



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group

**At:** Remotely via Microsoft Teams

**On:** Monday, 15 March 2021

**Time:** 2.00 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, J Chambers, J France, S Heard, S Hill, G Howe, P Jenkins, H Osborn, B Parry, P Thornton and D P Tucker

**Watch Online:** <http://bit.ly/3e1opmE>

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### Agenda

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<b>3 Minutes.</b> To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s).	1 - 7
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**10 Election of Non-Councillor Steering Group Members. (Jeremy Parkhouse)**

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**Next Meeting:** Monday, 5 July 2021 at 2.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans  
Head of Democratic Services  
Monday, 8 March 2021**

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**Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923**

# Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 30 November 2020 at 2.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) Presided

### **Councillors**

M C Child

J P Curtice

P R Hood-Williams

L James

A H Stevens

### **Steering Group Members**

R Button

J France

S Heard

S Hill

G Howe

P Jenkins

H Osborn

B Parry

P Thornton

### **Officer(s)**

Paul Meller

Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager

Chris Lindley

Gower AONB Team Leader

Mike Scott

Gower AONB Officer

Jeremy Parkhouse

Democratic Services Officer

### **Apologies for Absence**

Steering Group Members: J Chambers and D P Tucker

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#### **1 Election of the Vice-Chair for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year.**

**Resolved** that Steve Heard be elected Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year.

#### **2 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.

#### **3 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting held on 21 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

#### **4 Clyne Valley Country Park Update.**

Mike Scott, AONB Officer presented a Clyne Valley Country Park Update Report. It was outlined that following on from discussions at the previous meeting, issues

affecting the management of the Park, both in the current COVID-19 context and into the long term, there had been a number of initiatives and work within the area, including: -

- Construction of Shared Use Paths (SUP) using existing bridleways through the Country Park – funded by an Active Travel grant;
- Conservation works to the Ivy Tower – part of Clyne Arsenic Works Scheduled Monument;
- Work with Clyne Valley Community Project and Swansea Council's Countryside Access Team to progress wider access improvements, interpretation and other heritage conservation;
- An assessment of damage to the Clyne Valley Shaft Mounds Scheduled Monument from unauthorised construction and use of mountain bike tracks;
- Proposals from other parties for the development of an 'Urban Bike Park'.

The Steering Group were updated in respect of the ongoing projects listed above and discussions took place regarding the following: -

- Lack of communication and consultation regarding the Active Travel proposals;
- Lack of an overall plan / control in respect of the Country Park, lack of knowledge locally and work being done on an ad hoc basis;
- How the Covid 19 Pandemic had significantly increased the use of the Country Park, how more people were aware of the facilities available and the effect of increased usage upon the Country Park;
- Shared use of paths / bridle ways / cycle routes, introducing improved signage, using the correct surfaces, communicating any changes with the appropriate people / organisations and improving routes going forward to avoid conflict between users;
- Properly maintaining the Country Park in a structured and organised manner;
- How various Departments / Sections within Swansea Council had responsibilities within the Country Park / Clyne Valley and the need for more co-ordination;
- The areas of the Country Park that are within the AONB boundary;
- Co-ordination of a management plan going forward and disappointment that a plan had not been previously organised;
- Concern regarding the process of undertaking works without consultation and how the process worked in reality with money being made available by Welsh Government to fund Council Active Travel schemes;
- Concern regarding the manipulation of the system by the Council in order to achieve its aims without meaningful consultation which received an adverse reaction regarding the Active Travel proposals at Mayals Road and the implications of a similar approach towards projects on Gower.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report and discussions be noted.

## **5 Port Eynon Report.**

Chris Lindley, Gower AONB Team Leader presented a Briefing Note which had been circulated to the relevant Community Councils, Councillor Richard Lewis and other community contacts on Friday 20 November. The briefing provided an update on the

project work at Port Eynon which included the background details, the considerations arising from the feasibility study and actions being undertaken.

This included the appointment of architects - 'Rural Office for Architecture Ltd' by Swansea Council to develop a Concept Design for a new beach / community centre building in Port Eynon. The commission was supported by a Sustainable Development Fund grant and the work started on 23 November 2020 and would include the undertaking of a preliminary survey, assessment work in and around the car park in Port Eynon and the information collected being used in the design development.

It was added that community engagement and consultation was key to a successful design outcome and the Council wanted to keep stakeholders / the community informed and interested in the proposals. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, some on-line consultation methods would be used. In addition, site visits or small group gatherings would be arranged to discuss the project and present proposals at key stages. These were planned to commence in early December.

The Steering Group discussed the following: -

- Communicating effectively with the wider community surrounding Port Eynon and Horton and the aims for wider consultation going forward;
- The feeling in the local community that the plans had already been agreed without their input and the project was commencing;
- How the Council had recently engaged with Port Eynon and Penrice Community Councils regarding progress, the need for a resource to be in place to be able to engage, the need to hire professional architects to progress to the development phase and the brief provided to the architect regarding the toilet block building;
- The fact that the community had been aware of the proposed project for quite a while and the positive feedback received in respect of the proposals;
- Financing the project through capital funding which required designs to be able to progress, hence the engagement with the architect;
- The issue of traffic management in Port Eynon due to the very narrow access road into the village and how the architect had been requested to bear access issues in mind when designing the community building;
- The fact that Port Eynon had been identified for appropriate small scale development including community facilities and this policy had been included in both the LDP and UDP for over 20 years which the Community Council should have been aware of and informed its residents, how Swansea Council had engaged extensively on both plans;
- Swansea Council had engaged architects to improve its own building / land in Port Eynon and required plans to enable it to engage with the community and allow local residents / businesses to have an input.

**Resolved** that the contents of the update report and discussions be noted.

## 6 Gower Society Issues.

Gordon Howe, Gower Society representative presented a report which firstly outlined the Case for an Article 4 Direction for The Vile, Rhossili and secondly, highlighted the need for the Protection of Trees within the Gower AONB.

- The Case for an Article 4 Direction for The Vile, Rhossili

The background surrounding the setting up of a temporary catering unit, without any planning application required in the centre of the historical area, known as The Vile, was explained, including the legal right under the *Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 - Part 4 - Temporary Buildings and Uses - Class B* to have such a unit for a total of 28 days in the calendar year.

The concerns of the Gower Society and Rhossili Community Council were outlined, particularly their concern that there would be complications and damage to the landscape. It was explained that the Vile Field System in Rhossili is a Registered Historical Landscape of Outstanding Importance in Wales. A photograph of the Vile was provided at Appendix A.

It was added that the Gower Society was actively investigating with others, the possibility of obtaining an Article 4 Direction to prevent such inappropriate future development and sought the views of the Steering Group.

There were no objections to the proposals.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report and discussions be noted.

- The Protection of Trees within the Gower AONB

Further to discussions that occurred at a previous Steering Group meeting, the Gower Society highlighted the apparent lack of protection given to trees within the compass of the AONB and its fringes. It was added that within SSSI's and National Nature Reserves protection was provided, although very few trees were actually given protection by specific Tree Preservation Orders.

The opinion of the Society was explained in relation to the current regulations administered by Swansea Council and NRW and examples of tree felling during the previous two years were provided. In the response of the Gower Society to the Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands on Development Sites Consultation Draft in September 2020, the lack of protection given to the AONB was highlighted. In addition, it was explained that the loss of trees on Gower due to Ash Die Back and the impact of their removal on the landscape of Gower would soon be evident.

The Gower Society suggested that a complete survey of all trees should be made and suitable protection given wherever appropriate. It was added that more trees must also be planted in order to compensate for the losses of ash trees and help to address climate change issues.

The Steering Group discussed the details contained within the report.

**Resolved** that the Gower AONB Team Leader highlights the issue to the National Association of AONB's and reports back to the next scheduled meeting.

## **7 Cefn Bryn Update.**

The Gower AONB Team Leader provided an update report regarding progress on Cefn Bryn.

It was explained that following the verbal update on the parking issues at Cefn Bryn at the previous meeting in September 2020, the Vice Chair (Steve Heard) and Gower AONB Team Leader (Chris Lindley) had an online meeting on 8 October 2020 with Alan Ferris (Swansea Council Highways) and Bob Griffiths (Cefn Bryn Commoners).

The outcome of that meeting was an agreed revised scheme that:

- extended the proposed highway bunding eastward from the parking area – from 50m to 200m;
- included a small and discrete repair to bunding on the south side of the highway, to deter vehicle access onto that part of the common.

It was added that grant funding for the proposals had been confirmed. Highways were working on the revised costs to the project and specifications. The works were expected to be programmed and implemented before the end of March 2021.

The Gower AONB Team had written to the landowner for their comment on the proposals. As Cefn Bryn was a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Gower AONB Team would also approach Natural Resources Wales for a Notice of Assent under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

A further update would be provided at the next AONB Steering Group meeting.

**Resolved** that the content of the update be noted.

## **8 Update on Revised AONB Design Guide.**

Paul Meller, Natural Environment Section Manager presented a report which provided supplementary planning guidance (SPG) in support of planning policies contained in the Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP). The purpose was to provide guidance as to how relevant policies of the LDP should be applied in order to assist in the determination of planning applications within the AONB.

It was added that the first Design Guide was adopted as SPG to the now superseded City and County of Swansea Unitary Development Plan (2008). The revised Guide takes account of the most recent changes to the legislative and strategic planning context that had arisen at both national and local level. This included the latest Gower Management Plan (2017) and amended versions of Planning Policy Wales and supporting Technical Advice Notes produced by the Welsh Government.

Public consultation was undertaken by Swansea Council through Sept-Oct 2020 which sought views on whether the document covered an appropriate range of planning issues and provided sufficient clarity for applicants and decision makers on the important principles governing development in Gower.

The majority of the comments received were positive, with only relatively minor changes suggested in order to improve clarity. In particular, the use of more appropriate photographs and imagery had been suggested and these were being sought for the final version of the document.

As no significant amendments had been identified from the comments received that necessitate redrafting and re-consultation, it was proposed to report a revised version of the document to Planning Committee early in the New Year for adoption.

The Steering Group commented upon the remarkable job by Council Officers in producing the documents in such a short period of time.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

**9 Cycle Access in Gower.**

John France provided a report that outlined the scheme to create a cycle network across Gower, which particularly highlighted the proposals at Mayals Road and Clyne Woods.

**Resolved** that the report be noted due to the issues being discussed at Minute No.4.

**10 Sustainable Development Fund.**

The Gower AONB Officer presented the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Panel Financial Summary report.

It was outlined that the Welsh Government had confirmed the SDF budget for 2020/21 as £100,000. There were currently 12 projects approved with SDF funding for 2020/21 and 3 further applications were anticipated shortly.

Further projects would be brought forward during 2020/21, to fully commit the funds. The Committed Funds figure included the CCS Management Fee of £10,000 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 100,000
Committed Funds	£ 80,065
Uncommitted Funds	£ 19,935
Applications in progress	£ 11,000



The budget for 2021/22 had not been confirmed, but was anticipated to be £55,000. Four projects had been approved, with £25,650 committed and currently £29,350 remained uncommitted.

**11 Future Meetings Format.**

Steve Heard, Vice Chair highlighted that whilst meetings remained online during the Covid 19 Pandemic, he very much hoped that physical meetings would resume once the restrictions had been lifted.

There was a consensus that Steering Group meetings should return to physical meetings when possible.

The Chair sympathised with the issues raised and highlighted that the Council would follow legal and Welsh Government guidance.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 5



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021**

### **Update – Parking on Cefn Bryn**

#### **Update - Parking on Cefn Bryn**

The Gower AONB Team Leader provided a verbal report at the 30 November 2020 meeting and was asked to provide an update report at the next meeting.

The scope of works agreed with the landowner, Cefn Bryn commoners, Natural Resources for Wales (NRW) and Swansea Council Highways comprises:

- Roadside bunding
- An area for road vehicle pull-in; a crescent-shaped arrangement of boulders on the common, centred around the two points where vehicles have typically left/entered the highway; this will allow vehicles to park up to 15 yards off the highway; and
- a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) creating a clearway along the road from Cilbion to Reynoldston

Council received formal SSSI assent for the works from NRW on 29 January 2021. The physical works started 3 February and were completed before the end of February. The TRO process is in hand, and – if there are no objections – should be in place later this spring.



**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**5 March 2021**

# Agenda Item 6



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021**

### **Progress Report - Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Programme**

#### **Progress Report - Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) Programme**

In addition to the works on Cefn Bryn (previous agenda item), the Welsh Government SLSP Programme of capital funding for AONBs and National Parks has enabled the following Gower projects in 2021/22

- Purchase of battery-powered chainsaws and other countryside management tools for use in Gower AONB
- Access, Heritage improvements and interpretation in Clyne Valley Country Park
- Access improvements within Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve including a sustainable drainage system to avoid flooding and erosion to the path network.

All of these projects are either completed or are expected to be completed in the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

Welsh Government has indicated that further funding is available for the forthcoming 2021/22 financial year and the Gower AONB Team are developing project proposals with partners for consideration/approval of Welsh Government and the National Designated Landscapes Partnership (NDLP). These projects will include:

- Further public access and heritage improvements in Clyne Valley Country Park
- Nature recovery and grazing management on Fairwood Common
- Improvements to visitor facility and heritage in Port Eynon and Horton

Details on the projects agreed through the NDLP will be reported on for the next meeting.

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**5 March 2021**

# Agenda Item 7



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021**

### **Update – Gower AONB Management Plan**

#### **Update - Gower AONB Management Plan**

The Gower AONB Management Plan was adopted by Swansea Council in March 2017. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires the plan to be reviewed every five years.

To oversee the preparation of the revised management plan, the AONB Partnership Steering Group established a Management Plan sub-group in 2019. The sub-group last met in January 2020, and established a review process and timeline. The sub-group were due to report back to the main group in the March 2020 meeting; however that meeting was abandoned due to Covid-19 and work on the management plan was suspended due to other pressures on both sub-group members and officers.

As of January 2020, the steering group comprised:

- Cllr Paul Lloyd
- Cllr Lynda James
- Paul Thornton
- Natural Resources Wales (Hamish Osborn/Daron Herbert)
- Joanne Gooding – Llanrhidian Lower CC
- Gordon Howe
- Swansea Council Natural Environment Officers – Mike Scott, Chris Lindley & Paul Meller

The AONB Team are now in a position to resume work on the revised management plan. The Steering group are asked to discuss resuming this work and review the membership of the sub-group.

Table 1 on the next page outlines the process and outputs required to get an adopted, reviewed management plan. The table does not cover all the specific requirements of the process, but gives a broad idea of what is required and where the sub-group's main activities would be. Two years are required to factor in statutory and public consultation periods and Welsh translation of the draft and final Plans.

**Chris Lindley - Gower AONB Team Leader**

**8 March 2021**

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2021</b>			
<b>March</b>	Formal notification to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) of intention to review the AONB management plan	Letter	Required under S.90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
<b>March-May</b>	Prepare State of the AONB report	State of the AONB Report	Sub-group approval of documents
	Prepare Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping	SEA Scoping Report	
<b>June-July</b>	Scoping consultation period		Consultation with NRW and Cadw required under SEA Regulations
<b>August-November</b>	Preparation of draft AONB Management Plan	Draft Management Plan	Sub-group approval of draft Plan
<b>December</b>	AONB Partnership Meeting	Approved draft Management Plan	Partnership approval of draft plan
<b>2022</b>			
<b>January - February</b>	Prepare public consultation on draft Management Plan and SEA Report	Council/Planning Committee approval	Council approval for public consultation required.
<b>March - June</b>	Public consultation period		
<b>July-November</b>	Review of consultation feedback and proposed changes	Consultation Report and Final Management Plan	Sub-group approval of final Management Plan
<b>December</b>	AONB Partnership meeting	Approval	Partnership approval of final Management Plan
<b>2023</b>			
<b>January-February</b>	Preparation of Council papers		
<b>March</b>	Council Meeting	Formal adoption by Swansea Council	

# Agenda Item 8



**Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**  
**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021**  
**Dark Sky Monitoring Report**

## **Dark Sky Monitoring Report**

As part of Gower AONBs pending application for Dark Sky Community Award with the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), we are required to undertake annual monitoring of sky quality within the AONB.

The latest of these was undertaken on the evening of 9 January 2021. The survey period was moonless and was for the most part cold and clear with excellent visibility, with only light cloud early on during the first part of the survey.

Sky Quality Meters (SQMs) were used to collect readings at 42 locations across Gower. Precise monitoring locations have shifted between years. The 2020 exercise established a more robust and repeatable set of locations, and all except one of these was moved for the 2021 exercise. SQM readings were converted to Naked Eye Limiting Magnitude (NELM) for ease of understanding. Annex 1 (attached) is a summary table of results from 2019-2021 for comparison.

NELM is an expression of the darkness of the night sky – higher values equate to a darker sky, allowing an observer to see more of the fainter stars. For reference, in a city centre with lots of light pollution, the only star visible maybe Polaris and NELM may only be around 2.0. Some of the darkest skies in Wales may achieve NELM values of 6.4.

The 2021 results for Gower appear broadly comparable with the results of previous years. Locations furthest west – further from Swansea and less-populated – are consistent in producing the best readings. NELMs of 5.5+ were observed at most monitoring locations across the AONB, but even village centres in the west recorded NELMs of 6.0+ (e.g. (24) Llangennith - 6.2)

Readings from monitoring points 1-8 (all locations from Bracelet Bay westward along south Gower) were all poorer than in previous years, but with no apparent cause. Monitoring in 2022 will consider this further.

These monitoring reports will form part of the Gower AONB formal application to the IDA for it Dark Sky Community Award; this is pending whilst the revision of Gower AONB Design Guide is completed by its adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

**Appendices: Annex 1 - Monitoring Results 2019-2021**

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**8 March 2021**



Annex 1 - Monitoring Results 2019-2021

Point No.	Location	Description	SQM 2019 Average	2019 NELM	SQM 2020 Average	2020 NELM	SQM 2021 Average	2021 NELM
1	Mumbles Head	Bracelet Bay Car Park, below Coastguard Stn	19.44	5.10	19.32	5	18.90	4.7
2	Langland Bay	Langland Bay Car Park	19.80	5.40	19.69	5.3	17.31	3.4
3	Caswell Bay	Caswell Bay Car Park	20.24	5.60	19.97	5.5	18.14	4.1
4	Bishopston	Pyle Road	18.04	4.00	16.26	2.4	17.23	3.3
5	Kittle	Layby adj Pennard Village Sign	20.35	5.60	20.32	5.7	18.77	4.6
6	Pennard	Bus stop on Southgate Rd	20.43	5.70	20.44	5.8	19.31	5
7	Southgate	Linkside Drive, entrance to Byway down to Sandy Lane	20.67	5.90	20.15	5.6	18.85	4.7
8	West Cliff	NT Car Park	20.68	5.90	20.33	5.7	20.01	5.5
9	Parkmill	Outside Sheperds	20.68	5.90	20.10	5.6	20.29	5.7
10	Penmaen	Cattle Grid onto Cefn Bryn Common	20.78	6.00	20.54	5.8	20.31	5.7
11	Perriswood	St Nicholas Church, or layby due west	20.86	6.10	20.36	5.7	21.06	6.1
12	Penrice Castle	Junction Oxwich Rd, Tower Lodge	21.00	6.10	20.77	6	21.15	6.2
13	Oxwich Bay	Oxwich Rd. gated access pull-in	20.86	6.10	20.78	6	21.06	6.1
14	Knelston	School pull-in	20.97	6.10	20.86	6	20.47	5.8
15	Scurlage	Bank Farm entrance	20.95	6.10	20.77	6	20.91	6.1
16	Horton	Horton Car Park Entrance	20.93	6.10	20.84	6	21.08	6.2
17	Port Eynon	Port Eynon Car Park Entrance	20.94	6.10	20.62	5.9	21.01	6.1
18	Middleton	Rhossilli Common cattle grid at Ty Rhossili	21.01	6.10	21.06	6.1	21.36	6.3
19	Rhossilli	St Mary's Church Car Park	21.15	6.20	21.23	6.2	21.22	6.2
20	Pitton Cross	Access for Pilton Green Farm	21.12	6.20	21.23	6.2	21.38	6.3
21	Llanddewi	Entrance for Gower Farm	21.13	6.20	21.22	6.2	20.83	6
22	Burry	Burry Farm	21.08	6.10	21.10	6.1	21.47	6.4
23	Burry Green	Bethesda Chapel	20.72	6.00	20.71	5.9	20.91	6.1

Annex 1 - Monitoring Results 2019-2021

24	Llangennith	Road corner, access to Wellpark Hall	21.03	6.10	21.40	6.3	21.10	6.2
25	Llangennith Burrow	Farmgate layby just N of Hillend House	21.20	6.10	21.21	6.2	21.23	6.2
26	Cefn Bryn Common	Entrance to Apple Grove cul-de-sac	21.05	6.10	20.84	6	21.03	6.1
27	Reynoldston	Corner of upper green by seat & mosaic table	21.04	6.10	20.69	5.9	21.02	6.1
28	Old Walls	Junction with Llanmadoc Road	20.90	6.00	20.68	5.9	20.74	6
29	Cheriton	Field gate on N side of road before the downhill	21.07	6.10	20.83	6	21.04	6.1
30	Llanmadoc	Lanmadoc Hill track, outside of Stormy Castle	21.10	6.10	21.10	6.2	21.13	6.2
31	Cwm Ivy	Cwm Ivy Car Park	21.19	6.20	21.11	6.2	21.07	6.2
32	Llanrhidian	Leason. T-junction end of highway	21.01	6.00	17.78	3.8	21.01	6.1
33	Wernffwrdd	Layby just downhill of X-road	20.88	6.00	19.51	5.2	20.83	6
34	Crofty	Junction of Marsh Road and Osborne Place	20.74	6.00	19.08	4.8	20.69	5.9
35	Three Crosses	Fairwood Common Road just downhill of Duvant Rd Jct	20.55	5.80	19.09	4.8	18.15	4.1
36	Fairwood Common	Entrance of Fairwood Common Farm	20.63	5.90	20.71	5.9	20.62	5.9
37	Pengwern Common	Entrance Pengwern Farm	15.97	2.20	20.49	5.8	20.87	6
38	Cilibion	Cattle Grid layby	20.81	6.00	19.87	5.4	20.92	6.1
39	Arthurs Stone	Cefn Bryn summit pull in	21.05	6.10	20.52	5.8	21.09	6.2
40	Swansea Airport	Farm Access entrance	20.87	6.00	20.52	5.8	20.59	5.9
41	Clyne Common	Farm Access - Broadley Farm	20.59	5.90	20.49	5.8	20.56	5.9
42	Clyne Valley Country Park	Blackpill Car Park	15.76	2.10	19.95	5.5	20.13	5.6

# Agenda Item 9

## Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021

### **Sustainable Development Fund – Financial Summary**

#### For Information

#### **Sustainable Development Fund – Financial Summary**

##### **Grant Scheme 2020/21**

The SDF budget for 2020/21 is £100,000.

There are currently 19 projects approved with SDF funding for 2020/21, which has committed the full funding available for this financial year.

A total of 8 potential projects have been withdrawn this year, with two more current projects needing to be rescheduled as a result of the impact of Covid 19.

The Committed Funds figure includes the CCS Management Fee of £10,000 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 100,000
Committed Funds	£ 100,000
Uncommitted Funds	£ 0
Applications in progress	£ 0

##### **Grant Scheme 2021/22**

The budget for 2021/22 has not been confirmed, but Welsh Government have indicated it is likely to be £100,000.

Eight projects have been approved, with £46,781 committed, and currently £53,219 uncommitted.

Mike Scott,  
8 March 2021

# Agenda Item 10



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 15 March 2021

### Election of Non-Councillor Steering Group Members

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report discusses the options available to the Steering Group in respect of the forthcoming election of non-Councillor Steering Group Members.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The term of office of non-Councillor Steering Group Members be extended by 1 year and their election be deferred to the 2022-23 Municipal year; 2) The term of office of non-Councillor Sustainable Development Fund Panel and Sustainable Development Fund Appeals Panel Members be extended by 1 year and their election be deferred to the 2022-23 Municipal year.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jeremy Parkhouse
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Gower AONB Partnership Annual Meeting was cancelled in June 2020. Steering Group meetings have continued to be held online and the meeting on 15 March 2021 will be the fourth meeting held via Microsoft Teams.

#### 2 Annual Meeting 2021-2022

- 2.1 The Annual Meeting for 2021-2022 has been scheduled for 5 July 2021 and is due to include the election of non-Councillor Steering Group Members. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it will be difficult to appoint via a remote meeting and it remains uncertain whether face to face meetings

will resume by that date. It is therefore proposed that the term of office of non-Councillor Steering Group Members be extended by a year and their election deferred to 2022. This would also see their election fall in line with the Local Government Elections.

- 2.2 In addition, it is proposed that the membership of non-Councillor Members to the Sustainable Development Fund Panel and Sustainable Development Fund Appeals Panel be extended by a year and their election deferred to 2022.

### **3 Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 3.2 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:** None.