



Complete Agenda

DemocracyService
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.00 pm, WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 2021

Location

Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

Annes Sion
01286 679490

(DISTRIBUTED Tuesday, 18 May 2021)

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.

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2021/22.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair for 2021/22.

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

5 - 13

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of this committee, held on 18 November 2020 and the Urgent Meeting on 23 March 2021, be signed as a true record.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

14 - 15

Bleddyn Prys Jones to provide information on national issues relevant to the AONBs in Wales.

8. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

16 - 23

Elin Hughes to provide the members with an update on the Sustainable Development Fund, the Welsh Government fund for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

9. DINAS DINLLE HILLFORT

24

Elin Hughes to provide information on the Dinas Dinlle Hillfort project.

10. LISTED AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

25 - 28

Discussion on the Development Policy 7 – Listed and Traditional Buildings – contained in the Eryri Local Development Plan.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

29 - 30

Discussion on the method of making comments on planning application for

developments within the AONB.

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

Present: Councillor Gareth Williams (Gwynedd Council) (Chairman)

Members: Councillors Anwen Davies, Aled Wyn Jones, Angela Russell, John Brynmor Hughes (Gwynedd Council) and Molly Lovatt (Natural Resources Wales), Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), Jina Gwyrffai (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), Morgan Jones-Parry (Dwyfor and Arfon Access Forum), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership) and Andrew Davidson (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Wenda Williams (Aberdaron Community Council) and Gruffydd Williams (Nefyn Town Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (LLŷn AONB Officer), Elin Wyn Hughes (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer), Annes Siôn (Democratic Team Leader) and Natalie Lloyd Jones (Democratic Services Officer).

Others present:

Dani Robertson (Dark Sky Officer, Dark Skies Partnership) for Item 10.

1. CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Gareth Williams as Chair of this Joint Committee for the year 2020/21.

2. VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor T. Victor Jones as Vice-chair of this Joint Committee for the year 2020/21.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:

Eirian Allport (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn), Siân Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council) and Brett Garner (Llŷn Anglers Association).

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

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

5. URGENT ITEMS

An urgent matter was raised for the Joint Committee to discuss, namely the impact of the local housing crisis on AONB areas. A member noted that they had not been able to make contact in good time to include this on the agenda, but there was a need for the Joint Committee to consider the housing crisis in the area. The member noted there was a need for planning applications within AONB areas to be submitted before the Joint Committee.

Another member noted that the planning office needed to be more sensitive to the needs of the AONB areas.

In response, the Llŷn AONB Officer noted that the planning department consulted with the AONB office on applications and with Natural Resources Wales. However, it was agreed that the Llŷn AONB Officer would send a letter to the planning department reporting on the concerns raised.

6. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint Committee as a true record.

7. CORONAVIRUS

Submitted - the report of the Llŷn AONB Officer on the latest period and the impact on the AONB areas. The Joint Committee was reminded of the initial lockdown period and concerns in the local area about visitors. There was mention of the increase in house sales within the area and how this had raised concerns locally, which was already discussed.

As a result of the situation, the Llŷn AONB Officer noted that events and training had ended for the time being to coincide with national restrictions. He expanded that the Llŷn AONB website had been updated and made easier to use - including mobile phones.

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

- Overall, it was agreed that it was a difficult time but there was concern regarding the signs that had been used against residents or visitors.
- Concerns were noted regarding signs that had been against tourists who had come to the area during lockdown emphasising the importance of these people to the local economy.
- Observations were made on the housing crisis including a recognition that it was the members' duty to act as it was the Joint Committee's responsibility to protect the area. Nefyn Council was thanked for taking the lead on the matter and members of the Joint Committee were encouraged to campaign more.
- Welcomed seeing the updated website, however it was suggested that some elements should be returned to the website including the management plan.
- A member said that the area's wildlife had been thriving during the lockdown period. It was noted there was a need to work with contractors who were responsible for cutting hedges so that they were not cut too early in the season to allow time for wild flowers to thrive.
- Local efforts to bring communities together were commended.

In response to some of the above observations, the Officers noted:

- The problem of increased house sales in AONB areas was happening nationally throughout Britain. Consequently, the matter was being raised on a higher level within Councils and Welsh Government. In terms of the AONB Joint Committee it was noted that there was certainly a possibility of drawing attention to the matter and providing a statement, however, the Joint Committee did not have any further powers.
- They would send the Joint Committee's observations to Welsh Government to highlight the community's feelings and that some ill-feeling had occurred when some individuals had broken the rules.

Submitted- a proposal to the Joint Committee which reflected the same proposal that had been tabled at the Full Council; propose that the Llŷn AONB Joint Committee should call on Welsh Government to change the Planning Act in order that it was compulsory to have planning permission to convert a dwelling-house into a holiday home / holiday unit, and adapted the policy framework to allow thresholds to be set regarding the maximum numbers of holiday homes in any area.

The proposal was passed with 10 members in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED to write to Welsh Government in relation to the proposal as noted above.

8. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Llŷn AONB Projects Officer submitted a report on the work that had taken place to administrate the fund including a summary of the expenditure for the 2019/20 financial year. She referred to the annual report which explained how the successful projects complied with the guidelines set out by Welsh Government.

It was noted that a significant amount of £100,000 had been earmarked for 2020/21 and there was now £6,000 left in the fund. It was added that the Officers were not aware of the amount that had been allocated for the next financial year.

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

- The officers were thanked for their work in securing grants for the fund
- An observation was made regarding flower planting and it was asked whether it was possible for the AONB officers to arrange a similar initiative themselves in order to save the time of community groups in applying for funding.

In response, the Llŷn AONB Projects Officer stated that the purpose of this type of fund was to promote and encourage community spirit. In asking for applications from community groups, it gave residents an opportunity to convene and collaborate in the interests of their communities.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

9. LLŶN AONB UNIT PROJECTS

Submitted - the report of the Llŷn AONB Officer on the projects that had been approved by the Joint Committee. It was reiterated that it had not been possible to continue with every project as planned due to the lockdown period. It was noted that although it had not been possible to complete some aspects, it had been possible to implement several direct AONB projects including;

- Dealing with the Giant Hogweed
- Commissioning new recycling bins
- Assisting with the History Points QR project
- Facilitating reigniting the initiative to restore and maintain Capel Newydd, Nanhoron
- Dark Skies designation (more information in Item 10)

An overview was also provided of the projects that were being delivered with capital funding from Welsh Government. It was reiterated that there was a theme for the funding namely de-carbonisation and sustainable tourism and bids had been submitted under this theme.

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

- A member noted that there were other public conveniences in the area that needed investment and it was asked whether the AONB could consider this for the future.
- A question was asked regarding access to Capel Newydd and where the key would be kept for visitors.
- It was reported that people and tourists in the Abersoch area appreciated the new recycling bins.
- A question was raised regarding an environmental issue with the materials used for the project in Machroes as they were using concrete.
- A member made a comment on the plants that were being treated to keep control and to avoid any environmental damage.

In response, the Llŷn AONB Project Officer noted that the Capel Newydd building was being restored and there was currently no access to it, however the location of the key would be advertised when the chapel was ready to reopen. In relation to the materials used at Machroes, it was noted that there was concrete there already, and they would add to this for the repairs work.

RESOLVED to accept the information.

10. DARK SKY DESIGNATION

The Llŷn AONB Officer provided an update on the Unit's request to secure a Dark Sky designation for the Llŷn AONB area and other areas. He noted that he had mentioned securing this status for the local area in the past and by now it was possible to do it in collaboration with the Dark Sky Partnership. This was reiterated and it was noted that Snowdonia National Park had already obtained the International Dark Sky status and the Joint Committee's permission was requested to proceed with an application to designate the AONB a Dark Sky Park.

Dani Robertson, the Dark Sky Officer from the Dark Skies Partnership provided a report to share further information with the members regarding the meaning of the designation and what it meant to the area. It was noted that the Llŷn AONB area had a high proportion of dark sky spots and through collaboration, there would be an opportunity to educate local people on how to contribute to maintaining this.

The following points were made:

- It was noted that there would be no requirement to switch off lights, however there would be an opportunity to advise on the temperatures and effective use of lighting.
- The benefits of dark sky were mentioned, including people's health, the environment, economy and tourism.
- Awareness was raised about light pollution and how unique it was to have an area with a dark sky.
- Reference was made to the term Astro-tourism, with a suggestion that a dark skies designation could expand tourism beyond the usual season.

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

- The officer was thanked for her presentation and for explaining exactly what was meant by the dark skies status. It was asked if it would be possible to share the presentation with the Members.
- A member asked for an explanation of the geographical scope of the designation, as some areas in Llŷn did emit more light than others.
- Concerns were raised regarding the duties of community councils in enforcing residents to switch off their lights.
- Another concern raised was that many people required a particular type of lighting for security reasons noting that there would be no support for changing the community's ways for the benefit of prospective tourists.
- A request was made for more time to consider the recommendation to consult with community councils for everyone to understand the purpose of the application for a dark skies designation.

In response, the Officer noted that it would be possible for individual communities to apply for the status for their areas if they were outside the proposed boundary. It was reiterated that this type of designation would give status to the area and would also increase its profile.

In response to the above concerns, the Committee was assured that community councils would not be required to advise or enforce residents to switch off their lights. It was also noted that it would be possible to give a virtual presentation on Dark Sky matters to relevant Community Councils. The Officer expressed that the proposal would advise residents on the correct management of lighting, rather than force them to switch it off.

It was not possible to decide on the recommendation as the meeting was not quorate.

The meeting commenced at 4.30pm and concluded at 6.40pm.

CHAIR

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 23/3/2021

Present: Cllr Gareth Williams (Chair)

Members: Councillors Simon Glyn, John Brynmor Hughes, Aled Wyn Jones, Angela Russell (Gwynedd Council) and also Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council), Morgan Jones-Parry (Dwyfor and Arfon Access Forum), Molly Lovatt (Natural Resources Wales) and Gruffydd Williams (Nefyn Town Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Officer), Elin Wyn Hughes (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer) and Annes Sion (Democracy Service Team Leader).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Eirian Allport (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership) and Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Cllr Simon Glyn as he was a member of Gwynedd Council's Planning Committee. As item 4 specifically related to a planning application, it was not possible for him to contribute to the discussion.

3. URGENT ITEMS

It was agreed to discuss the adoption of Policy 7, Snowdonia National Park as a way to protect traditional houses at the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

4. TAN Y MYNYDD, NEFYN PLANNING APPLICATION

It was stated that an urgent meeting had been called in order to specifically discuss this planning application. It was explained that the application verged on the AONB and that it was a second planning application as the first planning application had been refused. It was noted that a second planning application had been submitted, which included a few adaptations but that the adaptations were insufficient. The need to discuss the application was emphasised in order to highlight concerns and to protect the AONB.

A member noted that the building was currently a relatively large one, on the mountainside and the need for such a large extension was questioned. It was elaborated by noting that it was not a home for a local person but that it was being created to be suitable for holidays.

Thanks was expressed for arranging the emergency meeting, and its great value was highlighted. It was emphasised that the building in question did not assimilate with the area's character and the linguistic impact the development could have on the area was highlighted.

Attention was drawn to the adaptations that had been undertaken prior to submitting the second planning application, stressing that they had only been minor adaptations. It was noted that it was a large extension in a prominent location and, as a result, it would have a huge impact on the landscape. It was also highlighted that approving the planning application would set a precedent for other planning applications and that it would be difficult to refuse other applications. Astonishment was expressed that no emergency meeting had been called to discuss the first planning application.

It was noted that this type of plan would have a detrimental impact on the area. Context to the building was presented, highlighting that it had originally been a smallholding with one cowshed. Over the years, it was added that the cowshed had been developed as a holiday unit and extensions had been added following renovations. It was emphasised that the smallholding in question had an annexe and the garage had also been converted into a holiday unit. As the house had now been sold on its own, it was stated that Planning Officers had noted that no planning application had been on the site.

Attention was drawn to the visual impact into and out of the AONB as a result. It was emphasised that the location was a mountain and that the house would destroy the landscape. It was elaborated by noting that the extension had been reduced but the impact and visual damage was the same.

A letter was proposed noting the objection of the Joint Committee to the application, highlighting that it was contrary to the following policies:

- TP2
- TP 6
- PS5
- PCYFF 3:
- AMG1
- PS19
- PS20
- AT3
- PLANNING POLICY WALES - Conservation Areas
 - 6.1.14
 - 6.1.15

It was stated that the area's communities were facing a dark period with many houses being bought for holiday use. The need to change planning policies was noted and this should be done in a short period of time for an immediate effect. It was added that the planning history of the site needed to be highlighted to the Planning Committee. Should the development be approved, it was explained that it would set a precedent for the future.

The need to hold meetings to discuss planning applications when they are submitted was noted. The need to discuss it at the next formal meeting of the Joint Committee was explained.

The need to state that the Joint Committee was refusing the application was stated in order to highlight the impact on AONB lands. Should it be approved, it was added that it would set a precedent for the future and reduce the number of housing available in the area for local young people.

DECISION

The members of the Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee resolved that they unanimously objected to the Tan y Mynydd, Nefyn planning application, as it would, in their opinion, have a substantial detrimental impact on views into and out of the AONB, set a dangerous precedent and would be contrary to the following policies:

- **TP2** - landscape and coast - Resist developments that would be prominent in the landscape and impair views including developments near the boundary, which would impact views into and out of the AONB.
- **TP 6** - ensure that new buildings are in-keeping with the area in terms of design and materials and that adaptations to existing buildings are in-keeping with the original.
- **PS5: Sustainable Development**- include a criterion outlining that every proposal - maintain and enhance the quality of assets of the built and historic environment
- **PCYFF 3: Design and place shaping** -The aim of this policy is to ensure that every proposal demonstrates a high quality design that gives full consideration to the natural environment, historic and built environment and that it contributes to creating attractive and sustainable places.
- **AMG1: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans** -where appropriate, proposals that are within or affect the setting and/or significant views into or out of the AONB must give consideration to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, where the AONB Officer will be consulted on applications that are within or could affect the setting and/or significant views into or out of the AONB.
- **PS19**
- **PS20: Safeguard and Enhance Heritage Assets where appropriate** -This policy allows proposals that will safeguard and, where appropriate, enhance the heritage assets; criterion 2 and 7 specifically refer to listed buildings and buildings of architectural/historical/cultural merit that have not been listed or protected.
- **AT3 Non-designated Heritage Assets that are of Local or Regional Significance**- This policy ensures that developments consider the setting, mass, form, height, scale, detail and appropriate local materials.
- **PLANNING POLICY Wales** - Conservation Areas
 - **6.1.14** There should be a general presumption in favour of safeguarding or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area and its location. Conservation areas need to be managed in a positive manner in order to safeguard or enhance their character and appearance and to fully realise their heritage value.
 - **6.1.15** There is a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for developments, including advertisements, which impair the character or appearance of a conservation area or its location to an unacceptable level.

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and concluded at 5.00pm.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 7

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	May 26 th 2021
TITLE	National AONB issues
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains information on national issues relevant to the AONBs in Wales.

2.0 WELSH PARLIMENT

- 2.1 Following the recent national elections the First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has made changes to his cabinet. AONBs and National Parks are now part of the Climate Change portfolio. The Minister responsible for this portfolio is Julie James, Labour member for West Swansea. Lee Waters, Labour member for Lanelli, is the deputy portfolio holder.

3.0 NATIONAL DESIGNATED LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 The National Designated Landscape Partnership (NDLP) has recently been established and a Coordinator and Admin officer have been appointed. The NDLP will coordinate collaboration and joint working between Wales' designated landscapes, set strategic aims, coordinate national projects and challenge work practices.

4.0 SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES SUSTAINABLE PLACES

- 4.1 Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places is the Welsh Government's programme to support capital projects in National Parks and AONBs. The programme has been running for a good few years now and many key projects have been supported. Information on the Llŷn AONB's projects in 2020-21 has been included in the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn.

- 4.2 Recently we were notified that projects put forward for capital grant support for 2021-22 in Llŷn have been supported. These projects are:

- Porth Meudwy track repair
- Nefyn beach toilets refurbishment
- Improvements to the quay area at Trefor
- Improvements to a series of public rights of way in the AONB

5.0 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

- 5.1 Natural Resources Wales has responsibilities towards the AONB's and as a result the body, and its predecessor CCW, has been running a national grant scheme for the 5 Welsh AONBs. The grant contributes towards core AONB service costs which includes staff, JAC administration, management plan review, project implementation etc.
- 5.2 The latest grant scheme came to an end this year (a 3 year scheme). It was hoped that a new scheme with a 3 or 5 year agreement would be offered with additional resources for the AONBs in Wales, especially in light of Valued and Resilient. Unfortunately however the offer that has been made is for a lesser contribution than previous years (a 10% cut). There are national discussions taking place regarding the situation at present and an update will be provided at the meeting.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 8

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
DATE	26 May 2021
TITIL	Update on the Sustainable Development Fund
PURPOSE	Provide Update
AUTHOR	Elin Wyn Hughes – Llŷn AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report gives an update to the members of the Joint-Advisory Committee about the Sustainable Development Fund. This is the Welsh Government Fund allocated to each AONB in Wales.

2.0 SUMMARY OF 2020/2021 EXPENDITURE

2.1 Of the **£100,000** in the Fund at the beginning of April 2020 – the total spend on the end of the financial year, and the sum claimed from Welsh Government was **£87,597**.

2.2 There was **£12,403** underspend. Many factors contributed to this. Four projects withdrew their applications due to the Covid-19. Another three projects claimed less than anticipated, again due to the pandemic. Another project saw their schedule fall behind.

2.3 Here is the summary of the expenditure (with an additional £10,000 claimed for admin costs):-

CDC 20.1	Llŷn Maritime Museum	£2,980
CDC 20.5	Memorial at Aberdaron Church	£1,623
CDC 20.6	Aberdaron Playing Field	£23,306
CDC 20.7	Tafarn yr Heliwr/Sportsman	£4,629
CDC 20.8	Melin Daron	£5,000
CDC 20.9	Storehouse on Ynys Enlli	£6,210
CDC 20.11	Improvements to Boat Yard in Porth Ysgaden	£3,140
CDC 20.12	Congol Meinciau – Survey to Car Charging Point	£1,100
CDC 20.13	Aberdesach Car Park Improvements	£5,200
CDC 20.14	Ysgol Botwnnog Garden	£3,600
CDC 20.17	Llŷn Chough Research -RSPB	£3,875
CDC 20.18	Capel Newydd Nanhoron	£1,185
CDC 20.19	Botwnnog Flower Planting	£160
CDC 20.20	Improvement at Porth Cychod	£2,243
CDC 20.21	Ysgol Botwnnog Outdoor Classroom	£3,965
CDC 20.22	Lon y Plas Improvements, Ynys Enlli	£1,639
CDC 20.23	Tafarn yr Heliwr Website and + Cellar	£2,930
CDC 20.24	Community Garden - Llanaelhaearn	£203
CDC 20.25	Mêl Enlli (Honey) - Private Applicant	£1,609
CDC 20.26	Antur Aelhaearn	£3,000

3.0 2021/22 FUND

3.1 **£100,000** was the total confirmed at the beginning of the 2021/22 financial year. Again, we are very grateful to Welsh Government for this budget. Here is the summary of the expenditure so far:-

CDC 20.1	Llŷn Maritime Museum	£2,870
CDC 20.21	Ysgol Botwnnog Outdoor Classroom	£13,339
CDC 21.1	Llithfaen Playing Field	£8,108
CDC 21.3	Wild Goats Survey - Nant Gwrtheyrn	£6,560
CDC 21.4	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	£9,950
CDC 21.5	Hafod Ceiri Arts Project	£750
CDC 21.6	R S Thomas Festival	£750
CDC 21.7	Llŷn Coastal Bus	£16,200
CDC 21.9	Plas Carmel	£10,000
CDC 21.10	Antur Aelhaearn	£6,150
	Admin Fee (10%)	£10,000
	TOTAL: -	£84,677

3.2 Up to the date of this meeting, **£15,323** remains in the Fund.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The members are asked to accept the above information.

4.2 We are also currently accepting applications, and would be very grateful if members could assist us to raise awareness about this budget, within the communities and groups that they represent on the JAC. To assist in this, a copy of the Fund's criteria can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

APPENDIX 1

Guidelines for Applicants

AONB Sustainable Development Fund

First steps

These guidelines are to help you with your application for grant aid to the Sustainable Development Fund. Before filling in the application form you are strongly advised to discuss your ideas with your local Sustainable Development Fund contact to ensure that you and your project are eligible for funding. Details of how to get in touch with your local contact are at the end of this note.

What is the Sustainable Development Fund?

The **Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)** provides an exceptional opportunity to apply for grant aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involve local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). AONBs are nationally important landscapes, designated for their spectacular scenic beauty. The five AONBs in Wales are: Anglesey, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, Gower, Llŷn and Wye Valley. The Welsh Government has set up this exciting scheme which will be co-ordinated by Natural Resources Wales.

What are the aims of SDF?

The SDF aims through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in a countryside of great natural beauty and diversity. The scheme seeks to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community. Sustaining the social well being and economic viability of communities are also important aims of this scheme.

What are the objectives of the scheme?

- × To explore ways of simultaneously pursuing the principles of sustainability whilst overcoming any obstacles to sustainability.
- × To develop models for the sustainable management of the countryside that could be applied more widely in Wales.
- × To generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainability.

So, what is sustainability?

The principles of sustainability can be expressed in various ways, including social progress that recognises the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources, whilst maintaining of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainability is about balancing environmental, social and economic requirements, so that our present needs can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to adequately meet their own needs.

How much money is available?

The figures vary - please contact for more information.

Who can apply for funding?

The scheme is available to any organisation including community or voluntary groups, local authorities, as well as the private sector and individuals. The private sector and individuals must demonstrate that their projects have a wider public benefit. The proposed project must meet the aims and objectives of the scheme and be located in or have direct benefit to an AONB. Your project must also comply with any relevant regulatory requirements eg planning permission, building regulations etc.

What type of projects will be supported?

SDF is primarily for practical, innovative schemes, which engage local communities and young people in projects in Welsh AONBs. The types of projects that will be supported are those which meet the sustainable aims of the SDF and AONBs, which are:

- X To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB, including the built environment.
- X To promote sustainable forms of social and economic development in AONBs.
- X To promote the economic and social well-being of local communities.
- X To promote quiet enjoyment of the AONBs.

Priority will be given to projects which:

- X Demonstrate innovation or best practice.

- X Involve local communities and young people.
- X Lever in contributions from other sources in cash or in kind.
- X Overcome barriers to sustainability and promote a wider understanding of sustainability.
- X Promote sustainable forms of social and economic development or add value to existing sustainability projects.
- X Raise awareness of AONBs and generate jobs or income for local communities, without damaging the landscape.

Examples of projects which may be funded by SDF:

- X Sustainable schools projects – such as the management of grounds for wildlife; energy, waste, and traffic reduction initiatives.
- X Sustainable transport projects to reduce car use and improve health by increased activity.
- X Enhancement of village open spaces for local use and wildlife.
- X Restoration of historic features eg village pond, community orchard or traditional boundaries.
- X Training programmes to safeguard traditional skills through modern apprenticeship, skills exchange eg hedgelaying, stone walling, and conservation management.

Grants and grant rates:

- X The scheme can offer:
 - * Project grants;
 - * Management grants to support staff costs and;
 - * Development grants to provide a catalyst for new action or partnerships.
- The scheme will normally provide up to 50% of total project costs but may consider applications up to 75% in certain circumstances. However, any partnerships involving local authorities will normally be funded at 50%.
- These figures include an element of up to 12% for overheads directly incurred by undertaking the project eg postage and other administrative costs.
- Applicants will be expected to provide at least 25% of the total project costs, either from their own funds or those of others for example:

- * Private sector funds;
- * 'In kind' contributions such as officer time or loan of equipment;
- * Other grant funds;
- * European Funds;
- * Lottery Funding.

The source of any match funding should be clearly identified to avoid the possibility of double funding.

- X Volunteer time is costed at £8.72 per hour.
- X Specialist, technical or professional volunteers are costed at £17.44 per hour.
- X Professional / legal scrutiny - £52.32.

How are projects assessed?

Applications over £3,000 will be assessed by a panel of local people made up of representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Grants Panel will assess the project based on whether it meets the aims, objectives and priorities of SDF, which are set out in these guidelines, and how well it meets the criteria listed in these guidelines. Small projects of less than £3,000 will be assessed on the same basis by the nominated local authority and National Resources Wales officers. They will report their decisions on these small projects to the Grants Panel.

Criteria for assessing projects

Your application will be assessed against the criteria listed below. There are two sections in the application form which allow you to show how your proposal meets these criteria.

It is expected that **successful projects will meet all of the core criteria but will not necessarily have to meet every criteria in the other sections.**

Core criteria: Your project must meet all of these criteria:

- conserves or enhances local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community
- is not contrary to the core purposes of AONBs

- is located in an AONB or directly benefits an AONB
- demonstrates good practice or innovation which can be transferred to other parts of Wales
- involves the local community and / or young people

Your project should meet as many as possible of the following environmental, social, economic and cultural criteria:

Environmental criteria

- continues beyond the life of the SDF scheme
- conserves or promotes biodiversity
- promotes natural capital
- promotes reduce, reuse, recycle
- contributes to raising awareness of environmental issues, AONB purposes or sustainability
- achieves aesthetic improvement to the built or natural heritage
- fulfils part of a management plan, Local Agenda 21 or Community Strategy

Social criteria

- can demonstrate local support (eg Jigso appraisal or community consultation)
- involves young people and / or local community (either in working on the project itself or as an end product)
- breaks down social or cultural barriers / promotes equality
- addresses local social needs
- has appropriate community structures / networks in place to co-ordinate project
- contributes towards healthier lifestyles

Economic criteria

- draws in funding from other sources
- demonstrates value for money
- contributes to the local economy by generating own income
- business plan in place
- contributes to local employment, training or volunteering

Cultural criteria

- contributes towards maintaining local culture
- has cultural or historical links
- uses of traditional materials or skills in managing the countryside (including the built environment)
- high quality design and use of sustainable materials / techniques
- provides interpretation
- involves using the arts

How and when to apply

You are advised to discuss your ideas with your local contact before applying. Fill in as much of the application form as you can and attach any supporting information which will help the Assessment Panel when they consider your application. The Assessment Panel may come back to you if they need more information about your project. Once you are satisfied that you have provided all the relevant information please send your application to the address at the end of the application form.

There are no set dates which you need to get your application in by, but remember that money will be spent as the financial year goes on. Your local contact can also tell you when the Assessment Panel will next meet, so this will give you an idea of when to submit your application. You will normally expect to hear whether you have been successful within 14 days of the date of the Assessment Panel meeting or if the application is under £3,000 within 28 days of your application. If you are proposing a new project then you should not start work on the project until you have received a decision from the Assessment Panel as to whether your submission has been successful.

Further information and applications forms are available from:

**Llŷn AONB Unit
Gwynedd Council Offices
Ffordd y Cob
Pwllheli
Gwynedd
LL53 5AA**

01758 704 176

AHNELlynAONB@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Agenda Item 9

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
DATE	26 May 2021
TITIL	Dinas Dinlle Hillfort
PURPOSE	Share Information / Seek Advice
AUTHOR	Elin Wyn Hughes – Llŷn AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information / Provide Guidance

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report derives from the meeting of the last Grants Panel on 26th April.
- 1.2 The members of the Grant Panel were keen to hold a further discussion relating to one successful application in particular.

2.0 GWYNEDD ARCHEOLOGICAL TRUST (CDC 21.4)

- 2.1 One of the successful applications was that from the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, to undertake a project to survey the hillforts of Dinas Dinlle and Craig y Dinas. This project will also be looking at the wider area and the connections to folklore and Welsh culture.
- 2.2 Even though the application as successful, there was some discussion relating to the Dinas Dinlle hillfort with some concerns about its condition. There has been quite some press coverage over the years about the fact that it is affected by erosion – and therefore there is a threat to it as a historic site of great significance.
- 2.3 We have invited Mr Andrew Davidson to this meeting on behalf of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in order to share some more background to the situation.

3.0 RECOMENDATION

- 3.1 The Members are asked to discuss this matter further and agree on a way forward.

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	May 26 th 2021
TITLE	Listed and Traditional buildings
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	For discussion

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A special meeting of the JAC was held on March 23rd to consider a planning application in relation to Tan y Mynydd, Mynydd Nefyn.
- 1.2 During the discussion a reference was made to Development Policy 7 – Listed and Traditional Buildings – contained in the Eryri Local Development Plan. It was decided to discuss this policy as a means of protecting traditional houses and buildings at the next JAC meeting.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICY 7 – LISTED AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

- 2.1 This policy is contained in the Eryri Local Development Plan which was adopted in 2019. The Plan is operative for the period 2016-2031. A copy of the Plan can be seen on the National Park's website. A copy of Development Policy 7 has been attached in the Appendix.

3.0 ANGLESEY AND GWYNEDD JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1 This Plan was adopted in 2017 and relates to the time period 2011-2026, a copy can be seen on Gwynedd Council's website. Policies regarding the natural and built environment are included in **Section 6.5** of the LDP. The Plan also refers to regional, national and International designations and their implications.
- 3.2 As regards listed and traditional buildings it appears that the most relevant policy is STRATEGIC POLICY 20 – PRESERVING AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ENHANCING HERITAGE ASSETS. There is a copy of the policy in the appendix. Also POLICY AT 1 (CONSERVATION AREAS, WORLD HERITAGE SITES AND REGISTERED HISTORIC LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND GARDENS) refers to the need to undertake a Heritage Impact Statement in some cases.
- 3.3 In addition Policy AMG 1: AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLANS – states as follows:

Proposals within or affecting the setting and/ or significant views into and out of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty must, where appropriate, have regard to the relevant Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

4.0 LLŶN AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 As regards the Management Plan there are a few relevant policies referring the to matter in question:

- Policy TP 6: Ensure that new buildings are well suited to the area as regards design and materials and that adaptations to existing buildings are in-keeping with the original.
- Policy HP 2: Protect and maintain historical features including archaeological and historical remains and historic structures and buildings and their settings.
- Policy HP3: Ensure that new developments or alterations respect and reinforce the character and appearance of historical buildings and promote good practice in care and repair.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 To discuss suitable policies for maintaining the character of traditional and listed buildings in the AONB.

Eryri National Park Local Development Plan

Development Policy 7: Listed and Traditional Buildings

Proposals for the alteration, extension or change of use of a listed or traditional building whether internally or externally, will only be supported where it can be shown that there will be no significant harm to the special historic or architectural character and setting of the building or historic features.

The conversion or change of use of a listed or traditional building will only be permitted: where the following criteria are satisfied:

- i. The proposal conserves the contribution made by the building to the character of the National Park.
- ii. The materials and finishes used in the building works are compatible in all respects with those of the original structure.
- iii. The proposal conforms with all other relevant policies of this plan especially Development Policy 9: Conversion and change of use of rural buildings.
- iv. The development would not have a detrimental effect on the setting of a listed or traditional building.

An independent structural survey will be required where there is any doubt over the structural stability of the building or it is considered that the proposed works would result in major or substantial reconstruction.

Planning applications should include details of all alterations and other works to demonstrate the effect of the proposal on the appearance, character and setting of the building and include where relevant species surveys⁶ and any proposed mitigation details.

Listed buildings only:

The addition of satellite dishes, inappropriate solar panels, upvc windows and doors or other modern features will not normally be permitted.

The demolition, or partial demolition, of a listed building will only be permitted in the rarest of circumstances where the Authority is convinced that the building, or part thereof, cannot be retained, or is not worthy of retention. The National Park Authority must be wholly satisfied that the proposed re-use of the site will bring benefits to the character or amenity of the locality or the wider National Park that outweigh the loss of the building.

In the case of deliberate neglect to Listed Buildings at risk the National Park Authority will take action to safeguard the building(s).

Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan

STRATEGIC POLICY PS 20: PRESERVING AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ENHANCING HERITAGE ASSETS

In seeking to support the wider economic and social needs of the Plan area, the Local Planning Authorities will preserve and where appropriate, enhance its unique heritage assets.

Proposals that will preserve and where appropriate enhance the following heritage assets, their setting and significant views into and out of the building/area will be granted:

1. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other areas of archaeological importance (in line with Policy AT 4).
2. Listed Buildings and their curtilages.
3. Conservation Areas (in line with Policy AT 1).
4. Beaumaris Castle and Caernarfon Castle and Town Walls World Heritage Sites (in line with Policy AT 1).
5. Candidate World Heritage Sites.
6. Registered Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens (in line with Policy AT 1).
7. Buildings of architectural/ historic/ cultural merit that are not designated or protected (in line with Policy AT 3).

COMMITTEE	Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	May 26 th 2021
TITLE	Planning Applications
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An urgent meeting of the JAC was held on March 23rd.
- 1.2 During the meeting a reference was made to the method of making comments on planning application for developments within the AONB. A request was made for this matter to be raised at the next formal meeting of the JAC.

2.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 2.1 An arrangement is place whereby the Planning Department consults with the AONB Unit with regard to applications for developement within the AONB, or near the AONB where there is a possibility the development would have an impact on the designated area. Also, in some instances, the Planning Department will counsult with the AONB Unit with regard to pre-application cases. The AONB Unit usually has 21 days to respond to planning applications and 14 days to pre-applications.
- 2.2 The Planning Department also consults with a range of other Council Departments (eg Highways), relevant statutory bodies eg NRW ac community/ town councils. Nearby residents and members of the public can also make comments on planning applications.
- 2.3 When dealing with planning applications the officers will asses the details of the application, relevant policies, comments that have been received and any other relevant planning mater.

3.0 THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 3.1 There are references to planning in the Constitution. Under the JAC's remit it is noted, amongst other matters:
 - Submit comments on planning applications drawn to the Advisory committee's attention by the local planning authority.
- 3.2 Then under the heading "Frequency of meetings" the following is stated:

The chairman of the Advisory Committee can convene a meeting of a planning sub-group to discuss and submit formal comments on behalf of the Advisory Committee on planning applications which may have a direct effect on the AONB designation and which are drawn to his attention as an urgent matter by the AONB Officer or the Dwyfor Area Planning manager.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Accept the information.