



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