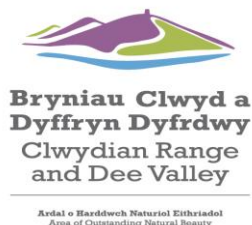



Public Document Pack



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

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

To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee

Date: Friday, 10 March 2023

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, 17 March 2023 at 10.00 am** in **Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin** and by video conference.

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 2 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (HS)**
(Pages 5 - 8)
To consider the minutes (copy attached) of the previous AONB Joint Committee meeting held on 10th November 2022.
- 3 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP (HS)** (Pages 9 - 14)
To note the minutes of the AONB Partnership meeting held on 14th October 2022.
- 4 DRAFT MINUTES OF OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP (DS)** (Pages 15 - 20)
To note the draft minutes of Our Picturesque Landscape Partnership held on 14th February 2023.

5 10 YEAR REVIEW AND UPDATE OF AONB GOVENANCE 2023 VERBAL (HS)

To receive a verbal update from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer and Ranger Service Manager.

6 JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETURN FINANCIAL REPORT (STANDING ITEM) (SG AND PO'H) (Pages 21 - 24)

To consider a report (copy attached) from the Head of Finance and Property, and Senior Finance and Assurance Officer.

7 UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARK FOR NORTH EAST WALES (NRW)

To receive an update from a representative of Natural Resources Wales.

8 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (STANDING ITEM) (Pages 25 - 30)

To consider the forward work programme (copy attached) from the AONB Officer.

9 FUTURE MEETING DATES

For information the next meeting dates of the AONB Joint Committee are:

- 23rd June 2023 (WCBC) and
- 17th November 2023 (FCC)

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

David Healey (FCC)
Dave Hughes (FCC)
Hugh Jones (WCBC)

Win Mullen-James (DCC)
Nigel Williams (WCBC)
Emrys Wynne (DCC)

COPIES TO:

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2022**

AONB JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors: Win Mullin-James (Denbighshire County Council); Councillors Dave Hughes and David Healey (Flintshire County Council); Councillors Nigel Williams and Hugh Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council)

ALSO PRESENT

Steve Gadd (Head of Finance and Property DCC), Mike Bather (Wrexham County Borough Council), Ceri Lloyd (AONB SDF Officer), Paula O'Hanlon (Senior Finance Officer, DCC), Alun Price (Natural Resources Wales), Huw Rees (Countryside & Heritage Services Manager DCC), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), Karen Weaver (AONB Co-ordinator), Andrew Worthington, (Chair of the AONB Partnership), Tom Woodall (Access and Natural Environment Manager Flintshire County Council), and Paul Rowlinson (Translator)

Councillors Gareth Sandilands and Bobby Feeley (Denbighshire County Council) attended as an observer

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Joint Committee Member Emrys Wynne (Denbighshire County Council)

There were no declarations of interest.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Nominations were sought for the appointment of a Chair for the Committee. Councillor David Healey nominated Councillor Dave Hughes and this was seconded by Councillor Nigel Williams. No other nominations were put forward.

Nominations were sought for the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Committee. Councillor Dave Hughes nominated Councillor Nigel Williams and this was duly seconded.

Councillor Dave Hughes chaired the meeting from this point.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor Dave Hughes be appointed Chair of the Committee; and
- (b) That Councillor Nigel Williams be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3. PROPOSED ADOPTION OF AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

Howard Sutcliffe introduced a report on the AONB Management Plan which was appended for consideration. He advised that the Plan had been circulated for consultation and a summary of the representations received were detailed on pages 9 – 11 of the report. The representations had been included and approval was sought for adoption of the draft Management Plan for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and publication recommended.

RESOLVED

That the draft Management Plan for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB be adopted and publication recommended

4. VARIATION TO LEGAL AGREEMENT ON INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO THREE PER AUTHORITY

Howard Sutcliffe provided background information on the proposal and advised that the current position was that each local authority could have two members nominated to the Joint Committee. He explained that the variation proposed two options which were to increase the number of nominations to 3 members or have a named substitute. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillors Dave Hughes and Nigel Williams would seek legal advice on the proposal from officers in their local authority and provide feedback to the Committee.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 5 November 2021 were submitted. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 5 November 2021 be approved.

6. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS 2021

The draft minutes of the following Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership were received for information.

- 4 February 2022
- 20 May 2022
- 14 October 2022

Andy Worthington, Chair of the AONB Partnership, provided feedback on the meeting held on 14 October 2022. He referred to the main points of discussion, as detailed in the minutes, and reported on progress achieved to date.

Referring to the AONB Award 2022 presented to Dr Christine Evans, the Chair suggested that the Committee writes to express thanks for the hard work and support given by individuals who received the Award.

Howard Sutcliffe proposed that a second award be made to National Grid for their 8 year investment of their fund- '*The Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)*' which has seen a swathe of landscape improvements in the Morwinion Valley to the tune of over £600,000 being invested from the National Grid LEI Fund, and support which was provided to the AONB. This was seconded by the Chair and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership meetings held on 4 February, 20 May, and 14 October 2022 be noted.

7. JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETURN FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property, presented the report to provide an update on the AONB's financial position as at 31 March 2022 and seek approval of the budget for 2022/23. The report provided a summary of the AONB's revenue budget outturn for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position showed an overall overspend of £27,008 which had been taken from the revenue Reserve. The report also provided a copy of the Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return had been audited by Denbighshire Internal Audit.

The Head of Finance and Property reported on the key considerations as detailed in the report. Members were asked to note the financial outturn for 2021/22 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2022 (Appendix 4). Members were asked to formally approve the 2022/23 draft budget (Appendix 2) and review and sign the Annual Return for 2021/22 (Appendix 3). The approval and signing of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Appendix 3) was a statutory requirement prior to Audit Wales carrying out an audit of the accounts.

The Head of Finance and Property advised that as at the 31 March 2022 the balance in the AONB Reserve (appendix 4) stood at £421,384. Of this, £391,551 was earmarked for specific projects which would progress during the 2022/23 financial year. The balance of £29,833 was available to support the 2022/23 revenue budget and it is expected that most of this will be required in 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the financial outturn for 2021/22 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2022 (Appendix 4) be noted;
- (b) That the 2022/23 draft budget (appendix 2) be approved; and

- (c) That the Annual Return for 2021/22 (Appendix 3) be signed.

8. PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK

Howard Sutcliffe gave a verbal update on the proposed National Park. He commented on the progress achieved with Natural Resources Wales, and to the discussions taking place concerning proposals on boundary areas.

9. DRAFT RISK REGISTER

Howard Sutcliffe presented the draft risk register. He referred to risk number 3: Loss of funding from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and commented that the NRW Core AONB grant funding for this year had not yet been received and proposed that concerns be escalated to the Chief Executive.

Steve Gadd commented on the potential high impact of risks 2 and 3 and the financial challenges facing the public sector during the next few years

10. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Howard Sutcliffe presented the forward work programme and gave a verbal update on progress on the items listed.

The Chair expressed concerns around the ongoing uncertainty around future funding from National and Welsh Governments for local authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the forward work programme be noted.

11. FUTURE MEETING DATES

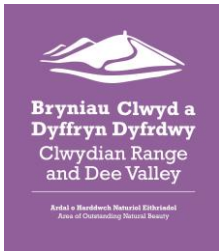
The next meeting dates of the AONB Joint Committee are as follows:

Friday, 17 March 2023

Friday, 23 June 2023

Friday, 17 November 2023

(The meeting started at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.50 a.m.)



**Meeting of the AONB Partnership
Friday 14th October 2022
at 10:00
Community Hwb, Coleg Llysfasi**

In Attendance

AONB Partnership Members

Councillor Win Mullen-James DCC
Chair of the Joint Committee

Councillor Alan James DCC
Councillor Martyn Hogg DCC
Councillor David Healey FCC

Chair of the Partnership

Andrew Worthington OBE

Representing Rural Interest

Dr Christine Evans, Roger Cragg

Representing Landscape Interest

Michael Skuse

Representing Urban Interest

Ian Papworth

Representing the Natural Environment

Les Starling

Representing Land Management

Sandy Archdale, Rhian Pierce

Representing Recreation & Rights of Way

John Roberts

Representing Individual Interest

David Davies

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer
David Shiel AONB Area Manager
Karen Weaver AONB Coordinator
Rachel Jones AONB North Senior Ranger
Hannah Arndt Access & Recreation Officer
Graham Berry Moorland Officer
Rhun Jones Senior South Ranger
Tom Johnstone AONB Climate Change Infrastructure & Catchments Officer Green

Representing Flintshire County Council

Derrick Charlton Rights of Way Officer

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Huw Rees Countryside & Heritage Services Manager

Representing Wrexham County Borough Council

Mike Bather World Heritage Site (WHS)

Apologies for absence were submitted from:

Cllr Anthony Wedlake (WCBC), Cllr David Hughes (FCC), Cllr Hugh Jones (WCBC), Cllr Jonathon Harland (DCC), Fiona Gale, Carole Rothwell, Del Roberts Jones, Ceri Lloyd, Alun Price, Huw Morgan, Rajan Madhok, Tom Woodall, Kate Thomson.

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed new members Cllr Win Mullen-James, Cllr Alan James, Cllr Martyn Hogg, Cllr David Healey, Derrick Charlton, Mike Bather to the meeting. Members introduces themselves around the table.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 20th May 2022

David Davies to be added to the meeting attendance.

Matters arising

AONB Management Plan

AONB Area Manager, David Shiel, reported that the plan was in draft form and would be taken to the Joint Committee Meeting next month.

AONB Recreation Plan

More funding had been granted, and further work would be done in the Northern area of the AONB. Access & Recreation Officer, Hannah Arndt was working on the Plan. Members discussed congestion along the road to Pen Barras, and David Shiel explained that this summer there had been some improvement. A new barrier system had been installed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) at the bottom car park, and so far, it had been successful.

Horseshoe Falls

Members discussed the ongoing parking issues at Horseshoe Falls, and the yellow lines now in place. However, they were largely ignored by visitors. David Shiel said that the issues had been raised with DCC and Street Scene, and that the AONB Team would assist as much as possible over the winter months, however, staffing capacity would make a significant difference. Two officers were currently employed with DCC at weekends for enforcement issues, however both were based at Prestatyn. Cllr Win Mullen-James said that a meeting would be held to consider parking, enforcement and all the costs involved.

2b Minutes of Our Picturesque Landscape Project (OPL)

David Shiel explained that Project Officer, Kate Thomson, had moved on to another role with DCC Heritage Services, however, she remained working for the project for two days a week. Hannah Marubbi would take over the role of Project Officer in the New Year. Reconsolidation work was currently being done at Castell Dinas Bran. All agreed that Kate and the Team had made some fantastic improvements.

Action

Message of thanks to be given on behalf of the Partnership to Kate Thomson.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Overview of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONB Officer, Howard Sutcliffe, made a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) This provided an overview of the AONB including the Shepherds Hut at Pen Barras, the Grazing Project at Prestatyn Hillside, the new car park at Graig Fawr, World Heritage Site, National Grid and Scottish Power Networks schemes.

Concerns were raised regarding toilet facilities being closed down over the past few years, and also the importance of livestock in the AONB.

Moorland Management of the AONB

Moorland Officer, Graham Berry explained that Rangers were regularly on site to extinguish any fires over the summer, and that it was very fortunate that no major fires occurred.

Grazing Project at Prestatyn hillside

Senior Ranger for the North of the AONB, Rachel Jones, explained that the stock would be supplied by a local farmer. Concerns were raised regarding dog worrying, and Rachel responded that dog worrying had been considered and specific areas had been proposed for dog walkers to let their dogs off leads.

Prestatyn Roman Bath House

It was raised that the Bath House was not within the AONB boundary. Howard responded that the site was very close to the boundary and was iconic and significant.

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) had contributed to the project.

Rights of Way (ROW)

Public Access was raised as not being included within the presentation, and it was reported that there was a lot of outstanding work to be completed on ROW.

In summing up the Chair said that resources were the issue with the concerns raised, and with a National Park status extra funding would be available to address the issues.

4. Review of the AONB Working Group Membership

The AONB Working Groups

1. Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)
2. Recreation, Health & Wellbeing
3. Landscape Character and the Built Environment
4. Heritage, Culture and Communities
5. Sustainable Tourism & Business Engagement
6. Natural Environment & Land Management

The AONB Officer, Howard Sutcliffe, provided a verbal update explaining that the current working groups were suitable for the previous Management Plan; however, the new Management Plan would be worded slightly differently and would include climate change, nature recovery, rural economy (following Brexit).

4a Sustainable Tourism & Business Engagement Group

Howard said that the AONB contributed to DCC Tourism Group, Clwydian Range (CR) Tourism Group, and to avoid a duplication of meetings he proposed that CR Tourism Group reported back to the Partnership.

4b Natural Environment & Land Management

The AONB contributed to the Bionet Group and Howard proposed that the Bionet Group reported back to the partnership, to avoid duplication.

It was proposed that a 'Climate Change and Nature Recovery' Working Group be convened.

It was proposed that a group be convened with the people who lived and worked within the AONB.

Summing up the Chair asked for members to consider whether they agreed for the groups to be reviewed and asked AONB Officers to prepare a document to be circulated to members.

Action

- ✚ That all the Working Groups would be reviewed, and a document be prepared and sent to all members.
- ✚ All responses to be submitted to the Chair.

5. AONB Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI)

David Shiel provided a PowerPoint presentation; this explained the funding that National Grid provided to AONB's and National Parks for undergrounding. A maximum of three projects could be completed at any time, with a budget of £200k for each project. Howard was the representative on the National Grid Board for all the AONB's in Wales,

Restoring the heather at Llantysilio

Heather seeding had been carried out on the severely damaged areas and nature recovery had been good in some places.

Roadside Verges

DCC had a policy for the verges, and they were managed by DCC Biodiversity Team, Street Scene and the local communities. It was noted that sometimes private owners would not comply with the DCC policy.

It was agreed that grass cutting was a major problem for the authorities.

Curlew Project

Rhian Peirce said that she worked part time with RSPB and raised concerns that the hedgerows could create a corridor for foxes, which could be problematic for nesting curlew. David responded that the decline of the curlew had been targeted by the AONB, and the AONB Team were members of 'Curlew Cymru project' to respond to the decline. The AONB had developed good relationships with farmers and landowners, and there was a lot of work being completed. The AONB would like to build on this work.

Morwynion Valley

Work being done in less well-known areas of the AONB was welcomed.

In summing up the Chair said that the AONB had secured five successful grants, which was an extremely difficult process, and he congratulated the Team for their achievement, and added that the base budget that the AONB received was very low and the funding and resources that the Team brought in was remarkable.

6. Update from the AONB Officer

The AONB Officer explained that the AONB hoped to get back to face to face meetings, however, the next Joint Committee Meeting would have to be held online which was disappointing.

Membership of the Partnership

Archaeologist, Fiona Gale had recently agreed to join the Partnership.

AONB Appointments

Former Partnership member, Huw Morgan had been appointed by the AONB as Landscape and Farming Officer. An Engagement Officer would be appointed shortly.

Landscape & Nature Recovery in a Changing Climate Publication

The publication had been nominated for an award from the Landscape Institute, and the winner of the award would be announced at the end of the month.

Llangollen Green Infrastructure Project

The booklet had now been published.

Fossil Fuel Free Tools and Transport

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) event had recently been held at Chirk Castle, with good attendance.

Fixed Point Photography Project

The cameras had now been installed at, Loggerheads, Prestatyn, Pontcysyllte.

AONB Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Catchments Officer

Tom Johnstone would be leaving the AONB shortly to commence work with the Brecon Beacons National Park. Howard said that Tom had achieved a lot within the twelve months that he had been with the AONB, and he thanked him for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.

6a

National Park for Northeast Wales

The AONB Officer said that Leslie Griffiths MS had been appointed as the Minister for Environment. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had recently appointed a Team to move the project forward. NRW representatives would be invited to attend the next Partnership Meeting to provide an update on the project. The importance of the AONB being involved in all of the process was reiterated, along with engagement for landowners and farmers.

It was explained that DCC were producing a strategy and that no consultations had been held to date.

The Chair said that NRW were leading on the project and the AONB would assist them in the process. No formal consultations had taken place to date however, the farming community would be foremost in any talks and consideration.

Action

- ✚ NRW representatives to be invited to give an update at the next meeting

6b

AONB Award for 2022

The AONB Officer proposed that the award for this year be given to long standing Partnership member, Dr Christine Evans. He went on to explain that Christine was Chair of the Heritage, Culture & Communities Working Group, and always made every effort to attend meetings and site visits and sometimes used the mobility Trampler. She was also a Trustee for the Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley.

Christine had brought the village of Llanarmon yn IaI alive, through the community pub, the Raven, and volunteering at the community shop. Christine's enthusiasm and willingness to help in any way that she can had been greatly appreciated by the AONB.

Action

- ✚ It was unanimously agreed that Dr Christine Evans to be presented with the AONB Award for 2022

Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

7.

Summing up of the Meeting from the Chair

In summing up the meeting the Chair said that parking issues would be considered, along with a review of the Working Groups, with reports being distributed.

The LEI project was a fine example of funding brought into the service.

The publication guides that Tom had completed were excellent.

It was hoped that the AONB and AONB Partnership would be fully involved in the National Park status.

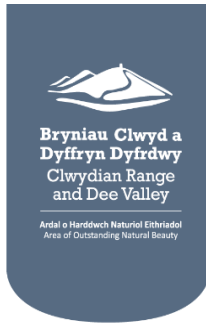
He congratulated Dr Christine Evans on her attainment of the AONB award.

8.

Future Meeting Dates

AONB Partnership Meeting	Friday 3rd February	2023	10:00	To be decided
AONB Joint Committee Meeting	Friday 10th November	2022	10:00	Online
AONB Forum	Wednesday 23rd November	2022	18:30	Coleg Cambria, Community Hwb
AONB Joint Committee	Friday 17th March	2023	10:00	To be decided
AONB Partnership Meeting	Friday 19th May	2023	10:00	To be decided

DRAFT



Our Picturesque Landscape Project
Steering Group Meeting Minutes,
Garth and Trevor Community Centre,
Heol Penderyst, Trevor.
Tuesday 14th February 2023 2pm to 4pm.

Members Present

David Shiel (DS), Alun Price (AP), Del Roberts Jones (DRJ), Hannah Marubbi (HM), Ffion Roberts (FR), Jillian Howe (JH), Kate Thomson (KT), Fiona Gale (FG).

Apologies

Samantha Williams (SW), Andrea Fox (AFX), Huw Rees (HR), Lynne Jones (LJ), Howard Sutcliffe (HS **Chair**), John Roberts (JR), Nicola Lewis-Smith (NLS), Mike Bather (MB), Rhun Jones (RJ), Fiona Grant (FGr), Paul Evans (PE), Sallyanne Hall (SH).

1. Welcome and Apologies	All welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted.	Actions
2. Minutes of last meeting update	Dinas Bran Gatehouse update – Concerns have been raised with Recclesia as to when the work will be completed, and aim for the spring and better weather. There will be a retention of funds until the work is completed. Cadw have advised us to complete the claim for the work completed so far and an extension will be given for the remaining work. KT and HM to check with Cadw when the claim deadline is. Update on the staff changes. KT will remain on the project 1 day a week, with HM project managing for the other 4 days.	KT HM

<p>3. Project Risk Register</p>	<p>Copies of the risk register were circulated to the group. HM took the group through the document.</p> <p><u>Dinas Bran Gatehouse</u> - Amber.</p> <p>This project is currently behind schedule as should have been completed before Christmas.</p> <p>CPAT have not yet completed the final report but have said it will be ready by March. Community events up on Dinas Bran have not yet happened during the project's lifetime but we are aiming to have a big event in July, and Open Doors event in September. As these events not happened yet the risk register is marked as amber.</p> <p><u>Restoring our Industrial Heritage</u></p> <p>Most of these projects have now been completed. The only outstanding work to be done is the fitting of the plaque for the Glyn Valley Tramway wall. A contractor is now appointed to complete this task in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Plas Newydd RAM pump building is delayed due to the contractor injury. He has now been to the site and aims to start work on the building in April. This work and the development of a bog garden will open up volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>The Lengthsman's Hut in the Horseshoe Falls have volunteering opportunities but remains in the hands of Canal and Rivers Trust to implement.</p> <p>DS noted that the AONB have had a volunteer recruitment drive that has been well received, and may be able to direct volunteers to this site.</p> <p>An underspend in Restoring our Industrial heritage means that funds will be directed to the lengthsman's hut in Froncysyllte basin. CRT have funds to restore welfare facilities at this site, and with OPL's funds will restore the front of this building. The roof and the back of the building will be restored by CRT in the future.</p> <p><u>Panorama Management</u></p> <p>This remains amber due to no spend being made yet. Events have taken place up there last summer as part of the community engagement, but talks have started regarding the signage and work limiting the extent to which cars can park. RJ has been in talks with the landowners who were positive about the ideas. NRW will need to be contacted regarding how these ideas can be carried out.</p> <p><u>Wenffrwd Pocket Park</u></p> <p>The park has been well received and there are plans for events to start here.</p> <p><u>The Picturesque Bus</u></p> <p>The bus service is now going into its 3rd year. It will start earlier on the 1st April and finish on the 4th November. It will be advertised further afield through Shire Magazine's circulation. An advert and editorial will appear from March through to June. Denbighshire County Council have asked that the bus stops at the Llangollen pavilion car park as</p>
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	<p>was felt the bus can help ease the parking problems in Llangollen. The route has been tweaked slightly to accommodate this change. The Horseshoe Falls is another site where it is hoped the bus will ease parking problems.</p> <p>An electric bus has been tested to see it's capability around the route, and would make a good marketing option. KT to chase Martin Griffiths to see if this is an option for this season.</p> <p><u>Picturesque Circular Trails</u></p> <p>A few of the trails remain unfinished.</p> <p>Artists and Engineers walk is waiting for the infrastructure to be installed during April by the Ranger team before circulating the printed leaflets.</p> <p>Chirk Walk Leaflet. The waymarker posts have been delivered and permissions from landowners for Chirk Castle and Kronospan obtained, but one other landowner very difficult to get hold of. The leaflet is complete and ready for print.</p> <p>The Cefn Mawr walk and leaflet has been postponed but need to re confirm the route.</p> <p>Discover the Dee Valley Walks, which was previously the Discover Corwen booklet. JH will redesign the leaflet and will include the walk from Wenffrwd into Llangollen.</p> <p>The Dee Valley team plan to meet up for guided walks fortnightly so can use some of OPL's routes.</p> <p><u>Interpreting the Landscape</u></p> <p>We have been given a date of the week commencing 13th March for the installation of the WHS interpretation boards. There are still some permissions form CRT outstanding, but hoping it will all go as planned. The old signs at Gledrid are due to be removed this week, ready for the new sign.</p> <p>The next meeting to be booked at Caffi Wylfa for the group to see the new Interpretation panels.</p> <p>The Horseshoe Falls panels will reuse the housing already there but will be re brand and change the text in new panels. No permissions required.</p> <p>The Hand of Industry signs has been difficult to design and complete and needs a conversation as to how to brand these signs.</p> <p>Plas Newydd interpretation – Currently waiting for the first draft to arrive. Images required for the next stage.</p> <p><u>Education Packs</u></p> <p>SH leading on this project and has been mindful of not replicating any of the items on the WHS website. This project is currently still being worked on as community engagement events have taken up her time.</p> <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <p>SH has been working with many of the groups by setting up regular events for them. Dynamic is the one group we need to be able to meet up with this year to meet our outcomes. This project was affected by Covid 19 and lots of work has been done to meet our targets.</p>	<p>KT</p> <p>FR</p>
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	<p><u>Monitoring and Evaluation</u></p> <p>Marked as amber, but after a meeting with the contractor, who has no concerns regarding the project, despite the changes made to the output and outcomes of the project due to Covid19.</p> <p>DS and HM are currently looking at the finances as Covid 19 adversely affected some of the projects. The intention is to apply to the lottery for an extension to the project and with the unspent funds due to the pandemic as reasonable justification.</p>	
<p>4. Dinas Bran Summer Event.</p>	<p><u>Dinas Bran Summer Event.</u></p> <p>1st of July will be the date for this event. The majority of activities will be concentrated on the pancake for accessibility, but there will be some events further up at the castle. The team are currently working on the events for the day, which will include the camera obscura, the VR headset, landscape painting workshops, the Victorian style camera, cake stand /refreshments.</p> <p>HM has met with Sarah Bayliss to discuss doing an audio soundscape to be produced as a podcast of her leading a walking up to the castle. This will be included in the final exhibition.</p>	
<p>5. The Final Exhibition</p>	<p><u>The Final Exhibition – Amber</u></p> <p>The Dory Gallery in Llangollen has been confirmed for the final exhibition which will run from the 16th September to the 8th October 2023. The whole gallery space has been hired working with curator Tracy Simpson to celebrate the art done during the project. New artwork is also being commissioned to ensure we have a good selection of work to display. Workshops, talks and interactive projects will are being arranged during the exhibition.</p>	
<p>6. Management and Maintenance Plan</p>	<p><u>Management and Maintenance Plan.</u></p> <p>The project is required to plan to the Heritage Lottery how the projects will be looked after into the future and how the benefits of the project will be maintained. HM and DS will need to work on this document to ensure that projects are future proofed by partners, with a maintenance fund to help implement this for 10 years after the project has ended.</p> <p>DRJ asked if the plan can be circulated to the partners to see how this will impact them as partners.</p>	HM
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>This week sees the Woodland Management work in Pontcysyllte continue.</p> <p>It was noted that the red carpet event for Ysgol y Gwenant at Llangollen Town Hall was very enjoyable successful event.</p> <p>Link to be sent out to all for the film shown that night.</p> <p>All were invited to view the work going on at the Pontcysyllte to improve the view.</p>	HM

7. Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting will be on 23rd May 2023 – Caffi Wylfa, Chirk.	
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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: 17th March 2023

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2022/23

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's projected revenue budget outturn position for 2022/23.

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 2023.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the latest financial outturn forecast for 2022/23 (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 2022/23 detailed in Appendix 1. The projected overall outturn position is to break even, a small contribution from the revenue reserve may be required as shown in appendix 1.

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 2022/23.

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.

As stated in the budget there is a requirement to support the revenue budget from the revenue reserve.

11. Power to make the Decision

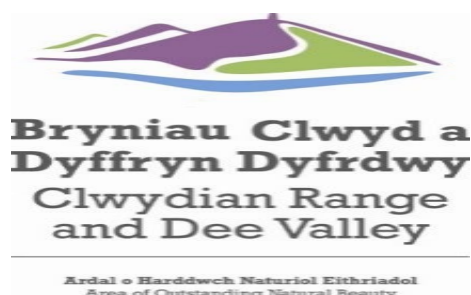
Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

	Budget 2022/23	Forecast Outturn 2022/23
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	203,189	217,290
Training & Conference	500	2,432
Subscriptions	2,700	2,914
Physiotherapy		
Insurance	692	692
Total Employee costs	207,081	223,328
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	300	323
Mileage	2,700	2,700
Use of Public Transport		35
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	3,000	3,058
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	1,500	1,500
Office Expenses	200	500
Management Plan/Prof fees	2,500	2,500
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT / Communication costs	2,900	3,169
Telephones	700	1,012
Total Other Expenses	8,934	9,815
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	95,000	95,000
Total Project costs	95,000	95,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	314,015	331,201
INCOME		
NRW CRDV Grant	-108,500	-113,757
SDF Mgmt fee	-5,000	-5,000
SDF Grant	-95,000	-95,000
LA Funding	-99,585	-99,969
WG Grant Funding		-11,000
Contributions from Reserve	-5,930	-512
TOTAL INCOME	-314,015	-325,238
Total Net Expenditure	0	5,963

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

	Budget 2022/23	Forecast Outturn 2022/23
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	177,788	192,783
Training	500	132
Insurance	606	606
Total Employee costs	178,894	193,521
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	4,500	4,500
Fleet	19,000	19,000
Travel	1,200	1,200
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	24,700	24,700
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	2,500	1,200
Site Management		1,000
General Equipment	500	404
IT / Communication costs	2,600	2,757
Telephones	550	815
Projects/Activity expenditure	4,000	4,000
Total Other Expenses	10,150	10,176
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	213,744	228,397
INCOME		
NRW Forestry Partnership	-30,821	-30,821
LA funding	-174,923	-203,539
Contributions from Reserve	-8,000	0
TOTAL INCOME	-213,744	-234,360
Total Net Expenditure	0	-5,963





Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme March 2023 Update

Project Existing	Detail/Action	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	Draft Risk Register to JC 10.11.22	2022-23		Neutral
NRW Core AONB Funding	Offer received although £20k short on revenue (£40k for two years)	2022-24		-ve
WG Gap Fund	WG Offer Accepted for £20k revenue for 22-23	2022-23		+ve
SDF Fund	WG continue fund at £100k. RS Cover for CL on maternity	2022-25		+ve
Strategic Plans 2022-25				
AONB Management Plan	Management Plan at printers 28.2.23. Should be available for JC 17.3.23	2022-25		Neutral
Central Recreation Plan	Holdings and actions to be on annotated map. Actions see SLSP 2022-23	2022		+ve
AONB Tourism Plan	Consultation underway to CRTG .October 2022	2022-23		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	JC Meeting back on track full complement of members met November 2022 new Chair	2022-23		Neutral
LA Legal Agreement	All agreed and sealed by LAs for next 5 years. FCC Constitution no subs via Leader	2019-2024		Neutral
AONB Forum	Theme Climate Change Llysfasi complete	November 23 rd 2022		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors/AONB Champions	2.3.22 Llysfasi agenda complete invites out	2022-23 2.3.23		Neutral

Forward Work Programme March 2023 Update Continued				
Project Existing	Detail/Action	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	3 x AONB Partnership Meetings completed.	2022-23		Neutral
AONB Working Groups to be reviewed	Special Partnership Meet 3.2.23 review started	2022-23		Neutral
Partnership Working Groups:				
Landscape Character and Built Environment	Appointed David Williams	2022-23		+ve
Land Management and the Natural Environment	Under Review	2022-23		+ve
Heritage, Culture and Communities	Under Review Strong attendance 4 x meets completed inc 2 x site visits	2022-23		+ve
Tourism	Under Review	2022-23		+ve
Recreation and Health	Under Review Meeting with Health Board 1 x Meet	2022-23		+ve
Sustainable Development	Met 3x to discuss proposals	2022-23		+ve

Forward Work Programme March 2023 Update Continued				
Project Existing	Detail/Action	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				
SLSP	<i>Majestic Moorlands and Wild Woods of the AONB</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPAT Heritage work • Dinas Bran Improvements • Bryn Alyn Accessibility <i>Enjoying our remoter landscapes 2022-25.</i> <i>Projects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moorlands and the traditions of the Commons • Woodlands Study • LNR/Llangollen GI/Pengwern Planting 	2022-25		+ve
SLSP Collaborative	<i>The AONB is engaged in three collaborative projects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Traditional Boundaries • All Wales Dark Skies Project • All Wales Education Project 	2022-25		+ve
SDF	2022-25 £100k per annum	2022-25		+ve
Special Project WG	2022-25 £300k allocated to increase staffing: <i>Farming/Engagement Officers appointed:</i> <i>Huw Morgan/Mari Jones</i>	2022-25		+ve

NRW Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-year Review of Partnership • Overheads Meetings • New Hand Book • Highways Doc • SPG Revisions • Threshold Signs • New Leaflets Moel Famau/Loggerheads • National Park Alignment Review 	2022-24		
Our Picturesque Landscape Project	Coming in to final year projects progressing	2018-23		+ve
Climate Change	Appointment of Graham Berry as Climate Change and Nature Recovery Officer	March 2023		Neutral

Forward Work Programme March 2023 Update Continued				
Project Existing	Detail/Action	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	The Shelf back on track. New schemes in consideration - Shelf, Llangar, Plas Newydd and Llangollen Water Tower. Possible A5 Tollbooth scheme approach (Change of owners)	2022-25		Neutral
Dark Skies SPG	All 3 LAs agreed Dark Skies SPG. 2 of the 3 LAs approve FCC March	2022-23		+ve
National Grid VIP and Landscape Enhancement Initiative	AONB Officer is rep for 39 AONBs on National Board. 4 x LEI Schemes Morwinion Valley and Minera Corwen EOI approved AONB Award to National Grid on 23.3.23	2022-23		Neutral
NAAONB Lead Officer Meet	Regular Monthly Meets 1x Lead Officer's	2022-23		Neutral
Pontcysyllte Sewage Works	Part complete. Dwr Cymru will create meadow and boundary hedge	2022-23		+ve
Severn Trent	Meeting with ST and Regulator June exploring land holding opportunities	2022-23		+ve
Highways Guidance for LAs	Constructing doc for consultation. Proving difficult to engage	2021-22		-ve

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