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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, 19th April, 2018 at 2.00 pm in Melling Institute, Hornby Road, Melling, LA6 2RA**

### **Schedule**

10am	Arrival (tea & coffee available at the Institute)
10.30am	Depart on minibus for project visits in local area
1pm	Return to Melling Institute for lunch
2pm	AONB Joint Advisory Committee meeting
4pm	Finish (approx.)

### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2017** (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Planning Policy in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

Short presentation from David Porter, Lancaster City Council, followed by questions and answers.
- 6. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partner Updates**
- 7. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Budget Update** (Pages 9 - 12)

- 8. Delivering the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan** (Pages 13 - 18)
- a) AONB Management Plan Review  
*Verbal Report*
  - b) AONB Unit Activity Report  
  
Including presentation on headline achievements over the last six months.
  - c) AONB Unit Business Plan 2018/19  
*Verbal Report*
- 9. National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update** (Pages 19 - 22)
- 10. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update** (Pages 23 - 24)
- 11. Urgent Business**  
An item of Urgent Business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Members' intention to raise a matter under this heading.
- 12. Date of Next Meeting**  
Members are asked to consider the following provisional dates for future meetings of the Committee:
- Thursday, 18 October 2018 (Pendle venue to be confirmed)
  - Thursday, 18 April 2019 (Wyre venue to be confirmed)

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston



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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th October, 2017 at 2.00pm in Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall, Main Street, Bolton-by-Bowland BB7 4NS**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council  
Michael Helm, LALC  
David Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association  
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum  
James Bray, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

#### **Officers**

Jayne Ashe, AONB Unit Graduate Trainee  
Hetty Byrne, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
David Porter, Lancaster City Council  
Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Tom Wiggans, Preston City Council  
Graham Nuttall, Wyre Borough Council  
Barrie Tyrer, Bowland Experience  
Samantha Gorton, Lancashire County Council

#### **Apologies**

County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council  
Councillor Ian Thompson, Craven District Council  
Andrew Laycock, Craven District Council

Councillor Val Wilson, Wyre Borough Council  
Mike Burke, Natural England  
Helen Dix, Environment Agency  
Graham Jones, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
Paul Reynolds, Champion Bowland  
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council

### **1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Resolved:** County Councillor Albert Atkinson and County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.

### **2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were presented on behalf of the Committee members and Officers listed above.

### **3. Presentation on Pennine Peat LIFE Project, Dr Chris Miller**

The Committee received a presentation from Dr Chris Miller, Pennine PeatLIFE which is a €6,502,760 blanket bog restoration project funded by the European Union (EU) LIFE programme with match funding from the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water.

Pennine PeatLIFE will be delivered over 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years by North Pennines Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Forest of Bowland AONB.

The aim of the Pennine PeatLIFE project is to demonstrate and evaluate geographically appropriate Blanket Bog restoration techniques suited to the harsher climatic environment of northern England and the development and showcasing of a financial payment for ecosystem services (Payment for Environmental Services) mechanism in the UK Peatland Code.

The four objectives are:

- i) Restoration techniques for re-activating blanket bogs in Northern England.
- ii) Demonstrating the UK Peatland Code, as a viable payment for ecosystem services for upland peatlands by working with landowners.
- iii) Demonstrating new approaches using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to assess vegetation change.
- iv) Disseminating the demonstration activities to policymakers, landowners and managers, government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other key stakeholders in the UK and across the EU.

The expected results are:

- i) Blanket bogs restored.
- ii) Avoided losses sequestered after five years.
- iii) Wider stakeholder awareness as to the importance of peatlands.
- iv) A better methodology for the use of UAVs in restoration monitoring.
- v) Detailed assessment of a PES mechanism – UK Peatland Code.
- vi) A UK and EU wide increase in the awareness of the UK Peatland Code.
- vii) Development of a legally binding contract for PES.

Dr Miller was thanked for his detailed presentation.

#### **4. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were none declared.

#### **5. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference**

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for 2017/2018.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 April 2017**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising from them.

#### **7. AONB Partner Updates**

The Chairman asked representatives of partner organisations around the table to update the Committee on activities.

Graham Nuttall had sent a report regarding a small area in Wyre of AONB, Cobble Hey Farm Scorton that were to have interpretation panels installed up to Brock Valley. Elliott Lorimer thought this had now been completed.

**Resolved:** That Hetty Byrne follow up the interpretation panels' query with Alison Boden.

Colin Price asked if there were any grants, as well as the Parish Grant, to keep the work on the lowlands in Clapham ongoing.

**Resolved:** That Colin Price and Elliott Lorimer will speak regarding grants outside of the meeting.

## **8. Revised Estimates 2017/18 and Revenue Budget 2018/19**

Elliott Lorimer presented a report on the Revised Estimates 2017/2018 and Revenue Budget 2018/2019.

### **a) Revised Estimates 2017/18**

Since last reported in April 2017, the AONB Unit has been successful in obtaining additional funding of £165,500 to support delivery of projects within the area.

**Resolved:** That the Committee:

- i) Noted the 2017/18 Revised Estimates.
- ii) Approved the 2018/19 Revenue Budget as set out in the report.
- iii) Subject to the approval of (ii) that the funding authorities be requested to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets.

## **9. AONB Unit Activity Report**

The Committee had received the AONB Activity report which provided details of some of the key AONB projects and activities delivered by the AONB Unit since the last meeting in April 2017. These included:

- Haytime – this had been the most challenging year to date because of the wet weather. 25 hectors to work with and only two dry days together between mid-July and October.
- Wildflowers for the Meadows Open Day was held at the beginning of July and around 150 people attended. A series of instructional videos have been produced by Pendle Film Makers Association and these can be found on the AONB website.
- Due to remaining funds in the AONB Sustainable Development Fund the AONB made a grant to support the development of new community-based web platform "Pendlefolk" as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership development phase.
- Champion Bowland – started the process of renewing their governance arrangements jointly with Bowland Experience Directors to explore the benefits of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The application was submitted over the Summer and should expect to hear something shortly and will announce its' launch as soon as possible.
- Bowland Experience – going forward it will not have a formal organisational structure but will continue as an informal tourism network. "Start Tips for Profit" free business workshop was held on 26 September 2017.
- Bowland Explorer has been providing a service between Lancaster and Bentham on Sundays and Bank Holidays and links with transport through Bowland. Farm Visit Transport Fund is a small grant which schools can apply for. Six schools have made 10 visits and the fund will be promoted again next year.
- Discovery guides have been produced again and the collation of next year's guide is currently underway.
- AONB Calendar profits go to Champion Bowland and the photos for it are submitted online and then the select few appear in the calendar. Last year's profit was approximately £750.

- Events – the Festival Bowland annual events programme offered a host of opportunities for people including Bluebell strolls, moorland bird safaris, bat walks, heritage discovery, a brown hare walk and a trek to the summit of Pendle Hill. There was also the Garstang and Pendle Walking Festivals and the Ribble Valley Rambles. Family-friendly events ranged from crafts and kite flying to pond dipping and shelter craft, plus the Gruffalo walks at Beacon Fell and the Countryfile Show.
- Route monitoring – a group of volunteers monitor and maintain promoted routes on the Forest of Bowland website and keep them up-to-date. There is also an App version called View Ranger available now, so it can be accessed on mobiles and tablets more efficiently. A refresher training session and recruitment drive was organised during the Summer of 2016, which saw a number of new volunteers joining existing members.
- Upskilling Lancashire – a European funding bid application for skills for growth was submitted on 10 March 2017 and notification was received in July 2017 that the outline application was successful with the partnership invited to submit a full application by 21 September 2017. If successful the project is likely to start in January 2018 and end in September 2020. The project aspires to increase the competitive and productive capability of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and microbusinesses across the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership area.
- Undergrounding for Visual Amenity – 3km of overhead lines between Cow Ark and Newton have been removed which has made a big difference to the landscape. This is part of the Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme run jointly between AONB and Electricity North West Limited (ENWL).
- Landscape Planning – the Principal Officer has commented and attended a number of meetings relating to various local plans and policies affecting the AONB. In addition, the Principal Officer has reviewed 81 planning applications between April and October and provided comments for 15 of these.

Councillor Starkie commented that the Wildflowers Scheme was coming to an end and would it be possible for the villages to plant their own. It was reported that the expertise is still available in Sarah Robinson and that it could also be funded through the Pendle Hill project.

**Resolved:** Councillor Starkie will speak to Cathy Hopley regarding funding for wildflowers.

It was also noted that with regards wooden footpath signs, Lancashire County Council has begun a process of replacement and renewal in Lancaster District. Colin Price asked for it to be recorded that the metal AONB signage is looking good.

James Bray from RSPB was asked to provide an update on hen harriers in Bowland. James reported that it had been another blank year for hen harriers with no nesting taking place. One male held territory for a month, however there was no mating. Two peregrines did fledge chicks. Merlin population is stable and it was recorded that it was the best year on the United Utilities estate for this raptor.

## **10. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership update**

The Landscape Partnership (LP) delivered stage 2 of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in September 2017 and it is hoped that a response will be received by Christmas. The AONB/LP team will lead the remaining 10 or so projects. Currently applying for match funds and drafting project plans for individual projects and carrying out a pilot activity. The final bid is just under £2 million.

Cathy Hopley and Jayne Ashe were thanked for putting the bid together.

**Resolved:** that the updates be noted.

## **11. Management Plan Review - Outline Plan**

The Management Plan published in 2014 is due to be reviewed under the periodic review timetable set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The report attached to the agenda provides the context for the Review and an outline plan and timetable for consideration by the Committee. Several of the review stages will be open to wider comment from all interested parties, partly through circulation of review documents, but also using on-line consultation, public consultation events and local information. If any of the Committee want to join the Management Review Group please let Elliott know.

**Resolved:** The Committee:

- i) Noted the report and offered comments.
- ii) Approved the outline plan for the Review.
- iii) Agreed for the AONB Principal Officer to notify partner authorities of the Committee's intention to carry out the Review.

## **12. Any Other Business**

### **Countryside Service, LCC**

As part of the Council's transformation the Countryside Service will reduce significantly from March 2018.

Sites will remain LCC responsibility, however will also look at commercial opportunities and possibly business lettings.

## **13. Urgent Business**

There had been no items of urgent business received.



**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next two meetings would be held on:

Thursday, 19 April 2018 in Lancaster  
Thursday, 25 October 2018 in Pendle

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston



## **FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **AONB Budget update**

(Appendix A refers)

#### **Issue for consideration**

This report presents the revised and updated budget for 2018/19 at Appendix 'A' (column 3), which takes account of the protected AONB funding settlement agreed by Defra in January 2016.

#### AONB Unit Salary Costs

The committee will note that there is a significant increase in salary costs in the revised budget from the position presented in October 2017. This reflects the additional costs of establishing two part-time positions as follows:

- AONB Countryside Access Officer (0.5FTE)
- AONB Farming and Wildlife Officer (0.4FTE)

These positions have been created to help address the loss of support previously provided to the AONB Partnership by Lancashire County Council Environment & Community Officers (namely Tarja Wilson and Dave Padley) who helped to deliver aspects of the AONB Management Plan.

These two part-time positions have been combined with closely related positions within the new Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership team to create full time jobs.

#### AONB Projects Budget

Therefore, the budget allows £69,649 for an annual programme of projects to help deliver the AONB Management Plan.

As ever, this 'Projects' budget will continue to be used by the AONB Unit to attract additional external income to supplement the Partnership budget and help to deliver the AONB Management Plan.

#### **Decision to be taken**

The committee is asked to:

- i. note the revised AONB budget for 2018/19



**APPENDIX 'A'**  
**AONB Partnership Budget**

	<b>Estimated 2018/19 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Revised 2018/19 (Out-turn Prices)</b>
(1)	(2) £	(3) £
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
<b><u>Core Costs</u></b>		
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	160,432	194,560
Contract support services	7,000	0
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	55,830	67,707
Core Activities	19,800	19,800
Sub total of Core Costs	271,962	310,967
<b><u>Non Core Costs</u></b>		
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	98,137	69,649
Sub- total of Non Core Costs	98,137	69,649
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>370,099</b>	<b>380,616</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Defra Grant	219,069	219,069
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>		
United Utilities	6,800	6,800
<b><u>County Councils</u></b>		
Lancashire	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire	6,800	5,440
<b><u>District Councils</u></b>		
Craven	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800
<b>Sub-total of Income</b>	<b>314,269</b>	<b>312,909</b>
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	55,830	67,707
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>370,099</b>	<b>380,616</b>



# Agenda Item 8

## AONB TEAM REPORT TO JAC: October 2017 to April 2018

(Generated from Interactive Management Plan on 12/04/2018)

Activity title	Action	Descriptor	Other Partners
Landscape Planning update	Action 1.7A	The Principal Officer has reviewed 53 planning applications between October 2017 and April 2018 and provided comments on behalf of the Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership to the local planning authority for 9 of these applications.	
New UVA Scheme - Holden to Wycongill	Action 1.7H	A new scheme is currently in feasibility/development stage with ENWL to underground sections of low and higher voltage lines between the village of Holden and Wycongill Farm, above Bolton-by-Bowland. This scheme will replace the two schemes previously aborted due to issues with landowner permissions.	ENWL
Pendle Hill Farmers Network	Action 2.1F	The AONB Partnership submitted a funding application to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund in November 2017 to support the development of a farmer facilitation group in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area. The group will identify and address local training / skills gaps to help deliver better outcomes for biodiversity and landscape from existing and new agri-environment schemes. 21 farmers/land managers (covering over 2200ha.) within the Pendle Hill LP area signed up to be involved in this group. Natural England confirmed the bid was successful in December 2017. The project will support 1 day/week dedicated time from PHLP Farming and Wildlife Officer and 1 day/week PHLP Business Support Officer to develop the network, provide group support and training events/workshops.	
Hedge Laying 2017/18 Season	Action 1.1C	<p>During the 2017/18 season nine hedge laying sessions took place involving 38 people with a total of 424m of hedge laid between four sites:</p> <p>Crook O'Lune, Lancaster - 91m</p> <p>Fell View Campsite, Scorton - 136m</p> <p>Higher Gills Farm, Rimington - 115m</p> <p>Lane Side Farm, West Bradford - 82m</p> <p>Encouragingly, the sessions attracted a mix of regular volunteers alongside some new faces. Some people traveled a considerable distance to attend the days, which reflects the value these sessions are given.</p> <p>The weather was particularly snowy/wet during the early part of 2018, which resulted in a number of sessions being cancelled and re-scheduled.</p>	

Activity title	Action	Descripton	Other Partners
		Poor weather also led to the cancellation of this year's Bowland Hedge Laying Competition, which is organised by the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedge Laying Association.	
Bowland Fells SSSI peatland restoration	Action 1.3A	Work has continued on Brown Syke South and Hawthornthwaite during the 2017-8 winter season - blocking rills and gullies, reprofiling hags, revegetating bare peat. Film of work produced. Work funded by AONB, Grosvenor estate, EA & Defra.	Grosvenor Estate
Hawthornthwaite	Action 1.3D	Additional re-profiling and re-wetting followed by reseeding on area already fenced out on Hawthornthwaite, Abbeystead.	Grosvenor estate
Brown Syke South	Action 1.3D	Contractors returned to complete work detailed above and to extend the work within the fenced off area at Brown Syke South. Further areas re-wetted and re-profiled, with heather brash and seeding. Some work still to do - will be completed after the shooting season in Oct 2018.	
Green Tourism Accreditation	Action 2.2E	Ribble Valley Holiday Homes and Wigglesworth House achieved a gold green tourism award in December 2017  Peaks and Pods glamping had an accreditation visit at the beginning of April 2018 - we look forward to hearing how they got on.	
New destination promotion	Action 2.4I	A new leaflet (March 2018) and Discover Bowland Itinerary (Jan 2018) have been produced promoting Gisburn Forest and Stocks as a tourism destination.  See actions: 2.4G and 3.4C (part of Discovery Guide)	
BEx update	Action 2.2C	Since October 2017:  6 new Bowland Experience members - The Old Woodshed, Moss Wood Caravan Site, Open Road Open Skies, Marl Barn, The Shippon & Peaks and Pods. Due to Champion Bowland changing its governance arrangements and reconstituting as a Charitable Incorporate Organisation, Bowland Experience Ltd was closed as a company at the end of 2017, but the network still remains with the same aims. There are currently 138 members.	
Tramper at Gisburn Forest Hub	Action 2.4G	The Champion Bowland Tramper is now located at Gisburn Forest Hub and is available to hire from the cafe. There is a five mile easy access trail from the cafe with a link route to Stocks Reservoir to enjoy the wonderful scenery along the Birch Hills Trail. The Tramper was launched in February 2018 alongside the Discovery Guide and Festival Events programme.  The Tramper at Gisburn Forest can be booked in advance by contacting the Hub café on 01200 446387 or by emailing gisburncafe@outlook.com - the staff at the cafe will be able to carry out an induction for those new to the Tramper.	



Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
Mobile Friendly Website	Action 2.4J	Due to the changes in technology the AONB website has recently been adapted to have better functionality on mobile devices - mainly in terms of navigation.	
Cluster Business Leaflets Reproduced	Action 2.4G	<p>Two leaflets have been reproduced based on popularity and supported by BEx members:</p> <p>The Gisburn Forest Bike Trails leaflet as been re-produced to incorporate more information about the whole destination of Gisburn Forest and Stocks and includes information about walking, cycling and other opportunities along with business listings. The businesses have made a contribution to Champion Bowland to be listed in the leaflet.</p> <p>The Teashops leaflet has been re-produced to include more information about the villages of Bowland - the history and walking opportunities, to encourage visitors to stay and explore. The teashops businesses have agreed to host collection boxes to be listed in the new leaflet.</p>	
2017 Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum	Action 2.2I	<p>The Annual Sustainable Tourism Forum was held on Tuesday 21st November at the Tithe Barn, Browsholme Hall.</p> <p>At the forum there was a celebration of the achievements of both Bowland Experience and Champion Bowland over the last decade, as well as individual businesses. There was also group discussion, looking ahead to future projects and activity. There is a link to a film at the bottom of this page showing these achievements  <a href="http://forestofbowland.com/Sustainable-Tourism">http://forestofbowland.com/Sustainable-Tourism</a></p> <p>There was an update from Louise Kite, project officer for the LEADER Rural Development Fund and the tourism funding opportunities, and the Bowland Clothing Company brought along a stand to showcase their AONB range. The forum was attended by 20 tourism businesses within the network.</p>	
Training for BEx members Autumn/Winter 2017-2018	Action 2.4C	<p>Two social media workshops were held for BEx members at the Shireburn Arms in October 2017 and Wyreside Lakes Fishery in January 2018, they were run by Salar Media and attended by 12 businesses</p> <p>A Sense of Place/Know Your AONB workshop was held at Holmes Mill in January 2018 for managers of James' Places businesses - 12 staff in total. The workshop enabled staff to gain an understanding of what is special about Bowland and what there is to offer visitors.</p>	
Discover Bowland 2018	Action 3.4C	50 local businesses, event organisers and community members gathered to celebrate the release of <i>Discover Bowland 2018</i> at Gisburn Forest Hub cafe in early February– and got the chance to try out Champion Bowland's four-wheel drive, electric Tramper vehicle at the same time.	

Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
		<p>With everything from walking routes and wildlife features to traditional countryside skills, archaeology and local food, the 2018 guide is packed with information about the AONB.</p> <p>New for this year are Discover Bowland itineraries - the first in a series of five planned over the next 18 months, the itineraries provide inspiration for short breaks in the area, highlighting suggestions on what to do and where to eat and stay. And thanks to local businesses – all part of Bowland's Sustainable Tourism Network – there are offers and discounts a-plenty.</p> <p>The guide also includes this year's Festival Bowland programme, which lists a host of events between February and October. The new guide is available from local Tourist Information Centres and a range of local businesses, or view it online here:  <a href="https://issuu.com/forestofbowland/docs/fob_discoguide1217lor es">https://issuu.com/forestofbowland/docs/fob_discoguide1217lor es</a></p> <p>Business advertising from BEx members generated over £4,000 of funds to support the production of the guide.</p>	
Parish Lengthsman Projects	Action 2.3E	During 2017/18 the AONB contributed funding towards Parish Lengthsman projects in Pendleside, Lawkland, Newton/Dunsop Bridge and Clapham cum Newby.	Parish Councils and Parish Meetings
River Roeburn: Remembering, Restoring	Action 2.3B	Worked with local farmer, Rod Everett, and the Lune Rivers Trust to organise a half day Natural Flood Management workshop in Hornby on 19th October 2017 for local farmers/landowners as part of the Wray flood 50th anniversary commemorations.	Rod Everett Lune Rivers Trust Environment Agency Abbeystead Estate Natural England
Slaidburn Archive	Action 2.3B	Supported Slaidburn Archive with a £340 contribution to cover the cost of printing a new "transcripts" booklet collated to raise funds for the Archive.	
Garstang Guide Leaders presentation	Action 2.3A	Delivered an AONB Powerpoint presentation to a group of Guide leaders in Garstang on 22nd March 2018.	
Forest of Bowland Annual Report 2016-17	Action 4.4D	<p>The Forest of Bowland AONB 2016-17 Annual Report has been produced and is available on the AONB website at <a href="http://www.forestofbowland.com/Plans-Strategies-Reports">http://www.forestofbowland.com/Plans-Strategies-Reports</a></p> <p>Cover image by Chris Burscough.</p>	Forest of Bowland AONB Partnership Ribble Rivers Trust Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership LEWFA
Farm Visit Tranport Fund	Action 3.6F	Since late September 2017 a further eight groups (covering 12 visits) have been offered FVTF bursaries. To date, seven visits	Champion Bowland

Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
		involving 216 people have taken place. The remaining visits have either yet to take place or have not yet been claimed.	
Promoted route repairs	Action 3.2C	During spring 2018 maintenance works were carried out to the Hodder Bank Fell Circular route from Dunsop Bridge and also to the concessionary route from Dunsop village to Wood End Farm. Work included one replacement pedestrian gate; one pedestrian gate repair; three stile/fence repairs; one footbridge maintenance and two gate latch fixings.	
Bowland Explorer - Summer 2018	Action 3.6D	<p>The Bowland Explorer summer Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday bus service will run again during summer 2018 - starting on 27th May and continuing until the end of September.</p> <p>Organised by The Bentham Line and Dales &amp; Bowland CIC, the service runs between Bentham and Clitheroe, calling at Ingleton, Clapham, Gisburn Forest, Slaidburn, Newton and Waddington. The bus once again links with train services at both Bentham and Clitheroe, allowing visitors from West Bradford and Manchester to travel to Bowland on public transport. The bus also provides a route into Bowland from Lancaster at a time on Sundays when there is no train service available.</p>	The Bentham Line Dales & Bowland CIC United Utilities Forest of Bowland



## FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### National Association for AONBs update

#### Issue for consideration

This report provides an update on key areas of policy work being progressed by the National Association for AONBs to strengthen and raise the profile of AONB Partnerships at a national level particularly within Government.

#### 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan for the Future'

The NAAONB Chair, Philip Hygate welcomed the UK Government's long-awaited 25-year Environment Plan, launched in January 2018. The Plan sets out the Government's goals for improving the environment, within a generation, and leaving it in a better state than we found it. The Plan forms the culmination of over two years of work and consultation with environmental bodies, including close work with the NAAONB.

Chapter 2 of the Plan 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' states:

*"...the creation of designated landscapes – which also include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONBs) – has been among the outstanding environmental achievements of the past 100 years. They provide a patchwork of stunning, and protected, landscapes. In England, a quarter of our landscape is designated in this way, around 10% as National Parks and 15% as AONBs. We will make sure they continue to be conserved and enhanced, while recognising that they are living landscapes that support rural communities."*

Under Section 2 'Conserving and enhancing natural beauty' the Plan goes on to say:

*"Over the next 25 years we want to make sure they [National Parks & AONBs] are not only conserved but enhanced. Many of the policies set out in the rest of the Plan will contribute to making all areas more beautiful..."*

#### *Reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty:*

*The UK's first National Parks were created by an Act of Parliament in 1949 following the government's 1947 Hobhouse Report, which remains the basis for most protected landscape designation in England today. Now, 70 years on, the Government will commission a review for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This will consider coverage of designations, how designated areas deliver their responsibilities, how designated areas are financed, and whether there is scope for expansion. It will also consider opportunities to enhance the environment in existing designations, and expand on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks to connect more people with the natural environment.*

#### *Actions we will take include:*

- *Commissioning a 21<sup>st</sup> Century 'Hobhouse' Review of National Parks and AONBs.*
- *Working with National Park Authorities and AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to deliver environmental enhancement, including through demonstrator projects, and engaging with communities through their statutory management plans.*

The NAAONB are now in early discussions with the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs and Natural England about the proposed Review and will be feedback to AONB Partnerships and Conservation Board as it progresses.

### **'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming, and the environment in a Green Brexit'**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is also currently inviting views on the Government's proposals for future agricultural policy. They are looking for views on the policy ideas set out in the consultation paper on a new, post-Common Agricultural Policy domestic settlement for agriculture. This consultation is the first step towards a new agricultural policy outside of the EU with the intention of securing a *"bright future for farming and the environment."*

The Government is aiming for *"a more dynamic, more self-reliant agriculture industry"* and also *"a reformed agricultural and land management policy to deliver a better and richer environment in England."* They believe this can be achieved by incentivising methods of farming that create new habitats for wildlife, increase biodiversity, reduce flood risk, better mitigate climate change, and improve air quality by reducing agricultural emissions.

The Government is expecting to achieve this by ensuring that public money (particularly to support agriculture) is spent on public goods, such as biodiversity conservation of biodiversity (such as peatland restoration) and measures which sequester carbon from the atmosphere; protecting iconic aspects of the rural heritage; and reducing disease by better monitoring animal health and welfare.

The NAAONB has again been working closely with Defra in the development of these early proposals and in particular the nature of- and delivery mechanisms for future Environmental Land Management Schemes outside of the EU. The NAAONB has presented an offer to Defra focused on using our statutory Management Plans as the framework for identifying priorities upon which any future schemes should focus within our individual AONBs.

### **Environmental Land Management Schemes**

The main proposal of 'Health and Harmony' is a new agricultural policy that will be underpinned by payment of public money for the provision of public goods to include environmental enhancement and protection, better animal and plant health, animal welfare, improved public access, rural resilience, and productivity.

The Government believes this new environmental land management system will help it deliver its manifesto commitment to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than it inherited it and that farming is crucial to achieving the goals set out in the recently published 25 Year Environment Plan. The new environmental land management system will pay farmers and land managers for environmentally beneficial outcomes and ensure an effective application of the 'polluter pays' principle. It will be underpinned by natural capital principles (i.e. the benefits the natural environment provides for people and wildlife are properly valued) and these will be used to inform decisions on future land management.

The Government is proposing is consulting with others, including the NAAONB on the design of new and ambitious schemes and how to pilot them in preparation for the introduction of the system. The NAAONB is working closely with AONB Partnerships particularly interested in developing and delivering pilot new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

## **Decision to be taken**

The committee is asked to:

- i. note the NAAONB update report and offer comments
- ii. approve the AONB Principal Officer to continue liaising with- and assisting the NAAONB on this key policy work, in particular bidding for delivery pilots for the new Environmental Land Management schemes within AONBs





## FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership update

#### Issue for consideration

This report provides an update on progress in establishing the Pendle Hill Lancashire Partnership (PHLP) scheme, following the successful Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund approved in December 2017.

#### Permission to Start

Lancashire County Council, as host authority for the Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, signed off the 'permission to start' documentation required by the Heritage Lottery Fund in early February 2018 and the permission has now been granted by HLF.

#### PHLP Team Recruitment

Good progress has been made in recruiting the new Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership team. The following appointments have now been made:

- **LP Scheme Manager (full time)** – Cathy Hopley
- **Community Engagement Officer (full time)** – Jayne Ashe
- **Countryside Access Officer (part-time, 2.5 days/week)** – Sarah Dornan
- **Farming and Wildlife Officer (part-time, 2 days/week)** – Sarah Robinson

Cathy, Jayne and Sarah Dornan have already made a start and Sarah Robinson plans to start on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Interviews for the Business Support Officer position were held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

In addition, the Ernest Cook Trust have appointed Alison Cross to the position of Outdoor Learning Officer to work alongside the PHLP team for the duration of the programme. Alison is currently working in Staffordshire and is hoping to make a start in this new role in late May 2018.

#### PHLP Team Office-base

Initially, the PHLP team will be based in a Lancashire County Council office, off Pimlico Road, Clitheroe. This office space has been offered by the County Council at low cost and will house the team for at least 18 months. The AONB office lease at Root Hill Estate Yard in Dunsop Bridge comes to an end in September 2019, therefore future accommodation options for all AONB staff (including the PHLP team) will be investigated from late 2018.

#### Lead Delivery Partners

Grant agreements and all accompanying schedules are being drawn up by the Scheme Manager to allow lead delivery partners to begin their project work and crucially to claim HLF grant.

### Decision to be taken

The committee is asked to:

- i. note the update report on Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

