

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

2.0 RURAL SKILLS TRAINING

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

3.0 MARINE LITTER

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

4.0 INVASIVE SPECIES

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

5.0 UNDERGROUNDING ELECTRICITY LINES

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

6.0 SUSTAINING ASSETS – VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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

7.0 AONB PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

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

8.0 CAPITAL PROJECTS – WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING

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

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

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

9.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 That members accept the information.