

Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	21st March 2019	Paper: A
Title:	Mendip Hills AONB Officer Support Group (OSG)	
Presented by:	Julie Cooper, Sedgemoor District Council	
To be noted.		

1.0 The AONB Unit

Tim Haselden, the Unit's Project Development Officer has settled in well 5 months into the role. His priority task was to create the Partnership's Delivery Plan to support the AONB Management Plan. This plan is being presented at this meeting. Tim has ably adopted the ethos of the unit; to convene and work in partnership, in the production of the plan. He established two new working groups to share projects and identify joint working opportunities.

The role of Ranger Volunteer Coordinator, taking the existing post from part-time to full-time, was advertised at the start of the year. At the time of writing the interviews had taken place but a decision has not been made.

2.0 Management Plan and Delivery Plan

The draft plan was approved for adoption on behalf of the Partnership at the January 22nd OSG meeting by Vice-chair Cllr Liz Richardson. The plan is now going through the adoption process in each of the local authorities. An update will be provided at the Partnership meeting by each of the local authority representatives.

The OSG has had two opportunities to shape the Delivery Plan. At the January 22nd meeting the OSG helped prioritise the long list of projects and at the March 4th OSG the draft delivery plan was reviewed and amended prior to being included in the papers for this Partnership meeting.

3.0 Budget Update

The AONB Unit was on track to draw down the full Defra grant this year, however a last minute delay in the delivery of the new team vehicle has meant the £4.6k allocated from this year's budget can not be spent. The Unit is working hard to look at other allocations that mean the complete Defra grant can be claimed.