

**Cranborne Chase
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**



**Partnership Panel Meeting
Monday 16th October 2017
New Remembrance Hall Charlton
9.30am for a 10.00 start**

MINUTES

Member	Organisation	Present	Apologies
Zam Baring	Vice Chairman	√	
Cllr Barbara Manuel	East Dorset District Council	√	
Gary Foyle/Wilbert Smith	EDDC Officers	√	
Cllr Dick Skidmore	Mendip District Council		
Robert Palmer	MDC Officer	√	
Cllr Audrey Burch	North Dorset District Council		
Cllr Catherine Langham	North Dorset District Council		
Cllr Audrey Skipwith Sub	North Dorset District Council		√
Hilary Jordan/Ed Gerry	NDDC Officers	√	
	New Forest District Council		
Martin Peacock	NFDC Officer		
Cllr Lucy Wallace	South Somerset District Council		
Katy Menday	SSDC Officer		
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe	Wiltshire Council	√	
Cllr Bridget Wayman	Wiltshire Council		√
Cllr Jose Green	Wiltshire Council	√	
Richard Broadhead	Wiltshire Officer	√	
Cllr Andrew Cattaway	Dorset County Council		√
Cllr	Dorset County Council SUB		
Phil Sterling	DCC Officer	√	
Cllr Edward Heron	Hampshire County Council		√
Garry King	HCC Officer	√	
Cllr William Wallace	Somerset County Council		

Barry James		Somerset CC Officer		
Susan Batstone		Natural England		√
Roger Griffin		Natural England	√	
Ian Briscoe		Forestry Commission		
Alistair Fitzgerald		Independent	√	
Phil Matthews		Wiltshire Association of Town & Parish Councils		
Mike Jones		Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils	√	
Vacant		Historic England		
Paul Cottington		National Farmers Union		
Francis Taylor		Campaign to Protect Rural England		
Vacant		Chair of LMAF		
Vacant		Chair of Planning & Transportation Topic Group /		
Vacant		Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust		
AONB Team		Position		
Linda Nunn	FT	AONB Director	√	
David Blake	FT	Project Development Officer		√
Anne Carney	PT	Funding / Partnership Officer	√	
Richard Burden	PT	Landscape and Planning Advisor	√	
Tracy Adams	PT	Farmland Conservation Officer		√
Harry Bell	PT	GIS Officer		√
Shirley Merrick	PT	Team Support Officer	√	
Julie Harding	PT	Communications Officer	√	
Roger Goulding	FT	LPS Development Officer	√	

Councillor Andrew Cattaway has replaced Councillor Steve Butler of Dorset County Council as their representative on the Panel.

Councillor Audrey Skipwith is a substitute member for North Dorset District Council.

Councillor Edward Heron has changed his representation on the Panel from New Forest District Council to Hampshire County Council, replacing Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine. A replacement is being sought from NFDC.

Roger Griffin is standing in for Sue Batstone whilst she is on sick leave.

1. WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Zam Baring (ZB), Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ZB mentioned the Brexit negotiations currently under way and the uncertainties that this brings.

Action 1. The Value for Money work – the National Association for AONBs has done similar work.

ACTION 1
1. LN to send to Members the rationale behind the Value for Money calculations.
2. LN to send to members the NAAONBs report on Value for Money.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 16TH MARCH AND MATTERS ARISING

ACTION 4.1 Panel members to investigate ‘not spots’ for telephone masts and inform the AONB of any solutions to possible duplication of masts.

No responses received from Members.
RB stated that he is receiving applications now for smaller masts.

ACTION 4.4 RB will provide planning training, and Panel members were asked to provide him with contact details of those with responsibility for planning.

No responses received from Members.
RB reported that two training session have taken place and another one is being arranged.

ACTION 5.1. The Panel to send suggestions for Trustees to the CCLT to ZB, AC or SM.
ZB reported that, following the placement of an advert, six new enthusiastic Trustees have joined the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust. The Trust’s purpose is to raise money to support the AONB’s activities.

ACTION 2
1. ACTION 4.4 details are still required from Members for contact details for those members of staff responsible for planning departments in their Authorities.
2. ZB signed off the minutes of the meeting as a true record.

3. REPORT A BUDGET UPDATE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18 AND PROJECTED BUDGET 2018-19

Purpose: To inform the Panel of 2017-18 budget expenditure to date.

LN went through the report. The budget at 6 months is slightly underspent.
2.4 The Sustainable Development Fund is fully spent.
3.1 LN went through the projects budget describing what each one would achieve, what had been spent so far and what the remaining monies would be spent on. The projects are
International Dark Sky Reserve Bid
HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme (AONB match)
Landscapes in Planning

Discover Cranborne Chase (raising the AONB profile, potential road signage, displays, 'Fallow Art')
Local Initiative Fast Track (LIFT)

LIFT - this is project money put aside for small applications for funding to communities that do not qualify for the SDF funding. Two possible projects are being considered.

4.1 The Ashscapes project took place last week at Springhead. It received a grant from the SDF. LN and JH attended. <http://www.springheadtrust.org.uk/2017/07/ashscape-10th-15th-october-2017/>. The good news was that the ash tree should survive the Chalara fraxinea attack because research has shown that 2-3% of Ash saplings are tolerant of the disease.

5.2 The DEFRA grant up to 2019/2020 has been fixed. The proposed contributions from Local Authority partners was listed.

ACTION 3
1 The Panel notes expenditure to date during 2017-18 in core, project and SDF budgets.
2 The Panel notes the proposed Local Authority contributions for 2018-19 and will report this back to their Local Authorities.

4 REPORT B AONB GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Purpose: To propose a modified structure for AONB governance.

LN assured Members that any structure changes would not necessitate a change to the Memorandum of Understanding. She believed that the structure needs to be looked at before a new Chairman is in place. Working through the structure LN believed that the format for the Annual Partnership Forum worked really well, and the events were successful.

As for the Partnership Panel attendance, Heritage England does not attend nor does the Environment Agency nor the National Farmers Union. AF agreed to approach the Country Landowners Association (CLA) again to request a representative to sit on the Partnership Panel.

ZB announced that he cannot carry on being the Vice Chair for much longer and the process for appointing a new Chairman and Vice Chairman needed to begin. Members agreed this but decided that no changes should be made to the structure until a new Chairman was appointed so that person could be involved in and oversee the changes.

Members asked why so many of the Panel members did not attend and that those who do not attend to be approached and asked what stops them from attending.

WS queried the function of the tiers of the structure especially the wording from the MoU that the Panel was 'advisory' and not executive and that the role of the officer and the Councillor needed to be clarified.

Post Meeting Note 1: Councillors who are Panel members do not have the authority without first consulting their Local Authority to commit to any undertaking. Hence Panel Members are 'advisory'.

Post Meeting Note 2: Role of the Councillor: See the MoU, paragraph 41, A to F, Role of Members.

The voting procedure was raised where the non-contributing members were allowed a vote and it was queried if that was fair.

Post Meeting Note 3: this extract is from the MoU, paragraph 39

'Appropriate officers from Advisory member organisations may also be invited to attend meetings of the Partnership Panel in a non-voting capacity to offer professional advice to the Partnership Panel'.

Post Meeting Note 4: See the MoU, Paragraph 37, on staff member's non-voting rights.

'A Local Authority representative may be accompanied to meetings by an officer of their authority who will attend in a nonvoting capacity'.

Post Meeting Note 5: Paragraph 51, Operation of Meetings, on Members voting.

'A Local Authority may send more than one representative to attend panel meetings but each Local Authority still only has one vote'.

'Where the motion being determined recommends a direct commitment to spend, not previously approved, from the core budget of the AONB, it must be agreed by a majority of members, whether present or not, of which at least six must be Local Authority funding members'.

GK gave the example of another AONB that went through a revision of the governance structure.

Steering Group

R Broadhead, Chair of the Steering Group, reported that only officers are currently represented on the Steering Group and that a wider membership would be helpful. Attendance has dropped to two officers. He said that the North Wessex Downs AONB had a more multi-disciplined group. RB stated that his term as Chairman has come to an end but he will stay until the Group is revitalised.

As for the Topic Groups their demise was seen as an important loss, especially the Land Managers Advisory Forum (LMAF).

LN reported that the Planning and Transportation group attendance dropped off dramatically. This group met quarterly and assisted R Burden with advice. All members agreed that with the funding cuts to Councils and the changes to staff this meant that attendance at meetings was just not possible. R Burden confirmed he looks at all application requests from LPAs. A

suggestion was made that R Burden contacts the Councillor whose ward the application is in to discuss the application, if needed. R Burden needs to have discussions and/or training with the LPA teams, but is finding it difficult to get dates from them. It was suggested that a virtual group could be created with a designated officer from each LPA becoming a member.

Management Plan

The review of the Plan is due to start at the end of February 2018. The Plan will go to Local Authorities for adoption at the end of November 2018. The consultation will be a good opportunity to re-engage with people.

Members suggested that the AONB structure was in need of being revitalised and an away day with an independent facilitator for interested people could help to broaden the knowledge and skills base.

ACTION 4
1. The Partnership Panel changed its name to Partnership Board
2. The Panel discussed the additional proposals, and agreed a positive way forward, encouraging more active input from a revised Steering Group and former Working Groups to the work of the Partnership as a whole to be implemented with a new Chairman in place.
3. The Panel agreed that the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman be advertised, with any individuals thought potential candidates being approached and made aware of the vacancies.
4. LN to circulate the advert for Chairman and Vice Chairman to Panel members for them to promote in their organisations
5. LN and RB to continue to arrange training for LPAs.
6. LN to contact the EA and NFU to try to organise a representative to attend Panel meetings.
7. AF to contact CLA to arrange representation on the Panel.
8. LN and RB to contact planners to look at arranging a ‘virtual’ planning group.
9. MoU to be sent out to all Members.
10. The timetable for the Management Plan Review was agreed with the first draft being ready for the next meeting.
11. LN to contact Panel members that rarely or never attend to find out why and report back.

5 REPORT C DELIVERY PLAN 2017-18 AND TEAM WORK UPDATE

Purpose: To inform the Panel on progress on work undertaken by the team since the last meeting in March 2017

LN proposed that she change the format of the Delivery Plan to simplify it as it does not print out easily. Currently 52 actions are ongoing and in green.

LN reported on some of the Actions.

- The Taste the Chase event planned for October at the Nadder Centre has been cancelled due to lack of bookings.
- Big Chalk has gone from green to amber due to the necessary grant money not being awarded.
- Training sessions for Local Authority Partners has gone green.
- Gateway signs for the AONB has turned green.

Team Update

Other than the work detailed in Report C the following work was highlighted to Members.

Richard Burden - Landscape and Planning Advisor

RB has responded to seven Neighbourhood Plans, including the Blandford Plus Neighbourhood Plan. This went before the Inspector who recommended major changes. The Plan will not be progressing to a referendum at this time.

A waste household and recycling transfer site is being planned for Blandford. RB has attended two site meetings. Dorset County Council are keeping the AONB informed on the potential sites.

118 planning responses were made to the 9 Local Planning Authorities. One major application from Wiltshire council was Tascroft Farm on behalf of Longleat Estate. Members had received the two responses that RB made to this application. The application was approved in outline. Members had a brief discussion on the merits of this application.

Issues have been raised with the buildings at Kingsdown Farm. Members had a full discussion on the issues of the site.

David Blake - Project Development Officer

Fixed Point Photography permissions have now been agreed for all 12 posts. Pictures of the fixed ground plates were shown and then with the post and camera in place. LN reported on fence toppers for fixed points that tourists can use to place their cameras on and then send their pictures through to a main database. This project can generate hundreds of photos.

Fifty ancient tree volunteers are attending an event at Longleat to look at their ancient trees.

The Plantlife project 'On the Edge' has failed to win a grant from the Post Code Lottery, but other funding is being sought.

An application is being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project called 'Dove Chasers'.

The Foundations of Archaeology project has now finished and it is hoped the 150+ volunteers will continue through the future Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Tracy Adams Farm Conservation Officer

TA has been working 2 days per week but this will drop to just one day per week in November. This post has been fully funded by Wessex Water. She has compiled a final report on her project for Wessex Water.

TA has done some external work by helping to complete an application for a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Hopefully this kind of work can help to fund Tracy's role.

Anne Carney Funding and Partnerships Officer

The Heritage Lottery Funded project has been named the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership. The project logo has been designed and approved. A project officer, Roger Goulding, is now in post. Its Partnership Board met in May and September. Budget reports will be compiled for Partnership Panel meetings by RG.

The project was displayed at the Chalke Valley History Festival, the Salisbury Museum, and at the Health and Wellbeing Fair at Tisbury run by the SW Wiltshire Area Board.

Roger Goulding Landscape Partnership Development Officer

RG gave a PowerPoint presentation to Members. The presentation can be emailed to members if requested.

The Phase 1 project is currently being worked up which comprises of 28 projects. There has been a lot of interest in the project from landowners and volunteers. Examples of the projects were explained. Dramatic events are planned to engage the public including working with schools and stargazing events. This first round bid is due to be completed and submitted by October 2018.

Linda Nunn Director

Members had previously received the report on the Countryside Centre by Andrew Meredith. LN went through the important recommendations within that report. LN suggested that a special meeting to discuss those points was necessary. The Countryside Centre project is therefore currently on hold.

A Lightscape Management Plan is needed to progress the International Dark Sky Reserve status for this AONB. A consultant has been found who can carry out this work. The nine local authority partners within this AONB need to have policies in place on lighting conditions.

Stargazing events have been booked at various locations around the AONB. The new stargazing leaflet was made available to Members. LN reported that workshops with one of the UK's Space Ambassador's is being planned with schools and a renowned night sky photographer has been booked to talk about techniques to photograph the night sky. The work has been reported on in magazines, BBC Radio Wiltshire and on That'sTV.

A 'Follow the Fallow' project was explained and photographs of painted sheep statues from a similar project were shown. LN reported that she will try to progress this project that will hopefully raise funds for the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust.

The review of the Management Plan is due and the timetable for that work in 2018 was explained.

LN reported on the very successful visit on 19th July to this AONB by Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity. A meeting was arranged for him to talk with local farmers in the Chalke Valley.

Shirley Merrick Team Support Officer

SM continues to support the team and assists LN with the financial work.

Harry Bell GIS

HB works 1-2 days per month providing mapping and IT assistance to the team.

Julie Harding Communications Officer

JH gave a PowerPoint Presentation to Members to explain the work she has completed since she started in February this year. This presentation is available for members if requested.

She listed the issues she has identified to raise the profile of the AONB. The projects she has looked at include:

- signs for possibly 40 locations to indicate to vehicles that they are entering the AONB.
- A team visit to Bournemouth University to look at branding.
- Identifying the history, myths and legends within the area
- looking to create a new website for the AONB
- writing an e-bulletin once a month
- writing a weekly column in the Blackmore Vale.
- Writing other articles that have been published in glossy magazines on stargazing and the crayfish project.

JH has created accounts for

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cranborne.chaseaonb/?hl=en>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Cranbornechaseaonb> and

Twitter <https://twitter.com/CranborneChase>

ACTION 5
1. The Panel endorsed the ongoing work of the team to achieve the aims of the AONB Management Plan 2014-19
2. LN to send out the Final Report of the work done for Wessex Water to Panel members.
3. LN needs to progress the issues raised within the Countryside Centre report and convene a special meeting.

6 AOB

Mike Jones reported on the meeting he attended to discuss the proposed changes to the A350 and C13 roads.

Referring back to 'Follow the Fallow' Wiltshire County has the Great Bustard as its symbol on its flag and there is a statue of one at County Hall in the reception area.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership Board will be on Monday 9th April 2018.

The meeting ended at 12.30.

Minutes signed as a true record

By Zam (Vice Chairman).....Monday 9th April 2018