



Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee
Minutes of the meeting at Somerset Wildlife Trust,
Callow Rock
17th November 2016

Present:

Partnership Committee

Cllr Dawn Hill	Chair and Somerset County Council
Jim Hardcastle	AONB Unit Manager
Julie Cooper	Sedgemoor District Council Officer
Chris Westcott	Natural England
David Lister	CPRE Avonside (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
Cllr Nigel Taylor	Mendip District Council
Roger Dollins	Somerset Parishes Representative
Liz Brimmell	Bath & North East Somerset Parish Representative
Rob Palmer	Mendip District Council Officer
Pippa Rayner	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Sarah Jackson	Bath & North East Somerset Council Officer
Mike Adams	North Somerset Parishes Representative
Richard Frost	Mendip Society

Other attendees

Andy Mallender	AONB Project Development Officer
Stuart Bardsley	Discovering Black Down Project Officer
Kristen Lambert	Somerset AONBs Nature & Wellbeing Project Officer
Nicola Penn	AONB Volunteer Coordinator
Gill Davies	Cheddar
Becky Collier	minute taking

Apologies

David Clark	Mendip District Council Officer
Chris Lewis	CPRE Somerset
Cllr Peter Downing	Sedgemoor District Council
Ian Clemmett	National Trust
Barry James	Somerset County Council Officer
James Small	NFU
Cllr Liz Richardson(Vice Chair)	Bath & North East Somerset Council

Summary of Actions

Item	Item	Action	Who
8	Date of 2017 meetings	16 th March 2017 6 th July 2017 provisional date 16 th November 2017	ALL

Item	Item	Notes	Action
1	Apologies	See above	
2	Minutes of meeting held 17 th March 2016	Accepted as a true and accurate record. No matters arising which were not covered by today's agenda. JH to ensure paperwork for Partnership meetings is located on the website for people to access and sent via email.	JH
3	Improving Health and Wellbeing through Somerset's AONBs – Kristen Lambert, Nature & Wellbeing Officer	Funded by Public Health, the project covers 3 AONBs in Somerset and is funded until August 2018. Aims are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase awareness of what AONBs have to offer • engage with local partners • encourage specific groups and individuals currently not accessing AONBs to visit and get involved • ensure project sustainability by offering training to leaders to encourage future visits and activities. <p>Kristen gave case studies of recent and ongoing activities with “In Charley’s Memory” – a group of young adults with mental health conditions (Burnham on Sea) and Stoberry Park Primary School (Wells) and has received positive feedback. Activities are planned for a “naturally healthy month” in 2017 working with Somerset Wildlife Trust, offering taster sessions for families supported by Children’s Centres.</p> <p><i>Anyone who would like to get involved, contact KLambert@somerset.gov.uk</i></p>	
4.	Officer Support group – Paper A	JC presented the paper, explaining that the large number of recent staff changes have made budgeting rather complex so a budget paper will be presented at the March 2017 meeting. RD asked who managed the budget and JH explained that this was dealt with in-house but with input from the Officer Support Group. NT thanked Nicola for her work at Westbury Quarry and said she would be sorely missed. JH echoed this, saying she had done amazing work.	
5.	Mendip Hills AONB Unit – verbal update Pippa Rayner, Save Our Magnificent Meadows	Save Our Magnificent Meadows is a national project that has been running for 3 years to conserve meadows and increase awareness of their value. Funding runs till end May 2017 but it is hoped to extend until August. Jake Chant, Project Officer, has now left but there is a new Community	

	<p>Project</p> <p>Paper B Project Update</p>	<p>Engagement Officer, Megan Low. HLF funding is being sought for Phase 2, starting in 2019. The project has had support from Natural England to work with landowners in West Mendip and has offered workshops and training. Other outputs include restoration of 1ha of meadow at Coronation Meadow, works at Black Down, dormouse and adder monitoring. SWT is keen to continue working with the AONB Partnership and will soon be celebrating 10 years of Living Landscapes project work.</p> <p>AM gave an update on volunteer projects with recent successes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walk leader training • training for volunteers in running events, with Earth Science Centre • extending reach of Volunteer Rangers so that they now include looking after promoted routes and not just main AONB visitor sites. • Young Ranger programme <p>RF said Mendip Society walks are very popular and they are keen to work with the AONB team and share the load. Many practical tasks have been done with various partners such as National Trust, Natural England, Mendip Society, Forestry Commission e.g. creating a new boardwalk at East Harptree Woods, raking Slader's Leigh and restoring bird hides with Bristol Water.</p> <p>Mendip Way – Waymarking of the route is underway with Mendip Society and the Mendip Ramblers. Encounter Walking Holidays will be adding the Mendip Way to their list of holiday packages and will donate a % of their income to Mendip Hills Fund.</p> <p>AONB Learning Zone is a new website hosting the educational resources for the area. SJ mentioned that it contains link to "Sadsville" - a book for 7-11 yr-olds, produced by NSPCC, which had initial funding from the Mendip Hills AONB and is now gaining wider recognition.</p> <p>Discovering Black Down Project – SB outlined key project successes. Phone app is only just complete and will be promoted and updated in future. SJ thanked SB, praising his achievement of meeting all the project targets.</p>	
6	<p>Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan</p>	<p>JH thanked SJ for her legacy and praised the great team he had inherited. The team are using the 13 special qualities of the AONB as a filter for all ideas and projects, to guide monitoring and to direct the AONB brand. JH to use The Mendip Hills Fund as a priority as demand for funding is outstripping supply.</p>	

		SJ recommended having a National Assoc. for AONBS update at the next meeting.	JH
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