

Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 27 March 2017

AONB ANNUAL FORUM – ELECTION OF STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

The Gower AONB Partnership will hold its Annual Forum at Reynoldston Village Hall, on Monday, 26th June 2017, at 7pm.

The Partnership is a membership body, open to anyone with an interest in Gower. It is an advisory group to the Council, convened by them, to facilitate the management of the Gower AONB, in fulfilment of their legal responsibilities and duties with regard to the Gower AONB.

Each year the Gower AONB Partnership holds an Annual Forum, at which we talk about what has been achieved by the partners, and what we intend to do in the next year. Importantly, we also elect representatives to a Steering Group, which oversees the development and implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan by the partners.

The Steering Group acts as the managing body of the AONB Partnership comprising up to 6 Councillors, 2 representatives from Natural Resources Wales and 10 other representatives.

In May, we will invite nominations for the election of these 10 other representatives, with information sent out to the members of the AONB Partnership, and promoted through local media. The appointments are for two years.

It is anticipated that these other representatives will come from the following groups:

- Community Councils
- Nature conservation
- History and archaeology
- Land owning/farming/forestry
- Commoners
- Rural business
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Local interest groups
- Residents of the Gower AONB

The role of the Steering Group is to oversee, guide and monitor the work of the Partnership, as they work to implement the Management Plan. They also help to manage the Sustainable Development Fund – a small grant scheme funded by Welsh Government, which supports a variety of projects within the AONB.

The Steering Group meets about 4 times a year, and its members are expected to promote and disseminate the work of the AONB Partnership within the groups and interests they represent, and to speak on behalf of those groups and interests.

Mike Scott, 15 March 2017