

BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group held on Thursday, 3rd November 2022 at Yarcombe Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Bob Nelson (Chair)	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
John Greenshields (Vice Chair)	Blackdown Hills Trust
Cllr Sarah Wakefield	Somerset County Council
Cllr Martin Wale	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Mike Canham	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
Cllr Graham Long	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
David Northcote-Wright	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Gordon Field	Blackdown Hills Artist & Makers
Tommy Muncie	National Trust
Pat Markey-Bell	Natural England
Carolyn Dare	Blackdown Hills Transition Group
Peter Chamberlain	Devon County Council

Blackdown Hills AONB staff team: Tim Youngs (**TY**), Jackie Vaughan (**JV**), Lisa Turner (**LT**), Gavin Saunders (**GS**)

Apologies: Bruce Payne (Special Appointee); Cllr John Berry (Devon County Council); Cllr Paul Hayward (East Devon District Council); Martin Turner (Blackdown Hills Hedge Association); Janette Ward (CPRE Somerset); Penny Mills (CPRE Devon)

Also present: Jenny Archard (Clarity CIC)

Members of the public: None

ITEM 1 Welcome and Introductions	By whom
<p>1.1: TY announced the results of the recent election for chair and vice chair of the AONB Partnership. One nomination was received for each post and therefore Cllr Bob Nelson has accepted the post of chair and John Greenshields has accepted the post of vice chair. A statement was read out from the retiring chair and TY read out a statement thanking Bruce Payne for the excellent job he has done as chair over the last two years.</p> <p>The new chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were carried out and apologies given.</p> <p>1.2: Declarations of interest: Gordon Field declared that BHAAM are receiving SDF funding.</p> <p>1.3: Register of interest forms are still outstanding for some members</p>	
ITEM 2 Questions form the public	
No questions received.	
ITEM 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 th June 2022 and any matters arising	
The minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman as a true record.	

ITEM 4.1 Workshop 1: Inclusion and Diversity	
<p>Presentation and discussion led by Clarity CIC. Copy of the presentation has been sent separately.</p> <p>Points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local groups could be encouraged to take part in meetings like the management group if they were supported financially National Trust (NT) builds inclusion and diversity into all aspects of its work with visitors, volunteers and staff- TM is happy to share information <p>PM-B: Feedback from the NAAONB conference focussed on engaging more young people (youth trustees), access and the ability for people to get places. Language and artwork are key to involving people in the landscape.</p> <p>How do we become more inclusive as a Partnership Management Group?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and diversity should regularly be on the agenda of future meetings There should be active outreach by inviting people to join us e.g. Young Somerset Have a management group member who acts as a leader for the subject Establish how diverse the AONB (and surrounding) area is by gathering data Use funding leverage to ask groups how diverse they are and how they would like to engage with the AONB Partnership Establish how we ensure inclusion and diversity data is robustly gathered <p>ACTION:TY to approach Cllr Ross Henley about becoming involved in supporting the AONB's aims for inclusion and diversity</p> <p>CD: Advised the group of a free course starting in January 'Trust the people' The Course Trust The People</p>	<p>TY</p> <p>ALL</p>
ITEM 4.2 Workshop 2: Climate Action Plan	
<p>Presentation and discussion led by TY. Copy of the presentation has been sent separately. All AONB chairs have signed up to endorse the NAAONB Statement of Climate Commitment.</p> <p>As part of this climate commitment, a Climate Action Plan has been produced for the Blackdown Hills AONB (with help from a consultant and in association with the Blackdown Hills Parish Network) that draws together actions from the relevant county and district climate/ carbon plans and cross-references them to the AONB Management Plan. A long list of actions was created from this.</p> <p>Sitting at the 'front end' of this Climate Action Plan is a Climate Action Delivery Plan (circulated in the papers). This (working) document distils the long list of potential actions down to a short-list, along with suggested mechanisms for delivery.</p> <p>The AONB requires money and active volunteers to start the 'to do' list</p> <p>The Blackdown Hills Parish Network have produced a new Business Plan that incorporates climate actions and some individual parish councils have drawn up 'action for climate' plans, both of which link to the AONB Climate Action Delivery Plan.</p> <p>CD is working on trying to calculate a carbon footprint for the Combe Raleigh parish.</p> <p>ACTION: TY to talk to GL about producing a carbon footprint for the AONB area.</p> <p>A question was raised as to whether setting out a series of actions for individuals and communities was the right thing for the AONB to do.</p> <p>A tool is available on the web for individuals to work out their carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it Giki - Making it easy to live sustainably</p>	<p>TY</p>

<p>The next stage is delivery of the action plan and how to communicate it.</p> <p>TM: National Trust (NT) are working on the idea that lots of small changes make a big difference e.g. electric cars, machinery and the AONB should look at how they can make small wins in what they do.</p> <p>ACTION: TM to look in to what NT Ideas and strategies can be shared with the AONB</p> <p>BN: There needs to be a bit more focus as there is too much in the plan.</p> <p>DNW: Somerset Wildlife Trust have been audited and this has highlighted the areas where they can make a difference e.g. commuting to work and use of vehicles at work. It was suggested that the AONB could be audited.</p> <p>PM-B The plan should be in two parts, community action and land use action and the plan will need support from AONB partnership organisations .</p> <p>ACTION: The delivery plan needs a traffic light system on the actions.</p> <p>GF: AONB should look for solutions by engaging more young people in the conversation.</p> <p>GL: Suggested that the Climate Action Plan should have come to the Management Group meeting first before the delivery plan and that the Action Plan should be presented to the Management Group for agreement. The action plan needs to be developed in to something that can be worked with</p> <p>ACTION: TY to send the Climate Action Plan document to all members and set up a climate action task and finish group. BN has volunteered to join the group.</p> <p>Suggestions highlighted on how to bring people in to the AONB partnership to help with the climate action plan (and inclusion & diversity):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special appointee – inclusion & diversity • Co-option for the climate task & finish group • Invite experts to speak/ be a critical friend <p>ACTION: TY to draft a brief for these areas of work and discuss with BN and JG before inviting interested parties, ensuring that we follow inclusion & diversity principles</p>	<p>TM</p> <p>TY</p> <p>TY/BN</p> <p>TY</p>
<p>ITEM 5.1 AONB team report</p>	
<p>TY gave a presentation on the recent work of the AONB team, no questions raised.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5.2 Financial summary to end of September 2022</p>	
<p>Concerns raised by local authority members on the (Somerset) council's ability to maintain funding at current levels.</p>	
<p>ITEM 6.1 Revised terms of reference</p>	
<p>6.1.1: AGREED: Revised terms of reference accepted by all members present</p> <p>6.1.2: Somerset County Council have formed a governance team to work on the new Somerset Unitary Council and TY was advised to make contact with the team.</p> <p>ACTION: TY to contact the Somerset unitary governance working team.</p>	<p>TY</p>

ITEM 6.2 Briefings from partners	
<p>CPRE: (sent in prior to the meeting) AGM on Friday 4th November at Hestercombe Gardens. Litter project continues to attract new volunteers – we have handed out 160 kits so far to individual volunteers who are regularly cleaning up their patch around Somerset. We are now also working with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme to encourage students from SEN schools in Somerset to carry out litter picking for the volunteering element of their DofE Awards. In a joint project with the Marine Conservation Society, we are asking students to count different types of litter they find and submit their results to the MCS “Source to Sea” Citizen Science project.</p> <p>Annual photo competition had the theme “Happy Days in Somerset” in 2022 and attracted over 100 entries across two age categories. See www.cpresomerset.org.uk for a gallery of entries – winners to be announced at the AGM.</p> <p>Planning decisions are still being delayed while the phosphates credit system is being established. Mendip DC and South Somerset DC are facing particular hold ups which means they are unable to show a 5-year housing land supply. Inevitably, developers are taking advantage of this hiatus and submitting proposals for large housing developments in inappropriate locations. Districts without a 5-year housing land supply find it harder to refuse such applications so the character of our villages and market towns is at risk.</p> <p>One example of this is the application for 200 houses in the fields next to Castle Cary railway station, which was won on appeal, despite huge local opposition.</p> <p>Meeting with Bill Revans, leader of the new Somerset Council Unitary Authority in November and hope to establish regular dialogue with future decision makers.</p> <p>Nationally, CPRE has joined with dozens of other environmental groups in complaining to Defra, just this week, about missed deadlines set by the Environment Act 2021 – targets such as a date for the introduction of a Deposit Return System to combat litter and plastic pollution, air and water quality targets and those concerning protect landscapes.</p> <p>Ran a brief but effective campaign when the ban on fracking was lifted but, thankfully, this has now been reversed. We continue to keep a close eye on proposed changes to the planning system and will actively fight against any changes which take away local voices and local democracy.</p> <p>CD: Blackdown Hills transition group will be making a presentation to Low Carbon Devon and Exeter university on their bio char project.</p> <p>MW: Somerset local community networks may have funding available soon.</p>	
ITEM 7 Any Other Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting dates for 2023 were confirmed – PLEASE NOTE 9th March 2023 meeting has now been changed to 2nd March 2023 Elaine Hayes has resigned as a special appointee and was thanked for all her support and hard work over the last few years as a member <p>ACTION: TY to consider the appointment of further special appointees who will bring the necessary expertise to the group.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>TY</p>
Date of next meeting	
<p>Next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 from 9.30am – 12pm, venue to be confirmed. Please note this is a change of date from the advertised one.</p>	

Signed as a true record:

Chairman.....

Date.....