



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
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CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.30 pm, WEDNESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2019

Location

Canolfan Fenter Congl Meinciau, Botwnnog

Contact Point

Annes Sion

01286 679490

AnnesSion@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED Tuesday, 26 November 2019)

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. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2019/20.

2. ELECTION OF 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 11 July 2019, be signed as a true record.

7. NATIONAL MATTERS

9 - 11

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Officer.

8. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

12 - 13

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Officer.

9. PROJECTS IN THE LLŷN AONB

14 - 16

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

10. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

17

To consider the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer.

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 11/7/19

Present:

Morgan Jones-Parry (Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum) (Chair)

Members: Councillors Anwen Davies, John Brynmor Hughes and Aled Wyn Jones (Gwynedd Council) and also Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership), Jina Gwyrfaï (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Siân Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council), Glyn Roberts (Botwnnog Community Council) and Gruffydd Williams (Nefyn Town Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Service Officer), Elin Wyn Hughes (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer), Wyn Williams (Countryside Manager) and Bethan Adams (Member Support Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Gareth Williams and Angela Russell (Gwynedd Council Rural Champion) together with Eirian Allport (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), Alun Price (Natural Resources Wales) and Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

1. CHAIR

A request was made for nominations for a Chair for the year 2019-20. Members noted their wish to defer electing a Chair, until the next meeting, as the Vice-chair was not present.

RESOLVED to elect Morgan Jones-Parry as Chairman for this meeting.

2. VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to defer the item until the next meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

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

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

5. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint Committee, that took place on 20 November 2018, as a true record.

A member asked in the context of the Joint Committee's decision at the previous meeting, to send a letter to the Chief Executive requesting that the Council obtains legal opinion from an independent barrister, who was an expert in the field, on the developments at Plas Pistyll and Fferm Pistyll. In response, the Member Support Officer noted that a response had been received from the Council's Legal Service stating that nothing had become evident thus far that would need such support.

6. NORTH WALES DARK SKIES PROJECT

It was explained that in north Wales the three AONBs and the National Park were working jointly on a Dark Skies Project and a project officer had been appointed to lead the work.

The Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that a message had been received from Dani Robertson, who was to give a presentation on the project, that unfortunately she was in a traffic jam as a result of an accident on Britannia Bridge.

7. LLŶN AONB SERVICE EVENTS PROGRAMME

The Llŷn AONB Projects Officer submitted a report on the AONB Service events programme. Further details were given on the following events and members were encouraged to share the information:

- Rural Skills Training
- Guided Walks
- Local History Exhibition
- Photography Competition
- Session Raising Awareness about Non-native Invasive Plants
- Dark Sky Day

A member noted, in the context of the Session Raising Awareness about Non-native Invasive Plants, that Himalayan Balsam was spreading in habitats from Pistyll to Garn Boduan. It was added that Anglesey Council's AONB Service had got to grips with the problem on Anglesey. In response, the Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that he would contact the AONB Officer at Anglesey Council to get further information.

In response to an enquiry from a member, the Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that Natural Resources Wales recognised the problem regarding invasive plants. It was explained that the AONB Service was working with Natural Resources Wales to dispose of Giant Hogweed in afon Soch.

A member enquired if the weed killer 'Roundup' would be used to treat invasive plants, noting his concern regarding its use. In response, the Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that matters had been discussed in the news regarding the impact of using weed killers on health. An assurance was given that only limited use would be made of weed killer in a specific area by experienced contractors.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

8. PROJECTS IN LLŶN AONB

The Llŷn AONB Projects Officer submitted her report on the work of the AONB Service. An update was given on the following projects:

- Marine Refuse
- Llŷn Windmills
- Non-native Invasive Plants
- Access Improvement
- Improving the Environment
- Llwybr y Morwyr (Seamans path)

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

- That Llanengan Litter Pickers went around the area's beaches to collect refuse. The work made a difference and looked after the area;
- Following storms micro plastics had appeared on beaches;
- In which locations would the work of disposing the Giant Hogweed in afon Soch be undertaken?
- In terms of restoration of a stone wall on the road from the village of Llithfaen towards Cae'r Nant housing, would it be possible to make improvements to the road?
- That it was difficult to gain access up to Gyrn Goch;
- That someone looked after the zig-zag steps from Tyddyn Hywel Quarry. Can the steps be promoted?
- That Llwybr y Morwyr path between Nefyn and Llanbedrog/Abersoch was especially good. There was a need for more signs and some sections required attention, including:
 - the path from Madryn to the old dump, with unruly bracken growing;
 - each side of the boardwalk between Cors Ceirch and Tyncoed, the Council had completed the work on the path however it needed to be re-done as cattle had damaged it;
 - the path from Bryncynan;
 - the boardwalks at Y Fach at Abersoch.
- The remainder of the funding for the Llwybr y Morwyr path would be spent on diverting the path near Plas Glyn y Weddw. There was funding left as it was not possible to complete the tarmac work on the cliffs to the Cliffs Hotel, as it was an area of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- That Llwybr y Morwyr path was excellent and was important in terms of linking the paths;
- That attention needed to be given to the path near Foel Fawr, Llamwyr Llŷn, running club often ran on this path;
- What was the latest regarding the proposed path from Pwllheli to Garnguwch?
- The landowner of one field from the road in Madryn was willing to create a public footpath if the Council would erect a fence around the field. Would it be possible to carry on with discussions with the landowner?

In response to the above observations, the officers noted that:

- The Llanengan Litter Pickers were undertaking commendable work and they had received a financial contribution from the Sustainable Development Fund to buy equipment;
- There was an arrangement between Llanengan Litter Pickers and the Maritime Service for collecting refuse bags following their clean-up campaigns. Such campaigns were welcomed and others are encouraged to ensure that such an arrangement is in place;
- Work on disposing Giant Hogweed will be undertaken at Saithbont and Llandegwnig. The work would continue this year as well as next year;
- It was hoped that a passing area could be created when undertaking the work to restore the stone wall near the road from the village of Llithfaen towards Cae'r Nant housing. Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd were responsible for the project and it was hoped that the work would be undertaken during September and October;
- That the Coastal Path Project Officer was working with Rhodwyr Llŷn regarding access down to Gyrn Goch;
- The zig-zag steps were a path for workers to Tyddyn Hywel Quarry, the need to promote this was noted;

- That additional work in the context of Llwybr y Morwyr path had been identified and the work will be undertaken in the next few months. Following this the Path would be marketed by the Council;
- That the Senior Rights of Way Officer (Dwyfor) had been to look at the site near Foel Fawr;
- Priority would be given to completing the work on Llwybr y Morwyr path before moving on to act regarding the proposal to create a path from Pwllheli to Llithfaen;
- It was proposed to proceed with the public footpath in the Madryn area.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

9. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Submitted - the report of the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer detailing the position of the Sustainable Development Fund. It was noted that £55,000 was the sum in the Fund at the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year and all funds had been distributed.

It was noted that £55,000 was the sum in the Fund at the beginning of the current financial year and all of this had already been earmarked. Attention was drawn to a summary of the projects that had received a contribution from the Fund.

It was reported that no confirmation had been received about the continuation of the Fund beyond 2019/20.

It was noted that Thom Hadfield and Geraint Evans from Welsh Government had visited the AONB Service in May, they had also visited Hafod Ceiri, Llŷn Maritime Museum, O Ddrws i Ddrws, Tafarn yr Heliwr and Plas Carmel. It was emphasised that the visit was an important event for the AONB Service and gave an opportunity to convey a strong message that the Fund really did make a difference to Llŷn communities.

A member noted his congratulations on the successful visit and that there were several successful projects to be shown.

A member enquired whether it would be possible to get a badge to be exhibited to recognise the Fund's contribution towards projects in Nefyn. In response, the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer stated that she had undertaken research regarding the best way to show the Fund's contribution, and it was likely that stickers would be produced. She noted that she would send some to the member.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

10. NATIONAL ISSUES

The Llŷn AONB Service Officer submitted the report, which included further information about the national situation in relation to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales.

He noted that further to the update given at the previous meeting on 20 November 2018, at the end of 2018 there had been a major change in terms of Welsh Government officers who worked on AONB and Park issues (Land, Nature and Forestry Division). It was added that a new team of officers were in place and a meeting took place in May 2019 to introduce everyone and have a discussion on the proposals submitted by the AONB Partnerships, Natural Resources Wales and the National Association. It was noted that the meeting was an initial but constructive meeting.

It was explained that as an initial step, Welsh Government had prepared and circulated a paper with proposals to establish a National Welsh Landscape Partnership. He added that the aim of this establishment would be to improve collaboration, sharing information and good practice and create links between the landscapes and other sectors.

It was highlighted that the Association of AONBs (that operated in Wales, England and Northern Ireland) had appointed a Wales Development Manager. It was noted that the purpose of the post was to assist AONB Partnerships to implement the Welsh Government's Valued and Resilient priorities. It was noted that Ian Rappel, who used to work for the Gwent Wildlife Trust, had been appointed to this post (for a period of two years).

A member noted that if the same status was given to the AONB as the National Parks, then it had to be ensured that there were financial resources to deliver this.

In response to an enquiry from a member, the Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that the AONB Management Plan had been adopted and he would check the version on the website. In response to a further question, it was noted that a paper copy of the document could be placed in the Libraries at Nefyn and Pwllheli, as well as Siop Gwynedd at the Council Offices in Pwllheli.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

The meeting commenced at 4.35pm and concluded at 5.30pm.

CHAIR

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	December 4 th 2019
TITLE	National AONB matters.
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Officer
ACTION	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.
- 1.2 The Minister with responsibility for the AONBs and National Parks in Wales is Hannah Blythyn AM (Labour, Delyn area).

2.0 VALUED AND RESILIENT

- 2.1 In July 2018, the document titled “**Valued and Resilient – The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks**” was published.
- 2.2 The document includes **four goals** in regard to 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**.
- 2.3 Also, 10 priority themes were set. The expectations for the Designated Landscapes in the declaration are broad, varied and significant. Also, the declaration mentions establishing a performance review system and a management arrangement to measure the effect of the designation and efficiency in terms of the administration.
- 2.4 Valued and Resilient draws attention to the marked differences between AONBs and National Parks with regard to **status, profile and resources**.

3.0 PARITY WITH THE NATIONAL PARKS

- 3.1 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**.

3.2 The proposals have been discussed at a meeting with the Minister at the end of 2018 and with Welsh Government officers (Land, Nature and Forestry Dept) in May 2019. A further meeting to discuss the proposals will be held in December 2019.

4.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 As an initial step Welsh Government has consulted on 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. An update on this matter is expected soon.

4.2 Also, the National Association of AONBs (which operates in Wales, England and Northern Ireland) has received grant funding from Welsh Government to fund a **Wales Development Manager**. The purpose of the post is to support AONB Partnerships in implementing the priorities set out in Valued and Resilient.

4.3 In recent years AONB Units have had the opportunity to submit proposals to Welsh Government for resources to fund projects. In the past only the National Parks used to get this opportunity. Information regarding some projects that have been funded by this source has been included in the report on projects.

5.0 REVIEW OF DESIGNATED AREAS IN ENGLAND

5.1 During the past 2 years a review of designated areas in England (10 National Parks and 34 AONBs) has been undertaken under the leadership of Julian Glover. A panel of 5 individuals with relevant experience and knowledge also assisted with the review.

5.2 A process similar to that undertaken in Wales was followed which included research, analysis and consultation. The final report was published in October 2019.

5.3 The main finding of the review was that Designated Areas had the potential to do a lot more by working together as a family under a new “National Landscapes” body. Also a total of 27 specific proposals are included in the report under the following headings:

- Landscapes for nature and beauty
- Landscapes for all
- Living landscapes
- More special places
- New ways of working

5.4 A full copy of the final report and summary (generally known as the “Glover Review”) on the UK Governmental website :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

5.5 The hope is that this Review will create a new momentum to move things forward in Wales.

6.0 RECOMENDATION

6.1 To accept the information.

Agenda Item 8

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	December 4 th 2019
TITLE	AONB Management Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Preparing and publishing a Management Plan is one of Gwynedd Council's main responsibilities in relation to the AONB as a consequence of the CRow Act 2000.
- 1.2 It is stipulated in the Act that relevant Authorities need to review the Management Plans every 5 years after the initial adoption. The existing Llŷn AONB Management Plan period is 2015-20 therefore the Plan needs to be reviewed soon.
- 1.3 The Joint Advisory Committee has an important role to play in the Plan review process.

2.0 GUIDELINES

- 2.1 Some years ago the former Countryside Council for Wales published guidelines for Local Authorities on the preparation and review of Management Plans. Natural Resources Wales was scheduled to update the guidance this has not been done as yet.
- 2.2 As well as reviewing the actual Plan itself there will be a need to update the associated environmental reports, ie:
 - **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**
 - **Habitats Regulations Assessments (European Sites)**
- 2.3 It is also expected that Area Statements will be published by NRW in the Spring of 2020. These will form an important context for the Management Plan review.

3.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 To date general discussions have been held between the 3 northern AONBs, the Snowdonia National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Issues discussed included methods of consulting, good practice, working in partnership to gather information, Area Statements etc.

4.0 TIMETABLE

4.1 As it is still early days it's difficult to present a detailed timetable for the review process. The aim is to get a draft revised Management Plan in place by the end of 2020 by following the steps noted below:

- Winter 2019/20 – Collate up to date information and review success of current Plan.
- Spring/ Summer 2020 – Revise and re-draft the Plan taking into account most recent information, the merits of the existing Plan, Area Statements and current Acts, Regulations and Policies.
- Autumn 2020 – Present a revised draft Management Plan to the JAC for comments and suggestions
- November 2020 – Publish a revised draft Plan for public consultation.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Accept the above timetable as a basis for reviewing the Llŷn AONB Management Plan.

Agenda Item 9

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	4 December 2019
TITLE	Update on AONB Projects
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	Elin Wyn Hughes – Llŷn AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This reports provides information to JAC members on projects that have recently been carried out by the AONB Unit, Countryside Service.

2.0 RURAL SKILLS TRAINING

- 2.1 In partnership with Coleg Meirion Dwyfor, Glynllifon a dry stone walling course was held at Llithfaen on the 28th of September. Five individuals took part, repairing a section of the “Wal Fawr” near the Eifl under the guidance of experienced waller John Till. Unfortunately a second course to be held on the 5th of October had to be cancelled due to low numbers and poor weather.
- 2.2 On October the 12th and 19th – “cloddiau” skills training days were held at Porth Gwylan, Tudweiliog with local craftsman Dilwyn Williams. The National Trust, which is the owner of Porth Gwylan, was an intergral partner. A total of 8 people took part including young people supported by Gwynedd Youth Service.

3.0 MARINE LITTER

- 3.1 This project aims to tackle the problem of marine litter by beach cleaning and also stopping litter, especially plastics, from entering the sea. The beach cleaning will be arranged in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy and local volunteers.
- 3.2 An experimental element of the project will be the installation of a public water tap/ fountain to be located by the public toilets at Abersoch. The local Member has been very supportive of this project. The hope is that the fountain will help to decrease the number of plastic bottles used and discarded in the village. The fountain is being manufactured by a local compay and will be in place soon.

4.0 INVASIVE SPECIES

- 4.1 This year resources from the invasive species project was used to tackle Japanese Knotweed on sites at the beach in Trefor and Bryn Mynach, Nefyn. The work, which was arranged through Gwynedd Consultancy, was carried out towards the end of summer – which is the best time to spray the plant for maximum effect. We we will monitor the sites and carry out further work if needed.

5.0 UNDERGROUNDING ELECTRICITY LINES

- 5.1 This initiative, which is undertaken by Scottish Power in association with the AONB Unit, has been running for a few years now. It is financed through an allowance which is available to Scottish Power through OFGEM (the electricity regulating body). Unfortunately there is no similar scheme in place for telecommunication companies such as BT.
- 5.2 Some undergrounding schemes have been implemented in the AONB to date and others are scheduled for 2020 at Sarn Bach, Aberdaron and Foel Gron, Mynytho. If members of the JAC have any suggestions as regards power lines that could be considered for undergrounding we would be glad to hear from you.

6.0 SUSTAINING ASSETS – VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 We have set up an arrangement with Keep Wales Tidy to carry out work to sustain local assets and provide volunteering opportunities. During the next few months we will be identifying suitable sites and raising awareness of volunteering opportunities. We are keen to see environmental and visual improvements in the AONB – in addition to providing skills and experience to a pool of volunteers which can assist with our future work.

7.0 AONB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

- 7.1 An AONB photography competition was held this year – the closing date for entries was October 25th. More information on the competition and winners will be given at the meeting.

8.0 CAPITAL PROJECTS – WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING

- 8.1 **Carnguwch Church** – This project included repairing traditional gates and installing directional signs for the Church at Llwyndyrys. The Church, which is dedicated to Saint Beuno, dates back to the 7th Century and makes an important contribution to the AONB's historic Environment. The work also included cutting overgrowth and tree branches which were overhanging the church structure.
- 8.2 **Cae'r Nant boundary wall re-build** – this project relates to the stone wall which formed the roadside boundary near Cae'r Nant, Llithfaen (the road leading up to Nant Gwrtheyrn). The wall was in poor condition with stones falling onto the road and there was no passing place. In cooperation with the landowner, Canolfan Nant Gwrtheyrn and the Community Council Gwynedd Consultancy were commissioned to lead a project to demolish and re-build the wall. The work has vastly improved the visual appearance of the area and provided better access to Nant Gwrtheyrn and the Eifl area.

8.3 **Rights of way improvements at Cilan** – The Rights of Way Unit led on this project to undertake improvements on paths number 10, 12 and 29 in the Llanengan community. The work included placing “sleepers” over wet areas of path, building steps to improve access and replacing styles with gates.

8.4 **Improve access to Access Land at Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Ddu, Gyrn Goch.** This work is being undertaken in partnership with the local volunteer group. To date the main paths have been surveyed and a work programme drawn up which includes installing styles over stone walls, scrub clearance and fitting new gates.

9.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 That members accept the information.

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	4 December 2019
TITLE	Update on the Sustainable Development Fund
PURPOSE	Update Members
AUTHOR	Elin Wyn Hughes – Llŷn AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides information to members of the Joint-Advisory Committee about the Sustainable Development Fund.

2.0 UPDATE ON THE 2019/20 EXPENDITURE

2.1 Of the **£55,000** available in the Fund at the start of the 2019/20 financial year – all has been earmarked. Below is a summary:-

Reference	Project Name	Sum
CDC 18.6	Llŷn Maritime Museum	£2,800
CDC 18.16	North Wales Designated Landscapes Dark Skies	£3,000
CDC 18.17	Gwyl Fwyd Pwllheli – Food Festival	£3,000
CDC 19.1	Old Shop at Plas Carmel	£11,981
CDC 19.2	Taith Tridiau Llŷn Three Day Challenge	£1,500
CDC 19.3	Hafod Ceiri	£5,300
CDC 19.4	Clynnog Fawr Cemetery Wall	£4,319
CDC 19.5	R S Thomas Festival	£990
CDC 19.6	Historic Wells – Keep Wales Tidy	£0
CDC 19.10	Bryncroes Local History Lectures	£610
CDC 19.11	Capel Ceidio	£4,000
CDC 19.12	Tafarn yr Heliwr, Nefyn	£8,610
CDC 19.14	New Signs for Bro Madryn Churches	£500
CDC 19.16	Parêd Dewi Sant, Pwllheli	£2,080
CDC 19.17	Be Nawn Ni Heddiw?	£1,000
	Admin Costs – Llŷn AONB Service	£5,309.30
	TOTAL:	£55,000

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That members are asked to accept the information.