

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 29 th 2023
TITLE	Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report contains information on the Llŷn AONB capital projects. These projects are part of the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places programme by Welsh Government which is available to support capital projects within AONBs and National Parks.

1.2 The 8 Designated Landscapes in Wales were invited to submit capital projects for the 3 year period (2022-25). The themes for the capital projects were:

- Biodiversity and nature recovery
- Decarbonisation
- Resilient and green communities
- Sustainable Tourism

1.3 A mix of projects were expected from each area.

2.0 LLYN AONB PROJECTS 2022-23

2.1 **Gyrn Goch Circular walk** - This particular path was closed in 2022 because the old bridge crossing river “Hen” had rotted and was impossible to cross. The main focus of the project was therefore to install a new bridge over the river in order to reopen the circuit and create access to the nearby forest and the access land of Gyrn Goch. Other improvements were also made to the journey by exchanging a stile for a gate and resurfacing part of the path. This is a fairly short walk but it provides an opportunity to walk through various landscapes including forest and unimproved land with various wild plants.

2.2 **AONB Warden electric van** - As part of the effort to decarbonise the services of the AONB and Gwynedd Council, a portion of the capital grant was used to buy an electric van for the Warden of the AONB. This meant getting rid of the old diesel van and thereby reducing the service's carbon footprint. Charging Points in the Cob Road, Pwllheli offices are used to charge the van and occasionally those of the National Trust.

2.3 **Common Land** - Another exciting project by the Unit is to assess and improve some common lands in Rhos Botwnnog, Foel Gron Mynytho, and Horeb/Mynytho.

In the financial year 2022-23 ecological surveys were carried out on the common lands in question. In the coming years we will implement measures to restore/improve the condition of the lands (e.g. improving habitats, removing invasive species), improving management, reducing fire risks etc. The project also aims to improve access and interpretation to these lands.

- 2.4 **Y Ganolfan, Llithfaen** – The Ganolfan is an important building in the village of Llithfaen and the surrounding area. Until recently various meetings and activities were held here and there were two snooker tables that were in constant use. During the lockdown period a problem developed with dry rot in the Ganolfan and it became clear that significant improvements were needed before the building could be re-opened. In year 2022-23 TCLC capital funds contributed to a thorough condition survey of the Ganolfan and drawing up a Business Plan for the future.
- 2.5 **Access improvements** – the SLSP capital grant also supported improvements to access and signage on sites near the coast at Mynydd Tir y Cwmwd, Porth Ysgo and Porthor.
- 2.6 **Traditional Boundaries** - This is a joint project with other designated areas of north Wales. Its purpose is to maintain and restore traditional boundaries - stone walls, banks and stone faced earth banks. As well as being interesting features on the landscape these boundaries are important wildlife habitats. As part of the project the Llŷn AONB Unit collaborated with the Snowdonia National Park to offer grants to maintain and restore traditional boundaries in the Madryn area, Llŷn.
- 2.7 **The Dark Sky** - Again, this was a joint project with other designated landscapes. A lot of work has already been done to raise awareness about the importance of the dark sky through the Night Partnership. This project builds on that and includes appointing consultants to carry out an inspection of lighting in areas and identify opportunities to install new lights, less harmful to the dark sky. Following that the project will move on to realize the improvements for the benefit of the dark sky and the environment in general.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Accept the information