



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, 24 September 2018

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

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

Co-opted Member(s): K L Marsh

Agenda

Page No.

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence. | |
| 2 | Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests | |
| 3 | Minutes. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s). | 1 - 4 |
| 4 | Matters Arising from the Minutes. | |
| 5 | Landscapes For Life Conference Report. | 5 - 6 |
| 6 | Future Landscapes Wales Report(s). | |
| a | Welsh Government Statement - Designated Landscapes - Valued & Resilient. | 7 - 21 |
| b | Letter from Welsh Government Minister to Gower AONB. | 22 - 23 |
| 7 | Gower Landscape Partnership Report(s). | |
| a | Board Meeting - Draft Minutes - 9 August 2018. | 24 - 28 |
| 8 | Dark Skies Community Project Report(s). | |
| a | Gower Dark Skies Community Project. | 29 - 36 |

9 Sustainable Development Fund Report.

37

10 AONB Management Plan - Start of Review Process. (Verbal)

Next Meeting: Monday, 3 December 2018 at 7.00 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans

Head of Democratic Services

14 September 2018

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Gower AONB Partnership Annual Meeting**

**Down To Earth - Down To Earth, Little Bryngwyn, Cefn Bryn,
SA3 1ED**

Monday, 25 June 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

J P Curtice
A H Stevens

Councillor(s)

P R Hood-Williams

Councillor(s)

L James

Steering Group Member(s)

Roger Button
Rod Cooper
Gordon Howe

Michael Lewis
Hamish Osborn
Barbara Parry

Paul Tucker

Officer(s)

Chris Lindley
Jeremy Parkhouse
Mike Scott

Gower AONB Team Leader
Democratic Services Officer
Gower AONB Officer

Also Present:

Tracey Button
Ian Button
Paul Thornton
John France
Robin Kirby
Hildegard Roberts
Audrey Frank
Stuart Mackinnon
Sue Lyle
John Davies
Jo Scott
Alan Glass
Jan Ellis
Jemma Hayburn
Tim Davies
Martin Slucutt

Pitton Cross Camping & Caravan Park
Pitton Cross Camping & Caravan Park
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
Swansea Ramblers
Gower Society
Gower Society
Gower Society
Tread Gower / Gower Walking Festival
Dialogue Exchange
BayTrans
Rhossili Community Council
Penrice Community Council
Penrice Community Council
St Madoc CYC
St Madoc CYC
Swansea Co-Housing

Apologies for Absence

Steering Group Member(s): Stephen Heard, Keith Marsh and Deborah Vine

1 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.

2 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group Meeting held on 26 March 2018, be accepted as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Gower Dark Sky Survey

The Gower AONB Team Leader updated the Annual Meeting on the Gower Dark Sky Survey report. He outlined that the Council was currently in discussions with Dark Skies Wales with the intention to apply for Dark Sky Community status early in 2019. It was hoped that the application would coincide with the International Dark Sky Week in April 2019. Discussions were ongoing between Council departments and partners.

4 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.

5 Presentations - Partner Bodies.

Gower Society

Robin Kirby, Chair of the Gower Society provided a presentation on the work of the Society. He highlighted that the Society currently had 14,000 members and was concerned with the Lordship of Gower, including Swansea City Centre, where it focussed upon Swansea Marina.

He made reference to the planning work undertaken by the Society, the grants and financial support the Society had awarded during the previous year and the 'Guide to Gower' journal that was scheduled to be re-printed. He highlighted the significant role the Society had on Gower and its objectives.

Questions were asked in relation to planning and access, which were answered accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Gower Society representative for his presentation.

Natural Resources Wales

Hamish Osborne, Swansea Team Leader, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) provided a presentation regarding the background and work of NRW. He stated that NRW were the largest Government sponsored body in Wales with 1,170 staff and £180m budget. He provided details regarding the overall role and purpose of NRW, particularly on Gower and made reference to some of the sites it manages on Gower.

Questions were asked in relation to illegal camping, dog waste problems at Oxwich, the seawall at Llanmadoc and the size / bureaucracy / under funding of NRW, which were answered accordingly.

The Chair thanked the NRW representative for his presentation.

Gower Landscape Partnership

The Gower AONB Team Leader provided a presentation on the background and work of the Gower Landscape Partnership. He outlined that the Heritage Lottery Fund project was ending and he highlighted that its legacy was important.

He provided examples of a number of the projects supported by the Partnership and commented upon the partnership working undertaken to deliver the work. He added that a celebration of the programme would take place at the Gower Show in August and a final report would be made to the Steering Group in September 2018.

Questions were asked in relation to identifying buildings / objects worthy of protecting on Gower and in relation to the restoration of Mount Hermon Chapel, Penclawdd project, which were responded to accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Gower AONB Team Leader for his presentation.

6 Presentations - Gower Voices.

Tread Gower / Gower Walking Festival

Stuart Mackinnon, Tread Gower / Gower Walking Festival, provided a presentation regarding the work of both organisations on Gower. He thanked Swansea Council and the Gower Society for their financial support and highlighted that 42 walks had been used during the Walking Festival.

He highlighted the walks inside Gower, in addition to the coastal walks and leadership programme available to young people via Tread Gower.

Questions were asked in relation to use of NRW land, leaflets produced in respect of the Walking Festival and wild camping on e.g. Cefn Bryn. The questions were responded to accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Tread Gower / Gower Walking Festival representative for his presentation.

7 Public Question Time.

Questions were asked in relation to the following: -

Gower Ambassador Scheme

Alan Glass requested an update regarding the Gower Ambassador Scheme.

Mike Scott, Gower AONB Officer explained that the Gower Landscape Partnership project had now received SDF funding to run this year. Tourism Swansea Bay would act as the host body and would undertake training of the volunteers. The events / areas the ambassadors attend would be decided following training.

Illegal Camping on Cefn Bryn

Hildegard Roberts asked a question regarding policing of illegal campers on Cefn Bryn.

Mike Scott, Gower AONB Officer stated that illegal camping should be reported to the Police (Non-emergency – 101). He added that it is a civil offence and is the responsibility of the landowner. Swansea Council could not act in such matters but the Police would take action if the behaviour was classed as anti-social behaviour.

Footpaths

Jo Scott asked whether any additional finances were available to support the Countryside Access Team as some footpaths were in very poor condition and the budget / staff had been significantly cut.

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader explained that budgets had been cut and the situation was unlikely to improve. It was added that organisations such as the Gower Society / Ramblers had worked in partnership with Swansea Council, providing much needed financial / voluntary support to projects.

John France also queried why there had not been any mention of the agricultural industry because the farmers controlled many of the accesses to footpaths. It was explained that the Commoners / National Farmers Union were represented on the Partnership Group.

8 Dates of Meetings for 2018/2019 to be held at 7 p.m. as follows:

Noted the following dates / venues of meetings for the 2018-2019 Municipal year: -

- 24 September 2018 – Barham Centre, Mount Pisgah Chapel, Parkmill, Swansea;
- 3 December 2018 – Venue to be confirmed;
- 25 March 2018 – Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 5



Report of the Chair

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 24 September 2018

Landscapes For Life Conference Report

This year's conference was held in the University of Kent, Canterbury 24th to 26th of July.

The theme of this year's conference was "Shaping the Long View".

Both UK & Welsh Governments have indicated their commitment to Protected Landscapes. With this in mind, the NAAONB proposes that demonstrating & measuring the benefits of landscape management will be of crucial importance in the years ahead.

The conference looked at how the work of the AONB family network achieves clean air, clean & plentiful water, & thriving plants & wildlife. We looked at how we can help to reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment & economy by using our natural resources in a more sustainable way.

Our ultimate aim is to ensure that the natural beauty of our AONBs is valued & secured, so the conference sought to explore how connecting people with nature can enhance the beauty & heritage of our natural environment for future generations.

Speakers addressing the conference included: -

Merrick Denton-Thomson, President, The Landscape Institute "Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan & the opportunities it affords AONBs.

Andrew Blake, AONB Manager, Wye Valley AONB Partnership. "The Review of Designated Landscapes Wales, its aspirations for landscapes & the AONB Partnerships role in delivery."

Emeritus Professor Allan Buckwell, Senior Fellow, Institute for European Environmental Policy "The possible effect of Brexit on our landscapes".

Dr Matthew Quinn, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Cardiff University "How AONBs can deliver on sustainable management of natural resources".

Dr Kirsten McEwan, Research Consultant, Dept of Psychology, University of Derby "Connecting people with nature".

Mark Pope, Chair of the Environment Forum, NFU "How we will work with AONB Partnerships & Conservation Boards to deliver public goods post Brexit".

Jill Cole, Director, Northern Heartlands "Engaging with the planning system using drama".

Kate Wood, Executive Director, Activate "Engaging with people through art"

Steve Evison, Director, Nearly Wild Exploration "Building & engaging with an online community".

Briefings were also provided on 25 YEP themes

Review of Designated Landscapes

Brexit

NAAONB HLF Resilience Fund

Councillor Paul Lloyd

Chair, Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group



Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks

July 2018

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Designated Landscapes: Valued and Resilient

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Contents..... | 1 |
| Foreword..... | 2 |
| Summary..... | 3 |
| Purpose and Background..... | 5 |
| Priorities for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks..... | 5 |
| Valued Places..... | 6 |
| 1. Landscapes for everyone..... | 6 |
| Resilient Environments..... | 7 |
| 2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources..... | 7 |
| 3. Halting the loss of biodiversity..... | 8 |
| 4. Green energy and decarbonisation..... | 9 |
| Resilient Communities..... | 10 |
| 5. Realising the economic potential of landscape..... | 10 |
| 6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation..... | 10 |
| 7. Thriving Welsh language..... | 11 |
| Resilient Ways of Working..... | 12 |
| 8. All landscapes matter..... | 12 |
| 9. Delivering through collaboration..... | 12 |
| 10. Innovation in resourcing..... | 13 |
| Monitoring Progress..... | 14 |

Valued and resilient

Foreword by Hannah Bythyn AM, Minister for the Environment

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks contain some of the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in Wales. These are landscapes of national importance with designation conferring the highest status for the conservation of landscape. Millions of visitors enjoy these special qualities every year.

Recent reviews have demonstrated the appetite to innovate how landscapes are recognised and managed whilst respecting the enduring value of safeguarding the nation's most spectacular areas.



I have already confirmed unequivocally that all the existing designated landscapes will be retained and their existing purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty will not be weakened. The intention of the priority themes in this statement is to improve the integration of the existing purposes, including biodiversity conservation, with the ambition for the sustainable management of natural resources and to grow the population who value these landscapes and the benefits they bring. They are intended to improve the resilience and realise the full value of Wales' landscapes.

I will continue to encourage and support collaborative action aimed at addressing the opportunities and challenges posed by the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, and to address the issues and priorities identified in the State of Natural Resources Report and the Natural Resources Policy.

This statement and the financial settlement for the remainder of this Government term provides a foundation for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks to push on with confidence to shape future landscapes which deliver for Wales.

Summary: Valued and Resilient

This statement contains four goals for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales.

First, that they are **Valued Places** which reach out beyond traditional audiences and engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh society to feel they have a stake in these national landscapes. Formal partnerships, which provide meaningful opportunities to participate in the preparation of plans and decision-making, need to be established or maintained.

Second, that they contain **Resilient Environments** where the value of nature is enhanced and the decline in biodiversity is reversed. This is important for both its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society. The areas must become exemplars for the sustainable management of natural resources, with the Authorities and partnerships championing action to halt the decline in biodiversity. The Welsh Government will introduce a requirement for pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in the exercise of functions and the preparation of the management plan. This will mean greater alignment with the contemporary Welsh approach to natural resources whilst respecting the enduring value of their original purpose.

Third, that they support **Resilient Communities**. The relationship between people and the environment has shaped these landscapes and their communities. The economic and social resilience of these communities is integral to the purpose of designation. More needs to be done to develop and refine understanding of local economic resilience and economic opportunities, and for designation to actively support and create opportunities for employment. As important destinations for the visitor economy fit for purpose places and facilities for outdoor recreation, which are consistent in standard with the spectacular landscapes they serve, must be encouraged and provided.

Finally, the AONB partnerships and National Park Authorities must adopt **Resilient Ways of Working**, where they champion collaborative approaches to maximise the benefits and tackle the challenges faced in these landscapes. There should be closer operational arrangements between existing designated areas on a regional and national basis, as well as between the designated landscapes and areas without a statutory designation. The Welsh Government will work with the AONB partnerships to introduce greater parity with National Parks when it comes to status, profile and resourcing. In addition, a National Designated Landscapes Partnership will be established to develop a robust culture of collaboration whilst also providing scrutiny and challenge on designated landscapes' priorities and delivery. At the local level measures to improve diversity and local representation on National Park boards will be supported.

The Welsh Government will reduce the administrative burdens on National Park Authorities and put in place measures which enable resource planning by the lead bodies for the duration of an Assembly Term. This statement, setting out priorities for the remainder of the term is a step in this direction and will inform future strategic grant letters. The National park Authorities, in particular, must increase the level of revenue generated through

appropriate commercial activities whilst remaining true to the core values and purposes of the areas. A consistent and strengthened performance management regime, linked to the evaluation framework for the Natural Resources Policy will be introduced and this will inform formal review points for existing governance arrangements.

Together, the commitments and priorities in this statement, alongside the ongoing financial support, provide a foundation for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales to be increasingly valued and resilient.

Purpose and Background

Designated landscapes are strategic national assets and are a key delivery mechanism for the Welsh Government's environmental, social and economic ambitions.

The previous Welsh Government statement on National Parks was published in 2007. A consultation on a revised version which included Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) took place in 2013 but wasn't published because of the emerging debates leading to the Well-being and Environment Acts. There followed an independent review into the purpose and governance of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks in Wales, chaired by Professor Terry Marsden (Director of the Sustainable Places Research Institute at Cardiff University) followed by the Future Landscapes Programme to explore its recommendations and the case for reform.

Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales was published in 2017 advocating greater recognition for all landscapes and strengthening alignment with the sustainable management of natural resources. The degree to which this required a change to the existing statutory purposes of the designated landscapes and the degree of protection afforded to them prompted significant debate.

The purpose of issuing this statement now is to bring the period of review and reflection to a close and to set out the Welsh Governments' priorities for AONBs and National Parks in Wales.

This statement includes ten cross-cutting priority themes which provide a consistent framework for all designated landscapes and for national stakeholders whose policies and decisions influence designated landscape management. It still provides for flexibility of management and delivery within each area.

Individual AONB and National Park statutory management plans can differ from each other in order to reflect local context and priorities. The priorities are aimed at improving delivery and accountability in ways consistent with the Environment Act and the Natural Resources Policy in Wales.

Priorities for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks

AONBs and National Parks contain some of the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in Wales. These are landscapes of national importance with designation conferring the highest status for the conservation of landscape. These special places provide exceptional opportunities to experience the natural environment including National Trails, the Wales Coast Path and open access areas. They also provide opportunities to enjoy a variety of appropriate recreational activities such as mountain biking, mountaineering, canoeing and coasteering. Millions of visitors enjoy these special qualities every year.

The first purpose of National Parks is ‘to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these areas’ and AONBs have a similar statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty. National Parks also have a second purpose to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks. In addition National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.

The designated landscapes are recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Category V Protected Areas “where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.”

The Welsh Government believes there is enduring value to the original aims of the designated landscapes. It therefore intends to ***retain the existing purposes of National Parks, along with safeguard of 11A of the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (“Sandford”) and retain the existing purpose of AONB.***

The State of Natural Resources Report shows that none of Wales’ ecosystems are currently showing all the attributes of resilience. Overall, biological diversity is declining, which can be seen by the loss of habitats and species. The extent of some habitats has also declined significantly. This means that unless action is taken, the benefits we derive from natural resources are at risk.

If the environmental challenges Wales faces are to be addressed, the designated landscapes must do more to identify, safeguard and realise the benefits from the public goods they protect for all the people of Wales.

The new legislative framework for Wales is ambitious. ***The designated landscapes’ management bodies must engage fully in exploring its potential to deliver the ‘Wales we want’, and learning what works.*** When natural resources are managed well, communities flourish, wider society and the economy are enhanced and Wales’ well-being is improved. The designated landscapes have the potential to bring their collective experience to bear to halt the decline in nature, whilst recognising the need for economic resilience in our rural communities.

Valued Places

Reaching out beyond traditional audiences and engaging a more diverse cross section of Welsh society to feel they have a stake in these national landscapes.

1. Landscapes for everyone

The intrinsic link between people and place forms an important cornerstone of well-being in Wales. Landscapes in all their forms (rural, urban, coastal, marine, industrial, etc.) shape the feelings and identity of individuals, communities and the nation. Landscapes help people to understand their past. They inform the present and help express society’s collective hopes for the future.

As visual expressions of identity the landscapes of Wales play a significant role in the process of creating a distinct nation. Some are considered iconic, represented in imagery used worldwide to convey messages about Wales' collective identity.

The designated landscapes have an important role to get more people being passionate about the natural environment, to recognise the contribution it makes to the rural economy and the effect it has on the health and quality of life of the people who live in and visit. Beyond this ***broad partnerships should be formally established or maintained, which are enabled and empowered by the managing body to provide meaningful opportunities to participate in the preparation of plans and decision-making*** of these designated landscapes.

While it is important for all sectors of society to experience these designated landscapes, particular focus should be given to children and young families from deprived areas. Action must be taken to ***help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society***. This work will include enhanced outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities.

The AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities should recognise the complex and multidimensional nature of social exclusion, seek to promote social inclusion in all AONB and National Park work, seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities and seek to reduce social exclusion in all its forms.

Resilient Environments

Enhancing the value of nature and reversing the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society.

2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources

There is broad support for the Welsh Government's ambitions for the sustainable management of natural resources. Leading from this is a recognition the designated landscapes' managing bodies are well placed to take this agenda forward in their areas because of the diversity of natural resources found within their boundaries, their experience and expertise, and their extensive connections with communities of interest, including people who live and work within their boundaries. The designated landscapes cover 25% of Wales' land area which make the National Park Authorities and AONB partnerships key partners in the success of delivering on national priorities and achieving the Wales we want to see.

There is also recognition for the opportunities afforded by better aligning the approaches in designated landscapes with the sustainable management of natural resources, particularly in light of the UK's exit from the European Union and the impact this could have on land management and rural development. The Welsh Government recognises the need to take a spatial approach to get the most from land, and is proposing an approach where future land management support can be targeted to particular areas. In this context the potential for

National Park Authorities, amongst others, to take an active role in the administration of schemes will be explored.

AONBs and National Parks, which contain a socio-economic dimension, should exemplify approaches to reconciling tensions around competing demands for natural resources. They have established governance and accountability structures and should utilise mechanisms such as the Management Plan and Local Development Plan in this endeavour. The emerging Area Statements offer the opportunity to inform and enhance further the role of landscape scale action.

To support this ambition The Welsh Government will introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to ***require a National Park Authority to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources in the exercise of its functions.*** A similar duty will be ***applied to the constituent authorities of AONBs relating to their duty to prepare the management plan*** for the area. This will bring the designated landscapes up to date with the contemporary environmental legislation in Wales whilst recognising the enduring value of their original purpose.

3. Halting the loss of biodiversity

The AONBs and National Parks contain some of Wales' most stunning natural beauty, rich in geological and biological diversity.

Changes in the distribution and abundance of plants, animals, and microbes affect ecosystem functions and the capacity of those functions to deliver ecosystem services. Loss of species from ecosystems affect their ability to resist invasion by other species, affect production and nutrient cycling, and affect the reliability and stability of ecosystems. Therefore, biodiversity is essential to sustaining ecosystems that provide the vital services our lives depend on.

Each designated landscape is distinctive in its own way. Each faces significant challenges from the impact of climate change and increasing pressures on the landscape to deliver food, energy, water and to accommodate carbon storage. There has never been a more critical time to rise to the challenge of developing landscape resilience and managing these changes to minimise the negative impacts on landscapes and communities.

The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) indicates that no Welsh ecosystems contain all the necessary attributes of resilience, including those in our designated landscapes. A priority for designated landscapes is to act upon these findings and ensure the management and use of natural resources focuses on maintaining and enhancing the status of their attributes – the connectivity, condition, scale/ extent and diversity. Further action in designated landscapes to address biodiversity decline is therefore necessary to maintain and enhance ecosystem resilience.

Designated landscapes often contain or adjoin designations including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, World Heritage Sites and non-statutory designations like Heritage Coasts. Such protected sites are widely regarded as being central to local, regional and global strategies for the conservation of biodiversity. The health of designated landscapes will be inextricably linked with the improvement of neighbouring landscapes and sites. The extensive nature of **landscape designation provides a mechanism to secure healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems that are managed sustainably and contribute to connectivity between habitats.**

Woodlands for Wales sets out a strong case for woodland expansion and for good woodland management. This strategy sets out the kind of woodland we want, building on the priorities in the Natural Resources Policy which include supporting the development of resilient ecological networks to maintain and enhance the resilience of Wales' ecosystems and increased canopy cover and well located woodland. Creating both new native and new mixed woodlands that can deliver multiple benefits, and to use planting and natural processes to do so, is a challenge which applies equally to the designated landscapes as to the rest of Wales. It is possible to **increase woodland cover whilst respecting the special qualities of these landscapes.**

4. Green energy and decarbonisation

Designated landscapes must **contribute to a sustainable low carbon economy for Wales**, for example, **through enabling the generation of renewable energy at an appropriate scale, water management and carbon sequestration.**

In order to conserve and enhance the outstanding quality of these landscapes, AONBs and National Parks are afforded special protections within the land use planning system compared with the rest of the countryside. This is right. However, it is also right for the Authorities and Partnerships to be challenged to assist Welsh Ministers to discharge the duty under the Environment (Wales) Act to ensure that in 2050 net emissions are at least 80% lower than the baseline set in legislation.

Through careful planning and management these landscapes can play a key role in meeting the challenges of adaptation and mitigation of climate change, achieving energy security whilst creating resilient communities and supporting the environment. **Communities should be supported to bring forward appropriate renewable energy schemes** which have the potential to reduce dependence on carbon based energy and be a source of revenue for the community.

In addition, this Government has an ambition for the Welsh Public Sector to be carbon neutral by 2030. The National Park Authorities, in particular, can demonstrate leadership on achieving a carbon neutral public sector.

Resilient Communities

Supporting the social and economic resilience of communities.

5. Realising the economic potential

The Authorities and Partnerships have a particular opportunity to help realise the economic potential of their communities and to exemplify and promote green growth. There is no barrier to them doing so within the remit of their existing purpose.

The Marsden Review suggested new purposes to include an explicit remit for economic development. This 'third purpose' is something the National Park Authorities and some stakeholders have called for in order to shift the perception of a designated landscape to one which is seen to consider more the well-being of communities. The Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural resources in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 make the connections between the environment and the economy as a means of pursuing sustainable development and use. While the symbolism of a new economic purpose has not been discounted, there is insufficient evidence that the existing purposes operating within the new Welsh legislative framework are a barrier to practical delivery. For that reason, there will not be a change of this nature now without broader support or when it is clear impediments to delivery can only be overcome through new legislation.

National Park Authorities have a duty to 'foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within their national park' and AONB local authorities also have a similar responsibility across the whole of their authority areas. To reflect their national importance the planning system will continue to afford them the highest possible protection from inappropriate development. This does not prevent the designations from playing a key role in facilitating appropriate development whilst maintaining the integrity of landscape quality.

Designated landscape management organisations need to further develop and refine their own understanding of local economic resilience and economic opportunities, and continue to collaborate with other economic development agencies, including local authorities. They should draw on their power to convene local bodies, businesses and groups in order to support and create opportunities for employment.

6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation

Wales' natural environment and designated landscapes offer significant opportunity for growing tourism sustainably.

The designated landscapes enhance Wales' tourism offer. The National Parks in particular are well known tourism destinations and their status provides a strong brand image which extends beyond their boundaries. This brand must be nurtured and its value realised to support local enterprise. There is an opportunity to collaborate across the family of designated landscapes to work with land managers and food producers to improve public awareness of farming welfare standards and promote local produce. Local produce provides opportunities to promote regional character and supports producers and suppliers.

To **encourage, provide for and manage responsible outdoor recreation opportunities** is an important role for AONBs and a key remit for Park Authorities. Efforts need to focus on working towards the provision of fit for purpose places and facilities which are consistent in standard with the spectacular landscapes they serve. Programmes must encourage participation and strong links across the sector to ensure harmonious use of the areas and their special qualities.

Communities and the natural environment can benefit more from sustainable tourism and there should be proactive engagement with tourism providers to identify how they can contribute to sustain the natural assets on which their businesses rely including through initiatives such as green apprenticeships and 'visitor giving'.

The development of alternative niche markets through securing and supporting UNESCO Global Geopark, UNESCO World Heritage Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status and the International Dark Sky Reserve can help make the most of green and heritage tourism. The acknowledgement through these awards of the international importance and qualities of the Welsh landscape should be harnessed to maximise the economic and education benefits for communities. There is the opportunity to strengthen collaboration between these areas and the designated landscapes, recognising the significant synergy between their purposes. The designated landscape management organisations have the potential to further facilitate engagement between local businesses, local authorities, Visit Wales and third sector groups within and outside of the boundaries to better understand demand and development potential.

AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities should seek to improve travel planning for visitor attractions and increase the use of demand responsive transport.

7. Thriving Welsh language

Like our designated landscapes, the Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Cymraeg 2050 is the ambition of the Welsh Government to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. The designated landscapes will have ***an important role to play to increase public awareness of the value of the Welsh language, both as part of our national heritage and as an important skill in modern life.***

Through the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 the constituent authorities of AONBs and the National Park Authorities are required to work towards seven well-being goals, one of which is 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'.

The language profile across the designated landscapes varies. In those with strong Welsh-speaking communities, the challenge is to ensure that people have good quality jobs, fulfilling careers and homes so that they can stay, or return to those communities. In other areas, promoting the use of Welsh as a language for the workplace and business will become increasingly important.

Resilient Ways of Working: *Working effectively and efficiently.*

Parity for AONBs with National Parks broadly exists in terms of planning policy but is lacking when it comes to status, profile and resourcing. Both Marsden and Future Landscapes observed this. Whilst I acknowledge the flexibility of governance and partnerships in AONBs may be a strength, it is also a potential weakness in terms of the stewardship of these equally valuable landscapes. Work will continue with AONBs on what changes could usefully be introduced in this area.

8. All landscapes matter

All landscapes have special qualities. The bodies and partnerships with responsibility for the designated landscapes should together ***promote the social, cultural and economic value and sustainable use of all landscapes, working across boundaries*** with Natural Resources Wales and with local partnerships.

This means closer operational arrangements between existing designated areas on a regional and national basis, but also between the designated landscapes and areas without a statutory designation. In this way the designated landscapes can lead efforts to try and test new solutions to environmental and rural challenges. They have the potential and presence to engage rural communities to fully collaborate alongside other partners and authorities in identifying issues, defining success and targeting investment. Best practice exemplars must be shared across rural Wales.

The Welsh Government wishes to see the designated landscapes taking confident strides in managing positive landscape change for the benefit of people and the landscape. This attitude should be evident in all plans, activities, and communication.

9. Collaboration

The AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities are mechanisms for the collaboration and networking required to identify the key challenges in relation to the environment, society and the rural economy and then innovate and identify suitable solutions. To function effectively they must adapt to address national priorities, statutory purposes, local authorities, and local community interests. To this end, the importance of building effective and durable cross-sector networks and partnerships must not be underestimated.

The designated landscapes must exemplify the practice of tackling complex environmental and social challenges through robust local collaboration in a way which maintains and enhances the contribution to the well-being of Wales. This requires the ability to function effectively at a national level to inform and influence strategic priorities and plans, whilst maintaining a credible mandate and the relationships necessary to deliver within a local area.

AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities can support each other through shared identification of problems, joint decision making and multi-stakeholder participation in clarifying sustainable development. However, the Welsh Government believes a helping hand is needed to assist at a strategic level and intends to ***establish a National Partnership to develop a robust culture of collaboration whilst also providing scrutiny and challenge on designated landscapes' priorities and delivery.***

Structures within the AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities must continue to evolve towards a more empowering role for communities and voluntary bodies. Opportunities to enhance the ways local communities and wider stakeholders shape and share in the vision and priorities for each area should be explored. To assist, the Welsh Government will ***support measures to improve diversity and local representation on National Park boards through further member mentoring and shadowing initiatives and introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to enable Local Authorities to disregard the requirement for a political balance in their appointees*** where this frustrates their ability to appoint members who represent wards within the Parks. It is crucial our public bodies are well-led, inclusive and reflective of Welsh society.

The appropriateness of the current duty for certain bodies to have regard to a statutory designation's purposes has been questioned during the review, with the suggestion it could be strengthened. The argument has logic, but the Welsh Government wants to see more proactive approaches to engagement and collaboration being pursued, which extend beyond the limited number of bodies who fall within scope of this statute.

A collaborative approach in support of an area's special qualities may be achieved more effectively through building relationships and trust, rather than reliance on compliance on a duty to have regard. Both approaches will require parties to understand and appreciate the aspiration for an area and their own impacts and contribution. The designated landscape bodies exist to facilitate the necessary joint endeavour for the management of the landscapes which includes, but extends beyond, those who are caught by the duty to 'have regard'. This also provides an opportunity for the AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities to engage with national stakeholders on strategic issues.

To support this, Natural Resources Wales, as the Welsh Government's statutory advisor on landscape and natural beauty, is expected to forge and promote effective liaison and collaborative working practices with those partnerships and authorities responsible for the designated landscapes. It will also continue to provide advice and evidence across the broad range of competencies at its disposal, and in accordance with its purpose to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are managed sustainably.

10. Innovation in resourcing

Wider partnerships and innovative funding models should be adopted, where resources are attracted and investments influenced to deliver on the sustainable management of natural resources in the area.

The Welsh Government has consistently provided the National Park Authorities with a decent core grant settlement when considered in the context of pressure on public sector spending. It will ***put in place measures which enable resource planning by the lead bodies for the duration of an Assembly Terms*** which will allow focus on delivery and avoid the uncertainties and inefficiencies which creeps in as a result of short term financial settlements. Additional support for pressures and projects on a case by case basis has been supported when the opportunity has arisen; this will continue.

A key function for the Authorities and Partnerships is to seek to galvanise the resources necessary to deliver against designated landscape priorities. The Future Landscapes Wales programme identified different resourcing opportunities:

- Influencing the resources and investments already active in an area
- Attracting resources to support the direct activities of a delivery body
- Attracting resources for specific projects

In addition, ***increasing commercial acumen and subsequent revenue*** is a key challenge for the designated landscapes. There is a clear need to ensure the senior team in each of the areas takes responsibility for commercial performance; that robust plans are in place to increase revenue; and that more is done to collaborate as a family of designated landscapes to both learn from each others' experience and to avoid duplication or competition. The Welsh Government needs to be confident that there is a planned approach which maximises appropriate commercial activities whilst remaining true to the core values and purposes.

The scale and complexity of governance structures have obvious resource implications. Efficiency should be pursued, consistent with effective governance. The Welsh Government intends to ***reduce the administrative costs of National Park Authorities*** by removing them from the audit regime of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and reducing the size of the BBNPA membership from 24 to 18.

Monitoring Progress

Bringing a period of review to a close doesn't mean reverting to business as usual or not looking for better ways to work. The Welsh Government will look to ***introduce formal review points for existing governance*** to remove uncertainty associated with announcing reviews, allow the Welsh Public and stakeholders the opportunity to have their say and through this ensure approaches remain fit for purpose.

The need for measuring output, outcomes, and evaluating impact remains necessary as part of the desire to improve performance, and is of interest to the media and the public in terms of holding government and organisations to account. To ensure that the Authorities and Partnerships continue to be fit for purpose the Welsh Government ***will introduce a consistent and strengthened performance management regime on the impact of designation and the efficacy of administration*** to ensure transparency and accountability. This approach will integrate with the national approach to monitoring the environment which is being developed.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Mr Chris Lindley
Gower AONB Officer
Chris.Lindley@swansea.gov.uk

CC: Howard Davies
Chief Executive, National Association of AONBs
howard.davies@landscapesforlife.org.uk
Clare Pillman
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales
Clare.Pillman@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

14 May 2018

Dear Mr Lindley,

I am inviting you to share your views with me on the issues which need to be addressed to provide greater parity for the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) with the National Parks in Wales.

One of the key observations made during the Review of Designated Landscapes and the Future Landscapes Wales Programme was although parity broadly exists between National Parks and AONBs in terms of planning policy, there is an inequality of status, profile and resourcing. Whilst this may be a strength in allowing flexibility of governance and the formation of partnerships in the AONBs, it is also a potential weakness in terms of the stewardship of these equally valuable landscapes. I have made a commitment to continue discussions with the AONBs to address this.

The AONB officers, along with the National Association of AONBs and colleagues in Natural Resources Wales, are best placed to advise me on how this should be addressed. I'm inviting you to work together to prepare a brief paper, for discussion with me later this year, on the action you believe necessary to address the issues observed during the review.

I am prepared to support you to overcome these issues; however, you must be realistic in your deliberations about the levels of current and future resourcing.

I am committed to ensuring our AONBs and National Parks are equally valued for their natural beauty by our people, communities and country – and, that our designated landscapes deliver rich ecosystems, vibrant and resilient communities and opportunities for outdoor recreation for all of the people of Wales.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My lead official on this matter is John Watkins, Head of Landscape and Outdoor Recreation. You should contact him if you have any questions in regard to this invitation. Please send me your paper of suggested actions by early September. My office will confirm a date and venue for me to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss your proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment

Agenda Item 7a

Gower Landscape Partnership



Draft Minutes of the Board Meeting
9 August 2018

Present:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Hamish Osborn | Natural Resources Wales (Chair) |
| Cllr Paul Lloyd | Councillor, Swansea Council |
| Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams | Councillor, Swansea Council |
| Paul Thornton | Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales |
| Gordon Howe | Gower Society |
| Alyx Baharie | SCVS |
| Alan Kearsley-Evans | National Trust |
| Chris Lindley | Swansea Council, AONB Team |
| Mike Scott | Swansea Council, Gower AONB Team |
| Paul Meller | Swansea Council, Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager |
| Steve Heard | Port Eynon Community Council |
| Andrew Marvell | Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust |
| Dr Dyfan Powel | Wavehill – Evaluation Team |
| Jacquy Box | Interim Programme Manager, External Funding Team |
| Anne Pearce | Swansea Council, External Funding Team |
| Apologies | |
| Gordon Howe | Gower Society |
| Helen Grey | Swansea Council, External Funding Team |
| Roger Button | Tourism Swansea Bay |

1. Welcome / Introduction / Apologies / Conflicts of interest

ACTION

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. Attendance was recorded. No apologies received. No conflicts of interest declared.

2. Minutes of Board Meeting 21 June 2018

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as an accurate account

Noted

Matters arising to be discussed within other Agenda items in this meeting

Page 6 AOB items - NRW has now approved additional grant for hedges project and a formal Offer letter is imminent. As noted, we will be using some GLP funding as match for leveraging in this additional grant.

3. Remaining Project Board meetings

Agreed that whilst this was intended to be the final Project Board meeting, that a sub group would convene to review the Evaluation report (see below) and the Board would potentially convene again to sign off the final evaluation report and any other final reports.

Provisionally this final Board will be held in October.

4. Project Closure Event publicity and Gower Show (5/8/18)

Evening Post published a full page feature on the Gower Glossary and on the Gower Landscape Partnership – copies circulated at the meeting.

Gower Show presentations, GLP display, presentations and activities on the day were well attended, and HO on behalf of the Board noted their thanks to JB and colleagues for taking over as Interim Project Manager and putting together such a successful programme.

JB reported that there was a lot of attendance and interest from the public in GLP activities and partner organisations throughout the day. Even though the final publication was not quite ready, there was a lot of interest in the Gower glossary and several people gave in their own suggestions for submissions, which will be forwarded, to RP.

Standholders were very happy and developed links for other activities in the future. For information - we have 260+ photos from the Show (sample shown during the meeting).

Tonia Antoniazzi MP & Cllr Mark Thomas (Cabinet Member - Environment & Infrastructure Management) attended the Show

5. Programme Delivery and Finance Report

- **Finance**

Figures provided in the report are correct up to Monday 6/8/18. We are now down to £4k of known costs left to clear, including £2k for NRW tools, and a few minor items.

HO raised the issue of the Gower Glossary as this is not yet completed. The development and content costs are paid for, printing costs of £ 1800 can be claimed now even though bit of work still to do, as agreed with HLF.

Physical booklet and e-booklet to be produced shortly. JB meeting RP later today.

Mark at D2E has offered to host a small launch for the Glossary if needed.

SG now processing the Final Claim this week to go to Finance so that HLF gets it by 24 August. HLF pay most of the claim if no issues, but retain 10% till final reports have been submitted.

- **Outputs / Targets**

Most outputs met or exceeded as per table provided.

CL noted that the Board had not had an update recently on Built Heritage – partly due to lack of clarity over what we were reporting against, but the work has been done – we have before and after photos / backing evidence.

6. Evaluation Report - Wavehill presentation- Dr Dyfan Powel

To be noted that this presentation is of emergent and not final data as things are still being analysed.

A full report is yet to be sent out but comments are welcome on this draft final report.

The final report covers the whole life of the GLP project not just the time and delivery period since the interim report was issued.

A range of sources have been used to backup narrative and comments in the report – primary sources include management and delivery team interviews , 8 case studies, an exception study (on perception), Gower Show study, partnership assessment exercise and review of output data and activity reports.

As a guide, Wavehill have followed HM Treasury guidelines on evaluation (chapter 4 Outcomes and 6 Costs) when looking at value for money and impact.

Outputs have been key - have we achieved what we set out to do under GLP & what has been the impact (short and long term).

Given that the majority of outcomes have been met or exceeded – we are on track to a very positive report as having good impact as a result of GLP.

Process evaluation – this looks at the structure of GLP partnership – is this the model that worked best (as this informs future projects). This section will also look at the quality of the work / how the project was designed and delivered and lessons learnt by Lead Partner and partner organisations

It has been apparent that the initial project structure was not set up in a way to be fit for purpose – that was reflected in the Interim Report – but the Partnership has turned around since then and this will be reflected in the Final Report. The role and support of the Council's External Funding Team will be noted.

Compliance with Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (even though this legislation was not in place at the conception stage of this project), it was good that we could adapt and refocus the work to align with this even though this was not originally known about – not all programmes can do that.

CL commented that HLF have asked if we can share lessons with Snowdonia NP that are now submitting their own bid for funding – agreed that this was to be done.

CL has spoken with HLF – An evaluation report is needed with the Final Claim but this could be a draft for 24th August deadline to allow comments and Final version to be sent shortly afterwards.

**CL to
action**

Board members were ALL requested to contribute comments on this draft — small group will meet to go in more detail for Final Report. (CL / HO / AM / SC volunteered)

All to comment

Draft report out by end of next week – but please note that this will not include all the final analysis of final evaluation report – just so that something is sent in to HLF for 24th August with the Claim. To note: HLF will hold back 10% of the final payment until this final report is done. DP unable to confirm a definitive date for the final report due to need for Wavehill's QA process to be done and capacity issues.

DP / CL to discuss timeline further

9) Management and Maintenance Plan

M & M Plan circulated mid July – some comments received but final comments requested asap for 10 year management period / future projects / relationships made.

All to note

AB – CP20 blank – this links to the evaluation

Board has approved the M & M Plan – SC seconded by PHW

All to note

10) AOB

SH raised issues about the Ambassadors – they were meant to be under TSB – but this arrangement seems to have unravelled and needs to be reviewed to ensure OK legacy.

Not meant to be seen as employees of TSB. No-one else has engaged with them except Dean at TSB (who also trained as an Ambassador). There needs to be a role outline circulated to ensure common understanding of what their role is – this was AGREED.

SC / SH / CL

SC asked about future plans now that HLF funding GLP has come to an end, but there remains ongoing needs / issues, which have been raised in Group meetings.

Agreed that partners need a short break and then CL will convene a meeting re: future project ideas and longer term legacy. Need better clarity over what we want to achieve, not just chase money, although some things might be possible through RDP / AONB / NRW.

CL

Agenda Item 8a



Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 24 September 2018

Gower Dark Skies Community Project

The AONB Team have now put in place the start of a project to take forward the development work and formal application to the International DarkSky Association (IDA) for Gower AONB to become a 'Dark Sky Community'

Grant funding has been secured through Natural Resources Wales and the Gower Society. This funding has enabled the Council to appoint Dark Sky Wales Training Services to deliver technical, advisory and business engagement support to the project.

A copy of the grant application to the Gower Society is attached with this report to give a summary and background to the project.

Chris Lindley

Gower AONB Team Leader

12 September

To complete the form either:

- a) download and print the form, then return the completed form with supporting documents to the address at the end of the form.
- b) download the form and use software to mark up the form. Email the completed form with supporting files to the email address at the end of the form



THE GOWER SOCIETY
(Registered Charity No. 258372)

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Grant No. |
| Date Received |
| To be completed by Gower Society |

Please complete in type or using BLOCK CAPITALS.

Please provide any additional information you wish the Society to consider on your own additional documents and note that you have done so in a relevant box below.

Section A (To be completed by all applicants)

1. Title of Work / Project:

| |
|----------------------------------|
| GOWER DARK SKY COMMUNITY PROJECT |
|----------------------------------|

2. Briefly describe the Work / Project, including its main objective(s):

| |
|---|
| Development and application work for the award to Gower AONB as a 'Dark Sky Community' accredited by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) |
|---|

3. Site/location of project (please give precise details including grid reference if possible):

| |
|---|
| Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) |
|---|

4. Where the work / project includes building, or other works, please give full details on separate A4 sheets, and include any appropriate additional information such as photographs, drawings, reports, plans, etc. - NOT APPLICABLE

5. Please explain why you consider that the work complies with the objectives and criteria of the Society as set out on the Information on Grants Sheet.

I believe that the project will contribute toward the achievement of all the objectives of the Gower Society grant scheme:

- TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION AND LOVE OF GOWER – The award process requires a public and schools engagement programme to raise awareness of the special nature and value of Gower’s dark skies and gain public support for the designation
- TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE CHARACTER, TRADITIONS, COUNTRYSIDE AND ARCHITECTURE OF GOWER – The project will update and revise the current Gower AONB Lighting Guide (Supplementary Planning Guide (SPG) for the Unitary Development Plan) and enable its adoption as SPG to the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP). In addition, a Lighting Management Plan will identify lighting issues within the AONB and an action plan for improvements.
- TO PROMOTE RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS TO GOWER’S OPEN SPACES AND COAST – Gower’s open spaces and coast will be promoted as some of the best areas from which to observe and enjoy the night sky.
- TO FURTHER THE STUDY AND RECORDING OF GOWER’S ANTIQUITIES/HISTORY/TRADITIONS AND FEATURES – the application and subsequent retention of the Dark Sky Community award requires the regular monitoring of how the night sky is being managed/protected
- TO PROMOTE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY RURAL ECONOMY – The project includes a business engagement programme to ensure rural businesses (particularly tourism-related) are aware of the ‘Dark Sky’ concept and its potential business benefits/opportunities; businesses will be asked to participate in (and support) the designation.
- TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHOSE AIMS ARE SIMILAR – this is a partnership project involving Swansea Council, Natural Resources Wales and Dark Sky Wales and Gower Activity Centres

6. Is the applicant an individual

or an organisation?

(Mark which applies.)

7. Full name and address of the individual or organisation:

Gower AONB Partnership
Swansea Council
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
SWANSEA
SA1 3SN

If an organisation:

8. Who is the representative authorised to deal with the application?

Chris Lindley

9. In what capacity?

Gower AONB Team Leader

10. Are you VAT. registered?

Yes

N.B. If the organisation is a Club or other unincorporated association, copies of the Constitution of the Club and names of the Trustees may be required. Copies of accounts of the organisation or Limited Company may also be required.

11. If the application involves property, who is the owner of the freehold and /or leasehold interest in the property?

NOT APPLICABLE

12. If the applicant is the leaseholder, please state the length of the lease remaining, or any relevant terms of the lease. A copy of the lease may be required, together with confirmation of freeholder's consent where relevant. [N.B. If there is only a short term on the lease outstanding, or there is insufficient security, the Society may feel it inappropriate to assist with grant aid].

NOT APPLICABLE

13. Total estimated cost of Work / Project, including VAT, if applicable.

£24 000

- 14.

£6 000

15. Amount sought from Gower Society:

lease supply copies of any quotations, invoices, or other estimated costs which have been supplied (preferably two) and schedule below.

The attached letter (5 June 2018) from Dark Sky Wales (DSW) gives a draft breakdown of the work programme and costs. Subsequent revisions/discussions and commitments of Swansea Council staff time have reduced the cash costs of the project. Grant-aid cash from this application and Swansea Council's NRW grant (see 17 (below) is essential to commission Dark Sky Wales to deliver their elements of the work programme.

All of the elements in 16 (below) are required to satisfy the IDA requirements and criteria for the Dark Sky Community award.

16. If different elements / stages of the work / project can be identified, please list them below:

| Stage / element | Time period | £ Cost |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Project Steering Group | July 2018- April 2019 | £2 000 |
| IDA designation and application | Oct 2018-Feb 2019 | £9 500 |
| Lighting Management Plan and Lighting Guide SPG | July 2018-March 2019 | £7 200 |
| Schools Education Programme | Sept-Dec 2018 | £ 3 000 |
| Business Engagement | Sept-Nov 2018 | £2 800 |
| Public Engagement | July – Dec 2018 | £ 1 000 |
| Sky Quality Monitoring Programme | Oct-Dec 2018 | £2 500 |

17. Have other funding sources been approached? Please give full details below:

| To whom | Amount requested | Amount granted |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Natural Resources Wales – part of the Gower AONB Partnership grant | £6000 | £6000 |
| | | |
| | | |

18. Please state how you intend to fund any shortfall between total costs and grant(s) received.

Swansea Council staff time will be invested in the project – particularly the following elements of the work:

- Education programme/events – Gower Activity Centres
- Lighting Management Plan and Lighting Guide SPG – Planning Policy and Street Lighting
- Project Steering Group and IDA application – AONB Team

19. Are you likely to require payment in advance or stage payments as work progresses? If so, please explain why and supply details. (Please see note 3 on the Grant Information Sheet)

Payment in advance is not necessary, but staged payments across the current financial year (2018/19) and next (2019/20) would be beneficial.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Expected start date: | July 2018 |
| Expected completion date: | May 2019 |
| If a grant / contribution is offered, how soon after completion would payment be required? | As soon as possible on completion |

23. If a grant / contribution is awarded, how would you propose to recognise and publicise the Gower Society's support. (e.g. credits within documents or the provision of a suitable and permanent plaque on site or some other permanent and visible record of the Society's contribution, etc)?

Gower Society to be credited in all documentation and engagement work in developing the application as one of the principal partners. Press and social media posts will credit all principal partners on the build up to submitting the application and eventual announcement of the IDA award.

Section B (To be completed by applicants for Projects only, i.e. applicants applying for a grant of over £5,000.)

24. Name(s) of Gower Society proposer(s):

25. Owner of project site/location/building:

NOT APPLICABLE

26. Name(s) of other organisation(s) to be involved.
(Please supply contact details of a lead person from each organisation (name/email address/address with post code/telephone number/s):

Gower AONB /Swansea Council – chris.lindley@swansea.gov.uk, 01792 35094
 Natural Resources Wales – Hamish.osborn@cyfoethnaturiocyymru.gov.uk
 Dark Sky Wales – Allan Trow allan.darkskywales@gmail.com

Are suitable references/letters of support available from these organisations?

| | |
|-----|----|
| YES | NO |
|-----|----|

27. If yes, please provide with this application.

28. If a joint project, state the lead body:

Gower AONB Partnership, Swansea Council

29. Will you be required to obtain any permissions/permits/consents (please givefull details):

None required

30. It is expected that there will be several meetings to monitor progress, including an initial site visit. Quarterly written progress reports will also be required. Who will monitor the project and provide these?

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader will ensure this. The project will be overseen by a Steering Group of partners. The Gower Society would be asked for a representative to be part of the Steering Group.

31. Who will carry out a risk assessment/provide any health and safety provision?

To be determined by the Project Steering Group. There will be a range of risk assessment/H&S provisions covering: Site monitoring, education visits, public engagement etc.

Are there any future maintenance implications for this project?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

33. If yes, how will these be actioned and by whom?

Gower AONB Team on behalf of the Gower AONB Partnership

34. Who will evaluate the project both mid-term and its end to see if it has met its stated objectives?

This will be the Project Steering Group, but ultimately the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) who will determine the application for Dark Sky Community Status

Section C (Tobe completed by all applicants)

I am the Authorised Person and herewith apply for a grant / contribution of £6 000

Signature:.....Date:.....

Name: CHRIS LINDLEY Position: GOWER AONB TEAM LEADER

Address: GOWER AONB, SWANSEA COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA

Post code : SA1 3SN

Telephone No. 01792 635094 E-mail address: chris.lindley@swansea.gov.uk

Please return the completed form to:

Dr J. Kingham, Lilac Cottage, Penmaen, Swansea. SA3 2HE

Tel: 01792 371285 - email : jkingham@doctors.org.uk

Grant Application Form - 23-10-2017

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 24 September 2018

Sustainable Development Fund – Financial Summary

Welsh Government have confirmed the SDF budget for 2018/19 as £55,000.

There are currently 8 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with a further application being developed, and 4 more anticipated, which has heavily committed the funds for 2018/19.

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

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Total Funds available | £ 55,000.00 |
| Committed Funds | £ 41,390.00 |
| Uncommitted Funds | £ 13,610.00 |

SDF budget for 2019/20 has been confirmed as £55,000, with an indication that the budget for 2020/21 will be the same.

The fund is heavily committed for 2019/20, with £30,350 already committed (with another £25,310 anticipated, which would over commit the fund).

**Mike Scott,
12 September 2018**