



## Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

### Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 25 March 2019

## Dark Sky Project Update

Since the last AONB Steering Group meeting, the following activities have been undertaken to progress our application to become an internationally-recognised Dark Sky Community:

- Public engagement events –
  - 21 January, St Madocs Christian Youth Camp, Llanmadoc. 160 bookings, c.50 attendees.
  - 7 February, Purple Badger, Llanrhidian. 65 bookings, 28 attendees, with Gower Ambassadors also in attendance. Site owners attended and have indicated they would be happy to help promote/host another event.
- Business Engagement Event 6 Feb, Purple Badger – postponed due to ill-health, now rescheduled for 1 May 2019.
- Lighting Management Plan (LMP) – Dark Sky Wales (DSW) analysed Swansea Council public street lighting data. DSW is drafting the LMP as integral to the Gower IDA application.
- Communications – sent letters out to Tourism Swansea Bay, the National Trust and all Community Councils (that are within/partly within the AONB) requesting their support for the designation. Organisations have also been asked to consider putting forward areas of land in their control as Dark Sky Discovery Sites (DSDS).
- Sky Quality Monitoring – AT repeated the monitoring at the beginning of Feb. Results to be recorded and incorporated into the LMP.

Gower AONB Team has purchased 4 Sky Quality Meters (SQM) units for future annual monitoring survey. Gower Ambassadors and other volunteers will be attending a training course 27 March to enable them to undertake the annual monitoring.

The Project Steering Group (comprising reps from Swansea Council, Gower Society and Dark Sky Wales) will meet shortly to discuss/approve the draft application. The formal application will now be submitted to the International DarkSky Association (IDA) at the end of May 2019.

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**

**18 March 2019**