



Complete Agenda

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Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.00 pm, MONDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2022

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

For public access to the meeting, please contact us.

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(DISTRIBUTED Friday, 17 June 2022)

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Gwynedd Councillors

Dafydd Davies
John Brynmor Hughes
Gareth Tudor Jones
Gareth Williams
Gruffydd 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 2022/23.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair for 2022/23.

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 - 9

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of this committee, held on 16 March 2022, be signed as a true record.

7. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

10 - 13

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to inform members on the AONB Management Plan.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LLŶN AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14 - 16

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to give a report on the Membership of the Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

9. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

17

Wyn Williams, Countryside Manager to give a report on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

10. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

18 - 19

Morus Llwyd Dafydd, AONB Project Officer to provide members with an update on the Sustainable Development Fund, and to elect new Grant Panel members.

Agenda Item 6

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 16/03/2022

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 16/03/2022

Present:

Cllr. Gruffydd Williams (Chair)

Members: Councillor Gareth Williams, Eirian Allport (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), Jina Gwyrfai (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), Morgan Jones-Parry (Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Molly Lovatt (Natural Resources Wales), Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council) and Wenda Williams (Aberdaron Community Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Service Manager), Morus Llwyd Dafydd (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 5: Ann Williams (Biodiversity Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Anwen J. Davies, John Brynmor Hughes, Aled Wyn Jones and Angela Russell (Gwynedd Council's Countryside Champion) as well as Andrew Davidson (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust), Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn) and Wyn Williams (Countryside Manager).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint Committee held on 17 November 2021, as a true record.

There was a request for an update regarding the decision for the AONB Service Officer to organise a virtual meeting with the Community and Town Councils within the AONB to provide further information on the IDA application to appoint a Dark Sky Park status for the area.

It was reported that the AONB Officer had sent an email to Community and Town Councils to provide further information and was going to be in touch over the next weeks to organise a meeting; hope to organise one for the end of April or May.

5. NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

The Biodiversity Officer Ann Williams was welcomed to the meeting. The report was presented noting that the recent years had been a turning point for recognising the nature emergency and making progress with the actions.

Background on the National Nature Recovery Action Plan was provided which detailed how every area should get to grips with nature recovery and creating their own Action Plan. It was explained that the Biodiversity Officer will be leading on this plan which would be a joint plan between Gwynedd and Llŷn. The intention of this plan would be to get to grips with six national aims whilst also addressing challenges, worries and environmental needs locally.

It was recognised that the environment was extremely important to Gwynedd and Llŷn residents; the plan would ensure that these communities could continue to benefit and enjoy the natural world. The document and its aims would be aimed at a wide variety of people. The Gwynedd and Llŷn Nature Recovery Action Plan was intended to be a statutory policy document that would have four parts.

It was reported that consultations would be held before the summer as part of the process of creating the document; this Joint Committee would be included in these consultation sessions. It was noted in the meantime that a draft of the first part of the Action Plan had been prepared, the Joint Committee's feedback and observations were requested on this draft. More information would follow on how to present observations and the Biodiversity officer would send the draft to members of the Joint Committee. Also, the Biodiversity Officer would appreciate if the Joint Committee would take part and contribute in the consultations before they started to form the rest of the document.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters: -

- A request was made for further clarification on what part of the document would be the subject of consultation.
- A query was raised regarding what would happen after the document would be created and who would be implementing the content of the document.
- It was questioned why the Joint Committee had not received a copy of the part one draft plan beforehand. There was concern that members of the Joint Committee were not aware what the content of this draft would be.

In response, the following was noted:

- That the consultations would be regarding forming the second and third parts of the plan that would highlight how the general population could help nature recovery as well as the action steps and local priorities. These would be the most important parts of the plan and the subject for the consultations where there would be an opportunity to contribute.
- It was noted that part one was only the background of the plan which was prepared in draft form where observations were requested.
- That there was an intention for the document to be a live document so it would be possible to add to it. It was added that Welsh Government had prioritised nature recovery and biodiversity over the last few years, which meant that financial funds became available more often. It was explained that the document would be available if other projects would want to refer to the plan and use it as a resource to support applications for money.
- It was added that this plan would tie in with the AONB management plan; both plans would run alongside each other and were sources to attract funding in order to implement projects.

DECISION

To accept the information about the Nature Recovery Action Plan received from the Biodiversity Officer.

6. LLŶN AONB CAPITAL PROJECTS

Information was provided about the Llŷn AONB capital projects, providing an update on TCLC Capital Projects for the current financial year (2021/22). It was noted that more information about the Llŷn AONB projects over the past year could be seen in the recent edition of Llygaid Llŷn that would be available at the end of April. It was reported that the Porth Meudwy Track Repair project was completed and work had nearly finished on the three other projects.

It was noted that no confirmation was received so far on the grant total in the future or for how many years; it was reported that there was a chance it would be over a period of three years. It was confirmed that the themes for the capital projects would remain the same as for the current year.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters: -

- A query was raised regarding when the money had to be spent on 2021/22 projects. The work on the project of refurbishing the toilets at Lôn Gam, Nefyn was a little behind the original schedule due to the recent landslide.
- It was questioned if the Sustainable Tourism themes referred to the footpaths and if the AONB Officer anticipated further applications under this theme next year.
- It was suggested that the Sustainable Tourism themes could refer to a pilot project to trial something new that would be used by tourists.

In response, the following was noted:

- That an extension was received until the end of April or start of May 2022 if needed for spending the grant money in the 2021/22 financial year.
- The AONB Service Officer was unsure if there would be as much emphasis on grants to improve footpaths next year from this fund. It was added that another grant was available to improve the paths, there was a desire for this to be used instead. It was explained that the Sustainable Tourism themes dealt with broad projects e.g. improving facilities for visitors such as public toilets.
- That the themes are fairly flexible and that money was available for other projects under similar themes to those noted.

DECISION

To note and accept the information in the report on the Llŷn AONB Capital Projects.

7. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Information on the membership of the Joint Advisory Committee and the arrangements in the pipeline were provided in accordance with the Constitution of the Joint Committee to change Gwynedd Council Members. Details were provided about the background and relevant considerations that could be seen in the report including the boundaries review.

Members were thanked for their time and effort in supporting the AONB over the last five years. It was reported that the term for some would come to an end and there would be an invitation for other County Councillors within the AONB to attend the Joint Committee following the election. Other organisations that had a place on the Joint Advisory Committee were also mentioned, but there was no change here.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters: -

- Attention was drawn that some Community / Town Councils did not send a representative to the meetings.
- It was questioned if it was possible to change the arrangements of electing Members from certain wards to serve on the Joint Committee for the next period and instead ask which Members wanted to be a part of the Joint Committee and were interested in attending.
- The question on the possibility of receiving data on who had been attending the Joint Advisory Committee meetings was raised. It was added that it was important that the representatives attended and that contact was made with those who had not attended in a while.

In response, the following was noted:

- The suggestion of inviting Members with interest to attend was not possible. It was noted that legal opinion was received in the past that noted that this was not possible due to the Constitution and matters regarding political balance.
- It would not be possible to change the constitution so that Councillors from the 8 wards within the AONB (which had reduced from 11 following the boundary review) received invitations. It was believed that this would lead to too much emphasis on Gwynedd Council within the Joint Committee as well as Constitutional matters which would prevent this.
- It would be possible to provide information on the attendance of all members of the Joint Committee by the next meeting.
- That the AONB Service Officer would correspond with the Institutions and Organisations that had a place on the Joint Committee to inform them of the new term and to try and get representatives to fill vacant seats or when nobody had attended for some time.

DECISION

- a) To accept the report on the Membership of the Joint Advisory Committee and the arrangements in the pipeline to change the Gwynedd Council Members.**
- b) It was agreed for the Llŷn AONB Officer to provide data on the attendance of all Joint Committee members at the next meeting.**

8. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Joint Committee was guided through the AONB Officer's report which noted that there was a need to review the AONB Management Plan every five years. It was noted that the current Management Plan that was implemented from 2015-2020 was now dated and a review should have been held already. It was explained that various reasons had affected the timetable e.g. the pandemic and capacity matters.

It was reported that some background work had been completed and that there was an intention to bring the report before the next meeting of the Joint Committee with more information and a timetable for reviewing the Management Plan as soon as possible.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters: -

- The reports prepared by external companies was mentioned and a query was raised regarding the possibility of sharing these with the members of the joint committee. The AONB Officer noted that those reports were currently in English but could organise for them to be translated and distributed
- It was asked if it was possible to strengthen the policies that protected the AONB and the traditional buildings within the border when reviewing the Plan.
- Concern was expressed regarding the review period noting that it was a shorter period this time compared with the previous plan and it was questioned how this would work.
- It was noted that many reviews and consultations were held recently regarding houses and it was expressed that we should be ready to act quickly so we could assist and support any plans if changes derived from the Government.

In response, the following was noted:

- The review of the management plan provided an opportunity to review the policies and a chance to see if they needed amending and updating. It was noted that there were guidelines from the Countryside Council for Wales that would need to be followed roughly and that the current structure needed to be followed to some extent. The plan could not be fully changed but there was definitely room for amendments if needed.
- There was hope that much of the work could be completed on the plan in a year. It was hoped there was a possibility to review the plan quicker than the three years it had taken in the previous period. It was noted that it was hard to anticipate when the plan would be finally completed as there were many other considerations e.g. documents including the National Planning Policy and the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan. Another report would be submitted to the committee soon.
- That officers were in the process of being appointed in this area to undertake the work on the Dwyfor Pilot Scheme; it was suggested that the AONB Officer could contact them to see if there was anything the Joint Committee could do to facilitate their work.

DECISION

To note and accept the information in the report on the AONB Management Plan.

At the end of the meeting it was noted that a new Chair would be elected at the next meeting and the Chair took the opportunity to thank the Members for their service on the Joint Committee.

The meeting commenced at 4.05pm and concluded at 4.55pm.

CHAIR

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	June 27 th 2022
TITLE	AONB Management Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Preparing and reviewing the Management Plan is one of Gwynedd Council's responsibilities in relation to the AONB as a consequence of the CRoW Act 2000. The Joint Advisory Committee has a role to play in the Plan review process.
- 1.2 The existing Llŷn AONB Management Plan period is 2015-20 and the intention was to review the Plan during 2019/2020. Unfortunately this has not happened due to a number of factors including the pandemic, work on other projects and capacity issues.

2.0 THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 When reviewing the Plan reference needs to be made to guidelines for Local Authorities on the preparation and review of Management Plans published by the former Countryside Council for Wales.
- 2.2 Also when reviewing the Plan there is a need to consider the most up to date information on the area's features, relevant plans and strategies, conservation objectives, local projects etc.

3.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 As mentioned in the previous meeting some background work on the Plan review has taken place.
- 3.2 Also the AONB Unit has commissioned an update of the State of the AONB Report. This Report contains information on the condition of the AONB's special features, pressures etc. The intention is to translate this whole document but as an initial action the main findings of the report have been translated and are provided for JAC members – see Appendix 1.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The AONB Unit is in the process of preparing a brief to consultants to update of the Management Plan's context. This work will entail updating information on plans, strategies, Acts etc which are relevant to the AONB Management Plan. The aim is to get this work completed over the Summer/ Autumn this year.
- 4.2 Following on the AONB Unit will assess and revise the Plan's aims, objectives and policies and suggest updating/ changes to respond to new information and/ or a change in circumstances. The aim is to report back on this stage in the last quarter of 2022.
- 4.3 In 2023 we will work on updating the Action Plan which includes information on the work which it is intended to undertake during the Plan period. Also the Environmental and Habitats Assesments will need to be reviewed.
- 4.4 Following on there will be a Consultation Period on the revised draft Plan. We will consult with public and private sectors, societies and individuals by various methods to get their views on the Plan.
- 4.5 The Joint Advisory Committee will have a key role in assessing the responses received during the consultation period and deciding on changes and the final form of the Plan. The aim is to adopt the revised AONB Management Plan before the end of 2023.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Accept the information.

APPENDIX 1 – STATE OF THE AONB REPORT

Key findings

Biodiversity

- One new marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been formally designated since the 2014 report (which includes parts of the AONB shoreline) resulting in a total of four SACs covering 8.3% of the AONB's total land area.
- The number and area coverage of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has not changed since 2014, with two SPAs and 22 SSSIs that cover 5.5% and 13.7% of the AONB respectively.
- Both the Ynys Enlli and Yr Eifl National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are contained entirely within the AONB boundary, covering 0.7% of the AONB.
- There are three Important Bird Areas (IBAs) covering 34.1% of the AONB.
- Broadleaved woodland continues to be the most common woodland type in the AONB (47.7%).
- Coniferous forestry has significantly decreased by 31.6% since 2014, resulting in a large increase (by 270.3%) in areas categorised as 'felled'.

Land Use, Air and Water Quality

- Land in the AONB under agricultural production increased in 2012 by 19% since 2008.
- Grassland coverage had increased in 2012 by 21% since 2008, whilst the area under arable cropping had reduced by 17%.
- Poultry (154%) and pig farms (162%) witnessed a significant increase in livestock numbers between 2008 and 2012.
- There was also a 10% increase in sheep numbers and 5% decrease in cattle numbers between 2008 and 2012. Sheep remained the main livestock type in the AONB.
- Glastir agreements covered around 6,450 ha of land in the AONB in 2021 with 40% of these being Entry level and 60% being Advanced level.
- Common land covers over 800 ha and has not seen a significant change since 2012.
- In 2016 the Llŷn Peninsula had the lowest levels of fine particulate matter concentration across Wales.
- Every water site across the AONB received the excellent classification for its water quality

Historic Environment

- There are 252 Listed Buildings in the AONB (following a net gain of three since 2014); the majority being Grade II.
- The number of Scheduled Monuments has not changed remaining at 55, with 67.3% from the prehistoric period.
- The Grade II listed Plas-yn-Rhiw continues to be the only Registered Park and Garden in the AONB.
- There are nine Conservation Areas in the AONB covering an area of 245 ha.

People and Communities

- The total population of the AONB is 9,872 (according to the ONS 2019 mid-year estimates).
- The AONB is characterised by an ageing population, with the largest proportion of people being aged 65 and over in the western part of the AONB and 45-64 in the eastern part (according to the ONS 2019 mid-year estimates).
- The AONB has seen a slight decrease in levels of deprivation since 2011.

Tourism and the Visitor Economy

- Visitor spending in the AONB has increased by 48% since 2011, to £53 million in 2019.
- The number of visitors has increased by 8.5% (to around just under 350,000) .
- Visitors staying in non-serviced accommodation has seen the biggest increase in numbers, and account for 41% of all visitors to the AONB.
- The number of tourist days spent in the AONB has increased by 8.9%.
- The overall number of people employed in the tourism sector has increased by 14.7% since 2011 (to a total of approximately 816 people).
- There was an increase in the numbers employed in all sectors (the largest increase being in the accommodation sector), apart from recreation and transport which saw a decrease.

Development, Tranquillity and the Dark Sky

- There are 34 sites within the AONB that have a license for 'touring' caravans, with only four obtaining a license within the last five years.
- There are 51 sites within the AONB that have a license for 'static' caravans, with only one obtaining a license within the last five years.
- The Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales project from 2021 indicates that over 90% of the AONB experiences the darkest skies nationally, with almost 99% falling within the two darkest categories.
- The Llŷn has the darkest night skies of any AONB in Wales and the only AONB to have a larger percentage of its area within the darkest category compared to the Wales average.

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	June 27 th 2022
TITLE	Membersip of the Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the last meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) the membership of the JAC was discussed. It was explained that a system was in place to change the members representing Cyngor Gwynedd following local elections. It was also mentioned that the changes to electoral wards had complicated matters slightly.

2.0 GWYNEDD COUNCIL MEMBERS

2.1 Therefore following the local elections Gwynedd Council for the following wards have a place on the Joint Advisory Committee.

- Pen draw Llŷn
- Clynnog
- Nefyn
- Morfa Nefyn and Tudweiliog
- Abersoch and Llanengan.

2.2 Also the Gwynedd Countryside Champion has a place on JAC, however this member was yet to be appointed when preparing this report.

3.0 VACANT SEATS

3.1 At the present time there are some vacant seats on the JAC, as follows:

- Representative of the Tourism Sector
- Representative of the Business Sector
- Farming and Rural Conservation Agency

4.0 ATTENDENCE AT MEETINGS

4.1 At the last meeting information was also requested information regarding attendance at meetings of the JAC. Details on meeting attendance for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 has been included in Appendix 2.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Accept the information.

APPENDIX 2 – ATTENDANCE AT JAC MEETINGS

Member/ Body	11/7/19	4/12/19	18/11/20	23/3/21	26/5/21	17/11/21	16/3/22
Botwnnog Ward		x	x	x	x		x
Buan Ward	x	x	x			x	
Llanengan Ward	x		x	x	x	x	
Llanaelhaearn Ward	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Tudweiliog Ward				x	x		
Gwynedd Countryside Champion			x	x	x	x	
Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership	x		x		x		
Llanaelhaearn Comm Council	x	x	x		x	x	x
Aberdaron Comm Council			x		x	x	x
Buan Comm Council							
Llanengan Comm Council							
Pistyll Comm Council		x					
Llanbedrog Comm Council	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tudweiliog Comm Council	x	x		x	x		x
Botwnnog Comm Council	x	x					
Clynnog Fawr Comm Council		x			x		x
Nefyn Town Council	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Natural Resources Wales		x	x	x	x	x	x
Cyfeillion Llŷn							
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust			x		x	x	
Llŷn Fishers Assoc		x					
NFU							
Farmers Union of Wales							
The National Trust					x		
Arfon/ Dwyfor Access Forum	x		x	x	x		x

Agenda Item 9

COMMITTEE	Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	June 27 th 2022
TITLE	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	Countryside Manager
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a strategic document that sets out the direction and priorities for the maintenance and development of the rights of way network and other access assets in Gwynedd.
- 1.2 A new ROWIP has been prepared which reflects the changes in resources and legislation that have taken place since the adoption of the original Plan in 2007. It will also consider how the Public Rights of Way network can be maintained and improved to meet the aspirations and the expectations of local communities and all users in the face of continuing pressures on resources and challenges such as climate change.
- 1.3 There is an opportunity for individuals and organisations to comment on the new ROWIP during the public consultation period which runs until the 12th of September 22. The feedback will help shape the final ROWIP which will run until 2028/29 .
- 1.4 The ROWIP can be viewed on the Have Your Say page on the Council's website, copies will also be available in libraries and Siop Gwynedd (Council Offices) . The information will be sent directly to the Community Councils and our main stakeholders. People are encouraged to respond using the questionnaires provided.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Accept the information.

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	27 June 2022
TITLE	The Sustainable Development Fund
PURPOSE	Update on the Sustainable Development Fund
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Projects Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Choose new Grant Panel members

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents information to members about the current situation of the Sustainable Development Fund and other issues regarding it.
- 1.2 Also new members need to be chosen to sit on the Grants Panel.

2.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 Of the **£100,000** in the Fund at the beginning of 2021/22, all was allocated. Information on the various projects has previously been provided.

3.0 2022/25 BUDGET

- 3.1 Recently it was confirmed that **£100,000** will be available for the Fund for 2022/23, but also that a **£100,000** will be available for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This gives the opportunity for projects to be funded over a period of two or three years instead of a year if needed.
- 3.2 The Welsh Government has changed the Fund's Regulations to place more emphasis on the Welbeing Act and that projects related to De-carbonisation, and Nature recovery themes should be prioritised.
- 3.3 The work of promoting the opportunity to apply for the grant has begun. The members are encouraged to share information about the Fund.

4.0 GRANTS PANEL MEMBERS

- 4.1 The time has come to elect new members to the Grants Panel – which is the Panel that meets to deal with and decide upon grant applications over £3,000.
- 4.2 In the past, the Grants Panel members consisted of 8 members of the Joint-Advisory Committee. In line with the Regulations it is now suggested that 4 previous members of the Panel continue and 4 new members elected.
- 4.3 In future the intention is to change 2 members of the Panel every 2 years.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 To accept the above information about the Sustainable Development Fund, and elect new members to the Grants Panel.