



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group

At: Barham Centre, Mount Pisgah Chapel, Parkmill, Swansea

On: Monday, 25 September 2017

Time: 7.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Paul Lloyd

Membership:

Councillors: M C Child, J P Curtice, P R Hood-Williams, L James and A H Stevens

R Button, R Cooper, S Crocker, S Heard, S Hill, G Howe, M Lewis, H Osborn,
B Parry, P Tucker, D Vine and R Wright

Agenda

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|----------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence. | |
| 2 | Welcome and Introductions. | |
| 3 | Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. | |
| 4 | Minutes.
To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s). | 1 - 5 |
| 5 | Matters Arising from the Minutes. | |
| 6 | Sustainable Development Fund Report. | 6 |
| 7 | Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) - Selection of SDF Grants Panel and SDF Appeals Panel. | 7 |
| 8 | Future Landscapes Wales - Governance Principles and Update from Implementation Group Report. | 8 - 11 |
| 9 | National Association for AONB's - Conference feedback. (Verbal) | |

Next Meeting: Monday, 11 December 2017 at 7.00 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
18 September 2017

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE GOWER AONB PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT REYNOLDSTON VILLAGE HALL, REYNOLDSTON, GOWER,
SWANSEA ON MONDAY, 26 JUNE 2017 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M C Child

A H Stevens

Councillor(s)

J P Curtice

Councillor(s)

L James

Representing Organisations:

H Osborne - Natural Resources Wales

Officer(s)

Chris Lindley - Gower AONB Team Leader

Paul Meller - Strategic Planning & Natural Environment Manager

Jeremy Parkhouse - Democratic Services Officer

Mike Scott - Gower AONB Officer

R Button	F McEwen	W Harris
S Heard	M Phillips	C Williams
G Howe	I Scott	D Thomas
S Hill	C Johnson	E Button
R Cooper	E Fussell	M Lewis
J Davies	M Piercey	P Thornton
C Hill	J Piercey	B Parry
P Tucker	E Harris	H Jones
R Harris	J Probert	P Bowen- Simpkins
I Button	A Frank	R Vine
S Crocker	D Jeffrey	D Vine
M Mead	L Evans	J Mead
S Mead		

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): P R Hood-Williams

Independent Member(s): R Wright

1 **MINUTE SILENCE - JOHN BARROW.**

The Chair referred to the recent sad death of John Barrow, a former member of the Gower Countryside Forum. Roger Button also paid a tribute on behalf of the Partnership Group. All present stood as a mark of respect.

2 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

The Chair welcomed all present to Reynoldston Village Hall and commenced proceedings.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

4 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Steering Group Meeting Held on 27 March 2017 be accepted as a correct record.

5 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

Mobile Phone and Broadband Reception on Gower

Roger Button commented that there was still very poor mobile phone coverage on Gower, which was having an adverse effect upon the walking and Gower Landscape project apps for mobile phones.

Light Pollution

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader reported that discussions were progressing with other AONB's and NRW regarding tranquillity and dark skies Wales 2018/19 which has been included in the NRW forward work programme.

6 **PRESENTATION - THE WORK AND ROLES OF THE GOWER AONB PARTNERSHIP & GOWER AONB TEAM.**

Mike Scott, Gower AONB Officer provided a presentation on the work of the Gower AONB Partnership. He outlined the Gower AONB designation, the role of the Gower AONB Partnership and the work of the AONB Team within the City and County of Swansea.

7 **PRESENTATION - PARTNER BODIES.**

Gower Society

Gordon Howe, Gower Society provided a presentation on the work of the Society, particularly during the last year. He made reference to the grants and financial support the Society had awarded during the previous year and highlighted the significant role the Society had on Gower.

Natural Resources Wales

Hamish Osborne, Swansea Team Leader, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) provided an update presentation regarding the work of NRW on Gower. He

provided details regarding the management of NRW in Swansea and the Swansea Valley; the purpose of the organisation; the woodland estates, nature reserves and conservation of protected sites it manages on Gower.

8 **PRESENTATION - FUTURE LANDSCAPES: DELIVERING FOR WALES.**

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader provided a presentation regarding the Welsh Designated Landscapes Review. He referred to the contents of the Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales report, which was the Review of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales. He also highlighted the implications for Gower AONB.

9 **REVIEW OF AONB ACTION PLAN 2015-2018.**

Mike Scott, Gower AONB Officer, provided a Review of the AONB Action Plan 2015-2018. He detailed the work of the previous 2 years and the planned work until 2018. He made reference to the projects that had been supported and had received financial assistance.

10 **TO ELECT TEN STEERING GROUP MEMBERS FROM NOMINATIONS RECEIVED.**

The Chair explained that 13 nominations had been received for 10 membership vacancies on the Partnership Steering Group. Therefore, an election was required.

Voting papers were circulated to all present.

RESOLVED that the following be elected to the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group for a period of two years, in accordance with the Terms of Reference:

Name	Representing
Roger Button	Individual
Rod Cooper	Individual
Stephen Crocker	Tourism Swansea Bay
Stephen Heard	Gower Riding Club / Port Eynon Community Council
Sue Hill	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Gordon Howe	Gower Society
Michael Lewis	Individual
Barbara Parry	Individual
Paul Tucker	Llanrhidian Higher Community Council
Deborah Vine	Individual

11 **TO ELECT THE VICE CHAIR OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE 2017/2018 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

RESOLVED that Stephen Heard be elected as Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for the 2017/18 Municipal year.

12 **TO ELECT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) GRANTS PANEL (CONSISTS OF CHAIR OF STEERING GROUP, 3 COUNCILLORS AND 4 OTHER MEMBERS).**

The item was deferred to the next Steering Group meeting on 25 September 2017.

13 **TO ELECT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF) GRANTS APPEALS PANEL (CONSISTS OF VICE CHAIR OF STEERING GROUP, 1 COUNCILLOR AND 6 OTHER MEMBERS WHO DO NOT ALREADY SIT ON SDF GRANTS PANEL).**

The item was deferred to the next Steering Group meeting on 25 September 2017.

14 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. (10 MINUTES)**

Parking – Cefn Bryn

Ian Button asked a question regarding parking near King Arthur's Stone at Cefn Bryn. The meeting discussed the topic of parking on Cefn Bryn, the effect of parking upon the village of Reynoldston and possible options available. It was commented that the area was under the control of Llanrhidian Lower Community Council.

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader stated that the Rural Development Partnership had been asked to examine the issue in detail and that it required a partnership approach.

RESOLVED that an update report be provided to the next scheduled meeting.

Cefn Bryn – Water on Road

Paul Tucker queried water on the road at Cefn Bryn and commented that it would be hazardous in Winter. He added that the drains required regular cleaning. Roger Button added that the water had previously caused the road to collapse.

Historical Buildings / Monuments

Mike Lewis asked questions relating to the ownership of Whitford Lighthouse and its condition, historical buildings on Burry Holmes and the condition of Pennard Castle. It was explained that Carmarthenshire County Council owned Whitford Lighthouse and it was recognised that funding was required to undertake work to the structure. In addition, it was stated that CADW were fully aware of the structural problems at Pennard Castle and had undertaken a site inspection.

15 **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/2018 TO BE HELD AT 7 P.M. AS FOLLOWS:**

NOTED the dates of meetings for 2017/2018 to be held at 7.00 p.m. as follows:

- 25 September 2017;
- 11 December 2018;
- 26 March 2018.

The meeting ended at 8.56 pm

CHAIR

Agenda Item 6

Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 September 2017

Sustainable Development Fund

The aim of the fund is to support innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involve local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

The SDF aims, through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in countryside of great natural beauty and diversity. The scheme seeks to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community. Sustaining the social well-being and economic viability of communities were also important aims of this scheme.

Applications are for small grants of less than £3,000 or larger grants of up to £25,000. Applications over £3,000 are assessed by the SDF Grants Panel, which is a subgroup of the AONB Partnership Steering Group.

Funding for 2017/18

Welsh Government have confirmed the SDF budget for 2017/18 as £55,000.

There are currently 8 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with a further 3 applications in progress.

The Committed Funds figure includes the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 30,310.00
Uncommitted Funds	£ 24,690.00
Applications anticipated	£ 16,400.00

SDF Grants Panel

The grants panel meets quarterly to consider applications. The proposed dates for 2017/18 are:

- 9th October 2017 (training session)
- 11th December 2017
- 12th March 2018

Mike Scott
Gower AONB Officer
15 September 2017

Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 September 2017

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) – Selection of SDF Grants Panel and SDF Appeal Panel

The aim of the Sustainable Development Fund is to support innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involve local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The funding is provided by Welsh Government.

The AONB Steering Group will nominate the following sub-groups to oversee the grant scheme:

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.

The grants panel meets quarterly to consider applications. The proposed dates for 2017/18 are:

- 9th October 2017 (training session)
- 11th December 2017
- 12th March 2018

Mike Scott
Gower AONB Officer
15 September 2017

Agenda Item 8

Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 September 2017

Future Landscapes Wales: Governance Principles and Update from Implementation Group Report

1 Introduction

The 'Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales' report (May 2017) follows a review of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (The 'Marsden Review'). The report advocates a change in management approach that would see these landscapes become the drivers of the sustainable management of natural resources.

1.1 Current management and purpose of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

National Parks have two statutory purposes:

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of their areas; and

To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of their areas to the public.

Where conflict arises between these two statutory purposes the National Park Authority shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area under the 'Sandford Principle'.

AONBs are areas designated for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty and differ from National Parks in that they lack the statutory purpose to promote opportunities for the public to enjoy and understand the area.

1.2 The Marsden Review

In light of the age of the legislation setting out the statutory purposes of the two designations (almost 70 years old), in 2014 the Welsh Government commissioned a group of experts, led by Professor Terry Marsden, to undertake a Review of Designated Landscapes. Published in 2015, the 'Marsden Review' provided 69 recommendations.

1.3 The Future Landscapes Working Group

Following the review, in the autumn of 2015, the then Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant advised for a Future Landscapes Working Group to be set up. Led by Dafydd Elis-Thomas, the Working Group involved representatives of the National Parks, AONBs, environmental groups, business and government officials, who explored the Marsden Review recommendations. This also allowed consideration of the recommendations in the context of new legislation; the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the evidence provided in the inaugural State of Natural Resources Report. The Working

Group published its report Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales (the 'Future Landscapes Review') in May.

2 The Future Landscapes Review – a report by the Future Landscapes Working Group

2.1 Proposition

The report sets out a new Proposition for Designated Landscapes to go beyond their current purposes relating to conservation and amenity value. It states that Designated Landscapes should be the drivers of the sustainable management of natural resources providing wider public and private benefit. It emphasises the opportunity, through partnership working, to realise the economic potential of communities and promote green growth and the resilience of ecosystems through these landscapes.

2.2 Governance

A new way of working through governance arrangements that include a wide range of delivery and partnership models with a common vision is proposed. It also recommends that bodies and partnerships with responsibility for the Designated Landscapes should work across boundaries with Natural Resources Wales and local partnerships to promote their social, cultural and economic value and sustainable use. The report states that partnerships would be required to attract new resourcing and influence investments by others. It stressed that this new way of working will require a behavioural and institutional change.

2.3 Action Plan

An 18 month action plan of first steps to realise the Proposition is contained in the report. It is divided into the following elements:

- collaboration and partnership;
- vision and direction;
- refreshing governance: improving performance and accountability;
- innovations in resourcing; and
- driving well-being and resilience.

3 Update

The Future Landscapes Review proposes a model for developing future public policies and drafting devolved legislation. It will be for the Welsh Government to look at whether legislation needs to be changed to support the recommendations of the report.

In this context, Welsh Government have released a consultation over the summer - 'Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources' seeking views on new regulatory approaches to the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales. Chapter 3 is seeking views on the proposals put forward by the Future Landscapes Review.

The National Association for AONBs is preparing a response to that element of the consultation on behalf of all the AONBs in Wales. Swansea Council is also preparing a response on elements of the consultation that effect its remit.

4 Future Landscapes – Review of Governance Principles

To provide a framework within which the governance arrangements for a designated landscape can be considered, Section 5 of the Report outlines an agreed set of good governance principles. A summary of the governance principles are provided in Appendix 1.

Designated landscapes around Wales are considering the adoption of these principles in their ways of working; both Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean AONB Joint Advisory Committee have both formally adopted them.

4.1 Recommendation

The Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group are asked to review principles of good governance set out in the report and are recommended to adopt them in their governance of the AONB.

The full Future Landscapes Wales report can be downloaded from the above link:
<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/review-designated-landscapes-wales/?lang=en>

Chris Lindley
Gower AONB Team Leader
15 September 2017

Appendix 1 Summary of Future Landscapes Governance Principles

Table 1: Summary of Principles of good Governance for designated landscapes

Legitimacy, participation and voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance in society • Representation and participation • Active dialogue and consensus • Subsidiarity
Developing and implementing a strategic vision for the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring and consistent vision • Consistent with national outcomes • Reflect obligations • Adaptive management and innovation
Effective performance management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management effectiveness • Learning culture, skills and knowledge • Advocacy and outreach • Acknowledging and addressing weakness or poor performance • Efficient use of financial resources
Accountability and transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity and commitment • Decision making and reporting • Allocation of resources • Communication
Fairness and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical and fair decision making • Impartial and without discrimination • Respectful of language and culture • Respect rights • Active engagement