



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.00 pm, WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2025

Location

Virtual Meeting

For public access to the meeting, please contact us

Contact Point

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LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Gwynedd Councillors

**Dafydd Davies
Gareth Tudor Jones
John Brynmor Hughes
Gruffydd Williams
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. ELECT CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2025/26.

2. ELECT VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-chair for 2025/26.

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 26 November 2024, be signed as a true record.

7. FFERMIO BRO

9 - 10

To inform Members about a new environmental grant – Ffermio Bro.

8. UPDATE ON LLŶN AONB CAPITAL PROJECTS

11 - 13

To provide an update on the Llŷn AONB capital projects.

9. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

14 - 15

To inform members about the current situation of the Sustainable Development Fund and other associated matters.

10. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

16 - 24

To provide further information on the review of the AONB Management Plan.

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 26/11/2024

Present:

Members: Councillors: **Gareth Williams**, **Gareth Tudor Jones**, **Gruffydd Williams** along with **Sian Parri** (Tudweiliog Community Council) (Chair of this meeting due to the absence of the Chair), **Jina Gwyrfai** (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), **Noel Davey** (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), **Linda Ashton** (Natural Resources Wales), **Gillian Walker** (Cyfeillion Llŷn), **Eirian Allport** (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), **Dewi Evans** (Aberdaron Community Council), **Hedd Rhys** (NFU) and **Morgan Jones-Parry** (Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum)

Officers: **Bleddyn P. Jones** (Llŷn AONB Officer), **Elin Wyn Hughes** (Llŷn AONB Activities Officer), **Heledd Fflur Jones** (Planning Policy Team Leader) and **Rhodri Jones** (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for Item 5: Keith Davies (Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes, Natural Resources Wales)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- **T Victor Jones** (Llanbedrog Community Council) (Chair).
- **Einir Wyn** (Llanengan Community Council)
- **Councillor Angela Russell** (Cyngor Gwynedd Countryside Champion)
- **Councillor John Brynmor Hughes**
- **Euros Jones** (FWAG Cymru)
- **Jenny Emmett** (Gwynedd Archaeology)
- **Rhydian Owen** (Farmers' Union of Wales)
- **Morus Llwyd Dafydd** (Llŷn AONB Project Officer)

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the last meeting of this Joint Committee held on 10 September, 2024, as a true record.

It was confirmed that Officers had sent a letter to the Welsh Government conveying the Joint Committee's encouragement for them to act on the recommendations of the

Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities as a matter of urgency. The Vice Chair asked for a copy of the letter.

5. REVIEWING THE AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The report was submitted by the Llŷn AONB Officer and Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes, Natural Resources Wales.

Members were reminded that it was Cyngor Gwynedd's responsibility to prepare and review a Management Plan for the AONB in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Despite this, it was stressed that the Joint Committee had an important advisory role in the preparation and review of the Management Plan including:

- Advising on the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan for the AONB
- Monitoring and evaluating progress within the Management Plan's operational programme on an annual basis and regularly review the Plan itself.

It was explained that the Authority must follow guidance in preparing and reviewing the Management Plan. Attention was drawn to the guidelines issued by the Countryside Council for Wales but it was explained that they were now out of date. It was explained that Natural Resources Wales was a statutory adviser for the Welsh Government on landscape designations (AONBs and National Parks). It was ensured that Natural Resources Wales had commissioned a 'Land Use Consultants' company to review and update these guidelines to enable them to be suitable for areas of outstanding natural beauty and National Parks in Wales. It was highlighted that the guidelines aimed to ensure that Management Plans:

- Led, planned and managed transformational change
- Concurred with relevant policies and legislation
- Engaged with stakeholders throughout the process

It was confirmed that the new guidelines for the Management Plan would intertwine national requirements and priorities of the local area.

It was ensured that Natural Resources Wales were eager to assist Officers and the Joint Committee through the management plan review process.

During the discussion, the following observations were noted:

Concern was raised that the Land Use Consultants company was London-based and it was asked how it was ensured that local priorities were being met within the guidelines. It was explained by the Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes that the company had been commissioned by tender to develop the guidelines due to a lack of capacity within the team at Natural Resources Wales. It was ensured that the company had extensive experience of completing policy work in the area of designated landscapes in Wales and beyond. It was emphasised that they were a suitable company for the work and had received clear guidance from Natural Resources Wales on managerial, partnership and local matters throughout the process. It was explained that the Joint Advisory Committee and Llŷn AONB Officers had a role in ensuring that the Management Plan intertwined the guidance with Llŷn's priorities and needs.

The increasing pressure on climate change issues was discussed noting that the Welsh Government had recently re-considered forestry and biodiversity plans in the

Sustainable Farming Plan. It was considered on what basis these issues were given great emphasis within the planning. In response to the comments, the Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes stressed that climate change was leading to constant challenges across Wales. It was explained that striving to solve these challenges was a priority as it also conserved and restored nature in doing so.

Enquiries were made about Sites of Special Scientific Interest – the Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes noted that he was not dealing with this issue but he would ask at NRW who could respond to queries about the matter.

A timetable to create the Management Plan was discussed stating that the current plan aimed to be operational between 2015 and 2020 but the timing had slipped resulting in it being operational from 2017 to 2025. It was asked whether it was possible to have a Management Plan that was in place for 10 years to avoid such slippages. In response, the Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes confirmed that there was no barrier to Management Plans being operational for extended periods, but stressed the importance to keep it under constant review and ensure it received due attention within the Local Development Plan. The Planning Policy Team Leader elaborated that the base date for a new Local Development Plan was 2024 - 2039 and envisaged that the plan would be adopted in 2027.

It was enquired whether there was assurance that the Welsh language received due attention within the guidelines, reminding members that the Llŷn AONB had decided not to use the 'National Landscapes' title in the future and was undertaking work to ensure that the Welsh language was central in all aspects of the area. In response, the Principal Advisor for Designated Landscapes confirmed that Land Use Consultancy's work had already ended as the guidelines had been produced. It was accepted that the Welsh language was central to all operations of the Llŷn AONB and Cyngor Gwynedd and this was expected to continue with the formulation of a new Management Plan that reflected this. It was suggested to develop an impact report on the Welsh language as the Plan was developed, to look to see if there were additional measures that could be taken to protect the language and strengthen existing arrangements.

DECISION

To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.

6. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The report was submitted by the Llŷn AONB Officer.

It was explained that a number of steps needed to be followed when reviewing the Management Plan. It was detailed that this process included:

- Considering the efficiency of the current Plan
- Considering the latest information about the area's features
- Taking into account and incorporating information from relevant plans and strategies
- Reviewing the vision, aims, objectives and policies of the plan
- Creating a new action plan for the Management Plan period
- Reviewing the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations.

It was elaborated that a Draft Management Plan would be shared with residents of the AONB as well as agencies with the opportunity to comment on its contents. It was

emphasised that the Joint Committee had an advisory role throughout the process and residents' comments would be included in a report for the consideration of the Joint Committee.

Members were reminded that one of the initial steps of reviewing the Management Plans was to assess the condition of various features to understand if changes had occurred during the previous period. It was detailed that a Report of the Condition of the AONB had been commissioned in 2021 and work was ongoing to gather more up-to-date local information to supplement this report to assist with the development of a Management Plan.

Attention was drawn to the features of the Llŷn AONB as defined in the creation of the previous Management Plan, noting that these were not aspects that were likely to change as they were core to the area. It was detailed that the features would not be modified for the new Management Plan, noting that they included:

- Beautiful Landscape and Coast
- Calm and Clean Environment
- A Wealth of Wildlife and Habitats
- The Historic Environment
- The Welsh Language and Culture
- People and Close-knit Communities
- Local Produce and Businesses
- Access and Rights of Way

It was reported that the long-term vision of the AONB was now outdated and a modified vision had been formulated to guide the AONB to 2050. It was detailed that this revised vision was:

"An area of beautiful landscape and coast where indigenous wildlife thrives, low levels of environmental pollution and an abundance of public access opportunities. Historic buildings and features in good condition, local businesses succeeding and Llŷn communities maintaining the Welsh language and culture".

It was confirmed that it was important to review the policies of the Management Plan, noting that some of these policies would be submitted to the Joint Committee for consideration of appropriate revisions. It was also noted that new policies may be created and these would also be submitted to the Joint Committee.

It was reported that a draft timetable of the process of developing a Management Plan would be submitted to the Joint Committee at a meeting in April 2025.

Members were asked to contact the officers if they were aware of any issue affecting the features of the Llŷn AONB and to offer ideas for projects that could address those challenges.

During the discussion, the following observations were noted:

The revised vision up to 2050 was discussed and the following wording for it was suggested:

"... Historic buildings and features in good condition, local businesses succeeding and Llŷn AONB communities maintaining and strengthening the Welsh language and its culture."

It was elaborated on the importance of ensuring wildlife habitats were also mentioned within the vision to ensure it received long-term consideration.

It was felt that many contentious matters of the previous Management Plan remained relevant in the development of a new Management Plan. The importance of ensuring that the Welsh language was protected within the policies of the Management Plan was noted in order to strengthen it for the future. It was also noted that it was important to consider any contentious matters that had not been resolved within the previous Management Plan period to assess if they could be achieved during the new Plan period considering the resources and capacity of the AONB unit.

DECISION

- **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- **Amend the wording of the revised long-term vision as follows, and accept it:**
 - "A beautiful landscape and coastal area with native wildlife and their habitat flourishing, a low level of environmental pollution and a variety of access and public opportunities. Historic buildings and features in good condition, local businesses succeeding and Llŷn AONB communities maintaining and strengthening the Welsh language and its culture".
- **Circulate a Report of the Condition of the AONB (2021) with Members noting that the information within the report is now slightly out of date.**
- **Consider the current Management Plan and contentious matters that have not been resolved at the next meeting.**

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and concluded at 5.10pm.

CHAIR

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| COMMITTEE | Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | July 2 nd 2025 |
| TITLE | Ffermio Bro |
| PURPOSE | Inform members |
| AUTHOR | AONB Service Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information, elect representative |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains information regarding a new environmental grant - Ffermio Bro – which is coming on stream in Wales’s Designated Landscapes.

2.0 FFERMIO BRO

- 2.1 The Designated Landscapes - National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) - are amongst the most special places in Wales. They showcase the best of our scenery, nature, culture and heritage. The Designated Landscapes and Welsh Government have collaborated to develop Ffermio Bro -a pioneering programme to help farmers in Designated Landscapes protect nature and the environment - while supporting rural businesses and communities.
- 2.2 Each Designated Landscape has been allocated a funding pool, and farmers can apply directly to the relevant body. Ffermio Bro supports activities that benefit nature and biodiversity. This could be anything from walling and hedgerows through to natural flood management etc.
- 2.3 Ffermio Bro differs in two important ways from past schemes. Firstly, it is a special programme for Designated Landscapes. Secondly, it is focussed on collaboration. We want to fund activities that span multiple farms and have an impact on a landscape scale. This doesn't just mean formal clusters or neighbours - we are looking for projects that achieve a common goal through action across multiple farms.

- 2.4 Ffermio Bro is part of the preparatory phase of the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). Participation in Ffermio Bro will not affect eligibility for the SFS in any way, and any habitat that is created or enhanced under Ffermio Bro will count towards the SFS Universal habitat requirements. Ffermio Bro payment rates will be aligned with other Welsh Government schemes for the same activities – but bespoke projects can be supported at higher rates.

3.0 FFERMIO BRO ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1 The scheme will be administered by Eryri National Park in cooperation with the AONB Unit here in Llŷn. The simplest applications will be considered by officers while more complex/ higher value application will be considered by Panel which is in the Process of being established. An appeal has been made to select one of the JAC members to sit on this Panel.
- 3.2 Efforts have been made to raise awareness of the scheme through the Unions, agricultural/ countryside organisations, in the press and by social media. We have included an article of Ffermio Bro in Llygad Llŷn and raised awareness recently at Sioe Nefyn. Already there has been considerable interest in Ffermio Bro here in Llŷn.
- 3.3 The local Ffermio Bro farm advisor - Iwan Ifan will be present at the meeting to provide an update on the scheme.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To accept the information.
- 4.2 To elect a representative from the Joint Committee to serve on the Ffermio Bro Panel.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | July 2nd 2025 |
| TITLE | Update on Llŷn AONB capital projects |
| PURPOSE | Inform members |
| AUTHOR | AONB Projects Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | To accept the information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains an update on the Llŷn AONB capital projects. These projects are financed through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) programme by Welsh Government. It is only the Designated Landscapes, i.e National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty that benefit from this support.
- 1.2 The first round of SLSP projects which covered 2022-25 have now been completed. This report provides an overview of those projects and an outline of what is planned for the next project period – 2025-27

2.0 CAPITAL PROJECT THEMES

- 2.1 Themes for the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places scheme (2022-25) were set by Welsh Government and were as follows:
- Biodiversity and nature recovery
 - Decarbonisation
 - Resilient and green communities
 - Sustainable Tourism
- 2.2 The Llŷn AONB had projects for each of the four themes and the Unit has been presenting reports to the JAC annually with information on progress. Information and updates have also been included in the Llygad Llŷn newsletter which has been sent to members, copies of the newsletter are also distributed locally.

3.0 UPDATE ON 2022-25 PROJECTS

3.1 These projects ended in March this year. Below is a summary of the work that was undertaken during the last year of the scheme:

- **Common land** – further work was carried out on the commons at Y Foel Gron, Horeb and Rhos Botwnnog. Actions have included access improvements, tackling invasives, re-introducing grazing, restoring a historical stone wall and a new fence to safeguard Ffynnon Fyw, Mynytho.
- **Native trees** – this was a two year project. In 2023-24 the main work was in identifying suitable sites to plant trees while the planting itself was completed in 2024-25. In total around 5,000 trees were planted on different sites within, and near, the AONB.
- **Non native invasive species** - species such as the himalayan balsam, japanese knotweed and rhododendron are a problem across Llŷn with their adverse effect on biodiversity. Following undertaking surveys in 2023-24 much work was undertaken to eradicate these species in 2024-25.
- **Y Ganolfan, Llithfaen** – The Ganolfan project was the biggest SLSP project and spanned three years. The AONB Unit was successful in attracting a significant financial contribution to the project from the UK Government's Prosperity fund. The refurbishment of the Ganolfan began in January 2024 and was completed by October 2024, it was officially re-opened in November.
- **Llanbedrog quarry car park** – this was a project under the theme of Sustainable Tourism. It is a popular site but had become untidy and overgrown. A series of improvements were undertaken including re-surfacing the parking area, moving large boulders, cutting back vegetation and tree planting.

4.0 COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

4.1 In addition to the specific projects for the Llŷn AONB the area has benefitted from collaborative projects with other Designated Areas. Information on these projects are included in Llygad Llŷn and there will be an update at the meeting:

- Traditional boundaries

- The Dark Sky
- Education pack

5.0 2025-27 PROJECTS

- 5.1 At the beginning of 2025 details were obtained of an additional period of capital funding by Welsh Government through Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places. This time it was over two years but on similar themes to the earlier scheme, however there is now greater emphasis on nature recovery and decarbonisation.
- 5.2 Proposals were submitted on behalf of the Llŷn AONB in accord with the scheme guidelines and the following plans have been supported:
- Planting native trees in the AONB
 - Tackling non-native invasive species
 - Abergeirch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Decarbonisation of village halls/ centres
- 5.3 The AONB Unit will be working on these projects over the next two years ensuring they are completed in accordance with regulations and budget.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Accept the information.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 2 nd Of July 2025 |
| TITLE | The Sustainable Development Fund |
| PURPOSE | Inform Members |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Projects Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents information to members about the current situation of the Sustainable Development Fund and other associated matters.

2.0 2024/25 EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 A total of £100,000 was available in the Sustainable Development Fund during the last financial year and we managed to allocate all the money.

- 2.2 Here is a list of the projects supported:

- CDC 24.1 RSPB Morfa Dinlle £2,911
- CDC 24.2 1st mate Maritime Museum £5,895
- CDC 24.3 Cydio yn awen Enlli £3,000
- CDC 24.4 Llanbedrog Playground £29,012
- CDC 24.5 Melin Daron £18,962
- CDC 24.6 Antur Aelhearn £1,463
- CDC 24.7 Menter Rabar £2,767
- CDC 24.8 Menter y Tŵr £21,850
- CDC 24.11 Tudweiliog Noticeboards £1,485
- CDC 24.12 RSPB Porth Ceiriad £2,652

3.0 EXPENDITURE 2025/26

- 3.1 A total £95,000 was available in the Sustainable Development Fund at the start of this financial year (2025/26). We are confident that everything will have been claimed by March 2026.

3.2 Here is a list of the projects that have been supported so far:-

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • CDC 25.1 | Llŷn Fflecsi Bus | £25,000 |
| • CDC 25.2 | Llanbedrog Playground | £22,150 |
| • CDC 25.3 | Multi-use paths in Nefyn | £11,400 |
| • CDC 25.4 | 1st mate Maritime Museum | £4,600 |
| • CDC 25.5 | Enlli Solar Energy | £9,532 |
| • CDC 25.6 | Porthdinllaen Rowing Club | £750 |
| • CDC 25.7 | Decarbonisation of Rhiw Village Hall | £2,250 |
| • CDC 25.8 | Antur Aelhearn Garden | £1,000 |

3.3 So far one grants panel meeting has been held and another will be needed to complete the allocation of the remaining funding.

4.0 THE FUND IN 2026-27

4.1 Confirmation has been received that a funding of £95,000 is available for the next financial year (2026/27).

4.2 In accordance with the most recent guidelines from the Welsh Government, priority will have to be given to projects that go hand in hand with the themes of Nature Restoration and Decarbonisation. In accordance with the guidelines, 60% of the funding will have to be earmarked for these themes.

4.3 The new guidelines will come into force in April 2026 and they also include changes regarding the membership of the grants panel. We will report further on this at the next meeting of the Joint Committee which will be held in November.

4.4 We anticipate that reaching the new target will be a challenge that will mean a change of emphasis in the projects that have been funded in the past. To note - reducing the carbon footprint of community/charity buildings can include measures such as double glazing, insulation and solar panels.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Accept the information above.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| MEETING | Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | July 2 nd 2025 |
| TITLE | AONB Management Plan Review |
| PURPOSE | Inform members |
| AUTHOR | AONB Service Officer |
| RECOMMENDATION | Accept the information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains further information on the review of the AONB Management Plan. At the previous meeting of the Joint Committee, held on November the 26th, there were two separate reports on the Management Plan – one related to the background and the second regarding the process and Vision.

2.0 GUIDE ON THE REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

- 2.1 As noted previously we will need to follow the steps outlined in the Guide on preparing and reviewing Management Plans. This Guide has recently been updated by Land Use Consultants on behalf of Natural Resources Wales.
- 2.2 Keith Davies, Principal Advisor Designated Landscapes at Natural Resources Wales appeared at the previous meeting to provide background on the Guide, more information is available in the committee minutes. The Guide is a substantial document, however it is understood that a summary document is going to be produced but is yet to be published. A copy of the complete Guide can be seen on the following link: [Designated Landscape Management Plan Guidance - Landscapes Wales](#)
- 2.3 In brief the Guide suggests following the steps noted below when reviewing the Plan:
- Consider the latest information regarding the area's features (condition)
 - Take into account information and obligations of relevant plans and strategies
 - Review the Plan's Aims/ Objectives and Policies.
 - Create a new Action Plan for the plan period.
 - Reviewing the Strategic Environmental and Habitats Impact Assessment.

- 2.4 It is important to consult with the AONB's inhabitants and other stakeholders during the review process. The Joint Advisory Committee has a role to play here as there is a good representation of various areas and of organisations and bodies among the membership.

3.0 STATE OF THE AONB

- 3.1 One of the first steps to be taken as part of the Management Plan review therefore is to assess the condition of the various features and see if there have been changes over time. These changes may be for better or worse.
- 3.2 The AONB Unit commissioned an update of the State of the AONB Report in 2021. This Report contains information on the condition of the AONB's special features and pressures upon them. A summary has been presented to the JAC in the past but following a request at the previous meeting a copy of the full report was sent out to JAC members on e-mail.
- 3.3 Comments on the State of the AONB Report (2021) were received by some JAC members and Natural Resources Wales. A summary of those comments can be seen below:
- Why is the report in English only ?
 - There is a lack of information on some matters, specifically those regarding climate change, landscape, wellbeing, pollution and biodiversity.
 - There is no reference to the Shoreline Management Plan.
 - More recent information is now available on some topics eg agriculture.
 - It would be good to see an assessment of how other plans – the Local Development Plan, the State of the AONB Report, Gwynedd and Môn Wellbeing assessment – correlate as part of the revised Management Plan content.
 - The State of Report needs to reflect the recent Guide that was commissioned by Natural Resources Wales.
- 3.4 On the basis of the responses received our intention is to arrange for the State of the AONB to be revised and updated so as to gain a better understanding of the area and pressures on the environment. Also, the revised Report will be bilingual. The aim is to get the revised State of Report completed by the next JAC meeting which

is scheduled for November 2025.

4.0 SPECIAL QUALITIES

- 4.1 Information regarding the defined special qualities of the Llŷn AONB had been provided to the last meeting. No comments were received in respect to these definitions therefore they will be carried over into the revised Plan.

5.0 THE VISION

- 5.1 A revised Vision for the Llŷn AONB area (based on a 2050 date) was presented at the meeting held in November 2024. There was considerable debate on the Vision and one change was suggested i.e to include “ and their habitat”. With this change the revised Vision was accepted to be included in draft revised Plan. The Vision now reads as:

AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST, SUPPORTING A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE **AND THEIR HABITATS**, PROVIDING A RANGE OF NATURAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. HISTORIC FEATURES AND OTHER QUALITIES BEING VALUED AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUSTAINING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

6.0 KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 As an initial step in the review process members of the JAC were requested at the last meeting for their opinion regarding key issues which are having an impact upon the qualities and the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Also, comments and suggestions were requested as to possible actions or projects which could engage with the challenges facing these qualities. However there was only a limited discussion on this (please see the minutes for more details).
- 6.2 As a follow on, when we sent out a message regarding the State of the AONB in January 2025, a link to the existing management Plan was included and also a request for comments on two specific questions. JAC members were welcomed to respond by contacting the AONB team to arrange a meeting or sending comment in via email or post. The questions posed were:

- What, in your opinion, are the main environmental, economic and social (including cultural) challenges that face the area over the next 20-25 years?
- Which possible actions could help to address these challenges ?

6.3 Numerous responses were to this request for comments, thanks to all who responded. A summary of the responses received can be seen in **Appendix 1**. Some of these comments were of a more general nature, the response to those are shown below:

- It is believed that it was agreed that individual members wanted to be part of the discussion and therefore it would be easier if each other's comments can be seen – therefore everyone's e-mail was included in order to get an open discussion.

The reason for not including the e-mail addresses of all individuals in the original message was based on data protection.

- Would like to get a clearer picture of the AONB's structure within the County Council i.e. is the "AONB Unit" the same as the "AONB Team", who are the individuals who are part of the AONB Unit and/or Team ? What is the relationship of the AONB Team and/ or Unit with other Council departments?

The AONB Unit is part of the Planning Policy, Landscape and Nature Service in the Environment Department. The AONB Team are the AONB Unit staff which consist of 4 members – Bleddyn Jones (AONB Service Officer, Morus Dafydd (Project Officer), Kevin Roberts (Countryside Warden, Elin Hughes (Activities Officer).

- How and where do the priorities plans, which have been identified in the Ardal Ni Development Plan intertwine with the AONB plans?

The AONB team have contributed to the Ardal Ni plans and are aware of their contents. Also they will be considered as part of the Management Plan review.

6.4 The AONB will take all the comments received into consideration when moving ahead with Management Plan review work.

7.0 THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Although some elements of the existing Plan are dated, many of the Plan's aims and policies remain relevant. Soon the AONB Unit will start to assess and revise the existing Plan's aims/ objectives and policies and suggest updating/ changes to respond to new information and/ or a change in circumstances and comments received thus far. There may be a need to include additional new

policies. A meeting of the JAC will be arranged to discuss the draft aims/ objectives and policies.

- 7.2 The existing Plan also contains an Action Plan (5 year work programme) which includes many individual actions. These action vary – some are fairly small scale while others are more far reaching - they all contribute to realising the Plan's aims/ policies. These actions are not exclusively for the AONB Unit, some are relevant to other Council Departments or bodies such as Natural Resources Wales, The National Trust, Scottish Power etc.
- 7.3 Most of the actions in the Action Plan have been completed but not all. We have not prepared an analysis of each of these actions but this can be done if members are of the opinion it would be worthwhile and a good use of resources.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Accept the information.
- 8.2 Support the intention to update the State of the AONB Report as the continuation of the work to review the Management Plan.

APPENDIX 1**Comments received on the initial consultation
AONB Management Plan review**

| Comments by | Comment |
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| Member representing Cyngor Cymuned Tudweiliog | It is believed that it was agreed that individual members wanted to be part of the discussion and therefore it would be easier if each other's comments can be seen – therefore everyone's e-mail was included in order to get an open discussion |
| | Would like to get a clearer picture of the AONB's structure within the County Council i.e is the "AONB Unit" the same as the "AONB Team", who are the individuals who are part of the AONB Unit and/or Team ? What is the relationship of the AONB Team and/ or Unit with other Council departments? |
| | How and where do the priorities plans, which have been identified in the <i>Ardal Ni</i> Development Plan intertwine with the AONB plans? |
| | Why is the report that was presented in English only ? |
| | There is a need to consider the new evidence included in the Perthryn project and the Llangwnnadl Housing and Language survey 2024 which proves that the Welsh language situation is much worse than what official statistics show. |
| | It is clear that our foremost responsibility over the next 25 years is to support the Startegic Aim of our Community and Town Councils and the Welsh Government's 2050 Strategy by ensuring that every policy, action plan and action in the AONB leads to more Welsh speakers and households by 2050. |
| Member representing Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) | Main Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining a balance between supporting the visitor economy (the main driver of the area's activity and prosperity) while sustaining and enhancing the area's environmental qualities, social wellbeing, culture and language.• Ensuring that the qualities of the AONB's environment and the strengths of its economy are sustained in the face of climate change.• Spreading the economic benefits of the visitor economy more evenly through society. |
| | Possible actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay more attention to measures to enhance (as well as to protect) the AONB.• Increase efforts and resources to publicise the AONB and its management plan policies.• Harness the latent volunteer capacity of society more effectively and increase the sense of community ownership within the AONB.• Increase resources and efforts to monitor, enforce and reduce more effectively the visual impact of caravans on the landscape. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate more effectively the design and visual impact of house rebuilds and extensions, while promoting sustainable retrofitting of existing housing stock wherever practical. • Given the practical and visual limitations on options for increasing local renewable energy generation and power grid capacity, support a greater emphasis on reducing local energy use particularly through home (especially wall) insulation and electrification of heating systems and transport. • Lobby for more effective support and resources to restore and maintain local recreational amenities, including the footpath network. • Improve representation of tourism business on the AONB JAC. |
| Member representing Nefyn Ward on Cyngor Gwynedd | <p>Agree with many of the comments made by the CPRW member apart from the following:</p> <p>Electrification of transportation and heating – It is believed that more coal should be burned to get cheaper electricity and place the worries regarding climate change to one side. CO₂ i food for plants and more and more scientists which are at the forefront of thermal dynamics / physics and geology attest to this. Refer to Professor William Happer, John Clauser phd physic <i>Nobel prize for physics</i> 2023, and the <i>CO₂ COALLITION</i> for a list of over a thousand scientists. The countries of Britain have the most expensive electricity bills in the world and following <i>net zero</i> will lead more and more people into energy poverty and severe poverty due to works closing as a result of energy costs.</p> |
| | <p>The Welsh language need to be placed at the forefront of our policies, especially when considering that community councils have designated that area as one of high density linguistic significance.</p> |
| | <p>The interests of the family farm needs to be safeguarded and end the call for 20% of agricultural land to be used for forestry and biodiversity. It is seen that <i>hedge fund managers</i> are buying Welsh land farm by farm for <i>carbon offset</i>. The long term aim is to de-populate the countryside and is similar to the historical <i>Highland clearances</i> and commons enclosures of old. People need cheap and healthy food and decreasing the land available for livestock and crops will only contribute to starvation. By following policies of people such as Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot starvation will follow.</p> |
| | <p>We need to place more emphasis on safeguarding traditional houses/ cottages and ensure that any improvements and adaptations/ alterations respect the character of a traditional building.</p> |
| Member representing Cyngor Cymuned Tudweiliog | <p>Agree with the comments made by the CPRW member and most of the comments made by the member for the Nefyn Ward.</p> <p>As regards the balance between the visitor economy and sustaining and enhancing the area's environmental qualities – pleased to report that the <i>Croeso Cymraeg</i> project, which has been included on the <i>Ardal Ni</i> Priority list, does exactly this.</p> |

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| | <p>By now the croesocymraeg.cymru website, which is a first step in the plan, has been launched in Partnership with <i>GwyrddNi</i>, <i>Cymunedoli</i> and <i>Menter Iaith Gwynedd</i> with support from the <i>Grymuso Gwynedd Menter Môn</i> plan. It will be further developed with input from all who share the vision of Cymraeg 2050. Hopefully this will include the AONB team, the AONB unit and the joint advisory committee. The Website is currently in Welsh only, however there is a translation button to translate to any language, therefore Llŷn is being presented in Welsh to the world but in any language. There is a lot of history and information on the website. Have a look, would be pleased to receive feedback. Looking forward to comments from JAC members who are learning Welsh to see how it works.</p> |
| <p>Member representing Cyngor Cymuned Trefor a Llanaelhaearn</p> | <p>The challenges facing the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y main challenge is the continuation of our identity as a nation of people who speak Welsh as a community language and sustain activities in our language in this area in the face of in-migration, outmigration of young people, Anglo-american media, over-tourism, self-interest, demographic change etc. • Another challenge is transferring our cultural inheritance, our physical heritage, our beautiful natural beauty in the face of indifference, climate change, erosion, disasters, lack of funding. • It is a difficult challenge to create conditions which offer a potential for young people to remain in their areas (“bro”) by providing housing, jobs of value and also changing attitudes towards the area. • Create a Partnership of cohesive communities which will stand firm for the Llŷn AONB, for the Welsh language and our unique history and culture. |
| | <p>Possible actions to respond to the challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust policies, ongoing promotion to create a feeling of pride in the area and enable our residents to be proud of Llŷn and wish to remain here. |
| | <p><u>9. The Historical Environment</u></p> <p>i) With over 300 sites a map would be useful, also possibly circular paths ? Aim: promote our wealth of history. Information boards, QP codes.</p> <p>ii) conservation area – a dire need for a survey and steps to stop the changes in the appearance of villages - <i>pebbledash</i>, solar panels and <i>heatpumps</i> on walls are not acceptable ! Need to ensure that conservation area means exactly that to the people in the Planning Department.</p> <p>iii) these sites can suffer from erosion- Tre’r Ceiri. This needs to be monitored.</p> <p>iv) 9.1.5 – the traditional Welsh cottages in Llŷn need to be safeguarded – influence Planning to not permit external alterations. The AONB to present a robust challenge to applications which would mean losing the character of these cottages.</p> |
| | <p><u>10. The Welsh language and our culture</u></p> <p>i) Although many efforts are made the % of Welsh language speakers decreases continually e.g. Llanaelhaearn 90% in 1981, 70% in 2021. The AONB</p> |

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| | <p>must be strong in support of retaining the language and reversing the tide of change, to supporting monolingual Welsh events.</p> <p>ii) protecting local placenames and ensure monolingualism, refute horrors such as Trefor Stacks and Whispering Sands !</p> <p>iii)10.2.5 there needs to be a contemporary survey of activities, with the aim of supporting them financially, promoting and increasing the provision.</p> <p>iv) Need to include a range of new activities (e.g clogs making) and young talents – authors from the area - Llŷr Titus, Mared Llywelyn, Iestyn Tyne, Casia Wiliam to name but a few, need to inspire young people.</p> <p>v) 10.6 need to acknowledge that tourism negatively impacts the language and culture – need to monitor and think how to lessen the impact.</p> <p>vi) policies:</p> <p>IP1 : the AONB need to be responsible for coordinating and promoting a varied programme of Welsh language only activities; IP2 is good.</p> <p>IP3 – the contribution made by the Ecoamgueddfa is important here.</p> <p>IP4 a IP5- the AONB should be at the forefront in emphasising that the Welsh language is essential to live a fulfilling life in the area. As a result of this all opportunities to learn the language, use the language (talking sessions) and the ‘buddies Cymraeg’ scheme etc should be promoted.</p> |
| | <p><u>11. People and communities</u></p> <p>Although there has been an increase in population our communities are under threat. The effect of over-tourism, summer homes, holiday accommodation has created pressure – a lack of housing for local people, expensive homes. Homes empty during the winter – effect on the community, services, schools etc etc Demographics – elderly people creating additional problems – health, transport.</p> <p>One third of the population born outside the area shows the scale of the immigration problem and the need to intergrate these people with the Welsh language and our way of life.</p> <p>There are robust policies in this section – a few need updating - e.g CP4 – to include the effect of the second homes premium, results/ perception Dwyfor Pilot scheme, changes in Planning etc.</p> |