



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are invited to attend the

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOWER AONB PARTNERSHIP GROUP

At: Reynoldston Village Hall, Reynoldston, Gower, Swansea

On: Monday, 29 June 2015

Time: 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA

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|-----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions. | |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence. | |
| 3 | Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. | 1 - 2 |
| 4 | Minutes.
To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group held on 2 March 2015. | 3 - 10 |
| 5 | Matters Arising from the Minutes. | |
| 6 | Terms of Reference. (For Information) | 11 - 15 |
| 7 | Presentation - The Work and Roles of the Gower AONB Partnership & Gower AONB Team. | |
| 8 | Presentation - Welsh Designated Landscapes Review - Welsh Government. | |
| 9 | To Elect Members of the Gower AONB Steering Group as follows: | |
| 9a | To Elect Ten Steering Group Members from Nominations Received. | |
| 9b | To Elect the Vice-Chair of the Steering Group. | |

10 To Request that the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group Elects the Following in September 2015: -

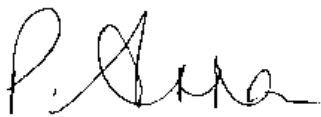
- 10a Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Grants Panel (consists of Chair of Steering Group and seven other members).
- 10b Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Grants Appeals Panel (consists of Vice Chair of Steering Group and seven other members who do not already sit on SDF Grants Panel).

11 Presentations - Gower Voices.

12 Public Question Time.

13 Dates of Meetings for 2015/2016 to be held at 7 p.m. as follows: -

- 28 September 2015;
- 21 December 2015;
- 21 March 2016.



Patrick Arran
Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
22 June 2015

Contact: Democratic Services
01792 636923

GOWER AONB PARTNERSHIP GROUP (6)

Councillors

Labour Councillors: 4

Mark C Child	P Lloyd (Chair)
Jan P Curtice	Jane E C Harris

Liberal Democrat Councillor: 1

Richard D Lewis	
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Independent Councillor: 1

Keith E Marsh	
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Officers:

Kim Flanders	Planning Policy and Environment Manager, Planning Services
Chris Lindley	Gower AONB Team Leader, Planning Services
Mike Scott	Gower AONB Officer
Jeremy Parkhouse	Democratic Services

For Information Email Only:

Phil Roberts	Director of Place
Phil Holmes	Head of Regeneration & Planning
Chris Dale	Countryside Access Team Leader (Rights of Way), Planning Services

Total Copies Needed:

32

GOWER AONB Partnership Group (Aug 2013)

Name	Organisation	Address	Post Code	Telephone
Gordon Howe	Gower Society	Annie's Stables, Middleton, Rhossili, Swansea	SA3 1PJ	01792 390560 mewslade@aol.com
Roger Button	Tourism Swansea Bay	Pitton Cross Caravan and Camping Park, Pitton Cross, Rhossili	SA3 1PN	01792 390593 rogerpitton@yahoo.co.uk
Alan Woodman	Representing Forestry & Farming	57, Gowerton Road, Three Crosses, Swansea	SA4 3PY	07970870490 woodman@lonisa.fsnet.co.uk
Stephen Heard	Gower Riding Club / Port Eynon Community Council	Pylewell, Pilton Green, Rhossili, Swansea, SA3 1PQ	SA3 1BJ	steveheard1@aol.com
Community Councillor P R Hood – Williams	Upper Killay Community Council	50, Pant-y-Dwr, Three Crosses, Swansea	SA4 3PG	Paxton.hood-williams@swansea.gov.uk
Sue Hill	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	Heathfield House, 91, Heathfield, Swansea	SA1 6EL	01792 655208 sue@ggat.org.uk
John Davies	BayTrans			01792 205071 johnbaytrans@btinternet.com
Peter Lanfear	Gower Commoners Association	31, Pennard Drive, Pennard, Swansea	SA3 2BL	01792 233624 peter.lanfear@gmail.com
Community Councillor Rod Cooper	Llanrhidian Higher Community Council	The Lodge, Park Road, Penclawdd, Swansea	SA4 3FQ	rcooper@yllety.F9.co.uk
Ceri Daugherty	Natural Resources Wales	Llanion House, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire	SA72 6DY	01792 634981 ceri.daugherty@cyfoethnaturlcymru.gov.uk
Rebecca Wright	Natural Resources Wales	Maes Newydd, Britannic Way West, Llandarcy, Neath	SA1 8PG	01792 634966 rebecca.wright@cyfoethnaturlcymru.gov.uk

Disclosures of Interest

To receive Disclosures of Interest from Councillors and Officers

Councillors

Councillors Interests are made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea. You must disclose orally to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest.

NOTE: You are requested to identify the Agenda Item / Minute No. / Planning Application No. and Subject Matter to which that interest relates and to enter all declared interests on the sheet provided for that purpose at the meeting.

1. If you have a **Personal Interest** as set out in **Paragraph 10** of the Code, you **MAY STAY, SPEAK AND VOTE** unless it is also a Prejudicial Interest.
2. If you have a Personal Interest which is also a **Prejudicial Interest** as set out in **Paragraph 12** of the Code, then subject to point 3 below, you **MUST WITHDRAW** from the meeting (unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Standards Committee)
3. Where you have a Prejudicial Interest you may attend the meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, **provided** that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise. In such a case, you **must withdraw from the meeting immediately after the period for making representations, answering questions, or giving evidence relating to the business has ended**, and in any event before further consideration of the business begins, whether or not the public are allowed to remain in attendance for such consideration (**Paragraph 14** of the Code).
4. Where you have agreement from the Monitoring Officer that the information relating to your Personal Interest is **sensitive information**, as set out in **Paragraph 16** of the Code of Conduct, your obligation to disclose such information is replaced with an obligation to disclose the existence of a personal interest and to confirm that the Monitoring Officer has agreed that the nature of such personal interest is sensitive information.
5. If you are relying on a **grant of a dispensation** by the Standards Committee, you must, before the matter is under consideration:
 - i) Disclose orally both the interest concerned and the existence of the dispensation; and
 - ii) Before or immediately after the close of the meeting give written notification to the Authority containing:

- a) Details of the prejudicial interest;
- b) Details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;
- c) Details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and
- d) Your signature

Officers

Financial Interests

1. If an Officer has a financial interest in any matter which arises for decision at any meeting to which the Officer is reporting or at which the Officer is in attendance involving any member of the Council and /or any third party the Officer shall declare an interest in that matter and take no part in the consideration or determination of the matter and shall withdraw from the meeting while that matter is considered. Any such declaration made in a meeting of a constitutional body shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. No Officer shall make a report to a meeting for a decision to be made on any matter in which s/he has a financial interest.
2. A "financial interest" is defined as any interest affecting the financial position of the Officer, either to his/her benefit or to his/her detriment. It also includes an interest on the same basis for any member of the Officers family or a close friend and any company firm or business from which an Officer or a member of his/her family receives any remuneration. There is no financial interest for an Officer where a decision on a report affects all of the Officers of the Council or all of the officers in a Department or Service.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOWER AONB PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

HELD AT LLANRHIDIAN HOLIDAY PARK, LLANRHIDIAN, SWANSEA ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) presided

Councillor(s):	Councillor(s):	Councillor(s):
M C Child	K E Marsh	

Representing organisations:

R Button	-	Tourism Swansea Bay
S Heard	-	Gower Riding Club/Port Eynon Community Council
Community Cllr P R Hood-Williams	-	Upper Killay Community Council
G Howe	-	Gower Society
A Woodman	-	Forestry and Farming
Community Cllr R Cooper	-	Llanrhidian Higher Community Council
J Davies	-	Bay Trans
R Wright	-	NRW - Natural Resources Wales

Officers:

C Lindley	-	Gower AONB Team Leader
M Scott	-	Gower AONB Officer
J Parkhouse	-	Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

C Williams	-	Farmer
S Clayfield	-	Rosedale, Llanrhidian
A Richards	-	Sunny Marshes, Llanrhidian
J White	-	Friends of Swansea Horses
I E Button	-	Rhossili Community Council
A Cowley	-	Calibion Saw Mill
R Pritchard	-	Weobley Castle
E Cowley	-	Dunraven Farm, Burry Green
M Cowley	-	Dunraven Farm, Burry Green
R Edwards	-	Crofty
R Beynon	-	Pwll Y Froga Farm

45. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J E C Harris, B Parry, K Flanders and H Lloyd.

46. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest was declared:

G Howe (Gower Society) - Minute No. 52 - the proposal to install the new shared communication mast to increase cover in the Gower AONB - personal as a member of the Gower Society.

47. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The public asked the following questions:-

Community Councillor I Button, Rhossili Community Council asked questions in relation to the closing of Plantasia and repairs to the road on Cefn Bryn.

Ms J White, Friends of Swansea Horses asked a question in relation to animal welfare, particularly marsh ponies that are linked to residential areas in Swansea. She requested that animal welfare matters and marsh ponies be added to a future agenda of the Steering Group for discussion.

Mr R Beynon, Pwll Y Froga Farm asked the Vice Chair a question in relation to taking photographs of his property on behalf of the Gower Society or 'for his self gratification.' The Vice Chair was concerned about Mr Beynons implication and denied the allegation of taking photographs on the day referred to but did accept that he took aerial photographs for the Gower Society last in August 2014. The Chair stated that the question was inappropriate for the meeting.

AGREED that animal welfare matters, in particular marsh ponies be added to a future agenda of the Steering Group for discussion.

48. **MINUTES**

AGREED that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group Meeting held on 8 December 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

49. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Gower AONB - Affordable Housing

A Woodman requested a progress update regarding affordable housing. The Gower AONB Officer indicated that the draft letter would be circulated around the Group very shortly and apologised for the delay. He added that there was no deadline for submissions.

Broadband on Gower

R Button highlighted that there had been no progress to date in relation to improving the broadband service on Gower, particularly in Rhossili. Councillor K E Marsh added that he was attempting to contact a representative of BT in order to progress matters.

50. **GOWER AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN - UPDATE**

The Gower AONB Team Leader presented an update report on the Gower AONB Management Plan. It was outlined that the consultation period on the Draft Management Plan had ended on 19 December 2014. Responses were received from the following organisations:-

- Natural Resources Wales
- National Trust
- The Gower Society
- The Countryside Management System (CMS) Consortium
- Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel and Tourism Partnership (Bay Trans)
- Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust
- Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales
- South Wales Police

It was added that the Council had also conducted an integrated impact assessment on the Management Plan which had made a number of recommendations for the final version. Responses were also received from 10 private individuals/businesses. The Gower AONB Team Leader was preparing a consultation report in order to finalise the Management Plan. This would be issued to the AONB Steering Group for approval. The timetable for Council adoption of the final Management Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance was also provided.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

51. **GOWER AONB - ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SUB-GROUP - PROGRESS UPDATE**

It was reported that the Alternative Energy Sub-Group had met on 7 January 2015 in order to review the range of issues, technologies, policy and guidance/policy adopted in other AONBs. It was added that the Sub-Group had asked the Gower AONB Team to prepare a position statement for the approval of the Steering Group. The statement would inform the Local Planning Authority, landowners, applicants and other interested parties regarding the development of new energy projects within, or likely to affect, the Gower AONB. The scope of the position statement would be broadened, to include other (non-renewable) energy technologies that could impact on the AONB. There was also some discussion on future energy provision and technologies. The position statement will be prepared for review by the Sub-Group and for subsequent Steering Group approval in due course.

The Group commented on the outline position statement contents and the progress of the Sub-Group. It was added that this was a good opportunity for the Steering Group to lead on this issue.

52. **THE PROPOSAL TO INSTALL THE NEW SHARED COMMUNICATION MAST TO INCREASE COVER IN THE GOWER AONB**

A report was presented in relation to the proposal to install the new shared communication mast to increase cover in the Gower AONB. It was broadly recognised by the Steering Group that the issue for consideration was improved coverage against the visual impact of the mast. It was added that even though the coverage could well be improved, the visual impacts within the AONB had to be discussed and the various other options available examined.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

53. **POSSIBLE DIALOGUE WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES REGARDING DECISIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT THE GOWER AONB**

A Woodman presented a report which discussed possible dialogue with other authorities regarding decisions which may affect the Gower AONB. It was outlined that two planning decisions, by neighbouring authorities, in recent years had and continued to attract criticism by people living on North Gower.

Both of these planning decisions affected North Gower by causing pollution and nuisance which spoils the natural beauty of the AONB.

The Machynys Golf Driving Range floodlights cause substantial light pollution along much of North Gower. Secondly, the motor racing facilities at Pembrey causes noticeable noise pollution over much of north Gower when Formula 1 teams are testing their cars at the facility.

Furthermore, he queried whether the officers of the Council should identify areas where decisions of other authorities would detrimentally affect objectives of the Gower AONB. He also queried whether the Steering Group should request that the Council open dialogue with identified authorities with the objective of avoiding/preventing issues and decisions that would detrimentally affect the objectives of the Gower AONB.

The Steering Group discussed the issues raised at length, particularly the light pollution caused by the golf course at Machynys. It was commented that the issue regarding light pollution had been pursued in a number of areas by local individuals, with no success.

It was highlighted that neighbouring authorities do have to account for the impact on the AONB under planning legislation and therefore must consider the impact of applications within their particular area. Organisations/authorities would therefore be expected to consult with neighbouring authorities. Matters could also be pursued with the relevant Pollution Control Section of the Authority in which the possible nuisance is located. It was added that there was also an opportunity to include such issues in the Gower AONB Management Plan.

AGREED that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) officers investigate the conditions imposed upon the Machynys golf course when the planning consent for the driving range was granted.

54. **GOWER AONB RANGER REPORT - QUARTER 3**

The updated Gower AONB Ranger Report for Quarter 3, 2014/15 was provided for information. It was explained that unfortunately, due to the contract of the Gower AONB Ranger not being renewed at the end of March 2015, much of the work undertaken by the Ranger will not continue after this date.

The Steering Group discussed the implications of no Ranger presence being available on the AONB throughout the summer months. This would have further implications for the AONB going forward and officers would have to work closely with local Police in order to prevent future problems.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

55. **ASH DIEBACK DISEASE (CHALARA) - EXTRACTS FROM THE LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION FROM DEFRA TREE HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Extracts from the latest available data from DEFRA Tree Health Management Plan was provided for information. The Steering Group discussed the possible implications for the Gower AONB. It was proposed that representatives from NRW Forestry Woodland Division be invited to a future meeting in order to provide an update on the issue.

AGREED that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) representatives from NRW Woodland Division be invited to provide an update presentation at a future meeting of the Steering Group.

56. **LDP UPDATE**

In the absence of the Planning Policy and Environment Manager, the item was deferred.

57. **DESIGNED LANDSCAPES REVIEW**

The Gower AONB Team Leader reported that the Review Panel had reported back on Stage 1 of the Review to the Welsh Government Minister. Local authorities were expecting to see the results of the Review very shortly. However, there was currently an embargo on any details being released.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

58. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND PANEL UPDATE**

The Gower AONB Officer provided the Steering Group with a verbal update on the Sustainable Development Fund Panel. He outlined that the Panel had received £93,000 in funding from the Welsh Government this financial year which included £70,000 initially and an additional £23,000 received last month. All grant money available had been allocated by the Panel.

It was added that Welsh Government had indicated that the Panel would receive £60,000 funding for the next financial year and at present there was £10,000 uncommitted funds. He also provided examples of the wide range of projects that the Panel had supported.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

59. **ANNUAL FORUM DISCUSSIONS**

The Chair requested that Members of the Steering Group indicate their preferred time and day for meetings for the next Municipal Year. He added that the next meeting would be the Annual Forum where Steering Group Members would be elected.

AGREED that:

- (1) future meetings take place at 7.00 p.m. on Monday evenings;
- (2) the Annual Forum takes place in June 2015, as indicated in the Council Diary.

60. **MEMBER TRAINING - WALES AONB PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

The Members who attended the Wales AONB Partnership Member Training reported that the training had been very worthwhile, very interesting and worth attending.

AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

61. **DRAFT MARINE CHARACTER AREAS**

The report was provided for information. The Steering Group queried the details of the Authority's response to the consultation which ended on 16 February 2015.

AGREED that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;

Minutes of the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group (02.03.2015) Cont'd

- (2) the response of the Authority to the consultation process be reported to the Steering Group.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

CHAIR

S: Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group - 2 March 2015
(JEP) 12 March 2015

GOWER AONB Partnership - Terms Of Reference

PURPOSE & FUNCTION

- 1) The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 places a duty upon the City & County of Swansea ('the Council') to "prepare and publish a management plan which formulates their policy for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it".
- 2) The Act also places a statutory duty on relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB when exercising or performing any functions affecting land in the AONB. "Relevant authorities" are any public bodies including local and statutory authorities, parish councils and statutory regulators.
- 3) The Gower AONB Partnership ('The AONB Partnership ') is an advisory group to the Council, convened by them, to facilitate the management of the Gower AONB, in fulfilment of their legal responsibilities and duties with regard to the Gower AONB.

STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

- 4) **The AONB Partnership** is a membership body, open to any individual or organisation. The only criteria is that they should have an interest in the AONB. The AONB Partnership is an overarching group set up in order to co-ordinate management groups set up under its cover. The AONB Partnership is intended to support the involvement of the community in the management of the AONB
- 5) The AONB Partnership will be chaired by the Councillor who is Chair of the Development Management & Control Committee.
- 6) The AONB Partnership is responsible for nominating the **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group** ('the Steering Group').
- 7) The Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the Management of the AONB, and is responsible for the development of policy and strategy for the AONB area, particularly through the AONB Management Plan, and influencing the policies and strategies of others. The Steering Group will also take and support action to conserve and promote the AONB.
- 8) The Steering Group will comprise:
 - a maximum of 6 Councillors (including the Councillor who is Chair of the Development Management & Control Committee).
 - 2 representatives from Natural Resources Wales
 - 10 other members who will be elected for a term of two years, drawn from the following interests as appropriate:

- Community Councils
 - Nature conservation
 - History and archaeology
 - Land owning/farming/forestry
 - Commoners
 - Rural business
 - Tourism
 - Recreation
 - Local Interest Groups
 - Residents of the Gower AONB
- 9) The Steering Group will be chaired by the Chair of the Development Management & Control Committee.
- 10) The Steering Group will select a Vice Chair from the Steering Group Members.
- 11) The Steering Group will elect the following sub-groups to the Steering Group:
- a) Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Grants Panel.**
 - This panel will decide on grant applications to the SDF from funding obtained from the Welsh Government. It will determine how best to use that funding, and will operate an appeals process when considering how funding should be spent.
 - This panel will comprise the Chair of the Development Management & Control Committee (who will act as Chair) and seven other members of the AONB Partnership.
 - The panel will be supported by the AONB Officer, and a representative from NRW, as observers.
 - b) The SDF Grants Appeals Panel**
 - This Panel will handle disputes on how funding should be spent and will decide on appeals for grant applications refused by the SDF Grants Panel.
 - The SDF Appeals Panel will comprise the Vice Chair of the Steering Group (who will act as Chair of the SDF Appeal Panel) and seven other members of the AONB Partnership that do not already sit on the SDF Grant Panel.
 - The panel will be supported by the AONB Officer, and a representative from NRW, as observers.
 - c) Other sub-groups as required**
- 12) The Steering Group will have the power to co-opt individuals (to itself, or to sub-groups) or organisations or to set up further sub-groups as deemed necessary to fulfil the aims and objectives of the AONB Partnership.
- 13) Members of the Steering Group and of any sub-group will be expected to abide by the City and County of Swansea Members Code of Conduct.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 14) **The Steering Group** are responsible for:
- Preparation of the AONB Management Plan on behalf of the City & County of Swansea.
 - Co-ordination of the implementation of the AONB Management Plan.
 - Develop and implement a programme of promotion and awareness of the special qualities of the AONB and the Heritage Coast.
 - Preparation of business plans for the Partnership including the annual work programme for the AONB Team.
 - Preparation of an annual report on the work of the Partnership and progress on implementing the AONB Management Plan.
 - Securing additional resources for the implementation of the Management Plan.
 - Commission research and special studies.
 - Operation of the Sustainable Development Fund on behalf of NRW and the Welsh Assembly Government.
 - The running of sub-groups as required
 - Holding an annual forum.
 - Holding an annual meeting with Community Councils and City & County of Swansea councillors with wards in the AONB.
 - Communication amongst the Partnership.
 - Forging links with other fora and protected landscapes, including National Parks, through the National Association for AONBs and the Europarc Federation.

MEETINGS

- 15) **The AONB Partnership:** will meet annually, with the purpose of the meeting to:
- nominate the Steering Group members as required
 - engage with the public to promote awareness of the AONB and its special qualities
 - report and review the AONB management over the previous year; and
 - identify issues, opportunities and priorities for the coming year.
- 16) An officer from the City & County of Swansea Democratic Services will be present at all meetings to record proceedings. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and circulated to Steering Group members as soon as possible after each meeting, and made available to the public on the AONB website.
- 17) **The Steering Group:** will meet quarterly, and the meeting dates published annually. Additional meetings will be convened if required. In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair at a meeting then the Steering Group may elect a Chair for that meeting. The quorum for Steering Group meetings will be six.

- 18) All meetings of the Steering Group will be open to the public for observation. Each meeting will start with a maximum of ten minutes for public questions relevant to items on the agenda.
- 19) Decisions by the Steering Group shall be made by show of hands with the Chairman having the casting vote.
- 20) **The SDF Grants Panel:** will be called to meet by the Grants Panel members and advised by the AONB Team and NRW representative, determined by the timing and number of applications to received. Quorum of the SDF Grants Panel will be four.
- 21) **The SDF Appeals Panel:** will be called to meet by the Grants Panel and advised by the AONB Team and NRW representative, determined by the timing of appeals received. Quorum of the SDF Appeals Panel will be four.
- 22) Further information in relation to the election of Steering Group Members and other procedural matters can be found in the Gower AONB Partnership Procedural/ Guidance notes available from the AONB Team.

Gower AONB Partnership – Management Structure

