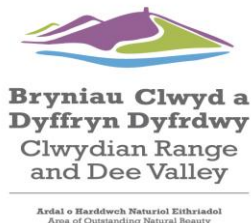


Public Document Pack



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE
Park Gwledig Loggerheads, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir Ddinbych CH7 5LH

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

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To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee Date: 17 June 2016

Direct: 01824 712589

Dial:

Email: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 24 June 2016 at 10.00 am** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL, WREXHAM.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 2 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**
- 3 AONB APPOINTMENTS TO WORLD HERITAGE BOARD AND CADWYN CLWYD BOARD**

To consider a verbal report from the AONB Officer.

- 4 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2016 (Pages 5 - 14)**

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on the 26th February, 2016 (copy enclosed).

5 MINUTES OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON THE 13 MAY 2016 (Pages 15 - 26)

To receive for information the Minutes of the meeting of the AONB Partnership held on the 13 May 2016 (copy enclosed).

6 JOINT COMMITTEE OUTTURN AND ACCOUNTS 2015/16 AND BUDGET 2016/17 (Pages 27 - 44)

To consider a report by the Finance and Assurance Manager (copy attached) on the AONB's revenue budget position and confirmation of the Joint Committee's budget for 2016/17.

7 PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY

To consider a presentation (not attached) by the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

8 AONB ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 45 - 74)

To consider a report by the AONB Officer which highlights the activity undertaken by the AONB Team and its Partners (copy attached).

9 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 75 - 110)

To consider an annual report (for information only) on the sustainable development fund (copy attached).

10 SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS OCTOBER 2015 – MARCH 2016 (Pages 111 - 118)

To consider a summary of the AONB planning consultations for information only (copy attached).

11 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 119 - 122)

To receive the Forward Work Programme for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee (copy enclosed).

12 PRESENTATION ON AONB AND NATURAL RESOURCES WALES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

To consider a presentation (not attached) on the AONB and Natural Resources Wales Partnership Project.

13 FUTURE MEETING DATES

To consider possible dates for future meetings of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee:-

25th or 18th November, 2016.

17th February, 2017 or 3rd March, 2017.

16th or 23rd June, 2017.

10th or 17th November, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Bernie Attridge
Derek Butler
Hugh Evans

Hugh Jones
Huw Jones
Ian Roberts

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
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CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin on Friday, 26th February 2016 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Derek Butler (FCC), Hugh Jones (Chair) (WCBC) and Huw Jones (DCC).

ALSO PRESENT

Deputy Monitoring Officer/Solicitor (DCC - LJ), Head of Flintshire Countryside Services (FCC - TW), Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer (DCC - HS), Countryside and Heritage Services Manager (DCC – HR), Senior Countryside Officer AONB (DCC - DS), Senior Management Accountant (DCC - GW), Senior Finance and Assurance Officer (DCC – PO'H) Senior Recreation Officer (DCC - HM) and Committee Administrator (DCC – CIW).

1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernie Attridge (FCC), Hugh Evans (DCC), Ian Roberts (WCBC) and Paul Mitchell and Carol Rothwell (NRW).

No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

No items were raised which in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 JUNE, 2015

The Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on the 26th June, 2015 were submitted.

Accuracy:-

Also Present:- It was noted that Tom Woodall was employed by Flintshire County Council and not Wrexham County Borough Council. It was also suggested that Martin Howarth be listed before David Shiel in the list of officers present.

5. Draft Constitution and Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership:- The Chair request that it be clarified that the view had been expressed that it was “unfair” that Local Authority Elected Members should have substitutions whilst other groups could not.

The Chair referred to the final sentence of the third paragraph on Page 11 “Furthermore, any delegation of executive functions will not prevent the Authority itself ceasing to be responsible for those functions, that this will always be retained” and made reference to the need for clarification. The Deputy Monitoring Officer/Solicitor explained that it was the Authorities themselves ceasing to be responsible for the functions in question. In the event of the Authority requesting another Authority to carry out an executive function on its behalf, it would still retain the overall responsibility for the undertaking of that specific function. Details of the delegation of executive functions by the Authority were summarised by the DMO/S.

It was also noted that reference to a “Planning Application”, in the fourth paragraph on Page 11, be amended to read a “Planning Committee”.

RESOLVED – *that, subject to the above, the minutes be received and approved as a correct record.*

3 MINUTES OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD 16 OCTOBER, 2015

The Minutes of the AONB Partnership held on the 16th October, 2015 were submitted.

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer (CRDVO) highlighted the main points within the minutes which included:-

- The value of the AONB Badge Scheme Show Case which had engaged local businesses, and the benefits of the courses were outlined.
- The AONB Framework and Terms of Reference. It had been agreed that the term of office for the Chair of the Partnerships be for one year, and substitute members be accepted for all categories.
- Appointments of Members to Partnership Working Groups was considered and agreed. Details of the five Working Groups had been provided.
- The Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB now had 120 members. The Committee agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB acknowledging the work they had undertaken. They also endorsed the suggestion that they be invited to provide a presentation to a future meeting of the Joint Committee, outlining the work they had undertaken.
- Details of site visits undertaken was provided, and the importance of maintaining the partnership was highlighted. The Chair referred to the value and benefits of increasing awareness. The CRDVO provided details of forthcoming site visits which included a visit to Aberduna Quarry, Mold.

RESOLVED – *that the minutes be received.*

4 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

A copy of the updated forward work programme had been circulated previously.

Members of the JC considered the Forward Work Programme and the following salient points were highlighted:-

- The Public Consultation on the AONB Management Plan had been completed, and the document had been circulated.
- Work had been undertaken in respect of the Outreach and Volunteer Strategy.
- The AONB Partnership had been established and the Terms of Reference would be considered by the Joint Committee.
- The SDF Panel had been appointed, and details of the memberships were provided.
- The Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB now had 120 members.
- Details of the work undertaken on Facebook were provided in relation to the Clwydian Range 30th Anniversary.
- Staff were attending Tourism and RDP meetings in relation to the AONB Tourism Strategy.
- The implementation and promotion of new literature had been undertaken in relation to the Climate Change Programme.

In response to a question from the Chair, the CRDVO explained that work had not yet commenced in respect of the Urbanisation Project, which entailed entering into an agreement with NEWTRA and the Local Authority Highways to respect the rural nature of the AONB.

RESOLVED – *that the report be received and its contents noted.*

5 DETERMINED AONB PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Summary of AONB Planning Consultations for the period from April, 2015 to September, 2015 had been circulated previously for information purposes.

The JC considered the summary of AONB Planning Consultations circulated.

Reference was made by the Chair to instances in reports where concerns had been expressed and alternatives had been suggested. He felt that it would be advantageous if an indication could be provided as to whether such recommendations had been accepted. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer (CRDVO) suggested this could be achieved by utilising a colour coding process. The Committee supported the suggestion that Planning Applications submitted over a period of several years, in respect of the ANOB and the World Heritage Site, be examined to ascertain if they had been accepted.

The Chair suggested that the opportunity could be taken to recommend that Section 106 funding might be utilised by some of the projects.

The CRDVO explained that 103 Applications had been received. The Chair thanked the Clwydian Range AONB Planning Officer for the work undertaken in respect of the Applications received.

RESOLVED – *that the report be received and the comments made be noted and actioned.*

6 OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PRESENTATION

The Senior Recreation Officer (DCC) (SRO) explained that the “Our Picturesque Landscape” would be one of the main focus of work for the AONB Team over the next seven years. It was explained that this had been the second Application made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which included a different area to the first Application.

The Heritage Lottery Fund had requested that a specific area be identified and the second Application was supported. It was explained that the Picturesque Project had been based on the inspirational landscape of the River Dee Valley and its Historic Routeways.

The Joint Committee received a presentation, “Our Picturesque Landscape”, from the Senior Recreation Officer (DCC) which included information pertaining to “Our Picturesque”:-

- Past Journeys.
- Heritage Value.
- Project Need.
- Project Partners.
- What we would like to do.
- Engaging Communities.
- Accessing the Picturesque.
- Conserving the Picturesque.

A copy of the presentation was circulated at the meeting. It was also agreed that an electronic version of the presentation be circulated to Members of the Committee, together with, a copy of the short summary of the project which would be distributed with the job description.

The SRO responded to a question from the Chair and confirmed that a route map or forward work programme would be available in approximately fourteen months’ time. She explained the interview for a Project Manager would be in April, 2016.

Members were informed that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB would be the lead partner for the project, with shared responsibility, which would be monitored by the HLF. Members were assured that there would be regular update reports presented to the Joint Committee.

The impact of the project on North East Wales, in terms of outreach and project links, was provided by the SRO. Councillor D. Butler highlighted the importance of establishing links with the local community and developing a Rural Areas Rides Map.

The CRDVO referred to the high standard and variation of public transport links available in the area, particular reference being made to the local bus services and water taxi. The SRO explained that the Project had emanated from areas identified in the management of the World Heritage Plan and AONB Management Plan, which from which the public had expressed a preference for short walks. It was

emphasised that it would be important to build and develop on information received from the local communities which had been received through public consultations.

RESOLVED – *that Joint Committee receive and note the contents of the report.*

7 JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET

A report by the Senior Management Accountant (DCC) (SMA), which provided details of the AONB's revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16, as well as the proposed budget for 2016/17, had been circulated previously.

The SMA, assisted by the Senior Finance and Assurance Officer (DCC), introduced the report which provided a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2015/16, as detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget was £420K, with the position being a forecast overspend of £3k. The report also provided a summary of the proposed revenue budget for 2016/17, Appendix 2, which proposed a gross expenditure budget of £440K.

The budget had been presented in 2 parts; Core and Area. The Core budget related to those functions which were the current minimum amount required to operate the AONB activities during the current year. It was explained that the budget may vary from year to year depending on external and internal funding. The Area budget related to expenditure to deliver projects in the various LA areas of the AONB. The budget could include non-core staff working on particular projects in the AONB during the year. This budget would vary from year to year and even within year depending on project progress and funding sources.

In reply to a question from the Chair, it was explained that the uplift from Wrexham County Borough Council had been included in the reserves.

Members were informed that National Insurance and Pension figures had been incorporated in the figures in Appendix 2. However, an allowance for a pay award had not been included. It was confirmed that this could be in the region of 1%. The Committee were informed that an allowance had been incorporated for the possible inclusion of a Community Partnership post.

Councillor H.LI. Jones referred to the budget of £1.5k for uniforms for 2016/17, which had been included in Appendix 2. The CRDVO provided details of the budget allocation in relation to the number of staff. The CRDVO informed the Committee that there had been an increase of £1.4k in respect of the subscriptions to the National Association of AONBs

Details of potential risks and the consultation process undertaken had been incorporated in the report. It was confirmed that any changes to the income levels could pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and the ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

RESOLVED – *that the Joint Committee:-*

- (a) notes the progress against the agreed budget strategy this financial year, as in Appendix 1, and
- (b) approves the proposed budget for 2016/17.

8 POTENTIAL NRW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP POST

A report by the Senior Countryside Officer (DCC) (SCO), on the potential to establish a Community Partnership Post for the Southern part of the AONB in partnership with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), had been circulated previously.

The Joint Committee were informed by the SCO that a decision had been sought on making resources available to match fund a Joint NRW - AONB Post. The Clwydian Range AONB had been extended to incorporate the Dee Valley in 2011, and since 2011 there had been no additional staffing resource to help develop links with the respective communities to meet the potential to develop project work. It was therefore more difficult for these communities to access the benefits that being part of the AONB could bring.

The AONB currently had a partnership arrangement with the operational teams of NRW in the central part of the Clwydian Range around the NRW Forest Estate at Moel Famau, Nercwys and Llangwyfan. The partnership jointly funded the Community Warden Post since 2002 and had been successful in developing a number of community projects around biodiversity, young people and schools, skills and access improvements and had out reached to communities in both Flintshire and Denbighshire.

The potential to extend the partnership into the Dee Valley for a 2 year period, and to create another Partnership Warden Post to work specifically with the communities of the new parts of the AONB, was highlighted. NRW had allocated resources to part fund a post and were keen to expand the partnership to the southern area of the AONB. The Post would allow the AONB to develop project work with the communities in the new part of the AONB with particular outputs including:-

- The development of Young Rangers for the Dee Valley
- Volunteer opportunities
- Training in traditional skills
- Community wildlife conservation projects.
- School Projects
- Access improvements - circular walks

The cost of the Warden post would be an NRW Contribution of £12,000 pa for two years, with £12,000 pa for two years being sought from the AONB. Details of the purpose and outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken had been included in the report.

Councillor D. Butler felt that it had been proactive step to promote the post and expressed his support for the appointment.

In response to a question from the Chair, the officers confirmed that sufficient resources had been allocated to support the undertaking of the related work.

RESOLVED – *that the Joint Committee make resources available to match fund NRW's contribution to a Partnership Post.*

9 AONB PARTNERSHIP'S FRAMEWORK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATING AND DOVETAILING WITH JOINT COMMITTEE'S LEGAL AGREEMENT REPORT

A report by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer (DCC) (CRDVO) had been circulated previously.

The CRDVO explained that the new document had been reviewed again by the AONB Officers Working Group (OWG) on the 10th September, 2015. The AONB Partnership had been consulted on the 16th September, 2015, and the Joint Committee re-consulted on the 22nd September, 2015. The revised Constitution and Terms of Reference had been included as Appendix 1 to the report.

The AONB Officer explained that Members of the Partnership were key partners in delivering the Management Plan, and the revised document would contribute towards effective governance. The Joint Committee were informed that there was a zero cost, other than officer time, and a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision had been included as Appendix 2 to the report.

In reply to a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that there would be a requirement to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and the Solicitor (DCC) confirmed this could be included in the document.

The CRDVO made specific reference to the following Points within Appendix 2:-

- Point 5 – The sentence “This Joint Committee is not an external body”. The Solicitor (DCC) emphasised that the Joint Committee and the AONB Partnership was not an external body but was a Joint Committee of the three respective Authorities. The CRDVO invited Members attention to Appendix 2, the Diagram of the AONB Structure.
- Point 16 – It had been agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership be elected by the full AONB Partnership for a period of 1 year. In reply to a question from Councillor D. Butler, the CRDVO confirmed that it had been agreed that any Member of the Partnership could be appointed as Chair or Vice Chair.
- Point 26 – Be amended to read that “The AONB Officer and NRW Officer had the delegated authority to decide grant applications up to £3000”.

During the ensuing discussion the Chair and Members of the Committee thanked the officers for the work undertaken.

RESOLVED – that the Joint Committee endorses the Framework and Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership.

10 AONB PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT

A report by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer (DCC) (CRDVO), which enabled the Joint Committee to respond in a timely, effective and efficient manner to planning consultations, from the constituent Authorities, had been circulated previously.

The CRDVO explained that one of the functions of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (JC) was to respond to planning and development consultations referred to the AONB for comment. Most consultations related to proposals within the AONB, but also include those outside the designated area which were within the setting of the protected landscape and may impact on the AONB.

A summary of the purpose of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Joint Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations (SDPDC), Appendix 1 to the report, was provided by the CRDVO.

Members were informed that the SDPDC set a framework for the AONB to increase the number of Planning Consultations to which it contributed. It was confirmed that there was a zero cost, other than officer time, and that the AONB Officer had consulted with Denbighshire's Legal department to check that AONB Officers were meeting and following the correct legal procedures.

The AONB Planning Officer currently received over 150 applications each year, an increase of 50% since the AONB was extended to the Dee Valley. However, the AONB Planning Officer still only worked 2 days per week unless additional delegation could not be responded to in a timely manner to some planning and development proposals.

During the ensuing discussion the Chair thanked the officers for the work undertaken in respect of the Applications received.

RESOLVED – that the Joint Committee adopt the Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations as in Appendix 1 to the report.

11 MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION REPORT

A report by the Senior Countryside Officer (DCC) (SCO), on the consultation on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan, had been circulated previously.

The Joint Committee (JC) were informed by the SCO that a decision was required to formally adopt the AONB Management Plan. The consultation period for the AONB Management had closed in August, 2015, and the Management Plan had been amended where appropriate in line with responses received. The Consultation Report had been included with the agenda.

The SCO explained that Local Authorities had a statutory Duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce a Management Plan and to review it every 5 years. The Plan set out an agenda for the management of the AONB in line with identified Special Qualities and Features, and was made up of the Management Strategy, State of AONB Report and 5 Year Action Plan.

It was explained that the Draft Plan had been considered by the AONB Partnership at its meeting on the 15th May, 2015. Confirmation was provided that resources had been identified to publish the Plan within the overall budget, and expenditure would be monitored with any variances being reported through the budget monitoring process. There was a reputational risk to the AONB and the Local Authorities with a failure to publish the Statutory Management Plan, as funding from NRW and Welsh Government could be withdrawn.

Councillor D. Butler commended the report and the work undertaken, and he expressed the opinion that the colouring and photographs utilised had provided a flavour for the area.

Following further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED – *that the Joint Committee formally adopts the AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019.*

12 ASPIRATIONS OF THE CEIRIOG VALLEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AONB

The Chair explained that he had received correspondence from various organisations in the Ceiriog Valley, including Community Councils, requesting the support of the Joint Committee for the inclusion of the Ceiriog Valley in the AONB.

He explained that the correspondence received requested that the views of Members be sought on the possibility of the Committee, as a statutory Joint Committee, presenting a report to the appropriate body making recommendations for the inclusion of the Ceiriog Valley in the AONB. Councillors H.Ll. Jones and D. Butler expressed the view that this would be a resources issue.

The CRDVO explained that it would be within the remit of Natural Resources Wales to make such recommendations, and Welsh Government to provide approval of the recommendations. He referred to the extensive area involved and the views which could be expressed by other interested parties, such as Powys County Council and the farming communities, and level of support which could be attained.

It was explained by the CRDVO that the principle in this case would need to emanate from Welsh Government, who were currently reviewing protected landscapes. He felt that in principle support could be offered by the Joint Committee if Members so wished, and he suggested that the matter could be pursued by seeking the support of the respective Assembly Members and Welsh Government Ministers.

During the ensuing discussion it was agreed that responses be sent, in reply to the correspondence received, explaining that the request had been discussed and the

merits of the case understood. However, concerns had been expressed by the Committee that the issue had been resource based. Members had also noted that Welsh Government were currently undertaking a review of designated landscapes, and that the appropriate contact could be through Assembly Members or Welsh Government Ministers. The CRDVO confirmed that officers would be happy to liaise and work with the Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership.

RESOLVED – *that the Joint Committee agreed that:-*

- (a) the report be received and the position noted.*
- (b) responses be sent, as agreed by the Committee, in reply to the correspondence received, and*
- (c) officers liaise and work with Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership.*

13 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The following dates were considered for future meetings of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee (JC):-

17th or 24th June, 2016
18th or 25th November, 2016

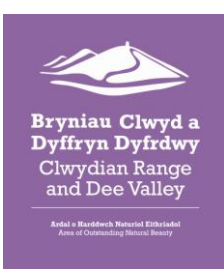
The Committee agreed that the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer liaise with the Members of the JC and agree suitable dates.

The DMO/S informed Members that the next meeting of the JC would be the Annual meeting, and the agenda would include a business item pertaining to the Appointment of a Chair of the JC for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – *that:-*

- (a) the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer liaise with the Members of the Committee and agree suitable dates for future meetings of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, and*
- (b) the agenda for the June, 2016 meeting include a business item pertaining to the Appointment of a Chair of the Joint Committee for the ensuing year.*

Meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.



The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Minutes of the Meeting
held on
Friday 13th May 2016
at
The Council Chamber, Prestatyn
at 10:00 am

AONB Partnership Members

Representing Land Management

Gareth Wyn Jones
Sharron Jones

Individual Interest

Helen Walker
John I Roberts

Representing Rural Interest

Christine Evans
Roger Cragg

Representing Landscape Interest

Michael Skuse
(SDF Working Group Chair)

Representing Historical Interest

Tony King

Representing the Natural Environment

Les Starling

Representing the Built Environment

Philip Durrell

Representing Business Interest

Dewi Davies

Representing Access and Recreation

Andrew Worthington OBE (Chair)

Meeting Observer – Welsh Translator

Representing Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer)
David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer)
Tony Hughes (AONB Planning Officer)
Karen Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer)
Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development Officer)

Representing Wrexham County Borough Council

Councillor Hugh Jones
(Chair of the AONB Joint Committee)
Councillor RJ Dutton OBE
Councillor Lloyd Kenyon
Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation and Environment Officer)

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Merfyn Parry
Councillor Martyn Holland (Chair of the
Landscape Character & Built Environment Working Group)
together with
Huw Rees (Head of DCC Countryside & Heritage Service)

Representing Flintshire County Council

Councillor Paul Cunningham (Vice Chair)
Councillor Colin Legg

together with

Tom Woodall
(Head of FCC Countryside Service & ROW)

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Observer

Paul Mitchell

Representing North Wales Wildlife Trust

Amy Green
(Alun & Chwiler Living Landscape project Officer)

Apologies for Absence were submitted from: - Cllr Carolyn Thomas, Cllr Huw L Jones, Cllr Ian Roberts, Cllr Stuart Davies, David Davies, Helen Mrowiec, Ian Papworth, Sandy Archdale

Welcome

The AONB Officer opened the meeting and welcomed members to the Summer meeting of the Partnership.

1. Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership for 2016/17

The AONB Officer explained that the Chair was appointed annually, and it was now time to elect a new Chair for 2016/17. Cllr Stuart Davies was the current Chair, but was unable to attend today's meeting. The AONB Officer said that the position of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership was open to any serving member of the Partnership, and would have key roles in championing the AONB. Discussion ensued. Members were supportive of the suggestion that the role of the Chair should alternate between an elected and non-elected members.

Mr P Durrell said that it was his understanding that one of the roles of the Chair was to represent the Partnership's views to the Joint Committee and enquired whether this would continue with a non-elected member. The Chair of the Joint Committee, Councillor Hugh Jones, responded that it would, and he would invite the newly appointed Chair to all Joint Committee Meetings.

The AONB Officer asked members for nominations for Chair of the Partnership.

Mr John Roberts proposed Mr Andrew Worthington OBE, and noted Andrew's extensive knowledge and wealth of experience in the Leisure and Tourism industry.

This was seconded by Councillor Paul Cunningham.

No other members were nominated.

RESOLVED

It was unanimously resolved that Mr Andrew Worthington OBE be appointed Chair of the Partnership for 2016/17.

Mr Worthington said that it was a real privilege to be given the role of the Chair of the Partnership, and went on to explain that he had gained over 40 years' experience working in the leisure and tourism industry and had a passion for the area as a result of his personal interests in hill walking and fell running. He was now eager to bring his experience and enthusiasm to the AONB Partnership.

The Chair said that the AONB Team operated effectively and conscientiously within the limited resources that they had. He was looking forward to working with both the Partnership Members, and the AONB Team.

The AONB Officer then asked for nominations for the Vice Chair for the Partnership.

Mr John Roberts proposed Councillor Paul Cunningham, and this was seconded by Mr P Durrell. Councillor Cunningham accepted the nomination.

RESOLVED

It was unanimously resolved that Councillor Paul Cunningham be appointed the Vice Chair of the Partnership for 2016/17

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on October 16th 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes be received and approved as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Membership Update

The AONB Officer explained that two vacant seats had become available on the Partnership:

3.1 Vacancy One - Urban Member (for the Northern area of the AONB)

Due to other commitments, Mr Peter Scarll had resigned from the Partnership. The vacant seat had been advertised in the Denbighshire Free Press and Town and Community Councils had also been informed. The vacancy had also published on the AONB website and via social media. Nine applicants had applied in total, and after consultation with the Joint Committee, Ian Papworth had been appointed. Mr Papworth was formerly a Chief Inspector with North Wales Police.

3.2 Vacancy Two -Urban Member (Dee Valley and World Heritage Site)

Due to relocation, Mr Phillip Thane had resigned from the Partnership. An Advert for the vacancy had been published in the Denbighshire Free Press and the Wrexham Leader. The World Heritage Site Board, Town and Community Councils had also been informed. The vacancy was also published on the AONB website and via social media.

There had been a lot of interest in the vacancy, the closing date for applicants was June 3rd.

The AONB Officer explained that due to the geographical spread of the AONB, he was trying to ensure that all the regions were fairly represented.

3. Presentation: Alyn & Chwiler Living Landscape Project

North Wales Wildlife Trust Project Officer, Amy Green, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation provided a detailed and concise overview of the project. She explained that the Living Landscape Project area covered the upper river Alun and river Chwiler valleys, including areas within the AONB. The project area had been identified as a biodiversity hotspot years ago by local environmental bodies and individuals.

The project was a partnership involving: Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB, North East Wales Wildlife, NRW, BASC, Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council. The majority of landowners had positively engaged with the project. Some funding had been obtained from WREN and Dwr Cymru to fund the project for 3 years (until November 2017), when more funding would be sought to continue the project. AONB SDF funding had contributed to the project to produce information leaflets and banner stands for use at events. Volunteer days had also been held in conjunction with the AONB and other partners. The Project Officer emphasised that partnership working was an integral part of the project.

Several protected/rare species were present in the project area including but not limited to; Dormouse, Lesser Horseshoe bats, Great crested newts, Deptford Pink, black poplar.

The Project Officer highlighted Case Studies of habitat improvements which had taken place so far; one in Bodfari, where vegetation had been reinstated which helped to sustain habitat for the Water Voles. Another in Llanarmon yn Ial, in an area of flat land that was transformed into a pond which would now provide habitat for a number of species.

Himalayan Balsam was a problem and a lot of volunteer days had been completed with more planned. Mink were also a problem and mink control training was being completed.

The Project Officer had joined the AONB Team in participating in shows and events, volunteer days, guided wildlife walks. Presentations to schools and community groups had also been held.

Mr Les Starling, as a member of North Wales Wildlife Trust and now Chair of the Alun and Chwiler Living Landscape Project, declared an interest in the project, and said that the original idea for the project had come from AONB Team. Since the Project Officer has been appointed (18 months ago) the project had gone from strength to strength

The Chair thanked the Project Officer for a most interesting and informative presentation.

5. Partnership Working Groups

The AONB Officer gave a brief update on the progress of the Working Groups explaining that, two of the Working Groups had already held meetings, and the Heritage, Culture and Communities Working Group had a meeting convened for June 10th, and the Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement Working Group would meet June 23rd. The AONB Officer explained that each Working Group would appoint their own Chair, and the individual Chairs would report back to the Partnership Meetings.

Report from Chairpersons of the Working Groups

5.1 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Working Group

Mr Michael Skuse reported that the SDF Working Group administered the AONB's SDF Fund which was made available every year to AONB's in Wales by the Welsh Government. The year ran from April to March every year, and the amount varied each year. Last year it was £60,000 and this year £54,000 was available to be awarded to deserving causes during this financial year.

In addition to the basic sum, in some years further funding had become available during the year, last year this amounted to £6,000. SDF funding only provided some of the monies sought by the applicant, and would be supplemented from other sources e.g. Charitable Trusts, Government Agencies and importantly, from local people, who were often active volunteers within the project.

Up to March this year twenty six applications had been approved including assistance towards: Prestatyn Walking Festival, Actif Alyn Woods, Alyn and Chwiler Living Landscape Project. A full report on last year's activities would be

made to the SDF Working Group at their next meeting due to be held on May 27th, and the report would also be made available to Partnership Members. This year to date there had been thirty expressions of interest.

Mr Skuse emphasised the importance of the SDF Working Group to the Partnership, and said that he felt privileged to Chair it. He also thanked the Sustainable Development Officer, Ceri Lloyd and Senior AONB and Countryside Officer David Shiel for their diligent commitment to SDF.

5.2 Landscape and Built Environment of the AONB Working Group

Councillor Martyn Holland reported that the group had met twice to date, initially to define the role of the group. The group had since been consulted on planning applications. He reiterated that the Joint Committee made the final decisions on responses and the Working Group provided expert advice only. Presentations to the group had been completed by Flintshire County Council's and Wrexham County Borough Council's Planning Departments on their imminent Local Development Plans (LDP). Further consultations would be taking place.

The group had commented on two large scale developments in Wrexham County Borough. An Action Plan for the Group had been completed. A lively discussion had been held on 'innovative design of buildings within the AONB'. Dark Sky Status had also been discussed, and it had been recognised that there were a lot of visitors who wanted to go to an area which had Dark Sky Status. Snowdonia National Park now had Dark Sky Status.

Listed Buildings at Risk within the AONB had also been discussed, and the Group would also liaise closely with the Heritage, Culture and Communities Working Group.

The Chair of the Joint Committee, Councillor Hugh Jones, thanked the Chairs of the Working Groups and said that their reports demonstrated how vital the role of the Working Groups was to the Partnership.

The AONB Officer also thanked the Chairs of the Working Groups and said it was important that the members reported back to the Partnership.

The AONB Officer confirmed that rather than formal minutes, just brief notes of the Working Group meetings with action points would be completed, with the Chairs reporting back to the Partnership Meetings.

RESOLVED

All Working Group notes to be brought to the AONB Communication Officer's attention for circulation to the Partnership Members.

6. AONB Annual Forum Review of Last Year's Forum

The Historical Environment of the AONB

The AONB Officer provided a brief overview of last year's Forum which was held on November 20th 2015 and hosted by Flintshire County Council at County Hall, Mold. The theme for the Forum was 'The Historic Environment of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB' and key note presentations were given by:

Fiona Gale - County Archaeologist, Ian Grant - Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

Richard Hankinson - Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, and Dr Rachel Pope - University of Liverpool. Over 40 people had attended the forum. The AONB

Officer said that the format for the Forum had been a success and this would be the template for future events.

6.1 Proposals for this year's Forum

The AONB Officer asked members to consider a theme for this autumn's Forum.

Proposals:

The Landscape and Art of the AONB	- as part of
	'Our Picturesque Landscape Project'
Tourism within the AONB	- Year of Adventure/next Year of Adventure
Alun & Chilwer Landscape Project	- Biodiversity
Sustainable Management	- Grazing Project
Black Grouse	- Recovery Project

Discussion ensued and It was suggested that two events could be held, one in the autumn (to feature 'Our Picturesque Landscape Project'), and one in the summer (to feature Tourism in the AONB).

RESOLVED

That the Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement Working Group Meeting be asked to formalise arrangements at its next meeting.

7. AONB Management Plan

The Assistant AONB Officer, David Shiel provided an update on the AONB Management Plan, and explained that the Plan had been adopted by the Joint Committee following consultation last summer. The Plan was currently being translated. Chair of the Joint Committee, Councillor Hugh Jones thanked Mr David Shiel for all their hard work in completing what was a superb document.

8. Review of AONB Familiarisation Days & Future Dates

The AONB Officer thanked members who had attended the Familiarisation Days that had recently been held. He said that there had been a good attendance which had given members an opportunity to network together as well as learning more about key sites in the AONB. The majority of members said that they had enjoyed the informality of familiarisation days and that it had broadened their understanding of the AONB. One member proposed that a short walk/site visit to be convened for members who could not walk very far.

The AONB Officer said that other interested parties could also be informally invited to the site visits and introduced to the group. Members agreed that the site visits had proved to be crucial in building the Partnership, and that they should continue.

Mr Tony King raised concerns that at the recent Aberduna Quarry Site Visit, members did not visit the Engine House, which was a listed building that was at risk as a result of over mature trees originally planted to screen the quarry.

8.1 There were three dates to be noted for further Familiarisation Days:

Prestatyn Hillside - Friday 1st July

- Llangollen Railway - Friday 16th September
- Caer Drewyn Hilfort - Friday 4th November

The AONB Officer asked members to consider venues for further site visits. Discussion ensued. Proposed Site Visits:

- Llanarmon yn Ial - a prominent village within the AONB
- Jubilee Tower - it was noted that one site visit had previously been completed to the Tower
- A Working Farm within AONB - how a farm/farmer functions within the AONB

Action

David Shiel, Howard Sutcliffe, Helen Mroweic, Ceri Lloyd, Karen Holthofer

9. Urgent Items

9.1 Parking within the AONB

Mr Michael Skuse raised concerns regarding parking issues within the AONB, and said that on recent visits within the AONB he had not been able to park his car at Moel Famau, Loggerheads, Llangwyfan or Llantysilio car parks. It was apparent that the more successful the AONB was becoming with tourism, the more difficult it was becoming to park. Discussion ensued.

Mr David Shiel said, that Moel Famau Car Park had been extended three times and Loggerheads car park was due to be extended. Parking was an increasing issue for the AONB. Parking had been included in the Sustainable Tourism Strategy. The AONB Officer said that the possibility of Park & Ride systems should be considered. The AONB had run a mini bus service to reduce the cars in and out of Llangollen two years ago, and it had been successful.

9.2 Future Landscapes Wales Working Group - Appendix 1

The Review of Protected Landscapes in Wales

The AONB Officer reported that he had a seat on the Future Landscapes Wales Working Group, and circulated a copy of a letter that had recently been sent to the Minister for Natural Resources in Welsh Government (Carl Sergeant AM) which summarised the current position.

9.3 Frequency of AONB Meetings

The Chair asked members to consider whether two meetings per year of the AONB Partnership was enough. Discussion ensued. It was proposed that a third meeting be held which should focus on a particular theme e.g. recreation, biodiversity.

RESOLVED

The AONB Team to arrange a date for a third full AONB Partnership Meeting

- 10. **Future Meeting Date & Venue**
Friday 21st October 2016
At 10:00 am

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1

Minister for Natural Resources
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Pierhead Street
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

3 May 2016

Dear Minister

When I accepted the role as Chair of the Future Landscapes Wales working group I agreed to provide you with an interim update prior to the elections to the National Assembly. This note performs that function. It does not pre-judge the conclusions of the Working Group and Project Group activity; they will follow in due course. Instead it illustrates the scope of discussions we have had since January and provides a sense of the broad direction of travel across the whole Future Landscapes Wales programme.

The Marsden report has triggered a significant debate within the Future Landscapes Wales groups about the principles and functions for designated landscapes in a Wales which has a clear focus on the well-being of future generations. Over a relatively short space of time the Future Landscapes Wales programme has taken the Marsden Report, isolated its key themes and recommendations and considered them within the new legislative framework; a context much better understood now than twelve to eighteen months ago. Our deliberations have been driven by an ambitious and collaborative spirit from all participants.

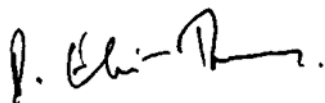
The relationship between people and place has emerged as an important element of well-being; the landscapes of Wales reflect this relationship. Our discussions are considering how designated landscapes both in their present form and any future approaches can be managed to enhance their distinctive qualities using the principles of sustainable management of natural resources as defined in the Environment (Wales) Act in ways which maximise the contribution to the well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

It is clear that new ways of working will need to be adopted. An approach that is underpinned by principles which respect and strengthen the relationship between people and place may lead to better shared outcomes. Such principles are also applicable in areas outside the current designated landscapes.

Flexibility in structures and governance has also been discussed. This approach may better respect the distinctive qualities of landscapes and the balance between national and local interests than the more centrally determined and uniform structures currently available in statute. Possible approaches include, adopting basic standards for governance for any entity associated with an existing area or proposed for a new area. This would then allow for the needs and opportunities of the specific area to determine the precise approach, helping to unlock genuinely participatory approaches to landscape management. We have also considered enabling existing statutory authorities or lead bodies to request changes to their structure or status where they can demonstrate that doing so will enhance delivery.

The special qualities of the existing designated landscapes extend beyond a visual amenity interpretation of natural beauty and incorporate the potential for soil, carbon, and water management, and the potential sustainable management of other valuable natural resources. The working group wants a national conversation about Wales' landscapes and their value to the nation. The public should play a part in determining a contemporary interpretation of the special qualities of designated landscapes. The existing designated landscapes should then be able to state clearly the respective special qualities to be enhanced.

The Marsden report drew our attention to the untapped potential for developing new approaches to economic development within these areas. Done effectively such approaches could be replicated across rural Wales. I am pleased to report that these issues are being explored and considered in detail. Our work is moving in the direction of a flexible, place based, approach which is locally determined within agreed national principles and values. Harnessing the distinctive qualities of landscapes through the sustainable management of natural resources well-being will be maximised. I anticipate us identifying short term actions that can be taken by Government; existing authorities, and partners to improve administration and outcomes, as well as setting a clear direction for the medium to long term. Wales' landscapes are hugely important and valuable, culturally, socially, environmentally and economically. Our designated landscapes, the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, contribute to this rich diversity. I am confident that approaches will emerge from the Future Landscapes Wales programme of work to provide a lasting, forward-looking settlement that is grounded in contemporary Welsh legislation.



Yours sincerely,
Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas

DRAFT

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 24th June 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Gareth Williams

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon / Huw Rees

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2015/16 & Budget 2016/17

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as at 31st March 2016 as well as confirmation of the agreed budget for 2016/17.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position as at 31st March 2016 and also the budget for 2016/17.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2015/16 (Appendix 1) and also to formally approve the Accounting Statement for 2015/16 and review the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2). Members are also asked to note the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2016 (Appendix 3).

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2015/16 detailed in Appendix 1. The overall outturn position is an underspend of £12,299, which has been placed in a reserve for use in future years. In addition a further £38,925 has been placed in reserve and earmarked for specific projects in 2016/17.

The report also provides a copy of the Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (Appendix 2) for consideration and approval. The return has been reviewed and signed by DCC's Internal Audit Section. Assumptions in the proposed budget for 2016/17 brought to the JC in February have now been confirmed.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

A proposed budget for 2016/17 was brought to the JC meeting in February and agreed. The financial position is a standing item at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2015/16. The underspend has been placed in reserve to be utilised in future years.

The approval and signing of the formal Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (Appendix 2) is a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts.

The agreed budget for 2016/17 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months. However it must still be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies are coming under increasing pressure due to the economic climate and that future funding levels may not be relied upon.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The proposed budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

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	Budget 2015/16	Outturn 2015/16
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	199,852	185,284
Training & Conference	500	1,681
Subscriptions	1,500	2,880
Insurance	936	939
Total Employee costs	202,788	190,784
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	400	351
Mileage	5,000	3,735
Use of Public Transport	300	452
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	5,700	4,538
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	800	989
Uniforms	0	1,701
General Equipment	150	130
Event Expenditure	5,000	3,172
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT costs	900	1,568
Telephones	920	833
Publications	100	99
Total Other Expenses	9,004	9,627
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	54,545	57,752
Total Project costs	54,545	57,752
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	272,037	262,701
INCOME		
NRW Salary Grant	-117,046	-117,046
SDF Grant	-54,545	-58,414
LA Funding	-100,446	-100,449
Private calls	0	-14
TOTAL INCOME	-272,037	-275,923
Total Net Expenditure	0	-13,222

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st MARCH 2016

	Budget 2015/16	Outturn 2015/16
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	124,750	135,910
DRB check		44
Insurance	574	574
Total Employee costs	125,324	136,528
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	4,200	3,211
Fleet	11,500	8,924
Public Transport	400	0
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	16,100	12,135
<u>Other</u>		
Site Management	0	4,283
General Equipment	250	28
IT	250	596
Telephones	408	269
Advertising	360	0
Total Other Expenses	1,268	5,176
<u>Projects</u>		
Management Plan	5,000	2,310
Other projects	0	47,828
Total Project costs	5,000	50,138
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	147,692	203,977
INCOME		
NRW Salary Grant	-11,466	-19,000
LA Salary funding	-136,226	-136,226
LA Project funding	0	-47,828
TOTAL INCOME	-147,692	-203,054
Total Net Expenditure	0	923



Ardal o Harddwch Natïrïol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

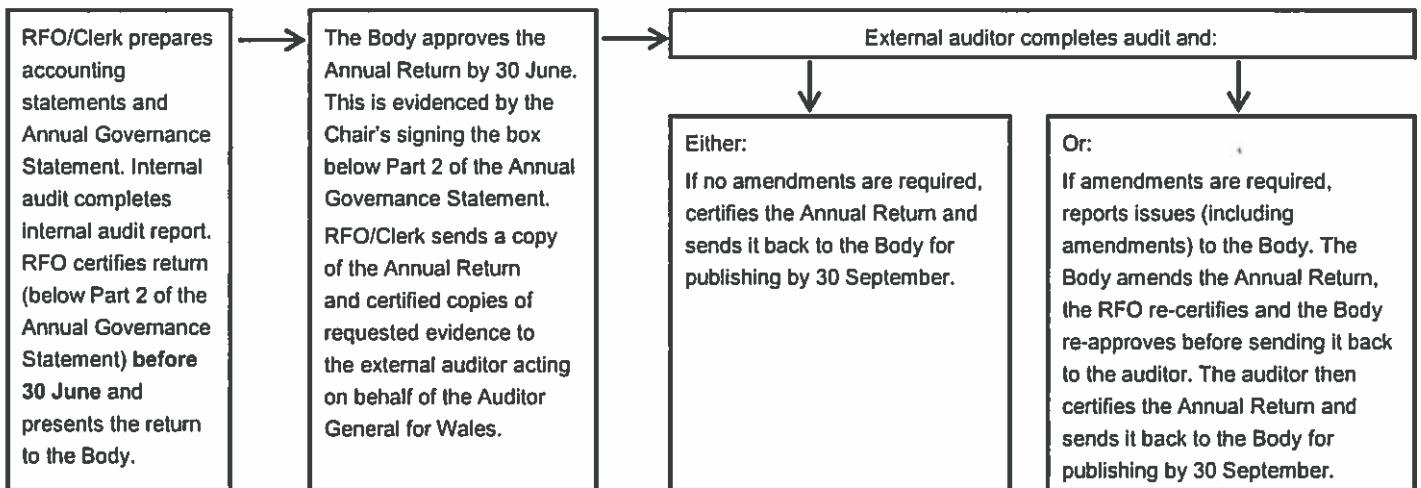


Smaller local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

Smaller local government bodies in Wales must prepare annual accounts following proper practices as set out in the One Voice Wales/SLCC publication **Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners’ Guide** (the Practitioners’ Guide). The Practitioners’ Guide states that bodies may prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return prepared by the Wales Audit Office.

The accounts and audit process

The accounts and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Please complete all sections highlighted in red. Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs. Send the original Annual Return, together with all additional information requested, to the external auditor acting on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. Please note that copies of all documents provided for the purposes of the audit must be certified as true copies of the originals by the Clerk and Chair. Unless requested, please do not send any original financial or other records to the external auditor.

Bodies should note the changes to the Annual Governance Statement. This is to be completed in full by all Bodies.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the Body for publication or display of the accounting statements, Annual Governance Statement and the Auditor General for Wales' certificate and report.

Completion checklist

'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
Initial submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
Accounts	Has the RFO certified the accounting statements and the body approved the Annual Return (as evidenced by the relevant signatures), no later than 30 June 2016?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do the accounts add up and does the balance carried forward from last year equal the opening balance this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations, including a quantified analysis of the changes from last year to this year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2016 agree to line 9?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All sections	Have all red boxes been completed and explanations provided where needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting evidence	Have all items and pages of supporting evidence provided to the audit been certified as a true copy of the original by the Clerk and Chair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Specimen draft

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body:

Chrysdian Range & Dee Valley AONB

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2016.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The Ledger of AONB Accounts was looked at and discussion with the Finance Officer.
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A sample of invoices was looked at. Payments were found to be correctly authorised and VAT was correctly accounted for.
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The Risk and Financial and Regulatory are included in the AONB Legal statement of 04/10/2013.
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Discussion with Finance Officer with responsibility for the AONB Accounts.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	AONB's expected/actual income was as expected?
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	All petty cash items were looked at. Receipts supported expenditure, budget and VAT was appropriately accounted for.
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	All employees approved by AG and some paid via direct debit.
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	N/A

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Bank reconciliation is added annually in another project.
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Discussion with the Finance Officer with responsibility for AGNS account. Statements prepared for the Joint committee meetings were looked at.
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	N/A

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
14. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body or as a member of the body during the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:	IRENE GRIFFITHS
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:	<i>I Griffiths</i>
Date:	09/06/2016.

Accounting statements 2015-16 for:

Name of body:

Chrysalis Rother and Sway Valley CDEB

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2015 (£)	31 March 2016 (£)	

Please round all figures to nearest £.
Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances.
All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.

Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments

1. Balances brought forward	0	16,268	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	211,150	260,087	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	204,658	256,302	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	-276,677	-321,194	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	-122,864	-143,971	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	16,268	67,492	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).

Statement of balances

8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	24,750	105,897	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body and stock balances held at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	-3,078	-31,376	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	-5,404	-7,029	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	16,268	67,492	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The original asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The Body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and proper practices.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and to ask questions about the Body's accounts.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the Body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Body.	6, 8	
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Annual Governance Statement (Part 2)

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We calculated and approved the Council/Board/Committee's budget requirement for the 2015-16 financial year in accordance the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and proper practices [and issued the precept in accordance with Sections 39 to 42 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.]*	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Properly planned its financial activities for the year and set a budget in accordance with statutory requirements.	13
2. We have received detailed financial reports setting out the [income and expenditure* receipts and payments*] and a summary of the Council/Board/Committee's financial position on a regular [monthly* / quarterly*] basis throughout the year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Effectively monitored its financial position, income and expenditure against that budget throughout the financial year.	13
3. We have ensured that the Council/Board/Committee's internal audit is independent of its day-to-day decision-making process and maintenance of the accounting records and have agreed appropriate terms of reference for the internal audit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Ensured that its internal audit function is able to undertake its work without potential conflicts of interest and with sufficient scope to provide an adequate and effective service.	8

* Please delete as appropriate.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Board/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2016.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature:	Chair signature:
Name:	Name:
Date:	Date:

Council/Board/Committee re-approval and re-certification (only required if the annual return has been amended at audit)

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2016.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature:	Chair signature:
Name:	Name:
Date:	Date:

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

The external auditor conducts the audit on behalf of, and in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 of:

--

External auditor's report

[Except for the matters reported below]* On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

[[These matters along with]* Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the body and our recommendations for improvement are included in our report to the body dated _____.]

Other matters and recommendations

On the basis of our review, we draw the Body's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect our audit opinion but should be addressed by the Body.

(Continue on a separate sheet if required.)

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

* Delete as appropriate.

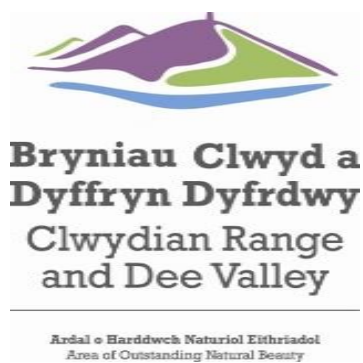
Guidance notes on completing the Annual Return

1. You must apply proper practices when preparing this annual return. For guidance, please read the Practitioners' Guide (**Governance and accountability for local councils: A Practitioners' Guide (Wales)**) – available from One Voice Wales and SLCC. It contains everything you need for the financial year-end and the statutory audit.
2. The Wales Audit Office Good Practice Exchange (www.audit.wales/good-practice/finance/community-council-money) provides further information on the accounts and audit process along with guidance on governance matters.
3. Make sure that the Annual Return is fully completed ie, no empty red boxes. Please avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are drawn to the attention of the body, properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the external auditor. **Please do not use correction fluid.** Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited and may incur additional costs.
4. **There are now two boxes for certification and approval by the Body. The second box is only required if the annual return has to be amended as a result of the audit. You should only complete the top box before sending the form to the auditor.**
5. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps the Chair or a member, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending the original form to the auditor.
6. Make sure that your accounting statements add up, that the balance carried forward from the previous year (line 7 of 2015) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (line 1 of 2016). Explain any differences between the 2015 figures on this annual return and the amounts recorded in last year's annual return.
7. Explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. Do not just send in a copy of your detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include a detailed analysis to support your explanation and be specific about the values of individual elements making up the variances.
8. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the Annual Return covers all your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. If your Council holds any short-term investments, please note their value on the bank reconciliation. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to line 9 in section 1. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide*.
9. **Every small body is now required to send to the external auditor, information to support the assertions made in the Annual Governance Statement. Your auditor will tell you what information you need to provide. Please read the audit notice carefully to ensure you include all the information the auditor has asked for. You should send copies of the original records (certified by the Clerk and Chair as accurate copies) to the external auditor and not the original documents themselves.**
10. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful.
11. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances or receives original documents that must be returned, the auditor will incur additional costs for which they are entitled to charge additional fees.
12. **Do not complete the Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report.** The external auditor completes this on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on completion of the audit.
13. **Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly.** This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit.
14. **Please note that if completing the electronic form, you must print the form for it to be certified by the RFO and signed by the Chair before it is sent to the auditor.**

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)**RESERVE BALANCES AT 31st MARCH 2016**

	£	£
<u>2014/15</u>		
Budget underspend at 31.03.15	-10,441	
Project funding balance at 31.03.15	-5,827	
	<u>-16,268</u>	
Balance of reserve at 31.03.15		<u><u>-16,268</u></u>
<hr/>		
<u>2015/16</u>		
Budget underspend at 31.03.16	-12,299	
Project funding at 31.03.16	-38,925	
	<u>-51,224</u>	
Balance of reserve at 31.03.16		<u><u>-67,492</u></u>
<hr/>		

Total reserve amount from budget	-22,740	
Toral reserve amount for Project funding	-44,752	
		<u><u>-67,492</u></u>



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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 24th June 2016
Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe
Report Author: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer
Title: AONB Annual Report

1. What is the report about?

The Annual Report highlights the activity undertaken by the AONB Team and its Partners.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The annual report is part of the Legal Agreement

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Joint Committee scrutinise and endorse the Annual Report

4. Report details.

See attached appendix 1 for Annual Report.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The Annual Report is an example of the major areas of work undertaken by the Joint Committee, AONB Partnership, AONB Team and internal and external Partners. It shows that the AONB is on track in delivering the AONB Management Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is a zero cost other than officer time

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The AONB Partnership and Natural Resources Wales will receive the report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement.

There are no additional costs directly associated with this report

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Reputation- Reporting is a key element in the management of the AONB

11. Power to make the Decision

The Legal basis to lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2015-16 Annual Report



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Graddfa/Scale: 1: 150000
 Dyddiad/Date: 27/03/2012

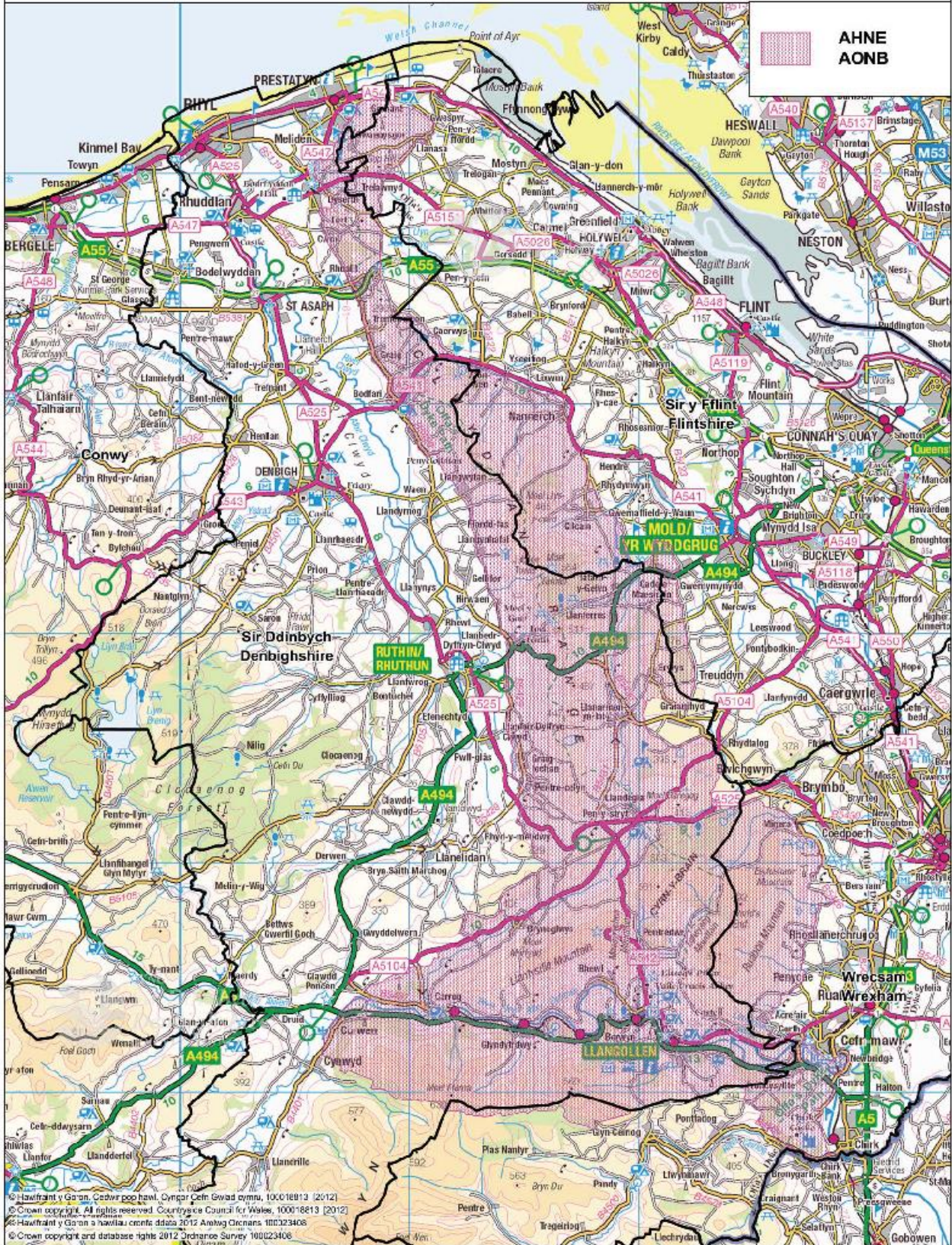
Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB



Bryniau Clwyd a
 Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
 Clwydian Range
 and Dee Valley

Map of North Wales Special Educational
 Areas © Crown Copyright and National Trust

**AHNE
 AONB**



© Hawffant y Gorn, Cefn y Gorn, Cymor Cefn Gwad oymu, 100016913 (2012)
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Introduction

The remodelling of governance in the AONB is now complete with a strategic committee The AONB Joint Committee and a support/day to day interface committee, The AONB Partnership. The two committees have now bedded in and roles and responsibilities that are now clearly established. The Partnership does now have 'working group' meetings to help deliver the Management Plan in the later quarter of the year, whilst a number of familiarisation visits have helped bring the individuals in the group closer together.

One highlight of the year has been the launch of the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, its recruiting policy has exceeded all expectations, it now has over 130 members.

Loggerheads Country Park has seen major changes with a Planning Application for a second car park being approved. The vibrancy of the Park has also improved with new lighting in its Visitor Facilities, the remodelling of the Audio Visual Room and the establishment of the Oriel/Gallery.

The Service now manages the historical Plas Newydd, the celebrated home of the Ladies of Llangollen. The opening and catering hours have immediately been extended in order to generate further income for the running of the site and extend the shoulder season further into autumn.

The AONB team and its key partners Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire County Councils, together with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are a positive group behind the success of the AONB. NRW are a key player in the success of the AONB, the grant aid received from NRW makes a significant difference and most of this report shows how much of the grant aid enables the Service to deliver on joint proposals. The retention by NRW to Grant Aid the AONB for the next 2 years is a key component for our continued success.

Staff expertise and retention continuous to be a major factor in our success, Nick Critchley left to work in the Wye Valley AONB whilst his successor Ceri Lloyd joined us from Cadwyn Clwyd.

The Northern Protected areas and the Canals and Rivers Trust worked on a number of projects from the P4G Programme including delivering a new set of photographs for the area (See Cover), business seminars and work to promote the World Heritage Site.

The Sustainable Development Fund again proved a fantastic opportunity to grant aid 27 projects. It is really pleasing that our investment of some of that money is now coming to be realised in project such as the Clwydian Range Food trail and its launch of the Clwydian Range Breakfast. The Walking Festivals go from strength to strength with a tiny element of money from SDF.

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB – Meetings held 2015/16

<u>April 2015</u>		
1.	Public Health Wales Meeting	8 th April
2.	National Grid Meeting – Birmingham	14 th April
3.	NRW Protected Landscape Meeting – Newtown	16 th April
4.	Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB	17 th April
5.	Our Picturesque Landscape Steering Group Meeting	21 st April
6.	AONB Communications Strategy Meeting	24 th April
7.	Lead AONB Officers Meeting – Birmingham	29 th & 30 th April
<u>May 2015</u>		
8.	AONB Business Planning Meeting with Howard Davies	6 th May
9.	Keep Wales Tidy Meeting	11 th & 12 th May
10.	AONB JC briefing Meet & AONB Partnership Meet	15 th May
11.	HLF Meeting – Ty Mawr	19 th May
12.	NRW Meeting Loggerheads	22 nd May
<u>June 2015</u>		
13.	AONB SDF Meet	2 nd June
14.	AONB Officers Working Group Meeting	3 rd June
15.	AONB Management Plan – Public Consultation	8 th June
16.	AONB Management Plan – Public Consultation	9 th June
17.	AONB Business Plan	9 th June
18.	Launch of Friends of CR & DV AONB	11 th June
19.	Climate Change within the AONB Publication Launch	11 th June
20.	AONB Management Plan – Public Consultation	15 th June
21.	AONB 30 th Anniversary Meet	15 th June
22.	AONB Legal Services Meet	17 th June
23.	AONB Management Plan – Public Consultation	
24.	HLF Steering Group Meet	23 rd June
25.	AONB Terms of Reference Meeting	25 th June
26.	AONB Joint Committee Meeting	26 th June

27.	Limestone Legacy Project meeting	29 th June
28.	AONB Management Plan – Public Consultation	24 th June
	July 2015	
29.	Tourism Growth Plan Actions	6 th July
30.	AONB Officers Working Group	8 th July
31.	AONB 30 Meeting	14 th July
32.	HLF Steering Group Meeting	14 th July
33.	Launch of work completed at Horseshoe Falls	17 th July
34.	NRW Competitive Funding Bid Meeting	22 nd July
35.	AONB Meeting – Caledfryn	24 th July
36.	HLF Site Visit	27 th July
37.	NRW Competitive Bid Meeting	28 th July
	August 2015	
38.	AONB Partnership – Familiarisation Day	5 th August
39.	AONB Events – Meeting with Joe Bickerton & Cllr H Jones	7 th August
40.	Welsh Government - Outdoor Recreation Consultation	11 th August
41.	AONB Framework Meeting	26 th August
42.	AONB & FCC Meeting	26 th August
43.	AONB Meet – Caledfryn	27 th August
	September 2015	
44.	AONB Officers Working Group Meet	10 th Sept
45.	AONB Familiarisation Day	11 th Sept
46.	Liverpool Museum – Colomendy Expedition	12 th Sept
47.	AONB Member – Cycle Meeting Andy Worthington	22 nd Sept
48.	AONB Website Meeting	23 rd Sept
49.	Listed Buildings at Risk within the AONB Meeting	23 rd Sept
50.	WHS Steering Group Meet	25 th Sept
	October 2015	
51.	AONB Partnership Governance	1 st Oct
52.	University of Surrey	2 nd Oct
53.	Partnership Terms of Reference	7 th Oct

54.	AONB Familiarisation Day	8 th Oct
55.	Out & About	13 th Oct
56.	AONB Partnership Meeting	16 th Oct
57.	Listed Buildings at Risk in the AONB Steering Group	20 th Oct
November 2015		
58.	AONB Officers Working Group	4 th Nov
59.	AONB Fact Finding Tour	6 th Nov
60.	Ceiriog Valley Meeting	10 th Nov
61.	AONB JC Budget Meet	10 th Nov
62.	Welsh AONB Officers Meet Shrewsbury	11 th Nov
63.	AM Janet Haworth visit to Loggerheads	13 th Nov
64.	Helen Walker – Nature Spy	13 th Nov
65.	WHS Board Meeting	17 th Nov
66.	NAAONB Chairman's Meet London	18 th & 19 th Nov
67.	Protected Landscapes Stakeholder Meet	20 th Nov
68.	AONB Annual Forum	20 th Nov
69.	HLF Meeting	24 th Nov
70.	AONB Outdoor Badge Presentation	30 th Nov
December 2015		
71.	Limestone Legacy Meeting	1 st Dec
72.	Site Visit to Bishops Wood	2 nd Dec
73.	Welsh Government – Historic Environment Meet	7 th Dec
74.	AONB Budget Meet	8 th Dec
75.	SDF Meeting	11 th Dec
76.	AONB Local members & Community Council Members Annual Meet (evening)	11 th Dec
77.	Interim NRW Claim Meet	18 th Dec
January 2016		
78.	AONB Budget Meet	8 th Jan
79.	Art & the AONB Events	8 th Jan
80.	Tourism Forum	13 th Jan

81.	AONB Officers Working Group Meet	19 th Jan
82.	AONB Partnership – Familiarisation Day	22 nd Jan
83.	NRW AONB Grant Claim	26 th Jan
	February 2016	
84.	Joint Projects Meeting	4 th Feb
85.	Scottish Power Meet	5 th Feb
86.	AONB Partnership Familiarisation Day	12 th Feb
87.	HLF – Our Picturesque – short listing	25 th Feb
88.	Pre AONB JC Meet	25 th Feb
89.	AONB JC Meeting	26 th Feb
	March 2016	
90.	WHS Board Meet	1 st march
91.	Budget Meet	1 st March
92.	WHS Site Meet	17 th March
93.	Conference Call Future Landscapes	17 th March
94.	Landscape Character & B. Environment Wking Group Meet	18 th March
95.	Launch of Clwydian Range Breakfast	22 nd March

Planning AONB

The total number of consultations is 325 slightly down from 32 last year. The majority of consultations (242, which is 73% of the total) were for planning and related applications from the three local planning authorities, but the second largest type of consultation is now for informal pre and post application advice (64, which makes up 20% of total consultations). This is up from last year. The remaining consultations were policy type consultations (13, which includes various Welsh Government consultations, LDP and SPG consultations), planning appeals and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (The North Wales Windfarms Connection Project).

Of the planning and related application consultations from the local planning authorities the majority, as expected, were from Denbighshire (172 which represents 72% of the total), followed by Flintshire (54, which is 22%) and Wrexham (16, which is 7%)

During the year 12 potential cases of unauthorised development affecting the AONB were referred to the Planning Enforcement team in Denbighshire, including caravans, tipping, tree felling, and advertisement signs.

Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.



Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley launched on the 15th of July 2016 and since then has grown to exceed all expectations. A small group of enthusiastic trustees successfully registered the organisation with the Charity Commission. The membership of the Friends now stands at 134, which is an amazing achievement in less than one year.

The group has arranged a number of events and activities, some in partnership with others. Visits to increase awareness and understanding of the special features of the AONB have been arranged to Tomen yr Rhodwydd, Bryn Alyn, Chirk and the World Heritage Site, Moel Arthur and

Penycloddiau, Golden Grove Historic House and Gardens, talks have been given by the AONB Officer and the members have participated in activities such as litter picks. Over 200 people have attended these events.



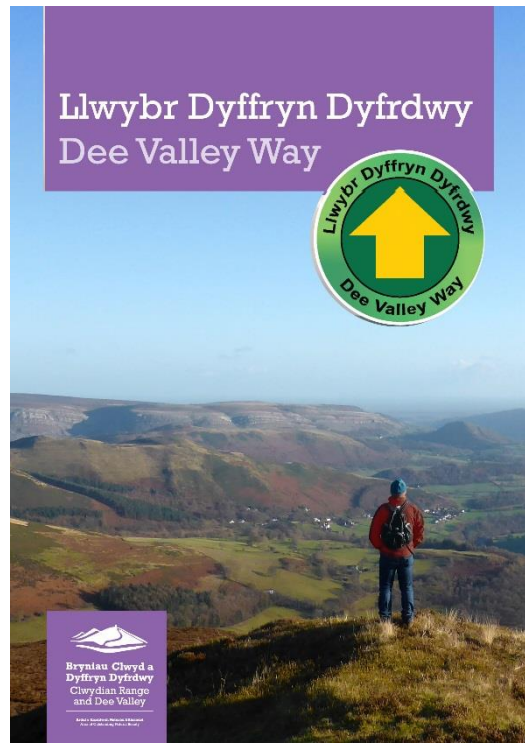
Over the next year the Friends will continue to arrange events, but also hope to deliver projects within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, some suggestions that are currently being investigated are: mapping the viewpoints of the AONB, crash sites of World War Two, and one member has already registered 33 sites on Moel Famau. The Group is seeking grant aid to help purchase a tramper for use at Loggerheads Country Park and Ty Mawr and more practical activities.



Access

The Dee Valley Way was one of Denbighshire County Council’s first promoted regional route originally launched over ten years ago. A significant amount has changed since the original route was established with new access areas brought in by the CROW Act. Previously closed footpaths in the area have been reopened, which again enabled better routes to be used, taking the path more off-road. The train has now arrived in Corwen, giving people the opportunity to combine the walk with a journey on the train. The station at Carrog also gives the option of a short trip to those who do not want to walk the full 13 miles. It was therefore timely to review the route and to respond to comments received from users.

Walks such as the Dee Valley Way are an important tourism asset to the area, and an important economic resource. Getting people out walking is also beneficial to physical and mental health, so it is important for us to encourage the local people to walk the route. And what better place to walk than one of Britain's most beautiful valleys.



The ROWIP grant was used to fund the access works required for the revised route, together with the costs of the leaflet.

Special Integrated Projects



A significant amount of work has been completed under the Limestone Legacy programme over the past year. Habitat improvements work have been completed through volunteer tasks, access improvements works completed at Prestatyn Hillside, awareness and understanding work has included site visits, dance performances, art workshops and health walks.

The Climate Change education programme was a tremendous success. 736 children have been engaged with Climate Change education visits, 54 members of staff have been trained in the delivery of the module and the project.



Health and Well Being

A full programme of 'Out and About' activities were held during the year which ranged from guided walks, children's activities, nature walks such as bat walks, 43 events were held in all with 1,352 people in attendance.

A programme has been set up in Glyn Ceiriog cluster with more than 30 participants attending from

the area – the group is now applying for funding to set up on their own. 530 walkers attended the Glyn Ceiriog walks in 2015/16



Working in Partnership with Llangollen Health Centre, a weekly walk set up from the centre. A meeting was held with the Doctor's and Health Practitioners from the centre to promote the walk.

Vision Impaired groups from Rhyl and Prestatyn were taken on trips to Loggerheads, this group has a regular monthly walk with 10 plus participants attending. Wrexham group have been on a walk to Alyn Waters. A vision impaired group from Snowdonia will be coming on a walk to Moel Famau.

Loggerheads Country Park again proved a strong point for Nordic Walking with over 383 Nordic walkers at Loggerheads in 2015/16

Tir Morfa School attend a walk each month with children from years 10 and 11. The walks take in Moel Famau, Corwen, Llangollen and Ruthin.

A Walk Leaders course held at Plas Newydd in Llangollen, 10 participants attended

Rhyl Friday walkers were taken on a trip to Moel Famau, for some this was their first time to the South of Denbighshire

Working in Partnership with Mind in Corwen, walks were completed in various parts of the Dee valley.

Loggerheads Nordic Walkers



Vision Impaired at Loggerheads



Dyserth walkers on a trip to Llangollen



Walkers from Mind in Corwen

Author Howard Sutcliffe 09/06/2016 18:10:22



The Special Biodiversity Features of the AONB

Limestone Grassland

Work to move the grasslands at Loggerheads towards favourable condition has continued this winter. As part of this there has been a programme of non-native invasive species removal, in particular rose of Sharon and cotoneaster from the cliff faces. Volunteers have assisted with bracken removal and scrub control on the grasslands. In addition 6 hebridean sheep have been introduced as part of a programme of conservation grazing. The small population of adders is breeding for the first time since 2011.

A further programme of winter clearance work has taken place on Prestatyn Hillside this year. In all approximately 0.5 ha of gorse and scrub have been removed. The hillside now has significant areas of limestone heath and calcareous grassland. The feasibility of introducing grazing onto the hillside is now being investigated.

River Valleys

Author Howard Sutcliffe 09/06/2016 18:10:22

15

The AONB is a partner in the Alyn and Chwiler Living Landscape Project which centres on the Alyn (to Mold) and Wheeler River corridors both of which are predominantly within the AONB. This partnership approach is facilitating larger scale conservation work on the river valleys, contributing to the delivery of AONB management plan objectives as well as other partners work programmes. It also means the partners work programmes are better connected and more effective on a landscape level. Partners include NWWT (lead), NRW, NEWW, FCC, DCC, BASC. Over £30,000 has been spent through the project within the AONB between April 2015 and April 2016. Work done by AONB staff in partnership with the Alyn and Chwiler Living Landscape (ACLL) Project has included: Himalayan balsam removed from source of River Alyn to trial Hill (approx. 19km). New patch discovered in the Cacwn brook area and removed. Over 100 volunteer hours spent removing Himalayan balsam from the River Alyn in the AONB.

The AONB supported Himalayan balsam removal on the Wheeler by assisting in the surveying and arranging volunteer removal days .SDF funded the interpretation and production of leaflet for the project Restoration of a river bank on the Alyn using natural materials instead of stone gabions. Big Dee Day the invasion event was held at Corwen at Dol Afon which saw the removal of Himalayan balsam for over 0.5 ha.

The AONB have been working in partnership with Age Connects North Wales to deliver an exciting new project ' Perennials' in Corwen, having secured funding through the Welsh Governments Sustainable Environment Grant, the project will have a focus of therapeutic gardening, predominantly aimed at people suffering from dementia. A purpose built area, meeting requirements of the target audience, has been created at the community orchard within Dol Corwenna. A new surfaced path, raised beds and a timber clad shipping container to provide shelter for all users has enabled the project to begin fruition. The AONB were approached to take on the management of this site in 2013 in preparation of the train arriving at Corwen. Managing this area with Age Concern North Wales, as well as the wider community with the assistance of Canolfan Ni has allowed for the area to be managed appropriately with a good level of community input that also provides a point of interest to visitors as they first approach the town.

Heathland

A programme of heathland management has continued in key areas. Volunteers assisted with 3 days burning on Moel Famau which was supplemented with 6 days of heather cutting both across Mole Famau Country Park and the open areas of Coed Moel Famau.

A black grouse survey was carried out in Spring on Moel Famau and counted 20 males which was slightly down on last year's number 26 males. This may be accounted for by poor weather conditions on the survey date.

Llysfasi students assisted with 3 days heather burning on Llantysilio Mountain supporting graziers to in in a programme of management. Llysfasi Agri students and Countryside Management students gain valuable practical guidance in heather burning and have an opportunity to look at the benefits of well managed moorlands. They have also helped to clear conifer regeneration from areas of heathland within Coed Moel Famau. Over 40 students helped over 5 days.

Approximately 0.5 ha of gorse clearance has taken place on the small heathland area at Coed Bell to open up areas of surviving heather and connect isolated pockets. The work has also removed gorse from around a Bronze Age burial cairn – a Scheduled Ancient Monument to improve this feature.

The AONB continue to be involved with moorland management in the Dee Valley. This year, staff have continued to engage and work with graziers at Llantsyilio. Students from Llysfasi Agricultural College and volunteers have also helped and – despite the extremely wet condition experienced this winter, managed to burn approximately 7 acres of moorland at the western end of Llantysilio Mountains.

Upland Hay Meadow

The AONB through the NRW Partnership has continued to develop approximately 1 acre of Upland acid hay meadow in the centre of Coed Nercwys. Volunteers and Young Rangers have helped with weed control. 7 hebridean sheep have been introduced as part of this management which aims to establish a flower rich meadow. Over the summer a traditional skills workshops was held providing training in traditional scything.

Boundaries

24 volunteers helped over 4 days to restore approximately 20m of wall in Nercwys Forest (NRW). A hedge laying competition for volunteers was held at Llangwyfan in February. This was an opportunity for volunteers, who have over the years developed significant expertise in rural crafts, to demonstrate their skills. Over 30 volunteers took part and laid over 150m of hedge.

Broadleaved Woodland

At Loggerheads a coppice rotation was completed with volunteers to increase biodiversity within the woodland. Volunteer work has started on removing invasive trees from the SAC woodland, particularly sycamore and grand fir. Eight pied flycatcher nested in the Park over summer. Volunteer have spent 5 days thinning the woodland at Coed Alex near Llangwyfan. This is a young woodland planted approximately 15 years ago, so this is the first thin. A programme of sycamore removal has continued at Bishops Wood.

Community Engagement

The Community First Officer at Plas Madoc to engaged with the AONB team to work with the 'Tea and Toast' group the aim being to bring them into the AONB to enjoy the Countryside on their doorstep. This project is focused on using the quality of landscape within the AONB to achieve a positive impact on the group's physical and mental wellbeing. It is increasing their confidence to explore places they either have never been before or not seen for a long time. The variety of outings and regularity, as well as access to green open space and far reaching views, will potentially increase their quality of life. In all a total of 11 sessions have taken place. 5 trips organised for the group into the AONB from April to October and 6 trips organised from October to April. These were places the group members were unlikely to be able to access without the support from the AONB but places that most people can enjoy if they want to. The group have enjoyed the trips and keen for the work to continue.

Following a successful application to the Denbighshire Town and Area Plan fund (via the local members), work to make the Wernffrwd site accessible commenced with the felling and chipping of the roadside Leylandii trees. The site has also been secured with around 200 m of roadside fencing. Initial meetings have been held with the neighbouring landowners to progress the ambition to create new public access into the towpath and along the old railway line.

Outreach

The AONB is working with Flintshire Local Voluntary Council and Flintshire Mind to support the 'Step up, Step Out' Programme which provides opportunities for people who may have suffered mental health issues, to follow an eight-week programme of outdoor voluntary work in the countryside and gain the John Muir award. Over the last 12 months the groups have worked on a number of projects in the AONB including the development of the hay meadow at Nercwys, access work, clearing conifer at House for a Grouse on Moel Famau, birch management on Moel Findeg, litter picking as well as guided walks.

The AONB provided 3 placements for students at St Christopher's Special School in Wrexham. The students spend 4 hours per week at Loggerheads and Moel Famau.

The AONB has provided support for the Flintshire Community Growers, the volunteers have assisted the group to improve their access issues and have constructed a bridge onto the site.

The AONB has assisted pupils at Ysgol Terrig to build a round house using materials from the quarry at Coed Nercwys.

The brownies have been out at Moel Famau to help with conservation work and staff have supported the brownies in Llangollen to build a bug hotel in their grounds.

Moel Famau Family Fun Day took place again this year which provides an opportunity for the AONB and NRW to showcase its work. A range of childrens activities and walks took place – as well as demonstrations in arboriculture and conservation.

At Loggerheads volunteers have completed the restoration of a set of original mine trucks which are a key part of the heritage interpretation for the park.

Young Rangers

The Young Rangers in the Clwydian Range continues to grow. A programme of activities has been published for the summer and winter months. Activities have included woodland skills, dormouse monitoring, and bird box construction.

The successful Young Rangers model in the Clwydian Range has been replicated into the Dee Valley.

Dee Valley Young Rangers was launched in February 2016 with the publication of a Summer programme of events. There are already 8 Dee Valley Young Rangers and activities have already included assisting in the gardens at Plas Newydd and animal welfare at Ty Mawr Country Park.

Offa's Dyke Path National Path Trail

Work has taken place on the moorland at Cynr y Brain. A stone path has been created to protect the Bronze Age Barrow near the road at World's End and improve this section of trail. Stone slabs were used to create a 65m diversion around the barrow with heather brash placed below the stone. Approximately 20m of Trail has also been stone pitched in order to protect the barrow. A section of old sleepers have also been replaced.

Contractors spent two days repairing the revetment of the trail as it meanders across the scree slopes. The path here crosses a Geological Conservation Review Site.

A programme of finger post replacement has been undertaken particular attention has been replacing fingerposts on the section of trail between Bodfari and Tremeirchion. Contractors have replaced sections of rotten steps leading off the road north of Moel Y Gaer and along the boundary of the Hillfort. They also added a 10m section of steps on an adjacent steep, slippery bank.



Sustainable Tourism.

The AONB has been working with a number of tourism business groups to support their activity. The AONB has supported the Edeyrnion Business Group in the Corwen area to produce a sense of place toolkit. A number of workshops have taken place to raise awareness of the special character and features in this part of the AONB. This has been developed into a single toolkit for businesses providing key descriptive text and marketing values. A launch event was held in the Spring with over 30 businesses attending.

Support has been given to the Clwydian Range Food Trail Group to develop a "Clwydian Range Breakfast". A range of locally produced ingredients have been sourced and are being promoted to B&Bs, cafes and other hospitality businesses as a concept of a Clwydian Range Breakfast. A launch event was held at Loggerheads Country Park – with cooking demonstrations and meet the producers' sessions. Over 50 businesses attended.

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AONB Guide Badge

Eight businesses qualified and achieved the AONB Guide Badge this year. 7 Sessions were attended throughout the year covering a range of subjects that capture some of the special qualities of the AONB. A combination of classroom sessions and field trips covered the historic environment, biodiversity, geology, farming and agriculture, heathlands and Welsh language and culture. The course includes an assessment session and the successful candidates were



awarded their guide badges by Deputy Minister for Culture Sport and Tourism, Ken Skates AM. A further 10 candidates are enrolled on this year's course.

Visitor Trends in Denbighshire (Spotlight on AONB)

There has been a continuation in upward trends in visits to countryside sites in recent years, with 690,719 (0.69 million) visits to Countryside Sites in Denbighshire recorded in the 2015-16 financial year. There are year on year site comparisons available, however, fluctuations arise from the addition or removal of counters and the impacts of vandalism or faults in counter equipment.

This year the Countryside Service has been monitoring 5 bike, 11 people, 2 car and 4 traffic counters around the county. There have been issues with a small number of counters at differing times of the year due to faulty loggers, but generally accurate data is being collected.

A considerable increase in visits to sites in the Dee Valley has been measured in the past five years, it is estimated this is due to the extension of the Clwydian Range AONB to include the Dee Valley in November 2011 and the award of World Heritage Site status to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and canal.

Of note are the comparison figures for Castell Dinas Bran and Llantysilio Green Car Park. Recent access improvement works between Llantysilio Green car park and Horseshoe Falls in Llangollen has directly resulted in a huge increase in visitor numbers to the falls, with 107,707 visitors recorded using the new access point in the 2015-16 financial year.

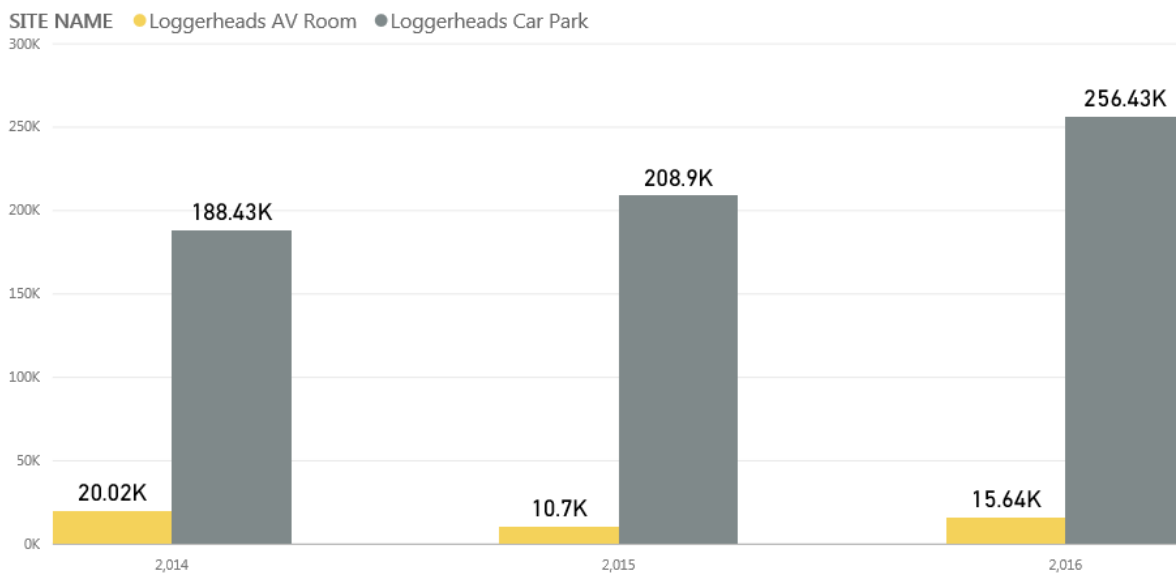
Other flagship sites, including Loggerheads have seen increases in visitor numbers, with an estimated 250,000 visitors to Loggerheads in the past year. In contrast, visitor numbers on Offa's Dyke Path National Trail appear to be in decline across the county, it is unclear if this is a trend across the length of the trail.

Mountain Bike numbers have seen a steady increase, in line with wider surveys estimating a rise in participation and the economic value of the sport in Wales. The Llandegla mountain Bike Forest Red counter shows a slight decline, due to logger error, however visitor figures gathered by One Planet Adventure show very little difference in visitor numbers in the past two years (within around 5 visits).

Examination of the visitor data from the Loggerheads site shows an increase in the general visitor numbers at the same time as an increase in the use of the AV room compared to 2015.

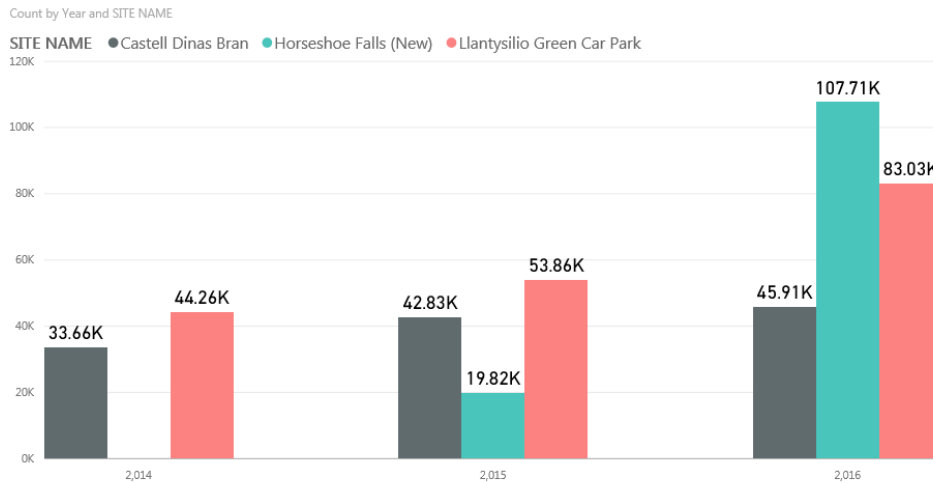
Loggerheads

Count by Year and SITE NAME



Sites in the Dee Valley also recorded increases in visitors. A replacement counter was installed at Horseshoe Falls for 2015, unfortunately the 2014 data is not available for comparison.

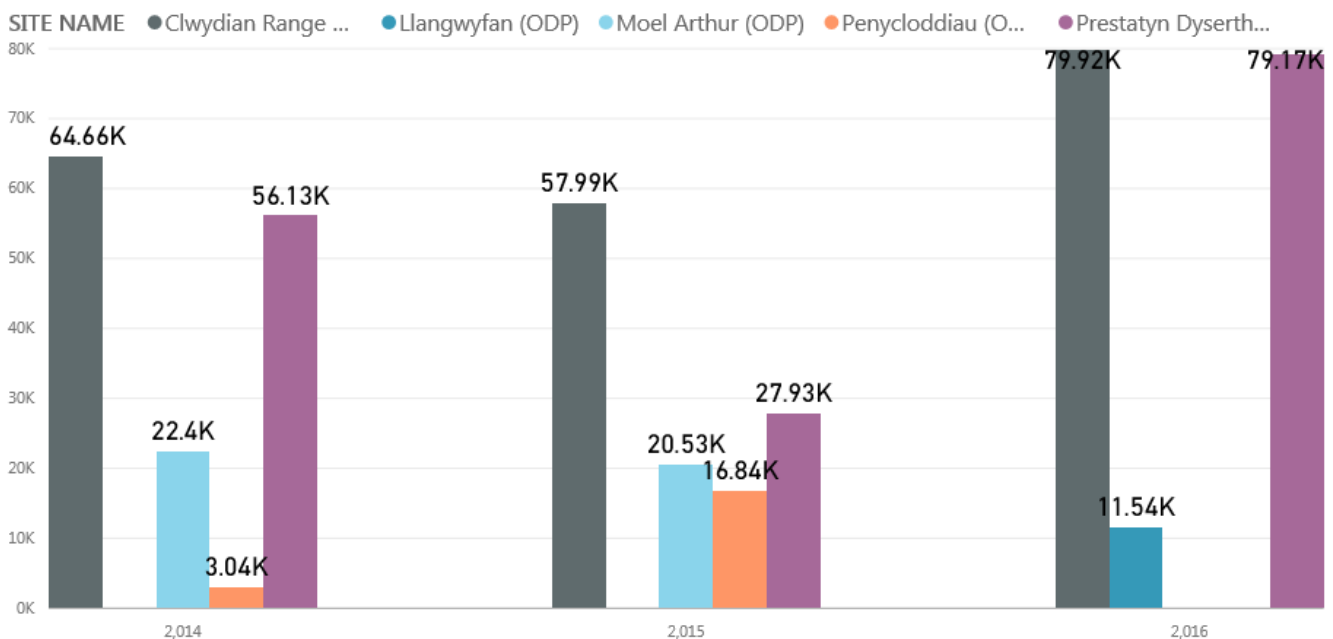
Dee Valley



At the sites along the Clwydian Range there were high levels of visitors for the Cwydian Range Centre and for Prestatyn Dyserth Way. The counter at Llangwyfan is new so no trend data is available and counters at Moel Arthur and Penycloddiau have been discontinued.

Clwydian Range

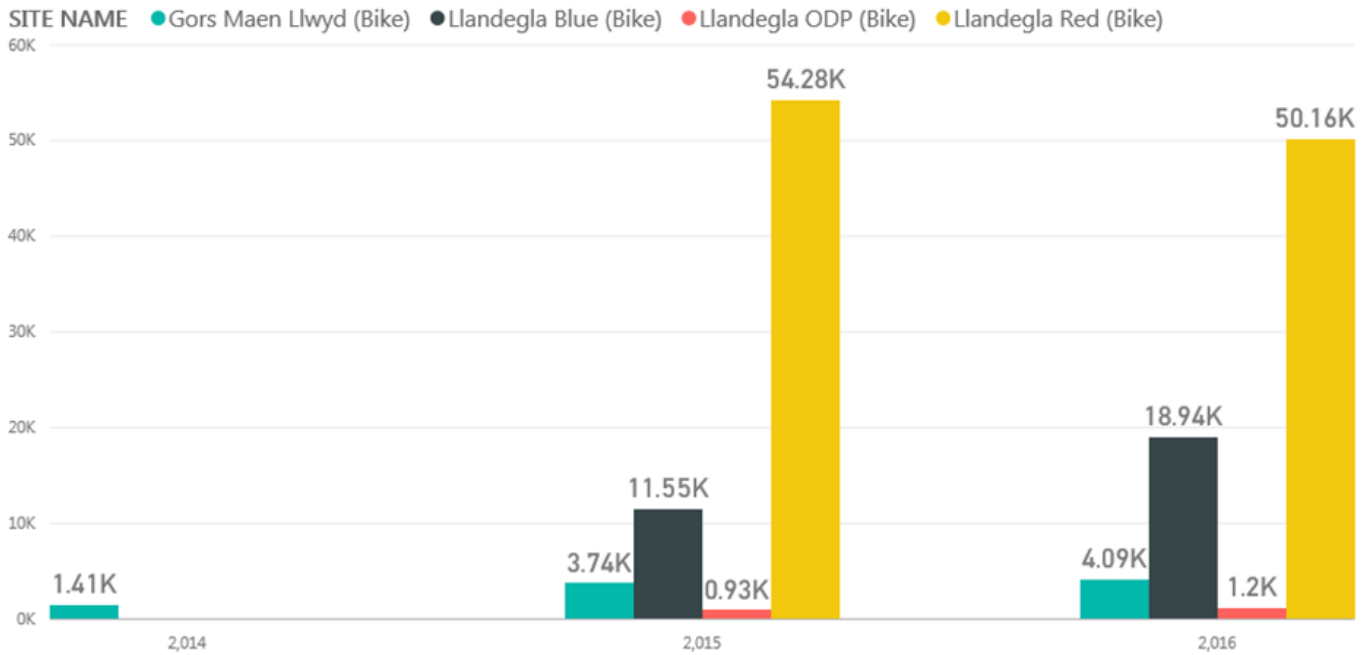
Count by Year and SITE NAME



Data from the Mounting Biking sites show an overall increase in Llandegla when all routs are considered and an increase at Gors Maen Llwyd.

Mountain Biking Sits at Llandegla and Hiraethog

Count by Year and SITE NAME



SITE NAME	2013-14 Financial Year	2014-15 Financial year	2015-16 Financial Year
Castell Dinas Bran	33663	42830	45905
Llantysilio Green Car Park	44259	53864	83033
Horseshoe Falls (New)		19820	107707
Loggerheads Car Park	188433	208904	256430
Loggerheads AV Room	20020	10704	15638
Clwydian Range Centre	64661	57992	79918
Llanarmon yn Ial (ODP)	3463	2245	1749
Llangwyfan (ODP)			11544
Gronant Dunes (WCP)	39427	38445	16829
Prestatyn Dyserth Way	56126	27929	79166
Brickfield Pond	64320	35713	
Mount Wood			13974
TOTALS	514372	498446	711893
Llandegla Blue (Bike)		11551	18942
Llandegla Red (Bike)		54281	50155
Llandegla ODP (Bike)		931	1196
Gors Maen Llwyd (Bike)	1412	3743	4089
TOTALS (including bikes)	515784	568952	786275
NUMBER OF CARS			
Loggerheads	73233	83683	102572
Llantysilio Green	18103	21590	33213

Archaeology

The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, with funding from Cadw, have carried out survey work including a topographical and geophysical survey at the site of Tomen y Rhodwydd, Llandegla, a Motte and Bailey Castle and scheduled ancient monument. Through help from local volunteers and students from Llysfasi agricultural college (Coleg Cambria) the site has been cleared of scrub and trees which had been masking the shape of the site. Extensive gorse has been removed across the site, except in the area of a badger sett. Work has been carried out with advice from DCC's Ecologist and NRW. Linked in to this there is an SDF project which will bring about permissive access to the site, improvements to hedgerows and the installation of some small interpretation panels at the entrance to the site. The interpretation includes reconstruction drawings which have been developed using the topographical and geophysical survey results. A small amount of work is continuing in 2016/17. The Castle Studies group, a UK wide group visited the site in April 2015.

Gop cairn (scheduled ancient monument) is the second largest prehistoric earthwork in the UK, second only to Silbury Hill in southern England. It is a massive mound on top of Gop Hill. There were some excavations at the site in the late Victorian period when it was thought that it may be a large burial cairn or chambered cairn dating to the Neolithic period. It is still thought to date to this period because although burials were not found in the mound, they were found in the cave below. In 2014 the site became a SSSI as well as a SAM. It had become very overgrown with scrub which is bad from both the archaeological and the natural environment perspective. With a 100% grant from Cadw, extensive and sensitive clearance took place on the site, such that you can now see the profile of the site much more clearly. NRW have at the same time negotiated a management agreement with the owner of the site such that it will be trimmed in future so will remain and open grassland site. It is hoped to link in, via the Limestone Legacy project, a circular walk which will take in Gop Cairn. It is hoped that a 3d drone survey will be completed at the site soon.

As part of a caves project funded by Cadw and carried out by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust survey work had been undertaken which identified several cave sites to be examined in order to seek evidence for human, particularly Neolithic evidence. One of the caves examined was Ogof Colomendy in Loggerheads Country Park. The Trust organised the excavation and DCS organised public visits to see the excavations. This project too will continue into 2016/17.

Excavations continued for the 4th year at a site on the eastern ramparts of Penycloddiau hillfort. The excavation is directed by Dr Rachel Pope a lecturer at Liverpool University and is run as a training excavations for students. The construction of the rampart was finally identified as a dry stone wall about 4metres wide in its original format. Excavations are also taking place on the

site of a platform which is possibly the site of an Iron Age house within the hillfort. The excavators are able to attract academics from a wide range of backgrounds to use new techniques on the site. In the summer of 2015 archaeologists from the Museum of London conducted a drone survey in order to produce 3d plans of the site. The County Archaeologist organised open day visits to the site for members of the public. Work will continue in the summer of 2016.

Archaeologists from Oxford continued their excavations at Moel y Gaer hillfort, Bodfari. This site is on private land and not normally open to the public. Excavations continued on the site of a house and across the massive ramparts which are made up of an extremely well-constructed drystone wall, in at least 3 phases. Two artists, Simon Callery and Stefan Gant are working with the excavators producing artworks which link in to the archaeology. There was an exhibition in West London in the autumn of 2015 of Simon Callery's work. The County Archaeologist organised open days and walks to the site for members of the public so that they can find out what has been taking place.

The WREN Heritage Fund was applied to in order to carry out reconsolidation work at an arch at castell Dinas Brân Llangollen. In the 1990s and 2000s there was a programme of reconsolidation at the castle and one arch fell out with this programme of work. This project addressed this and reconsolidated the masonry. As well as repointing, large steel rods were put into the fabric to pin it into the bedrock to prevent further damage and to extend the life of the ruin. The whole site has now undergone reconsolidation. Castell Dinas Bran is both a scheduled monument and also a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 24th June 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe

Report Author: Ceri Lloyd AONB SDF Officer

Title: Item 9 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Annual Report

1. What is the report about?

The Annual Report highlights the grants given through the SDF

2. What is the reason for making this report?

For JC to receive the report

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Joint Committee scrutinise and endorse the Annual Report

4. Report details.

See attached appendix 1 for SDF Annual Report.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The SDF Annual Report is an example of the major projects supported by the Welsh Government' Protected landscape Fund SDF. It illustrates where appropriate that the SDF can help delivering the AONB Management Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is a zero cost other than officer time

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The SDF Working Group endorsed it on 27.5.16. Welsh Government, AONB Partnership and Natural Resources Wales will receive the report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement.

There are no additional costs directly associated with this report

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Reputation- Reporting is a key element in the management of the AONB

11. Power to make the Decision

The Legal basis to lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Sustainable Development Fund 2015 – 16
Year 15 Annual Report



Sustainable Development Fund Annual Report 2015-16

The Sustainable Development Fund in the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB supported 27 projects in the financial year 2015/16, awarding a total of £58,414.12. The total value of the projects supported by SDF was £184,397.12 which includes additional cash funds levered in and contributions in kind.

Performance Indicators

- 100% of the applicants were informed of the decision of the Assessment Panel or the nominated local authority and NRW officers within the stipulated target times.
- 100% of applicants for projects under £3,000 were notified of the nominated officer's decisions within the stipulated target time.
- 2 jobs were created as a result of SDF projects (CRDV 15 Landscapes for Life and CRDV 19 Apprenticeship Scheme), plus local contractors engaged in the delivery of 15 projects.
- Volunteering opportunities were created through 12 SDF projects.

Output Measures

- 7 projects have carried out training days or awareness raising sessions on sustainability and SDF with businesses.
- Amount of money levered in from the public sector - £58,290.00
- Amount of money levered in from the private sector - £41,704.50
- Amount of money levered in from the voluntary sector - £25,988.50
- All projects meet the principles of sustainable development.

Application Process

Wherever applicable the SDF in the AONB was administered in accordance with the Manual of Guidance on Voluntary Sector Grants and the framework documents provided by Natural Resources Wales.

All successful applicants received a grant offer letter offering SDF grant aid and an acceptance form detailing the conditions of the grant offer. A claim form was also sent, to be returned on completion of the project along with any relevant invoices.

Inspection of completed projects was carried out wherever applicable. Where it was not appropriate to inspect a project a local authority officer made an assessment to ensure all aspects of the project were delivered satisfactorily and within the agreed time scale

Contentious Applications

There were no contentious applications

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB SDF Assessment Panel.

Representing the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB – Mr. H Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), Mr. D Shiel (Asst. AONB Officer), Mrs Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development Officer), Ms K Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer).

Partnership Members

Mr. Michael Skuse – Chair

Mr Andrew Worthington

Cllr Bob Dutton

Cllr Carolyn Thomas

Ms Christine Evans

Cllr Hugh Jones

Cllr Huw Jones

Cllr Stuart Davies

Mr John Roberts

Mr Roger Cragg

CRDV	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Value including Match	SDF Amount Awarded	Match Amount	Match Funding Breakdown			Percentages		Approved on
						Public	Private	In-kind / Vol	SDF	Match	
	Administration			£	5,455.00						
1	Countryside Grants Scheme	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,540.00	2,770.00	2,770.00	£ 2,770.00			50%	50%	03.06.2015
2	Llandegla Church Interpretation	Llandegla Church	£ 24,750.00	2,750.00	22,000.00		£ 22,000.00		11%	89%	03.06.2015
3	Llandegla Chapel	Llandegla Chapel	£ 9,690.00	1,563.00	8,127.00		£ 8,127.00		16%	84%	03.06.2015
4	Moel y Gaer Bodfari	Oxford University	£ 3,590.00	1,000.00	2,590.00	£ -	£ 2,590.00	£ -	28%	72%	03.06.2015
5	Prestatyn Walking Festival	Prestatyn Walking Festival	£ 5,000.00	500.00	4,500.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	10%	90%	03.06.2015
6	Alyn & Wheeler project Leaflets	North Wales Wildlife Trust	£ 2,008.50	1,500.00	508.50	£ -	£ -	£ 508.50	75%	25%	03.06.2015
7	Actif Woods Wales	Small Woods Association	£ 17,700.00	5,500.00	12,200.00	£ 11,700.00	£ -	£ 500.00	31%	69%	03.06.2015
8	Friend of website	Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	£ 2,300.00	2,000.00	300.00	£ -	£ -	£ 300.00	87%	13%	03.06.2015
9	30th anniversary Trig Point event	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,861.88	5,361.88	500.00	£ -	£ -	£ 500.00	91%	9%	03.06.2015
10	Excalibur Marathon	Claire House Children's Hospice	£ 8,563.50	1,500.00	7,063.50		£ 6,063.50	£ 1,000.00	18%	82%	03.06.2015
11	Wrexham Heritage Fair	Wrexham Heritage Forum	£ 1,160.00	600.00	560.00	£ 560.00	£ -	£ -	52%	48%	03.06.2015
12	Cilcain WI - A Century of Memories	Cilcain Women's Institute	£ 23,350.00	1,500.00	21,850.00	£ 7,100.00	£ -	£ 14,750.00	6%	94%	03.06.2015
13	Tomen y Rhodwydd	Denbighshire Countryside Service	£ 13,802.25	1,992.25	11,810.00	£ 9,960.00		£ 1,850.00	14%	86%	03.06.2015
14	Countryside Discovery	The Country Trust	£ 9,185.00	3,635.00	5,550.00	£ 4,700.00	£ 500.00	£ 350.00	40%	60%	03.06.2015
15	Landscape for Life	Denbighshire CC - Lets Walk Cymru	£ 15,550.00	4,000.00	11,550.00	£ 10,300.00	£ -	£ 1,250.00	26%	74%	03.06.2015
16	Ederynion Action Plan	Corwen Tourism Group	£ 4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000.00	75%	25%	03.06.2015
17	Shepherds Hut	Shepherds Hut Company	£ 1,600.00	1,000.00	600.00	£ -	£ 600.00	£ -	63%	38%	03.06.2015
18	Community Transport	CR&DV AONB	£ 708.93	708.93	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	100%	0%	03.06.2015
19	Apprenticeship Scheme	Denbighshire Countryside service	£ 7,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	£ 2,000.00			71%	29%	03.06.2015

20	Future Landscapes Programme	Natural Resources Wales	£	-	£	-									
21	Climate Change Teacher Training	Plas Derw Trust	£	4,500.00	£	1,400.00	£	3,100.00	£	3,100.00	£	-	31%	69%	
22	Corwen Walking Festival	Corwen and District Business Association	£	2,327.00	£	987.00	£	1,340.00	£	200.00	£	140.00	42%	58%	
23	Clwydian Range Breakfast	Clwydian Range Food Trail	£	2,748.00	£	1,584.00	£	1,164.00	£	-	£	684.00	58%	42%	
24	Plas Madoc Community Engagement	CR&DV AONB	£	2,367.19	£	2,367.19	£	-	£	-	£	-	100%	0%	
25	Young Rangers	CR&DV AONB	£	1,934.87	£	934.87	£	1,000.00	£	-	£	-	48%	52%	
26	Ysgol Hiraddug Mountain School	Ysgol Hiraddug	£	2,760.00	£	2,260.00	£	500.00	£		£	500.00	82%	18%	11.12.2015
27	Market Street Car Park	Denbighshire County Council	£	6,400.00	£	3,000.00	£	3,400.00	£	3,400.00	£		47%	53%	11.12.2015
Totals			£	184,397.12	£		£		£	58,290.00	£	41,704.50			25,988.50
SDF Total					£	58,414.12									
Total levered in					£	125,983.00									

CRDV	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Value including Match	SDF Amount Awarded	Match Amount	Match Funding Breakdown			Percentages		Approved on
						Public	Private	In-kind / Vol	SDF	Match	
Administration				£	5,455.00						
1	Countryside Grants Scheme	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,540.00	£ 2,770.00	£ 2,770.00	£ 2,770.00			50%	50%	03.06.2015
2	Llandegla Church Interpretation	Llandegla Church	£ 24,750.00	£ 2,750.00	£ 22,000.00		£ 22,000.00		11%	89%	03.06.2015
3	Llandegla Chapel	Llandegla Chapel	£ 9,690.00	£ 1,563.00	£ 8,127.00		£ 8,127.00		16%	84%	03.06.2015
4	Moel y Gaer Bodfari	Oxford University	£ 3,590.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 2,590.00	£ -	£ 2,590.00	£ -	28%	72%	03.06.2015
5	Prestatyn Walking Festival	Prestatyn Walking Festival	£ 5,000.00	£ 500.00	£ 4,500.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	10%	90%	03.06.2015
6	Alyn & Wheeler project Leaflets	North Wales Wildlife Trust	£ 2,008.50	£ 1,500.00	£ 508.50	£ -	£ -	£ 508.50	75%	25%	03.06.2015
7	Actif Woods Wales	Small Woods Association	£ 17,700.00	£ 5,500.00	£ 12,200.00	£ 11,700.00	£ -	£ 500.00	31%	69%	03.06.2015
8	Friend of website	Friends of the Clwydian Range and De	£ 2,300.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 300.00	£ -	£ -	£ 300.00	87%	13%	03.06.2015
9	30th anniversary Trig Point event	CR&DV AONB	£ 5,861.88	£ 5,361.88	£ 500.00	£ -	£ -	£ 500.00	91%	9%	03.06.2015
10	Excalibur Marathon	Claire House Children's Hospice	£ 8,563.50	£ 1,500.00	£ 7,063.50		£ 6,063.50	£ 1,000.00	18%	82%	03.06.2015
11	Wrexham Heritage Fair	Wrexham Heritage Forum	£ 1,160.00	£ 600.00	£ 560.00	£ 560.00	£ -	£ -	52%	48%	03.06.2015
12	Cilcain WI - A Century of Memories	Cilcain Women's Institute	£ 23,350.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 21,850.00	£ 7,100.00	£ -	£ 14,750.00	6%	94%	03.06.2015
13	Tomen y Rhodwydd	Denbighshire Countryside Service	£ 13,802.25	£ 1,992.25	£ 11,810.00	£ 9,960.00		£ 1,850.00	14%	86%	03.06.2015
14	Countryside Discovery	The Country Trust	£ 9,185.00	£ 3,635.00	£ 5,550.00	£ 4,700.00	£ 500.00	£ 350.00	40%	60%	03.06.2015
15	Landscape for Life	Denbighshire CC - Lets Walk Cymru	£ 15,550.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 11,550.00	£ 10,300.00	£ -	£ 1,250.00	26%	74%	03.06.2015
16	Ederynion Action Plan	Corwen Tourism Group	£ 4,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000.00	75%	25%	03.06.2015
17	Shepherds Hut	Shepherds Hut Company	£ 1,600.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 600.00	£ -	£ 600.00	£ -	63%	38%	03.06.2015
18	Community Transport	CR&DV AONB	£ 708.93	£ 708.93	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	100%	0%	03.06.2015
19	Apprenticeship Scheme	Denbighshire Countryside service	£ 7,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00			71%	29%	03.06.2015
20	Future Landscapes Programme	Natural Resources Wales	£ -		£ -						
21	Climate Change Teacher Training	Plas Derw Trust	£ 4,500.00	£ 1,400.00	£ 3,100.00	£ 3,100.00	£ -	£ -	31%	69%	
22	Corwen Walking Festival	Corwen and District Business Associa	£ 2,327.00	£ 987.00	£ 1,340.00	£ 200.00	£ 140.00	£ 1,000.00	42%	58%	
23	Clwydian Range Breakfast	Clwydian Range Food Trail	£ 2,748.00	£ 1,584.00	£ 1,164.00	£ -	£ 684.00	£ 480.00	58%	42%	
24	Plas Madoc Community Engagement	CR&DV AONB	£ 2,367.19	£ 2,367.19	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	100%	0%	
25	Young Rangers	CR&DV AONB	£ 1,934.87	£ 934.87	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000.00	48%	52%	
26	Ysgol Hiraddug Mountain School	Ysgol Hiraddug	£ 2,760.00	£ 2,260.00	£ 500.00			£ 500.00	82%	18%	11.12.2015
27	Market Street Car Park	Denbighshire County Council	£ 6,400.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,400.00	£ 3,400.00			47%	53%	11.12.2015
Totals			£	184,397.12		£ 58,290.00	£ 41,704.50	£ 25,988.50			
SDF Total				£	58,414.12						
Total levered in					£	125,983.00					

CRDV01 – AONB Countryside Grant Scheme

Applicant – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF – £2,770 (50% of total £5540)

Match funding – Private funds 50%

The Countryside Grant Scheme is run annually and is available to farmers for boundary restoration and conservation schemes, providing 50% funding up to a maximum of £1,000 for individual projects. The project is delivered in conjunction with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) who carry out farm visits and advise on schemes, as well as undertaking finished project inspections on behalf of the AONB. FWAG are paid consultancy fees for this work.

In 2015/16 there have been 2 schemes undertaken – one near Prestatyn which was the restoration of a small area of heathland. Work included the removal of scrub and clearance of tress. The other scheme was near Nannerch and included the fencing of a small area of woodland to exclude stock and some thinning.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 schemes supported• 0.5 Ha of heathland restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x local contractors engaged• 1 FWAG officer paid to run scheme

CRDV 02 – Llandegla Church Interpretation

Applicant – Llandegla Parochial Church Council

SDF – £2,750 (11% of 24,750)

Match funding – Private funds £22,000

St. Tecla's Church Llandegla, adjacent to the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail have recently undertaken work to enhance the Church as a community resource including creating more usable space and installation of kitchen and toilet as well as external access improvements. As part of this work the group wanted to establish a visitor information centre focusing on local historical, cultural, environmental and business interest.

Funding enabled the group to engage a local designer and illustrator to design 12 bespoke interpretation panels telling the story of the village from the local drovers, ghost stories, Tecla's well and Church. The designer worked with 6 volunteers who researched and gathered photographs to be included on the panels.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £22,000 cash levered in• 6 x Volunteers engaged in research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved community use of a community facility• Local designer engaged in production of interpretation

CRDV 03 – Llandegla Chapel

Applicant – Pisgah Chapel

SDF – £1,563 (16.1% of total £9,690)

Match funding – Private funds/ Cory Environmental Trust in Britain £8,127 (83.9%)

Sustainable Development Funding has enabled the Chapel in Llandegla to repair approximately 40m of wall around the graveyard in dry stone and move and re-set headstones adjacent to the repaired wall, to protect the headstones, allow for easier maintenance of the vegetation in the graveyard and open up space to install a picnic bench. Funding also enabled the Chapel to carry out urgent repair of about 10m of roadside mortared wall.

The Offa's Dyke National Trail runs past the Chapel, walkers are now enticed to use the Chapel as a picnic area.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £8,127 cash levered in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved community use of a community facility• Local contractor employed to carry out work

CRDV 04 – Archaeological excavations and Art project at Moel y Gaer

Bodfari

Applicant – Oxford Institute of Archaeology

SDF – £1,000 (28% of £3,590 project total)

Match funding – Private funds £2,590 (72%)

Cambrian Archaeological Association

This project enabled the continuation of archaeological excavations at Moel y Gaer Bodfari for 2015.

The excavations were an excellent opportunity for members of the public to visit the hillfort, which is not normally accessible to the public. An Open Day was organised which had 25 people attending 10 people also attended a guided to the site. There was also an opportunity for volunteers to excavate.



2015 saw the development of an art project linked to the excavations. Two artists, Stefan Gant and Simon Callery, worked alongside the excavators. Stefan is a video artist and Simon works on large scale canvases and three dimensional interpretation of the time and space of the site. The interpretation has broadened the audience of this site.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £2,590 cash levered in• 25 of volunteers trained• 2 awareness training sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of open days• Art installations

CRDV 05 – Prestatyn Walking Festival

Applicant – Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking

SDF – £500 (10% of total £5,000)

Match funding –£3,500 (70% of total) Prestatyn Town Council, Local Sponsorship / Advertising , Time in-kind contribution - £1,000 – 20%

The Prestatyn & Clwydian Range Festival of Walking received funding to assist with the running of the festival from 17th – 19th May. This year was the 12th year of the festival which has grown significantly since its opening year.

The festival provides 3 days of opportunities to explore Prestatyn and the Clwydian Range. New for this year the festival hopes to link with a Town Council led Roman event which was run for the first time last year.

The festival held 25 walks over the weekend with over 500 people taking part. The festival also held a number of events for schools with over 400 children attending. 10% of participants came for outside of the local area.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3,500 cash levered in • 5000 leaflets for distribution in visitor centres, libraries, shops, attractions and also at shows and events, • 25 Walks • 6000 brochures produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with community in the development of walks in the local area • Promotion of the Clwydian Range as a destination for high quality walking opportunities. • Support for local business

CRDV 06 – Alyn and Wheeler living landscapes interpretation

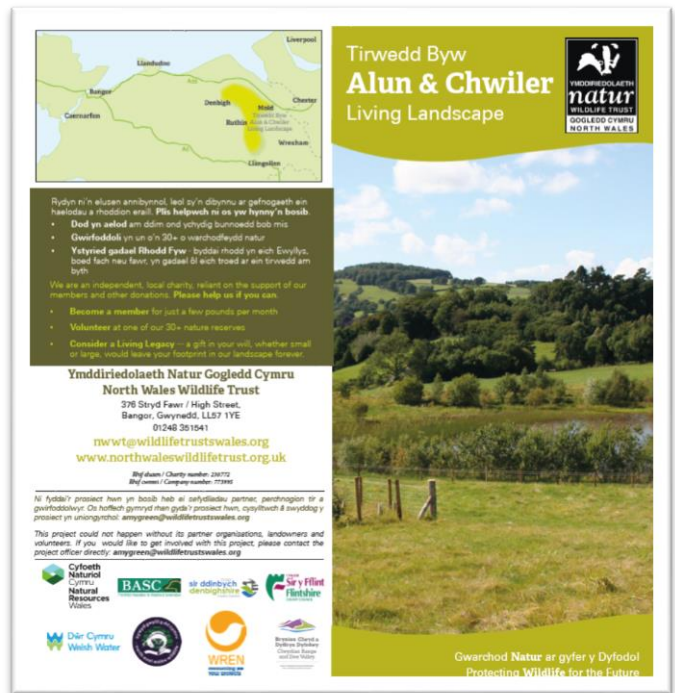
Applicant – North Wales Wildlife Trust

SDF – £1,500 (75% of total £2,008.50)

Match funding – WREN (in form of project officer time) 25%

The Alun and Chwiler living landscapes project is the result of a funding bid by a partnership of organisations including North Wales Wildlife Trust, the AONB, NRW, DCC, BASC and NEW Wildlife. It is a landscape scale project aiming to improve the wildlife habitat in the river corridors of the Alun and Chwiler by engaging with landowners to introduce habitat improvements on their land, as well as locals to get involved in volunteering in the area.

The Sustainable Development Fund has enabled the project to create interpretive materials including leaflets and pop-up banners. The aim of the interpretation was to help project partners promote the project and gain interest from landowners and potential volunteers, as well as inform locals and visitors about what is happening in the area. The project has not only improved habitats but also benefited local communities through better connection with their local environment.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5000 leaflets for distribution in visitor centres, libraries, shops, attractions and also at shows and events, • Production of 4 pop-up banners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater understanding of the importance of the river valleys of the AONB. • A greater level of engagement in the delivery of the project

CRDV 07 – Actif Woods Wales

Applicant – Small Woods Association

SDF – £5,500 (31% of total £17,700)

Match funding – Natural Resources Wales £3,510 (20%), Big Lottery Fund £8,190 (46%), Volunteer in-kind £500 (3%)

Funding was provided for the Actif Woods Wales programme providing a safe, non-judgemental outdoor space allowing participants to experience a wide range of physical, social and wellbeing benefits.



Specifically the funding has supported on the ground delivery of woodland activities for chronic health conditions, short term salaries of project coordinator and activity leaders, equipment and tools for activities, transport, refreshments and further training opportunities to build the capacity of leaders and partners.

The programme was aimed at building capacity at a local level by providing training for leaders to continue activities once the initial project comes to an end. Networks of local organisations and activity leaders, who have ongoing relationships with the beneficiary groups and support organisations, have been established. The project seeks to make the activities sustainable by enabling local support organisations to include woodland activities into ‘business as usual’ where their core objectives are to improve health.



The project partners included Macmillan Cancer Support, the Alzheimer’s Society and Groundwork and sessions took place in 3 AONB sites;

Sessions took place at:

- Ty Mawr Country Park
- Llandegla
- Chirk Castle

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11,700 cash levered in • 102 Actif Woods sessions across 5 sites • 96 participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in health for participants • Building confidence in participants • Capacity of groups to continue beyond the life of the funding through volunteer training

CRDV 08 – Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Website

Applicant – Friends of the Clwydian Range

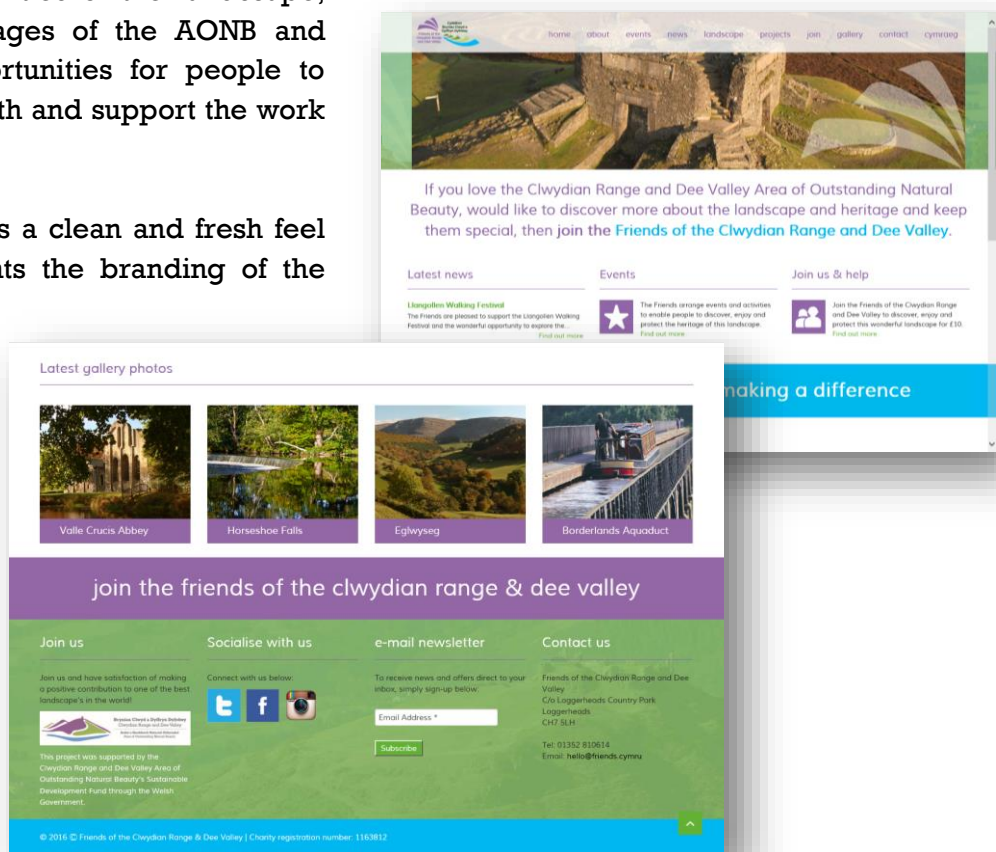
SDF – £2,000 (87% of total £2,300)

Match funding – Private funds £300 (9% of total)

The project has funded a bespoke website for the recently established Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

The website promotes the Friends and the events throughout the year. It helps to promote the special qualities of the landscape, towns and villages of the AONB and promotes opportunities for people to get involved with and support the work of the AONB.

The website has a clean and fresh feel and compliments the branding of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website produced • 2 x training days • 135 x people engaged in project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater awareness of the work of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB • Promotion of opportunities to visit the AONB and to engage in events

CRDV 09 – Clwydian Range AONB 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Applicant – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF – £5,861.88 (92% of total)

Match funding – In kind contribution – Volunteers £500 (8%)

As part of the Clwydian Range celebrating 30 years of being designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty a series of fairly large scale events were planned for 2015 however due to financial climates and capacity of AONB staff planned events were scaled back considerably and it was felt that the funding should have a lasting legacy for the AONB. The project therefore was twofold;

Trig Art in the AONB

The project engaged with local artist Tim Pugh to decorate three Trig Points throughout the Clwydian Range. Each trig point took on a different theme and engaged with communities to dress the Trigs using natural or recycled local material.

Yr Oriel / Gallery - Loggerheads

Loggerheads Country Park a gateway to the Clwydian Range had a very tired and unused education room. AONB Officers felt a lasting legacy for the 30th Celebrations would be to transform the room into a multifunction Gallery showcasing the art of local artist and art groups.

The Gallery is already has a programme of exhibitions planned for the year which includes the Llanferres Art Group, Llangollen Art group, Criw Celf and the Clwydian Art Group.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Artist in residence session across the AONB• 6 people engaged in Art Project• Oriel Gallery established• 7 Art Groups engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater awareness of the AONB designation• Celebration of special features of the AONB• Facility for local groups to exhibit and sell local art

CRDV 10 – Excalibur Marathon

Applicant – Claire House Children’s Hospice

SDF – SDF – £1,500 (18% of total £8,563.50)

Match funding – Volunteer in-kind (£1,000), Private Funds - Regatta Great Outdoors (£3,500), own funds (£2,563.50)

Claire House Children’s Hospice held its annual Excalibur event on Saturday 30th May, with over 300 eager participants trekking or running through the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB for the UK’s toughest off road marathon.

Participants took on either a full marathon or half marathon route, walking or running up to 26.2 miles through the Clwydian Range, starting at Loggerheads Country Park.



All participants took part to raise money for Claire House Children’s Hospice. The event has so far raised £20,000 to provide support to children and young people with life limiting medical conditions and their families from North Wales and beyond.



Over 65 volunteers attended the event, helping out with registration, marshalling and cheering on the participants. Event sponsors Regatta Great Outdoors were also there on the day to cheer on the runners and hand out well deserved medals on the finish line.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6,063.50 cash levered in • 300 people engaged • 65 volunteers engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with volunteers • Support for local business • Opportunities for participation in outdoor activity

CRDV 11 – Wrexham Heritage Fair

Applicant – Wrexham Heritage Forum

SDF – £600 (51.7% of total £1,160)

Match funding – Private funds £560 (52%)

The Sustainable Development Fund provided financial assistance towards Wrexham Heritage Fair organised by Wrexham Heritage Forum.

The fair included stalls of fifteen local groups and displayed heritage materials from all across the county of Wrexham with the aim of celebrating and informing the general public of the diverse and rich heritage of Wrexham as well as making new connections and extending membership.

In particular the funding supported the hire of stalls and tables, entertainers and guest speakers.

The fair took place on 14th July and attracted over 1000 people



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £560 cash levered in• 1000 people engaged• 20 volunteers engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raised awareness of heritage of the AONB and Wrexham area.

CRDV 12 – Cilcain WI – A Century of Memories

Applicant – Cilcain Women’s Institute

SDF – £1,500 (7% of total £23,350)

Match funding –Volunteer in-kind (£14,750 – 63%), Heritage Lottery Fund (£7,100 – 30%)

The WI celebrated its 100th birthday in 2015, and the Cilcain WI its 80th Anniversary. This project was developed to mark these anniversaries.

This project has created a digital archive of the village, locating family attic-archived material and individual and family stories, and recording and storing them to reflect change and development in village life. Themes underlying stories include changes in local industry and farming, changes effecting everyday life such as transport, shopping and entertainment, and changes affecting church, chapel and the village school.

Materials and stories were collected digitally by interviewing villagers and scanning attic-archived material. SDF enabled the group to purchase equipment including a computer, software and recording equipment to undertake the project.

A core group of people have been trained in the use of equipment and Liverpool Apple Store have committed to running 48 hours of training for 8 adults.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £7,100 cash levered in• 48 hours of training delivered• 8 people received training• Digital Archive established	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raised awareness of heritage of the Cilcain across the community

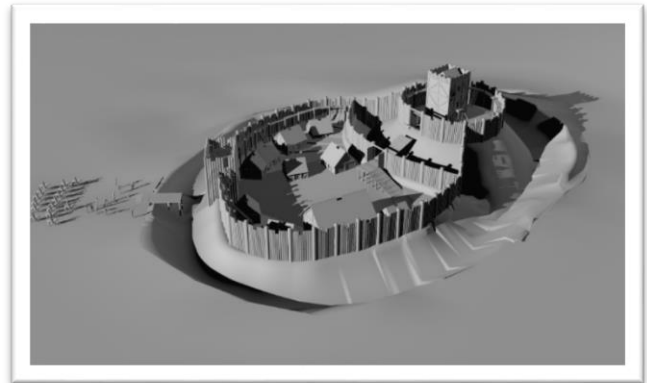
CRDV 13 – Tomen Y Rhodwydd

Applicant – Denbighshire Countryside Service

SDF – £1,992.25 (15% of total £13,802.25)

Match funding –Volunteer in-kind (£1,850 – 13%), Natural Resources Wales (£7,850 – 57%), Denbighshire Countryside Service (£2,110 – 15%)

Tomen y Rhodwydd is a Motte and Bailey castle situated on private land with no public access close to the village of Llandegla. The landowner has a great interest in the site, is happy for people to visit the site and has kindly formalised the existing access arrangements through a designated permissive path. Previously visitors would gain access to the site without permission or ask at the farm gate.



The project has created permissive access from the minor road to the north of the site, across a field to the site of the Motte and Bailey, hedgerow management and restoration to improve the biodiversity and aesthetics for visitors to the site will be completed in the in Winter 2016.

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a Geophysical survey of the site in early 2016 which has improved our understanding of the site and fed into the reconstruction drawing and site interpretation.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £9,960 cash levered in • Installation of a roadside waymark post waymarking the permissive access. • Design and installation of an interpretation panel at the entrance to the site, giving detail relating to the Motte and Bailey, its history and context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological work to improve our understanding of the site. • Improved Public access to the site

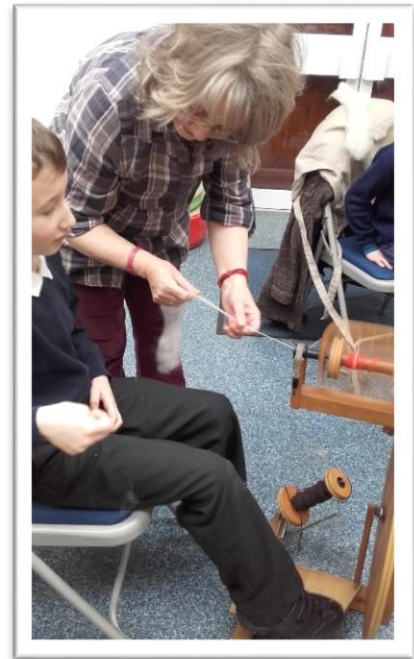
CRDV 14 – Countryside Discovery

Applicant – The Country Trust

SDF – £3,635 (40% of total £9,185)

Match funding – Volunteer in-kind (£350), Outdoor Learning Wales, Cluster Groups Project Grant – secured (£4,700), Sainsbury’s Carrier bag scheme (£500)

The Country Trust, a registered charity, worked in partnership with 3 host farms, 1 estate and woodlands and Country Parks within the AONB to offer children from 9 nearby schools with an above average number of disadvantaged children, the chance to discover how food is produced in the countryside which surrounds the towns and cities in which they live.



Each school involved had an opportunity to visit a working farm in different seasons. The farm visits were paired with a visit to a local Country Park, Heritage Site, woodland or similar to give children an appreciation of their local surroundings.

Children learned how farms work and are managed in different season, how food is produced and that farms and their management are an integral part of the countryside and the AONB. The benefits of buying locally, reducing food miles and supporting the local economy were also discussed. Links with the Healthy Schools Programme have been established and it is hoped farms which supply schools will be visited.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5,200 cash levered in • 9 Farm visits to 4 farms and • 225 children engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater understanding of farming and the food chain • Appreciation of the outdoors

CRDV 15 – Landscapes for Life

Applicant – Denbighshire County Council – Let’s Walk Cymru

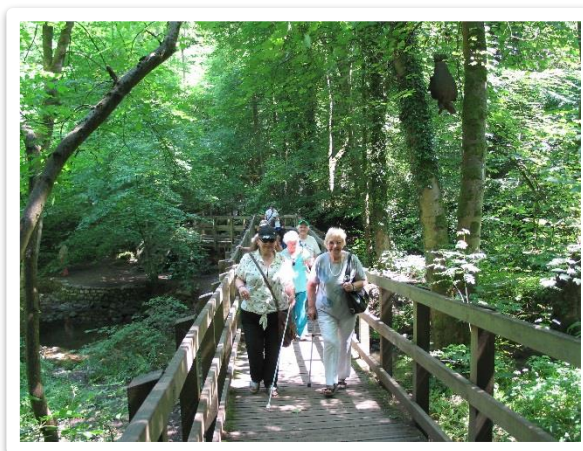
SDF – £4,000 (26% of total £15,550)

Match funding – Volunteer in-kind (£1,250), Let’s Walk (£10,000), Denbighshire CC (£300)

The aim of this project was to remove barriers, enabling people to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing through walking and other countryside activities, using the AONB landscape as inspiration. The potential of the countryside in making a positive contribution to health is increasingly proven, especially in preventing, reducing the risk and managing health conditions.

Walking enables people to gradually develop fitness so they are able to walk longer, faster and further at their own pace. Many people do not recognise the health benefit that something as simple as taking a regular walk would have to their health. The Troedio Clwyd / Let’s Walk Denbighshire Group has a successful record in encouraging people to walk, engaging with people who do not normally visit the outdoors or undertake physical activity.

This project built on the established platform of the Troedio Clwyd / Let’s Walk scheme and delivered additional areas of work through:



- 383 Nordic walkers at Loggerheads in 2015/16
- Set up Walking Programme in the Glyn Ceiriog cluster with more than 30 participants attending from the area – the group is now applying for funding to set up on their own. 530 walkers attended the Glyn Ceiriog walks in 2015/16
- Working in Partnership with Llangollen Health Centre, a weekly walk set up from the centre – met with the Doctor’s and Health Practitioners from the centre to promote the walk.
- Vision Impaired groups from Rhyl and Prestatyn – taken on trips to Loggerheads – this group has a regular monthly walk with 10 plus participants attending. Wrexham group have been on a walk to Alyn Waters. A vision impaired group from Snowdonia will be coming on a walk to Moel Famau.
- Tir Morfa School attend a walk each month with children from years 10 and 11 – they are led by our leaders and the walks take in Moel Famau, Corwen, Llangollen and Ruthin.
- Walk Leaders course held at Plas Newydd in Llangollen – 10 participants attended.
- Rhyl Friday walkers taken on a trip to Moel Famau – for some this was their first time to the South of Denbighshire.
- Working in Partnership with Mind in Corwen – walks take in various parts of South Denbighshire.
- Total of 233 walking episodes in South Denbighshire and Wrexham.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,300 cash levered in • 1 x job directly supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health of participants • Greater quality of life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1186 participants in walks • 233 Walking events in Southern part of AONB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established mechanisms for continued walking events
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CRDV 16 – Edeyrnion Action Plan

Applicant – Corwen Tourism Promoting Edeyrnion Group

SDF – £3,000 (75% of total £4,000)

Match funding –Volunteer in-kind Mentre Bach £1,000 – 25%

The Corwen Tourism Group wanted to deliver elements of the Edeyrnion Outdoor Leisure and Tourism Action Plan 2015-18 which was produced with support from the AONB in 2014. In particular the group wanted to develop three streams;

- 1) Marketing Strategy and Toolkit
- 2) Marketing and Social Media training
- 3) Shepherds Hut Analysis

A number of working group session have been held to build a consensus around the key marketing points of the Edeyrnion Valley centred around the Special Features laid out in the AONB Management Plan and Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This has been brought into a single unifying document that highlights the special character of this part of the AONB and provides the images and text for businesses to use this in their own promotional media.

The project also set up a mailchimp system for the business group and delivered training in its use. This has transformed the way the business group co-ordinate their activity and has helped in expanding the membership. This simple tool will contribute significantly to the sustainability of the group.

A third element of the project was to look at the business model around the Shepherds Hut, based at Moel Famau. The Edeyrnion Group were keen to explore the feasibility of bringing a similar model to the Corwen area and to learn from the success with Shepherds Hut. The Shepherds Hut Company have met with the group and a report has been produced that highlights the benefits of this approach. There is potential to develop a similar model in the Dee Valley perhaps taking Telford or the railway as its theme.



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit Produced • Toolkit launch event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity of the Edeyrnion Business group

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Business engagement session • 2 x Marketing media training • Shepherds Hut Business Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus of the key marketing points for the area based around the protected landscape • Greater awareness of the special qualities of the landscape
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CRDV 17 – Shepherds Hut

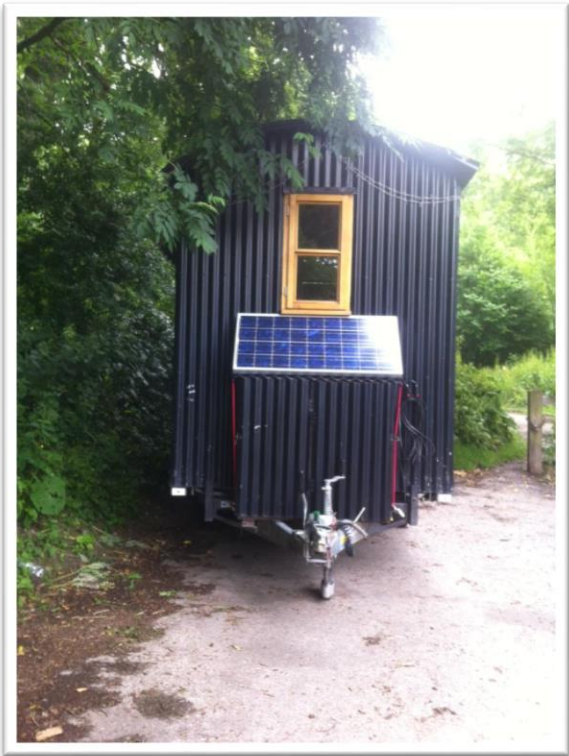
Applicant – The Shepherds Hut Company

SDF – £1,000 (63% of total £1,600)

Match funding – Private funds £600 (37% of total)

Through the support of SDF the Shepherds Hut has installed a solar renewable energy supply. The project has enabled the Shepherds Hut Company to address some of the logistical difficulties of operating in a remote location. It has also reduced the operating costs and improved the environmental sustainability of the facility. The panel is mounted on a moveable frame so that it can gain as much exposure to the sun as possible.

As well as providing the Shepherds Hut with an energy supply the facility promotes and showcases renewable energy production and re-enforce messages of sustainability to a large audience



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £600 cash levered in • 1 x Solar panel installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sustainability of the business • Promotion of renewable energy to visitors to Moel Famau.

CRDV 18 – Community Transport

Applicant – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF – £708.93 (100% of total)

Match funding – N/A

A barrier to groups wanting to access the countryside is often the cost of transport. The Sustainable Development Fund supported the AONB to establish a small fund available for groups for the hire of minibuses to enable them to travel and gain better access to the AONB.

This is the third year the AONB has provided this service for community groups. In 2015/16 fund were accessed by 11 groups who would not otherwise have been able to visit the AONB. The Tea and Toast Group at Plas Madog for example were able to visit Loggerheads, Plas Newydd and Chirk Castle throughout the year. Volunteer groups for Rhyl have also been able to travel into the AONB to support conservation work at Moel Hirraddug and Moel Famau



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 groups supported• 13 sites in the AONB visited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased opportunities for disadvantaged groups to visit the AONB• Greater confidence and capacity within groups

CRDV 19 – Apprenticeship Scheme

Applicant – Denbighshire Countryside Service

SDF – £5,000 (71% of total £7000)

Match funding –Denbighshire CC (£2,000 - 29%)

The Sustainable Development Fund enabled the AONB’s successful Apprenticeship Scheme to be extended a further six months and established a full programme of training which included, First Aid, Off Road diving and a number of other practical training courses such as chain saw and strimmer. It has also provided experience of working with volunteers, conservation management, and access work.

John Reaney completed his apprenticeship at the end of March and has since been retained by the Countryside Service at Loggerheads as an Assistant Warden. John first joined the AONB as a Young Ranger and the Apprenticeship has given him the experience needed to start a career in the environmental sector



Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £2,000 cash levered in• 1 six month training placement provided• 5 formal training sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x job created/supported

CRDV 21 – Climate Change Teacher Training

Applicant – Plas Derw Trust

SDF – £1,400 (31% of total £4,500)

Match funding – Private funds £3,100

The Plas Derw Trust a ‘not for profit’ local outdoor education provider wanted to pilot a project to develop the best way to train teachers to deliver Climate Change in a local and national context to Key Stage 2 students. The project aim was to enable teachers to feel comfortable and confident in talking to children about climate change and global warming as well as enabling them to relate it to the landscape of the AONB. The project utilised the Resources developed by the AONB in 2014.

The project delivered 11 individual sessions (of varying sizes up to assembly level) and trained 54 teaching staff. A target of 50 was set at the beginning of the project. In turn this training now has the potential to benefit 754 children.

The subject is controversial and the messages out there are mixed and sometimes confusing. It is really important to provide a coherent, and consistent message, especially in a local context.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £3,100 cash levered in• 11 sessions delivered• 54 teaching staff trained• 754 children participated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased awareness of issues around climate change and its impacts on society and the environment.

CRDV 22 – Corwen Walking Festival

Applicant – Corwen and District Business Association

SDF – £987 (42% of total £2,327)

Match funding – Nat West Community Fund (£200 – 9%), Own funds (£140 – 6%) - Volunteer Time (£1000 – 43%),

The Corwen Walking Festival is an event that promotes the area of the Dee Valley and Berwyn Mountains as a place that offers exceptional walking opportunities. The 2015 festival was the fourth annual Walking Festival in Corwen which successfully attracted private sponsorship and volunteer support. This year festival organisers approach the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley for funding towards the design and print of the festivals programme.

The festival is an important element in establishing Corwen as a centre for walking and has led to the success of Corwen as a Walkers are Welcome Town. The festival also promoted the wide range of Walks available in the southern part of the AONB from the remote Berwyn Mountains to more accessible themed walks along the River Dee, Caer Derwyn as well as utilising the Railway along the Dee Valley.

The festival worked with local businesses to ensure that the economic benefits were maximised. Local outlets were encouraged to provide packed lunches and evening meals and many walks included a visit to a local pub or café.



The festival hosted 20 walks and welcomed 215 people to the event this year.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £340 cash levered in• 20 walks promoted• 250 people engaged• 30 volunteers engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement with community in the development of walks in the local area• Promotion of the Dee Valley as a destination for high quality walking opportunities.• Support for local business

CRDV 23 – Clwydian Range Breakfast

Applicant – Clwydian Range Food Trail

SDF – £1,584 (58% of total £2,748)

Match funding – Private funds £684 and time in-kind £480

The aim of the project was to source a range of locally and produced breakfast ingredients and to promote this across the hospitality sector in and around the AONB.

A launch for the Clwydian Range Breakfast took place on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at Loggerheads Country Park. Over 60 delegates from food producers to accommodation providers, hospitality businesses and retail attended the event to celebrate the vast array of excellent food produced in the area.

Guests were treated to a delicious breakfast almost entirely made up from produce within five miles of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.



The event provided the opportunity, for guests to compare costs v the supermarket, and meet the producers. Many attending have made new contacts with a view to stocking new products.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £684 cash levered in • 60 businesses engaged • 1 Promotional event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the value of locally produced Food and it link to the landscape. • Increased membership of the Clwydian Range Food Trail – 40 members • Improved supply networks for local produce

CRDV 24 – Plas Madoc Community Engagement

Applicant – The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF – £2,367.19 (100% of total £2,367.19)

Match Funding – N/A

Every Monday morning a Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Warden with a group of primarily over 60's (but not exclusive) who are not very physically able and have varying health issues including one deaf member. It is a time for the group to socialise in an outstanding landscape. Funding provided through the sustainable development fund has enabled the Officer/Warden to get the group out of their homes and into the AONB, the countryside on their doorstep on organised trips to AONB sites such as Valle Crucis



Abbey, Loggerheads Country Park, Plas Newydd as well as visits to the group to their community centre in Plas Madoc giving informal talks.

Social interaction is a very important part of the group and to aid this a sign language interpreter was funded has been organised by the AONB which has been very helpful as one member of the group is deaf.

Funding has specifically supported transport costs, admission costs and group support (British Sign

Language)

The sessions have not only had a positive impact on the group's physical and mental wellbeing it has also made the AONB relevant and valued to people on the doorstep. It has increased their confidence to explore places they either have never been before or not seen for a long time. The variety of outings and regularity, as well as access to green open space and far reaching views, has increased their quality of life.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 visits sessions supported• 11 visits to the AONB• 90 people engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to explore the local landscape• Confidence and capacity to explore further• Improvement to physical and mental health – countering issues of isolation•

CRDV 25 – Young Rangers

Applicant – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

SDF - £934.87 (52% of total £1,934.87)

Match funding – Time in-kind contribution £1,000

This project was a joint application made by AONB Officers who worked in the North and South of the AONB to

- a) Continue the development of the Young Rangers group based around Moel Famau and Loggerheads
- b) Establish and develop a new group in the south of the AONB, namely in the Llangollen and Corwen areas.



The Young Rangers programme has provided an opportunity for young people to participate in the work of the AONB and has provided a range of experience of countryside management to a number of young people

The Young Rangers programme is open to people between the age of 11 and 18 years old and consists of a variety of practical activities, including conservation tasks and access work.



This year the AONB successfully established its second Young Rangers group based in the Dee Valley with 8 participating in the organised activities.

The funding specifically supported the production of a promotion flyers, clothing and equipment as well as some of the practical sessions including; Dormouse survey, Bat survey, woodland management and kayaking.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Young Ranger programmes produced • 12 sessions across the AONB • 20 young people engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities to engage in outdoor activity • Training and experience in environmental work

CRDV 26 – Ysgol Hiraddug Mountain School

Applicant – Mr Gary Hulson, Headteacher, Ysgol Hiraddug

SDF – £2,260 (82% of total £2,760)

Match funding – In Kind £500 – 18%

This project has assisted Ysgol Hiraddug to realise the potential of Moel Hiraddug as a community and educational resource.

The AONB’s Sustainable Development Officer met with teachers of the school to set research topics such as history, geology and wildlife prior to a full day’s workshop at the school to create artwork which was then included on the interpretation panel situated in the local community.



The project engaged with two local designers to research, design and produce the panel which will included details about the history, geology, flora and fauna of the site as well as orientation of the site.



Wow Blwyddyn 6!!!



6:50 a.m. · 9 Mar 2016



The project also funded new waymarkers and fingerposts to help navigate the local community from the village to the top of Moel Hiraddug. Local residents and visitors now have better awareness of the location and the recreational opportunities it provides. The fingerposts were installed as an in-kind contribution by Denbighshire Countyside Service staff.

Ysgol Hiraddug School have realised the potential of the mountain and in the future hope to link this work with the Lead Creative Schools initiative, in which the Arts council of Wales is supporting the schools local myths and legends project. In this context

the school we will be bringing in local artists and story writers to work with the children to develop skills in areas such as creative writing, music, drama and art.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Interpretation Panel • Sustainability awareness raising session with local school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of the local landscape

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission of local designers/illustrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement of the school with the wider community
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CRDV 27 – Market Street Car Park, Llangollen

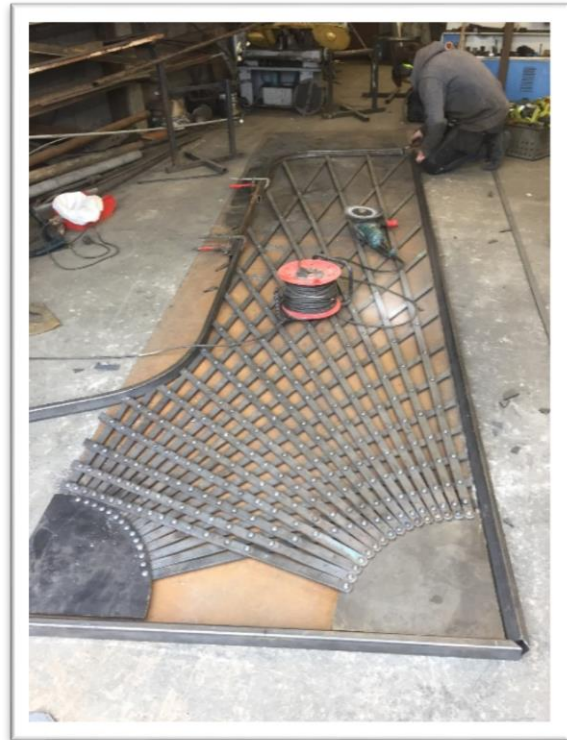
Applicant – Denbighshire County Council

SDF – £3,000 (47% of total £6,400)

Match funding – Private funds - £2,000 Llangollen Town Council, £1,400 Denbighshire County Council

Working with the Local Authority and the Town Council this project has interpreted aspects of the old Smithfield Market, now Market Street Park in Llangollen. Once a busy livestock market the site is now a key gateway into the AONB for many thousands of visitors arriving in Llangollen. For many it is their first experience of the landscape of the area.

The project will repair the original gate posts into the market and replaced the existing barriers with bespoke metal work that much more reflects the agricultural origins of the area. The project contracted a local metal artist to create a gateway feature that has interpreted the past use of this space in the town as a livestock market, the importance of the A5 to commerce in the town and the agricultural community.



The project will develop and re-enforced a sense of place for Llangollen highlighting the links between the town and the rural communities beyond which are sometimes less obvious but equally important today.

Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x Interpretative installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x local contractor engaged• Raised awareness of heritage and special features of the AONB

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

OCTOBER 2015 – MARCH 2016

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
03/2015/0953	Clematis Cottage and Badgers Bolt Pontcysyllte, LL20 7YR	Conversion of two dwellings to a single dwelling and single storey rear extension	No objection	Granted 05/11/15	N/A
17/2015/0970	3 Pant Y Fedwen Pen Llan Llandegla LL11 3AZ	Erection of pitched roof over existing garage	No objection	Granted 06/11/15	N/A
054171	Church View, Nannerch, CH7 5RD	Single storey front extension rear dormer extension (Amended)	No observations	Granted 12/10/15	N/A
15/2015/0933	Llwyn Onn Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QE	Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 27/10/15	N/A
15/2015/0934	Llwyn Onn Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QE	Extensions and alterations to dwelling (Listed Building)	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 23/11/15	N/A
07/2015/0993	23 Rhos Llan Llandrillo, LL21 0TW	Erection of extensions to dwelling	No objection	Granted 17/11/15	N/A
23/2015/0463	Land at Cefn Yfed Cyffylliog, LL15 2DY	Installation of single 71m high wind turbine	Objection; suggest alternative solar PV installation	Refused 14/10/15	
41/2015/0972	1 Derwen Terrace Bodfari LL16 4DH	Erection of a single storey extension	No observations but need to retain existing landscape features.	Granted 28/10/15	N/A
054249	Herons Retreat, Caerwys, CH7 5AD	Variation of conditions relating to reserved matters and building standards	No observations	Granted 26/10/15	N/A
10/2015/0936	Land adj to Tyn-y-Bedw, Bryneglwys LL21 9LR	Development of 0.68ha of land for residential development (Outline)	No objection subject to design, landscaping and provision of affordable housing		
03/2015/0990	Dee Cottage, Llangollen, LL20 8SA	Erection of garage/car port	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer and no impact on existing trees	Granted 23/11/15	
17/2015/1002	1 Ffynnon Tegla Llandegla, LL11 3BJ	Certificate of Lawfulness for erection of extension	No objection	Refused 17/11/15	N/A
P/2015/0706	Heyburn, Blackwood Road, Garth, LL20 TYL	Demolition and replacement dwelling	No objections but suggest design and landscaping amendments, including retention of existing trees.	Granted 08/01/16	

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
10/2015/1001	Deio Uchaf Bryneglwys Corwen, LL21 9NP	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday accommodation	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 23/11/15	
15/2015/1018	1 Dyffryn Alyn, Llanferres, CH5 5TA	Extensions to existing dwelling	No objection	Granted 16/12/15	N/A
16/2015/1076	Nanteos, Llanbedr DC, LL15 1US	Alterations and extensions to dwelling and new patio area	No objection subject to retention of existing tree.	Granted 18/12/15	N/A
05/2015/0980	Minorfa, Corwen, LL21 0DE	Change of use - shop to hot food takeaway	No observations subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 28/01/16	N/A
054431	Edelweiss, Gronant, LL19 9TL	Erection of 2no. dwellings	No objection in principle but concerns about scale/design and impact on trees.	Granted 31/05/16	
054415	Land side of Fernleigh, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LG	Variation of condition to extend time limit for the submission of details of new dwelling	No objection	Granted 25/11/15	N/A
03/2015/1031	4 Llys Y Barcty Llangollen, LL20 8HZ	Works to trees within Llangollen Conservation Area	No objection subject to retention of significant trees.	Granted 23/11/15	N/A
21/2015/1017	Bryn Celyn, Tafarn-Y-Gelyn, CH7 5SQ	Installation of two telecommunication poles	Object to one pole, suggest sharing nearby existing pole rather than new installation	Granted 28/01/16	
17/2015/1077	Arqiva Site Horseshoe Pass, LL20 8DR	Installation of 4 dishes on existing mast	No objection	Granted 18/12/15	N/A
05/2015/1066	Tyn Y Ceubren Glyndyfrdwy Corwen, LL21 9HN	Erection of two-storey rear extension	Object to scale of extensions and suggest additional landscaping	Refused 02/12/15	
P/2015/0728	Kronospan Ltd, Chirk	Erection of gas engine building and associated infrastructure	No observations, but concerns over failure to consider AONB	Granted 08/01/16	N/A
15/2015/0024	Y Beudy, Llanarmon Yn Ial, CH7 4TB	Erection of an agricultural building	Request agricultural justification and tree survey		
21/2015/1073	Bryn Ffynnon Farm Llanferres, H7 5SH	Erection of an ancillary domestic building	No observations but suggest amended design	Granted 09/12/15	
03/2015/1014	Sun Trevor Hotel Llangollen, LL20 8EG	Conversion of redundant outbuildings to holiday cottages	No objection, suggest design changes	Granted 29/12/15	
17/2015/0998	Land at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla, LL11 3AL	Erection of 3 dwellings	Objection – unsustainable location in open countryside with insufficient justification.	Withdrawn 29/04/16	N/A
07/2015/1102	Blaen Y Glyn Cynwyd, Ll21 0ND	Erection of extensions to existing dwelling	No objection in principle but suggest design amendments		
17/2015/1135	1 Ffynnon Tegla Llandegla, LL11 3BJ	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection	Granted 28/01/16	N/A
47/2015/1114	Land adjacent to The Vicarage Tremerchion LL17 0UN	Erection of dwelling (re-submission)	No objection	Granted 14/03/16	N/A
16/2015/1047	Llanbedr Hall, Ruthin, LL15 1UU	Demolition of Llanbedr Hall and erection of 13 dwellings	No observations, suggest materials and landscaping and affordable housing contribution.	Refused 09/03/16	N/A

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
03/2015/1063	Ty Camlas Llangollen, LL20 8TH	Erection of porch to front of dwelling	No objection, subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 28/01/16	N/A
15/2015/1155	Bryn Tirion Cottage Llanarmon-Yn-Ial CH7 4QE	Erection of extension to side of dwelling	No objection, subject to views of Conservation Officer		N/A
18/2015/1146	Highfield Park Llangwyfan, LL16 4LU	Variation of conditions to allow 2 no. access points to remain open	No objection subject to additional landscaping	Withdrawn 15/02/16	N/A
03/2015/1217	Nytharian, Fron Bache Llangollen, LL20 7BP	Erection of single storey extension	No observations	Granted 05/02/16	N/A
05/2014/0848	Land between Pen y Bont and High Trees Glyndyfrdwy	Erection of a dwelling (outline application)	No objection in principle subject to design and landscaping		
05/2014/0849	Land to side of Plas Gwyn/Sun Inn Glyndyfrdwy	Erection of a dwelling (outline application)	No objection in principle subject to design and landscaping		
15/2015/1171	Perthi Chwarae Llanarmon Yn Ial CH7 4QX	Formation of field access	No objection subject to limited impact on existing hedge	Granted 09/02/16	
052922	Kingspan Limited, Greenfield, Holywell, CH8 7GJ	Erection of 1no. wind turbine (78m to tip) (Amended plans)	No significant impacts on AONB		N/A
053332	Land adj Siglen Uchaf, Gwernymynydd, Mold, CH7 5LG	Erection of 1no. dwelling and detached garage	No objection subject to retention of existing tree		
054671	Former Wilcox Coach Works, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Variation of condition to allow further time for implementation	No objection		N/A
054638	Trigfa, Gwernymynydd, Mold, CH7 5JY	Erection of 1no. dwelling	No objection in principle but concerns over scale of development and materials	Granted 19/01/16	
054643	Penllan Farm, Nannerch, Mold, CH7 5RD	Upgrade to existing telecommunication installation	No objection subject to colour of installation	Granted 05/01/16	
03/2015/1200	Tyndwr Hall, Llangollen, LL20 8AR	Change of use to wedding venue and use of cottage for holiday accommodation.	No objection in principle subject to further details and the views of the Conservation Officer	Granted 1/04/16	
03/2015/1184	Rhiw Cottage, Sun Bank, Llangollen, LL20 8EG	Erection of extension and vehicular access and parking area.	No observations subject to further details of access/parking area.	Withdrawn 07/03/16	N/A
15/2015/1223	Police Tower, Graigfechan, Ruthin	Replacement of existing antennas and addition of new dish	No objection	Granted 24/02/16	N/A
054629	Ty Hir, Nercwys, Mold, CH7 4AU	Change of use of land to a touring caravan facility (24 touring caravans)	No objection in principle subject to landscaping, seasonal use and traffic management plan.	Granted 04/04/16	
054440	Maes y Coed Farm, Afonwen, Mold, CH7 5UB	Listed Building application to restore coach house	Support sensitive restoration of heritage assets.	Granted 10/02/16	N/A
41/2015/1229	Warren Woods Ltd. Bodfari Denbigh, LL16 4DT	Removal of condition restricting woodland based education centre use to 200 days a year	No objection; suggest traffic management plan		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
15/2015/1237	Camddwr Farm Llanarmon-Yn-Ial Mold, CH7 4QX	Erection of building to be used as a dog training facility	No objection in principle but suggest reduced scale and control over external lighting	Granted 03/03/16	
15/2016/0001	Canol Y Cae Eryrys CH7 4BX	Erection of garage	No objection; suggest design changes	Granted 16/03/16	
16/2015/1137	Coed Farm Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd LL15 1YF	Partial demolition of farmhouse and conversion to garage and store	Object to design	Refused 08/03/16	
15/2016/0026	Clover Grange Llanarmon Yn Ial, CH7 4TB	Erection of detached garage/store	No objection in principle; suggest design changes	Granted 16/03/16	
16/2016/0091	Y Llarwydden Llanbedr DC Ruthin, LL15 1AQ	Erection of extensions to existing dwelling and garage	No observations	Granted 24/03/16	N/A
03/2016/0035	Gwynant Abbey Road Llangollen, LL20 8SW	Replacement of existing dormers and alteration to existing chimney	No observations	Granted 09/03/16	N/A
P/2016/0049	Bron Heulog, Chirk, LL14 5BL	Erection of car port with first floor storage	No objection, suggest control of colour and materials	Granted 14/03/16	
15/2016/0009	Pen Y Coed Eryrys Mold, CH7 4DD	Erection of replacement dwelling	No objection in principle, suggest design/landscaping changes	Granted 18/05/16	
21/2016/0041	Lonfa Eryrys Mold, CH7 4DD	Erection of a stable block and manege	Concerns over size of building; suggest landscaping/design changes and lighting restriction.	Granted 14/03/16	
15/2016/0129	1 Caer Odyn Eryrys CH7 4BY	Erection of single storey extension	No observations subject to natural slate roof.	Granted 24/03/16	
09/2016/0064	Ysgubor Isaf Bodfari LL16 4DD	Erection of extensions	Concerns over scale and design of extensions	Refused 09/03/16	
41/2016/0027	The Warren Bodfari , LL16 4DT	Erection of classroom, store and wc	No objection; suggest reinstatement condition and traffic management plan	Granted 24/05/16	
03/2016/0063	Ross Newydd Llangollen, LL20 8SP	Erection of first floor rear extension	No objection		N/A
054983	Tyn Y Gwrych, Nannerch, CH7 5RN	Erection of single storey extension	No objection; suggest solar panels condition	Granted 04/04/16	
054787	Red Lion Inn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Display of new signage	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Part Granted/ Refused 18/03/16	N/A
054788	Red Lion Inn, Llanasa, CH8 9NE	Listed building application for the display of new signage	No objection subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 25/04/16	N/A
47/2016/0005	Waen AD Facility Rhuallt LL17 ODS	Construction of ancillary office and replacement car parking	No objection subject to colour of building		
17/2015/1153	Land at 2 Queens Cottages Llandegla LL11 3AG	Development of land by 1 no. dwelling (outline application)	No objection in principle	Granted 01/04/16	N/A
05/2016/0081	Yr Hen Fferm Corwen, LL21 OBD	Development of land for 2 dwellings (outline application)	No objection in principle	Granted 19/05/16	N/A
054707	Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen, CH7 5UB	Application for lateral extension to existing quarry	Minimal impact on AONB; support restoration		

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
		and extension of time to 2023	scheme; urge early and progressive restoration and suggest public access opportunities be enhanced via S.106 agreement		
20/2016/0046	The Barn, Pentre Coch LL15 2YF	Creation of pond	Support proposals; suggest landscaping scheme	Granted 09/03/16	
03/2016/0047	Godrer Coed Berwyn, LL20 8BW	Erection of 2 no. 2 storey side extensions	No objection to one extension; concerns over design of other extension.	Granted 09/03/16	
03/2016/0045	Mile End Mill Llangollen, LL20 8AD	Development of a hydro-electric scheme	No objection, subject to no impact on River Dee SAC		
41/2016/0172	Post Office Cottage Bodfari, LL16 4DA	Erection of a two storey extension to dwelling	No objection subject to Conservation Officer's views. Suggest new stone boundary wall.	Granted 12/04/16	
05/2015/0470	Land between Twmpath & Fonlwyd Glyndyfrdwy LL21 9BP	Erection of dwelling and installation of septic tank (outline application)	Object; no essential need	Refused 01/04/16	
21/2015/1224	Outbuildings at Caer Odyn Tafarn-Y-Gelyn CH7 5SF	Conversion of stone barn and brick shippon to form 2 dwellings	No objection in principle; suggest design changes and landscaping	Granted 18/03/16	
07/2016/0213	Minafon, Llandrillo Corwen, LL21 0TH	Erection of first floor extension	No objection in principle; suggest design changes	Granted 13/05/16	
20/2016/0250	Cae Ffolt Llanfair DC LL15 2UW	Erection of extension to front of dwelling	Concerns over design and appearance	Granted 04/05/16	
18/2016/0241	Fron Vox Llandyrnog Ll16 4HR	Installation of dormer window and external wall insulation and chimney	No objection	Granted 27/04/16	N/A
16/2016/0240	6 Maes Derwen Llanbedr DC, LL15 1ST	Erection of 2 storey pitched roof extension to rear of dwelling	No objection subject to matching materials	Granted 12/04/16	N/A
054800	Mill Cottage, Pentre, Cilcain, CH7 5PE	Erection of replacement conservatory	No objection, suggest natural stone facing	Granted 24/03/16	
16/2016/0163	Plot 1, Cae Glas, Lon Cae Glas, Llanbedr DC, Ll15 1US	Development of land by the erection of a dwelling (outline application)	No objection, subject to retention of existing trees		
03/2016/0232	Tregarth, Chapel Street Llangollen, LL20 8NW	Erection of a single storey extension to dwelling	No objection, subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 26/04/16	N/A
05/2016/0248	2 Pont Melin Rhug, Corwen, LL21 9NS	Erection of first floor rear extension	No observations	Granted 11/05/16	N/A
16/2016/0084	Llanbedr Hall Ruthin, LL15 1UU	Works to TPO protected mixed species hedge	No objection	Granted 29/03/16	N/A
16/2016/0085	Llanbedr Hall Ruthin, LL15 1UU	Works to TPO protected hazel coppice	No objection, subject to retention of oak trees	Granted 29/03/16	N/A
P/2016/0222	Land at Chirk Park adjacent to A5 and A483, Chirk LL14 5BG	Variation of existing permission P/2010/0568 to allow an additional 5 yrs to commence visitor centre and feature tower topped with Welsh Dragon	No objection		N/A
055028	West Coast Energy, Mold Business Park, CH7 1XW	Variation of existing planning permission 48022 to allow further period for commencement of 35m high wind turbine.	No observations	Granted 03/06/16	N/A
055051	West Coast Energy, Mold Business Park, CH7 1XW	Installation of an electrical battery storage facility	No objection	Granted 02/06/16	N/A

Code No. (1)	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Decision	Response to AONB Comments (2)
P/2016/0219	Kronospan, Chirk Wrexham, LL14 5NT	Construction and operation of a recycled fibre (RCF) reception facility and associated infrastructure	No observations	Granted 03/05/16	N/A
43/2016/0286	Philips Telecom Site Gwaenysgor LL18 EL	Installation of DAB antennas and apparatus on existing telecommunications mast	No objection	Granted 11/05/16	N/A
21/2016/0281	Holt Hostel Maeshafn CH7 5LR	Alterations to approved fenestration style (Listed Building application)	No objection, subject to views of Conservation Officer		N/A
055024	Swan Wood, Ysceifiog	Opening of disused access, hardstanding and paths for woodland management	No objection	Refused 14/04/16	N/A
15/2016/0145	Outbuildings at Ty Isa, Llanferres, CH7 5SN	Conversion of barns to 2 detached dwellings and new vehicular access (resubmission of refused application 15/2015/0616)	No objection in principle; concerns about design of one unit; suggest design and landscaping changes	Refused 01/04/16	
054907	Herons Retreat, Caerwys, CH7 5AD	Change of use of land for 20 static caravans and 15 touring caravans	No observations on the principle, subject to woodland protection, landscaping, and controls over colour and lighting.		
20/2016/0164	Land at Ty Coch Farm Graigfechan Ruthin, LL15 2HB	Development of land by the erection of 2 no. local needs affordable dwellings	Object, outside development boundary		
09/2016/0146	Efail Y Waen, Bodfari, LL16 4EE	Notification of intention to remove 83m of hedgerow	Part object, premature.		
09/2016/0205	Land adjacent to Efail Y Waen, Bodfari, LL16 4EE	Erection of agricultural building	Object; no established agricultural need		
42/2016/0223	Land at (part garden of) Mount House Dyserth LL18 6BY	Details of dwelling in accordance with outline permission 42/2012/1638	Concerns over scale of dwelling		
17/2016/0202	Bodidris Hall Llandegla LL11 3AL	Alterations to fenestration and demolition of single storey extension (retrospective application)	No objection, subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 12/04/16	N/A
Total Number of Applications: 100					

Notes:

- (1.) Denbighshire planning application code numbers are shown as **12/3456/7891**, Flintshire as **12345** and Wrexham as **P/1235/6789**. Details of applications can be viewed on the Planning Portal for the relevant authority. See links below:

<http://planning.denbighshire.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningWelcome.page>

http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/plansearch.page?org.apache.shale.dialog.DIALOG_NAME=gfplanningsearch&Param=lq.Planning

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Databases/Planning-Applications.aspx>

- (2.) LPA response to AONB comments colour coded as follows: **green** for fully accepted, **orange** for part accepted and **red** for not accepted.
- (3.) Local Planning Authority (LPA) position updated 08/06/16.
- (4.) Copies of full AONB comments on specific applications available on request.

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Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme June 2016 Update				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started Red Started but limited Progress Amber Started and on track Green	Cost -ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
Finance				
Finance and Funding	To be a standing item on the Forward Work programme	Report to each JC		Neutral
Strategic Plans 2014-16				
Management Plan	Approved with translation May 2016	Printed for June 2016		+ve
Communications/ Branding Strategies	To asses monitoring and effectiveness of AONB Communication	Summer 2016 SDF Officer is now pursuing		+ve
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	To provide a policy statement, engagement plan and action plan	Summer 2016 Volunteers Strategy Internal consolation		Neutral
Business Plan	To write a five year business plan	Autumn 2016		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	2 per annum	ongoing		Neutral
AONB Forum	Theme(s) in principle proposed by Partnership	Autumn 2016		Neutral
AONB Meet Local Members/Town and Community Councillors	Annual Meets	Winter 2017		Neutral
AONB Partnership				
Increase Full Meetings from 2 to 3	Agrees d at partnership meet with the third meeting themed	Summer/Autumn 2016		+ve
Partnership Working Groups: Sustainable Development Fund, Landscape Character and Built Environment, Land Management and the Natural Environment , Heritage, Culture and Communities and Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement				
Regular Meetings of above Groups	To organise groups to meet ,appoint chair, start delivery of Management Plan	April 2016 All Groups will have met by June 2016		+ve

Forward Work Programme June 2016 Update Continued				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Progress	Cost -ve or +ve or neutral
Partnership Working Groups: Sustainable Development Fund, Landscape Character and Built Environment, Land Management and the Natural Environment , Heritage, Culture and Communities and Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement				
Sustainable Development Fund	Deliver Full Spend	Spring 2017		Neutral
Dark Skies	Joint Initiative with NPs/Visit Wales. DS Meet Visit Wales HS Discuss with LAs and TRA	Spring 2017		+ve
Limestone Legacy	Received Approval year 1 Project underway	2018		Neutral
Active Alyn Valley	Received Funding Offer and Accepted	2019		Neutral
River Wheeler/Alyn Project (NWWT Led)	AONB involved in implementing	2017		Neutral
Supplementary Planning Guidance	Under discussion in Built Environment	TBC Linked to LAs		Neutral
Traffic congestion and Car Parking	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Tourism Strategy	To implement the action plan	Autumn 2016 SDF Fund engagement workshops		Neutral
Distribution of Information	Forming a partnership with TICs and Country Parks for Info Distrib N Wales and N West	Spring 2017		Neutral
Working with businesses	Investigate working in partnership with businesses	Spring 2017		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2016 Update Continued				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Progress	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
AONB Special Projects				
World Heritage Site	Attend Strategic Meetings, further Collaboration between the two designations	Officers and Members on Board, Steering Group and Sub Groups		Neutral
The Picturesque	Joint AONB/WHS Bid for Landscape Scale HLF Project	Autumn 2017 Awarded start up fund Project Officer appointed		+ve
Friends of CR and DV AONB	Support the group where requested within resources	Spring 2017		Neutral
Climate Change Education Project	To train and deliver the programme	Spring 2017		Neutral
Art Project	To deliver AONB art Projects across the AONB	Spring 2017		Neutral
Site Management	Specific Projects to improve visitor enjoyment and Payback	Spring 2017		+ve
Section 85 Organisations				
Future Landscapes	Officer support for WG Project	Summer 2016		
SP Network Lines	To continue to investigate undergrounding possibilities	Spring 2017		Neutral
Landscape Enhancement Initiative (National Grid)	Submit Bid for 2 Projects	Autumn 2016		Neutral
Urbanisation	To enter into an agreement with NEWTRA and LA Highways to respect the rural nature of the AONB	Spring 2016 Meeting NWMTRA June		-ve
Tourism	Investigate how best to integrate the NE Wales and AONB Brands	Spring 2016 SDF and AONB Officer invited to NE Wales Officer Meet		Visit Wales E4G Neutral

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