



# Complete Agenda

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LL55 1SH

## Meeting

### **LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## Date and Time

**4.30 pm, THURSDAY, 11TH JULY, 2019**

## Location

**Canolfan Fenter Congl Meinciau, Botwnnog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8RA**

## Contact Point

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# **LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Gwynedd Councillors**

**Anwen Davies  
Simon Glyn  
John Brynmor Hughes  
Aled Wyn Jones  
Gareth Williams**

### **Others**

**Aberdaron, Buan, Botwnnog, Clynnog, Llanbedrog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanengan, Nefyn, Pistyll and Tudweiliog Community Council nominees.**

### **Gwynedd Council's Countryside Champion**

### **Nominees of the following agencies/institutions:**

**National Trust,  
Natural Resources Wales,  
Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum,  
Cyfeillion Llŷn,  
National Farmers Union,  
Farmers Union of Wales,  
Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership,  
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales,  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust,  
Llŷn Fishermen's Association.**

# A G E N D A

## 1. CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2019/20.

## 2. VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-chair for 2019/20.

## 3. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

## 4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

## 5. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

## 6. MINUTES

4 - 8

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of this committee, held on 20 November 2019, be signed as a true record.

## 7. NORTH WALES DARK SKIES PROJECT

To receive a presentation by Dani Robertson.

## 8. LLŶN AONB SERVICE 2019 EVENTS PROGRAMME

9 - 10

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

## 9. PROJECTS IN THE LLŶN AONB

11 - 12

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

## 10. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

13 - 15

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

## 11. NATIONAL ISSUES

16 - 17

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Officer.

# Agenda Item 6

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20/11/18

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## LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20/11/18

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**Present:** Morgan Jones-Parry (Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum) (Chair)  
Councillor Gareth Williams (Gwynedd Council) (Vice-chair)

**Members:** Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), Brett Garner (Llŷn Fishermen's Association), Andy Godber (National Trust), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership), Jina Gwyrfa (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council), Sianelen Pleming (Pistyll Community Council), Alun Price (Natural Resources Wales), Glyn Roberts (Botwnnog Community Council), Councillor Angela Russell (Countryside Champion - Gwynedd Council) and Gruffydd Williams (Nefyn Town Council).

**Officers:** Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Service Manager), Wyn Williams (Countryside and Access Manager), Rhys Roberts (Coastal Path Project Officer - for item 5 on the agenda) and Bethan Adams (Member Support Officer).

**Apologies:** Councillors Anwen Davies, Simon Glyn, John Brynmor Hughes and Aled Wyn Jones (Gwynedd Council) along with Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

### 1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

### 2. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

### 3. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint Committee held on 17 July 2018 as a true record, subject to correcting paragraph 4 on page 5 of the agenda to read as follows:

"A member asked what was the total length of **underground** cables in the AONB. In response, the representative from SP Energy Networks noted that only a small portion of the whole network was **underground**. He added that they focused on the most practical areas for under-grounding electricity cables."

### 4. WALES COASTAL PATH

A presentation was given by the Coastal Path Project Officer. He elaborated on the Coastal Path project, noting that there were three elements to the project, namely maintenance, upgrading and development. After receiving funding from the Coastal Communities Fund, he noted that 18 circuits had been established along the Coast Path. He explained that there was funding for the project until at least 2021 and if any member had an observation or suggestion, they should e-mail [LlwybrArfordir@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:LlwybrArfordir@gwynedd.llyw.cymru).

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that the AONB Service had held many guided walks along the circuits. He highlighted that an information sheet about the circuits was available.

Members were given the opportunity to make observations and ask questions; members noted the following main points:

- Pleased that funding was available to maintain the Coastal Path;
- Was the grant funding available for the circuits as well?
- Was there more work to be done in the Bwlch Mawr area?
- The officer was congratulated on his work. O Ddrws i Ddrws played their part in terms of the Coastal Path's success with the Coastal Bus running during the summer. How much use was made of the Coastal Path?
- Was adding new sections of land to the Coastal Path difficult?
- Some parts of land in the Clynnog and Trefor area had not been included as part of the Coastal Path. There was an act in England enforcing that land became part of the Coastal Path but negotiations were held in Wales.

In response to the above observations, the officers noted:

- A grant of approximately £100,000 had been received from Welsh Government every year since 2015 to develop the Coastal Path and to cover staffing costs;
- Funding the circuits was the Council's responsibility;
- The minor work in Bwlch Mawr had mostly been completed and that most of the work involved signage;
- That counters had been buried in the land to count the number of people who used the path. The latest user figures could be sent to the Llŷn AONB Service Manager to be shared with members;
- Adding new sections of land to the Coastal Path was a contentious subject. Landowners who committed sections of land to the Coastal Path received compensation and their legal and land agent costs would be paid. Work to form the path would be undertaken and in some instances a fence would also be constructed to keep dogs out of the fields. On the whole, landowners co-operated;
- A discussion had been held between the Local Authority and Welsh Government before the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 was adopted, where it was noted that enforcement would facilitate the process of completing the Coastal Path. Welsh Government had not adopted this part of the act, as it had been done in England, with the approach of getting landowners to buy-in to the idea instead of enforcement;
- Negotiating with landowners could take time. Completing the paperwork was easy but an application for an order would have to be made if landowners refused. The order process took approximately a period of one year;
- There were 35 landowners and 7 tenants in the area from Pontllyfni to Trefor and it took considerable time to negotiate.

The Chair thanked the Coastal Path Project Officer for the presentation and congratulated him for the work.

## 5. UPDATE ON THE LLŶN AONB SERVICE'S PROJECTS

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager submitted the report of the Llŷn AONB Project Officer on the AONB Service's projects. It was explained that the Project Officer was not present at the meeting due to illness. An update was given on the following projects:

- Rural Skills Training

- Access Improvement
- Guided Walks.

He referred to the Sustainable Development Fund noting that among projects supported during 2018/19 were:

- Llŷn Coastal Bus
- Taith Tridiau Llŷn (Three Day Challenge)
- Llandegwnning Church
- Llŷn Maritime Museum
- Tafarn yr Heliwr (The Sportsman Public House)
- Old Photo Exhibition - Neuadd Sarn
- Restoration Plans - Neuadd Mynytho
- Pwllheli Food Festival.

In response to an observation by a member regarding rhododendron near the waterfall in Glyn Goch, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager explained that the land in question was in private ownership; work had been completed by the landowner but more work needed to be done.

**RESOLVED to accept the information.**

## **6. REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES**

The Llŷn AONB Service Manager submitted the report, which provided an update in terms of the review in relation to designated landscapes (National Parks and the AONB) in Wales.

He noted that Hannah Blythyn AM (Minister for Environment), had issued a statement in July 2018, titled "Valued and Resilient - the Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks".

As a follow-up to the statement, he explained that the Minister wrote to AONB Partnerships, Natural Resources Wales and the National Association for AONBs. In the letter, she asked the organisations to prepare a paper, on a joint basis, with proposals to have more equality between Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, focusing on status, profile and resources whilst emphasising that there was a need to be practical and realistic in terms of the proposals.

He noted that the organisations had met, held discussions and prepared a joint response. He elaborated on the 12 proposals that had been noted in the response to increase equality between the AONB and the Parks in terms of status, profile and resources.

He reported that a meeting with the Minister had been held a week prior to this meeting and that another meeting would possibly be held to have further discussions.

A member noted that numerous discussions had been held since the report of Professor Terry Marsden had been published and that it appeared that there was a lack of will to fund.

In response, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that he was not over-confident that there would be more financial resources. He added that cuts to the AONB Service

as part of the Gwynedd Challenge consultation had been halted in order to wait for the Marsden report. He thanked members for their support at the time.

In response to a question by a member in terms of the proposal to designate AONB Partnerships as a statutory consultant on planning matters, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager explained that AONB Services were not currently a statutory consultant and that a procedure through agreement was in place, with the Service submitting observations on planning applications. If the proposal would be implemented, he elaborated that it would be likely that the Joint Committee would consider some applications with others delegated to officers.

**RESOLVED to accept the information.**

## 7. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT PISTYLL

A report was submitted by the Llŷn AONB Service Manager which noted the background and planning history of the Plas Pistyll and Pistyll Farm site, Pistyll. It was noted that the item was on the meeting's agenda at the request of the Chair following the receipt of a request from a member.

A member noted that the matter would receive consideration at the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 13 December 2018. He highlighted his concern that the developments originally permitted on the site by the Planning Committee in 2012 had been changed by means of a number of planning permissions under officers' delegated rights, changing them to holiday home developments with substantial changes to the original plan. He explained that assessments in terms of the landscape and visual impact of the developments had been submitted by the applicant as part of the application in 2012 and that what had been approved by officers using their delegated rights disregarded what had been noted in the assessments. He noted that eco developments that were in keeping with the landscape had been approved by the Planning Committee. He noted that there was a duty to protect the AONB. He explained that he had made a request through the Planning Committee Chair to seek the opinion of a barrister on the matter as it was a complex matter.

During the subsequent discussion, the following main points were noted by members:

- Pistyll Community Council had made a request to the Council's Chief Executive to seek the opinion of a barrister on the matter. Acknowledgement of the request had been received but no response had been received as yet;
- A lack of consultation on the planning applications had perhaps led to the local member at the time failing to give attention to the planning applications;
- There was a duty on the Joint Committee to look into the matter and a report was required to ensure that lessons had been learnt and that such a situation would never happen again;
- Council members should challenge the officers, the planning applications should have been submitted for a decision by the Planning Committee. Frustration that the observations of the AONB Unit and Joint Committee members did not receive sufficient attention;
- It was important that the public knew the facts;
- Pistyll Community Council had supported the original application in 2012 but developments on the site had intensified without the Community Council being aware of the applications;
- The local member could refer a planning application to the Planning Committee for a decision but perhaps they did not have the capacity to do so;

- The usual procedure of placing a planning application advertisement near the application site was insufficient and that such problems arose as a result;
- The situation brought the AONB into disrepute and that action was required in order to prevent this from happening again.

A member enquired if it would be possible to use the Joint Committee or the AONB Service's resources to obtain the opinion of a barrister on the matter. In response, the Llŷn AONB Service Manager noted that the Joint Committee did not have resources and that the resources of the AONB Service had been earmarked in a work programme that had been agreed with Natural Resources Wales.

It was proposed and seconded to send a letter from the Chair on behalf of the Joint Committee to the Council's Chief Executive seeking a barrister's opinion on the matter. A discussion was held on the wording of the letter.

**RESOLVED that the Chair sends a letter to the Council's Chief Executive on behalf of the Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee:**

- (i) To declare disappointment in terms of the situation regarding developments at Plas Pistyll and Pistyll Farm.
- (ii) That the Joint Committee requests the Council to obtain legal opinion from an independent barrister, who is an expert in the field, on this specific case.

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and concluded at 6.05pm.

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CHAIR

# Agenda Item 8

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	11th July 2019
<b>TITLE</b>	Llŷn AONB Service 2019 Events Programme
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Update Members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Projects Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the Information

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarizes the AONB Service's events programme for the coming months.

## 2.0 RURAL SKILLS COURSES

- 2.1 A series of rural skills courses will be held again this year in co-operation with the National Trust and Glynllifon Agricultural College.
- 2.2 These courses are a follow-on from last year's programme where a "cloddiau" construction course was held on Porth Gwylan farm in Tudweilog and a dry stone walling course was held on the Eifl.
- 2.3 This project has been identified in the AONB Service's work programme as the cloddiau and dry stone walls are prominent features in the area's landscape. Registration on these courses is essential. We will soon send members an information leaflet as well as promoting in the local press.

## 3.0 GUIDED WALK

- 3.1 Our third and last guided walk will be held on September 29th. John Dilwyn Williams will lead a walk in the parish of Carnguwch.
- 3.2 This circular route from Llithfaen will give the opportunity to see the AONB service's project in this parish to improve access. We will visit many historic sites such as the ruins of Llech Engan and Carnguwch Church. Registration beforehand is essential.

## 4.0 LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

- 4.1 In co-operation with the committee of Sarn Memorial Hall, the AONB Service will jointly arrange an exhibition to be held during the August Bank Holiday. Old photos of the area will be shown as well as old agricultural relics.
- 4.2 There will also be a special exhibition on the old Mills of Llŷn. Glyn Roberts has researched this subject and his findings will be on display as well as a lecture.

- 4.3 There is a warm welcome to all – with free entry. There is also an opportunity to volunteer – please contact the AONB Service for more information.

## **5.0 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

- 5.1 Our Photography Competition is open until October 25th. The theme this year is “Enjoying the AONB”.
- 5.2 We have worked with local businesses to ensure great prizes – such as Glampio Coed Rhosirwaun, Oriel Tonnau Pwllheli and Cwt Tatws.

## **6.0 INFORMATION SESSIONS ON INVASIVE SPECIES**

- 6.1 A session will be held over the summer in Trefor to raise awareness about various invasive plants in the AONB. The session’s aim will be to recognise various plants, how they affect their surrounding environment and which ways are most effective to control them.
- 6.2 The beach area in Trefor has been identified as a location where Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam have established and are spreading – therefore a session will be held in the Ganolfan with a site visit to the beach to finish.
- 6.3 Working with us on this project will be the Snowdonia National Park Authority and COFNOD (the Local Environmental Records Centre for North Wales).
- 6.4 As a Service, we would be very grateful if you could share this information – especially if you represent a Community Council – and assist us to advertise, as there are many areas in Llŷn where these plants are present and difficult to control.

## **7.0 DARK SKIES EVENT**

- 7.1 In co-operation with Project Nos, the AONB Service will be part of an event at Nant Gwrtheyrn on October 29th to raise awareness about the dark skies in Llŷn.
- 7.2 There will be more detailed information in the press shortly. Once again, volunteers are welcome to help with this event. You can contact the AONB Service for more information.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The members are asked to accept the above information and share where possible.

# Agenda Item 9

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	11th July 2019
<b>TITLE</b>	Projects in the Llŷn AONB
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Update Members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Projects Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the Information

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report gives a summary of the AONB's recent projects.

## 2.0 MARINE LITTER PROJECT

- 2.1 In order to manage some of the marine litter in the area and encourage more recycling, the Service has identified various locations to place new recycling bins.
- 2.2 These bins include sections to recycle different materials as well as place rubbish. We are working with the Council's Municipal Department and National Trust to ensure the success of this project. .

## 3.0 LLŶN MILLS PROJECT

- 3.1 Over the past few months, Glyn Roberts from Bryncroes has been researching into the old industrial buildings in Llŷn. This research links with policies in the AONB's Management Plan ('Historic Environment') and the need to identify, record and assess the area's historic resources, protect and maintain them and raise awareness.
- 3.2 Glyn joined the AONB Service's stall at the Nefyn Show back in May in order to exhibit his findings. Also, his work will be on display at an Exhibition during the August Bank Holiday at Neuadd Sarn.

## 4.0 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

- 4.1 The work continues in the area to treat various invasive species. We have been working again this year with Natural Resources Wales to treat Giant Hogweed at Afon Soch. We also aim to treat Japanese Knotweed on the coast at Trefor as well as prepare an information leaflet.

## 5.0 ACCESS PROJECTS/ IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1 The Service has been recently successful in ensuring additional funding by Welsh Government for various projects in Llŷn. This funding came rather unexpectedly following an opportunity to apply and a discussion with officers. This funding is towards:
- Improvements to footpaths in the Cilan area

- Improvements to the open access area above Gyrn Goch
- New signs and gates and improvements to footpaths at Eglwys Carnguwch, Llwyndyrus
- Restore a dry stone wall that runs along the road between the village of Llithfaen and Tai Cae'r Nant.

## **6.0 LLWYBR Y MORWYR**

- 6.1 This project includes improving and opening sections of a historic 10 mile path between Nefyn and Llanbedrog – creating a signposted path between the north and south of the Peninsula. An update will be given at the meeting.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The members are asked to accept this information and share wherever possible.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint – Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	11th July 2019
<b>TITLE</b>	Update on the Sustainable Development Fund
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Update the Members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Project Officer
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Accept the Information

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides information to the members about the Sustainable Development Fund – the Fund allocated to each Welsh AONB by Welsh Government to support sustainable projects.

## 2.0 UPDATE ON 2018/19 EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 Of the **£55,000** in the Fund at the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year, there was full expenditure. A full claim was made to Welsh Government on March 21st 2019.
- 2.2 Here is a summary of the successful projects:

Reference	Project Name	Sum
CDC 17.3	Taith Tridau Llŷn (Llŷn Three Day Challenge)	£1,250
CDC 18.1	Bws Arfordir Llŷn (Llŷn Coastal Bus)	£22,083
CDC 18.5	Llandegwning Church	£2,000
CDC 18.6	Nefyn Maritime Museum	£2,800
CDC 18.7	Hendragarreg	£1,580
CDC 18.8	Tafarn yr Heliwr (Sportsman, Nefyn)	£2,890
CDC 18.9	Clynnog Cemetery Wall	£2,000
CDC 18.10	R S Thomas Festival	£645
CDC 18.11	Local History Lectures	£610
CDC 18.12	Sarn Memorial Hall Exhibition	£660
CDC 18.13	Morfa Nefyn Wildflower Meadow	£2,000
CDC 18.14	The Gardens at Plas Carmel	£1,810
CDC 18.15	Mynytho Village Hall Regeneration Scheme	£1,240
CDC 18.16	Dark Skies - North Wales Designated Landscapes	£3,000
CDC 18.17	Gŵyl Fwyd Pwllheli (Pwllheli Food Festival)	£3,000
CDC 18.19	Prynhawn Difyr	£1,600
CDC 18.20	Beach Clean at Porth Neigwl	£825.76
	Llŷn AONB Admin Costs	£5,006.24
		<b>£55,000</b>

### **3.0 UPDATE ON 2019/20 EXPENDITURE**

- 3.1 Of the £55,000 in the Fund at the beginning of the 2019/20 financial year – all has been allocated. This expenditure includes projects supported through delegated means, projects that continue from 2018/19, an application (CDC 19.1) supported at the Grants Panel meeting on December 18th 2018 and applications supported at the Grants Panel meeting on April 10th this year. Here is a summary:-

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sum</b>
CDC 18.6	Llŷn Maritime Museum	£2,800
CDC 18.16	Designated Landscapes Dark Skies	£3,000
CDC 18.17	Pwllheli Food Festival	£3,000
CDC 19.1	Plas Carmel Shop	£11,981
CDC 19.2	Taith Tridiau Llŷn Three Day Challenge	£1,500
CDC 19.3	Hafod Ceiri, Llithfaen	£5,300
CDC 19.4	Clynnog Fawr Church – Cemetery Walls	£4,319
CDC 19.5	RS Thomas Festival, Aberdaron	£990
CDC 19.6	Keep Wales Tidy – Wells Project	£4,000
CDC 19.11	Capel Ceidio	£4,000
CDC 19.12	Tafarn yr Heliwr	£8,610
	Llŷn AONB Admin Costs	£5,500
		<b>£55,000</b>

### **4.0 NATIONAL UPDATE**

- 4.1 There is no confirmation as of yet that the Fund will continue beyond 2019/2020.
- 4.2 Thom Hadfield and Geraint Evans from Welsh Government visited the area during May and we had the opportunity to showcase successful projects and which projects will be happening with the Fund's support.
- 4.3 We visited Hafod Ceiri, Llŷn Maritime Museum, O Ddrws i Ddrws, Tafarn yr Heliwr and Plas Carmel and representatives from those projects were present to show us around.
- 4.4 The visit was an important event in the AONB Service's calendar – as we were able to convey a strong message that this Fund does truly make a difference to communities in Llŷn.

### **5.0 RECOMENDATION**

- 5.1 The members are asked to accept the above information.

# Agenda Item 11

<b>MEETING</b>	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>DATE</b>	July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2019
<b>TITLE</b>	National issues.
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Inform members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Llŷn AONB Officer
<b>ACTION</b>	None

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides further information regarding the national situation in relation to the Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## 2.0 THE MINISTER

- 2.1 In November 2017 Hannah Blythyn AS was appointed as Minister for the Environment and was given the responsibility for Wales' Designated Areas. Although there have been some governmental changes since then Hannah Blythyn is still responsible for the National Parks and AONBs.

## 3.0 VALUED AND RESILIENT

- 3.1 In July 2018, the Minister announced a statement titled "**Valued and Resilient – The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks**". A copy of the full statement can be found on the Welsh Government's website.

- 3.2 It is noted that the aim of the statement is to bring the review process to an end and set the Welsh Government's priorities for the AONBs and National Parks. The statement declares **four goals** for the designated landscapes namely:

- That they are **Valued Places**
- That they contain **Resilient Environments**
- That they support **Resilient Communities**
- That the AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities adopt **Resilient Ways of Working**.

- 3.3 Also, 10 priority themes were set. The requirements and expectations of the Designated Landscapes in the declaration are broad, varied and significant. They are expected to be implemented on many different levels for the benefit of these areas and beyond. Also, the declaration mentions establishing a performance review system and a performance management arrangement to measure the effect of the designation and efficiency in terms of the administration.

3.4 There is clearly a great difference between the AONB Partnerships and the Park Authorities and therefore the abilities of these organisations to realise these requirements. There is a brief reference to this in the document and it is noted that there are differences in terms of **status, profile and resources**.

#### **4.0 PARITY WITH THE NATIONAL PARKS**

4.1 As reported in the previous meeting the AONB Partnerships, Natural Resources Wales and the National Association for AONBs worked together to prepare a paper with proposals in terms of gaining more equality between the AONBs and National Parks. The response presents 12 proposals that would increase equality between the AONBs and Parks in terms of **status, profile and resources**.

4.2 Following on from this a meeting with the Minister and a Welsh Government officer was held in Cardiff in November 2018.

#### **5.0 WELSH GOVERNMENT OFFICERS**

5.1 Towards the end of 2018 there were changes in Welsh Government staff dealing with matters associated with National Parks and AONBs (Dept of Land, Nature and Forestry). By now there is a new team of staff in place.

5.2 A meeting with the new staff team was held in May 2019 where introductions were made and the proposals which had been submitted were discussed.

5.3 As an initial step Welsh Government has prepared and circulated a paper associated with setting up a Wales National Landscapes Partnership. The aim of this institution would be to improve partnership working, exchange information and best practice and create links with other sectors.

#### **6.0 WALES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - NAAONB**

6.1 Another development on the national level is the appointment of a Wales Development Manager by the National Association of AONBs (which operates in Wales, England and Northern Ireland). The purpose of the post is to support AONB Partnerships in implementing the priorities set out in Valued and Resilient.

6.2 The person appointed to this 2 year role is Ian Rappel who previously worked for the Gwent Wildlife Trust.

#### **7.0 RECOMENDATION**

**7.1 To accept the information.**