July but all plans were on hold at the moment. Waymarked '50 anniversary' disks would be erected along the trail.
Green Recovery Bid	The bid was for access work at Loggerheads and Moel Findeg – paths and gates would be replaced.

Discussion was held and it was raised whether the Carneddau ponies had been chipped, it was explained that the ponies were semi feral and this would be considered further.

AONB South

Senior AONB Ranger for the South, Rhun Jones provided a brief update on some of the projects being completed the south of the AONB.

Caer Drewyn	Gorse clearing was being completed in partnership with PONT at Caer Drewyn.
Wenfrwyd	Rhun and the team had been completing work transforming the old landfill site into a small park, pathways were being installed with links to Llangollen and WHS paths were being opened up fully. There would be Parking for 35 cars, and it was hoped that the site would open for Easter.

Our Picturesque Landscape (OPL)

OPL Partnership Officer, Kate Thomson said that the last few months had been very challenging, Hannah Marubbi was covering Sallyanne Hall's maternity leave, and had settled well into the role. A meeting had been held with Heritage Lottery to consider the outputs of the project. Volunteering and events had not been able to be held, however, some projects had still gone ahead (see presentation).

Dinas Bran Event	It was hoped that the event at Dinas Bran would be held this year if possible.
Artist in Residence post	Thirty applicants had applied for the post.

Ram pump and housing at Plas Newydd	50 years of vegetation had been uncovered, there had been a lot of community engagement and social media coverage.
Wenfrwyd Pocket Park	Work was being completed on trails at the Park.
Woodland Management of WHS	Felling licenses were required, it had been problematic for forestry workers to be on site, and the work may have to be completed during autumn.

Moorland Project

Moorland Officer, Graham Berry explained that he had been appointed for the three year project following the Llantysilio moorland fire, and that his role was shared between Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Four key areas would be considered as part of the project:

Reducing Incidents of Wildfire	Engagement with landowners and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Moorland management guidance was being drafted along with social media messaging.
Community Engagement	Reconnecting communities with the moorlands.
Restoration programme for Llantysilio	1ha of heather would be cut and collected in March to be airlifted by helicopter to the fire damaged side of the mountain where it would be spread out to reduce soil erosion and create conditions for re-colonisation. An upland grass seed mix will also be sown on 68ha.
Sustainable funding for moorland management	Sustainable management would be considered.

Any Other Business

Big Covert

Councillor Martyn Holland raised concerns regarding large scale tree felling at the Big Covert Llanarmon yn Ial

Action

The AONB Officer to contact a representative from NRW and invite them to attend the next Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group Meeting to discuss further.

IT Issues

Some members were still having difficulties accessing Microsoft Teams, It was explained that Teams was the preferred online platform for DCC and was what all the school children were using to complete online lessons, and in theory should be very accessible. To date the use of zoom had not been allowed.

Action

The Coordination Officer would contact DCC IT department again and raise the issue and ask for authorisation for the use of zoom.

National Association of AONB's (NAAONB)

The Sustainable Development Officer, Ceri Lloyd reported that the National Association for AONB's were currently developing a new website platform and there would be a Wales AONB Forum. It was hoped that Partnership members would be able to join in on some aspects.

6. Future Meeting Dates

Friday 28th May	2021	10 am	To be decided
Friday 15th October	2021	10 am	To be decided
Friday 18 th February	2022	10 am	To be decided
Friday 20 th May	2022	10 am	To be decided
Friday 14 th October	2022	10 am	To be decided

DRAFT

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 19th March 2021

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2020/21

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's projected revenue budget outturn position for 2020/21.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's projected financial position as at 31st March 2021.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the latest forecast financial outturn for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's projected revenue outturn for 2020/21 detailed in Appendix 1. The projected outturn position shows a contribution from the reserve in total of £11,705. Of which £2,614 is to support the revenue budget, the remaining £9,091 is to fund a part time temporary member of staff through a WG grant (funds received).

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The financial position is a standing item at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2020/21.

As stated in the budget there is a requirement to fund expenditure from the revenue reserve, however this is likely to be in the region of £2,614 compared to the budgeted figure of £17,288.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

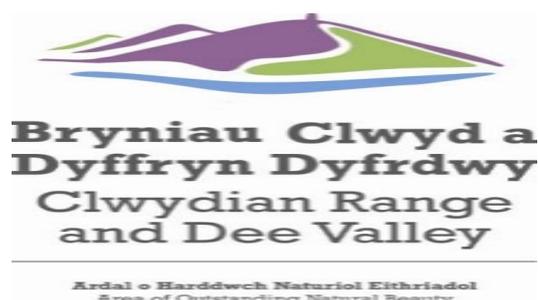
CORE - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 28th FEBRUARY 2021

	Budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	186,499	197,896
Training & Conference	1,000	
Subscriptions	3,000	3,315
Insurance	668	668
Total Employee costs	191,167	201,879
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	1,000	0
Mileage	4,250	1,500
Use of Public Transport	200	0
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	5,450	1,500
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	2,000	2,423
Management Plan/Prof fees	2,500	2,500
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT / Communication costs	3,747	3,912
Telephones	500	639
Total Other Expenses	9,881	10,608
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	95,000	95,000
Total Project costs	95,000	95,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	301,498	308,987
INCOME		
NRW CRDV Grant	-107,000	-107,000
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-100,000	-95,000
LA Funding	-80,168	-80,882
Contributions from Reserve	-9,330	-11,705
TOTAL INCOME	-301,498	-299,587
Total Net Expenditure	0	9,400

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

	Budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	173,961	164,969
Training	0	
Insurance	626	626
Total Employee costs	174,587	165,595
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	3,700	2,550
Fleet	18,530	18,530
Travel	1,500	200
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	23,730	21,280
<u>Other</u>		
Site Management	5,000	5,000
IT / Communication costs	4,000	4,000
Telephones	520	520
Projects/Activity expenditure	4,000	87
Total Other Expenses	13,520	9,607
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	211,837	196,482
INCOME		
NRW Forestry Partnership	-19,500	-19,500
LA funding	-184,379	-186,382
Contributions from Reserve	-7,958	0
TOTAL INCOME	-211,837	-205,882
Total Net Expenditure	0	-9,400





Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme March 2021 Update

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or Problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Finance				
Finance and Funding	Update 19.3.21	2020-21		Neutral
NRW Core AONB Funding	Await new round of funding. (Provisional Confirmation letter received)	2021-24		+ve
SDF Fund	WG continue fund at £100k	2021-22		+ve
Strategic Plans 2017-20				
AONB Management Plan	Consultants held virtual consultation meet and have in addition received over 300 responses to the consultation. Draft to June JC	2021-24		Neutral
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	2x Volunteer Programme Published per annum.	Suspended due to covid		Neutral
AONB Tourism Plan	Under Review pending funding. Some funding found from WG	2021 WG SLSP		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	2 x JC Meetings completed. Plus 2x Chairs Meets	2020-21		Neutral
LA Legal Agreement	All agreed and sealed by LAs for next 5 years	2019-2024		Neutral
AONB Forum		Suspended due to covid		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors/AONB Champions		Suspended due to covid		Neutral

Forward Work Programme March 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Partnership				
Full AONB Partnership Meetings	Two AONB Partnership Meetings. Plus 2x Chairs Meets	2020-21		Neutral
AONB Award	Awarded to Cilcain School and loggerheads Art Group	Presentation TBC		Neutral
Partnership Working Groups:				
Landscape Character and Built Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	Suspended due to covid, till March 2021		+ve
Land Management and the Natural Environment	Working on AONB Management Plan	Suspended due to covid, till March 2021		+ve
Heritage, Culture and Communities	Working on AONB Management Plan	Suspended due to covid, till March 2021		+ve
Tourism	Working on AONB Management Plan	Suspended due to covid, till March 2021		+ve
Recreation and Health	Working on AONB Management Plan	Suspended due to covid, till March 2021		+ve

Forward Work Programme March 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Special Projects				
Welsh Government Funding 1	Visitor Mgt Moel Famau Lighting Loggs £180k			+ve
Welsh Government Funding 2	Climate Change Canoe Access Community Miles Intelligence Extending Season £75k	2021-22 June		+ve
Welsh Government GI Funding Recovery 3	WG GI Approved Projects: Wenffrd, Loggerheads, Moel Findeg, Hen Ardd and Graig Fawr £185,900	2021-22 June		+ve
Capital Funding 2021-22 TBC	<i>WG allocated £225k per AONB and a collective pot of £425k</i>	2021-22		+ve
Our Picturesque Landscape Project	Reported by Officer today	2018-23		+ve
Grazing Animals Project	Assistant Gwenno Jones appointed to support lead officer	2020-22		Neutral
Climate Change	Appointing Officer for 18 months to prepare action Plan and Implement projects	2021-22		Neutral
ERAMP Monitoring Project	All Wales WG Monitoring Landscape Project	Commencing 2020 Meet BBNP November		+ve

Forward Work Programme March 2021 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Section 85 Organisations				
SP Network Lines	Moel Hirathug complete. The Shelf back on. New schemes being evaluated currently	2021-22		Neutral
National Grid VIP and Landscape Enhancement Initiative	AONB Officer is rep for 39 AONBs on National Board. 2x LEI Schemes Morwinion Valley and Minera (Await approval)			Neutral
WG Future Landscapes Wales	Regular Monthly Meets 1x Lead Officer's 1x Team			Neutral
Pontcysyllte Sewage Works	Appraisal Document drawn up. Landscaping scheme for redundant areas to be implemented	2021-22		Neutral
Severn Trent	Initial Meeting re mountain reservoirs			Neutral
Highways Guidance for LAs				