



Agenda

Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee

**Friday, 4 November 2022, 10.00 am
Council House, Malvern Hills District
Council**

**Avenue Road
Malvern
WR14 3AF**

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Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee
Friday, 4 November 2022, 10.00 am,

Members

Elected Members:

John Raine (Chairman)	Malvern Hills District Council
Chris Atkins	Malven Hills Trust
Bronwen Behan	Malvern Hills District Council
Sven Bosley	Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
Anthony Johnson	Herefordshire Council
Helen l'Anson	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Scott Richardson Br own	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Jack Satterthwaite	Worcestershire County Council
Mike Wilkinson	Worcestersire Association of Local Councils
Roger Yeates	Forest of Dean District Council

Non-Elected members:

Wayne Barnes	Forestry Commission
Prof Richard Bryant	Hereford & Worcester Earth Heritage Trust
Sarah Faulkner	NFU West Midlands
James Hervey-Bathurst	Country Land & Business Association
Frank Hill	Campaign to Protect Rural England
Hazel McDowall	Natural England
Mr N Rimmington	Historic England

Co-Opted Members:

Mr A Lee	Herefordshire Local Access Forum
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Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Substitutes	
2	Declaration of Interests	
3	To elect a Chairman	
4	To appoint a Vice Chairman	

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To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Kate Griffiths on 01905 846630 or email: kgriffiths@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Thursday 20 October 2022

Item No	Subject	Page No
5	Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting	
6	<p>Tackling Climate Change in Malvern Hills District To receive a presentation from Matthew Barker, Carbon Reduction Project Officer, Malvern and Wychavon District Councils, on the work of Malvern Hills District Council towards achieving carbon zero.</p> <p>a) To note the content of the presentation. b) To discuss the future role and work of the AONB Partnership with regards to tackling climate change, especially in collaboration with others (reference the Statement of commitment from AONB Chairs on Climate Action: 8 Statement of Commitment .pdf (modern.gov.co.uk))</p>	
7	<p>National Landscapes prospectus To receive a report from Paul Esrich, AONB Partnership Manager.</p>	1 - 2
8	<p>Review of 2019-2024 AONB Management Plan Review To receive a report from Paul Esrich, AONB Partnership Manager.</p>	3 - 10
9	<p>Farming in Protected Landscapes - Update To receive a report from Sash Warden, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer.</p>	11 - 16
10	<p>Information Items To note the items for information.</p>	17 - 20
11	Verbal Reports from Partners	
12	<p>Dates of Future Meetings Dates 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 April 2023 • 10 November 2023 	
	<p>If you have any other contributions that you would like to bring to the meeting, please contact Paul Esrich tel: 01905 845057.</p>	

MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PROSPECTUS

Recommendation

- 1. The Committee is recommended to note and comment on the prospectus.**

Background

2. The National Landscape prospectus (see Appendix 1 which will be emailed separately) has been produced by the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) as part of a discussion within the family about what reform and renewal of AONBs could look like and how to get there. It builds on the NAAONB's response to the Landscapes Review and the ensuing government consultation, as well as incorporating the results of discussions that have been held more recently.
3. In responding to the Landscapes Review, and in how they have approached the process, Defra appear to have considered each of the proposals almost in isolation. The purpose of the prospectus is to demonstrate that when the various threads of the reform proposals are pulled together, then a powerful 'big idea' emerges - the potential to create a landscape designation by design, fit for the future but built on the learning and legacy of AONBs.
4. It is hoped that a compelling narrative which pulls these threads together will maintain momentum and enthusiasm for the reform that has been pursued and will make it less likely that some aspects are dropped.
5. This prospectus has very recently been sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment and to shadow Secretaries of State. It is felt that making a positive play for the role of AONBs and the work of their partnerships is perhaps especially important at the current time; given uncertainty around funding and policy reforms.

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MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF 2019-24 AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommendation

1. The Committee is recommended to:
 - a) Approve the principle of delaying a substantive Management Plan review for one year
 - b) Approve the indicative revised schedule for AONB Management Plan production
 - c) **Having previously reacquainted themselves with the current AONB Management Plan**, to highlight and discuss any specific issues that it wishes to raise which could be included in one page of text setting out its intentions for the next Management Plan, in particular concerning:
 - A vision
 - A Management Plan Structure
 - Partnership Objectives

Background

2. The current Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan was adopted in March 2019. There is a legal requirement to review and have an updated plan published within five years, meaning that a revised plan would normally need to be in place by end of March 2024.

3. However, there has been widespread change since 2018/19 and the scale and scope of the rapidly evolving legislative, policy and management framework for AONBs has significant implications for protected landscape management planning at this time. A revised plan to meet the normal timetable risks being substantively adrift from the principal legislative and policy drivers anticipated over the next 12-18 month period. In the wording of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act it is therefore not considered expedient to review the AONB Management Plan at this time.

Option of delaying a substantive review

4. Defra have confirmed (see Letter from Lord Benyon, Appendix 1 to this item) that our Partnership has the option to delay publication of the AONB Management Plan by up to one year from the original planned review date

5. The purpose of this optional delay is to give Partnerships time to digest new outcome-based targets (due to be published in January 2023), new Management Plan guidance (due to be published in Spring 2023), and Landscapes Review developments, and to embed these more easily into their Plans. Delay of up to a year would also provide some additional time to account for possible slippage of these publication dates.

6. Defra considers that that any Partnerships wishing to utilise the option of delaying a substantive review will still need to undertake a very light touch review to ensure compliance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, but will not need to consult extensively. Partnerships could simply agree and publish Malvern Hills AONB Partnership Committee papers and text that sets out their intentions for the next Management Plan and that the current plan period will be extended.

7. A review of this nature would allow Partnerships to carry over their existing Management Plan by demonstrating they have considered the next Plan in compliance with the law. Support for this approach would be required from all five Local Authorities with responsibility for the Malvern Hills AONB, along with sign-off in accordance with decision-making procedures for each Council.

8. Around 20 other AONB Partnerships are broadly aligned with the same Management Plan cycle as the Malvern Hills AONB with many indicating that they also wish to delay their substantive reviews by a year.

Rationale

9. In the absence of a definitive and detailed government response to proposals made by the Landscapes Review, a one year delay will enable alignment of a substantive Management Plan review with the development and publication of key drivers including:

- Significant changes to the purposes of designation for England's protected landscapes
- New guidance on the structure and production of strengthened protected landscape Management Plans.
- New Strategy for England's protected landscapes.
- An outcomes framework for protected landscapes to include new targets and monitoring requirements.
- Establishment of a new National Landscapes, Parks and Trails Partnership and AONB branding changes • completion of a review of options for AONB governance.
- A refreshed 25 year Environment Plan.
- Planning reform.
- Development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and exploration of links with the AONB Nature Recovery Plan.
- Further development and roll-out of new funding mechanisms for environmental management and nature recovery including: Environmental Land Management, Biodiversity Net Gain, Carbon credits and other forms of natural capital financing.
- AONB management role in delivering Environment Act 2021 and Net Zero Strategy requirements.

10. In particular, the publication or substantive iteration of the first four bulleted items are seen as an in-combination trigger point. When reached, this would enable meaningful progression of a Management Plan review.

Proposed timetable

11. The route to adoption of this very light touch review, effectively delaying a substantive review by one year, will differ by local authority. This could be a delegated decision that falls under the schemes of delegation for each Council. However, this requires confirmation from each Council.

12. The subsequent substantive review to produce a 2025-2030 AONB Management Plan would likely revert to requiring a more rigorous local authority approval process.

Table 1 - Indicative revised schedule for Management Plan review

Activities	Schedule
Confirm LA support for 1 year delay and sign-off process and notify Natural England	Autumn 2022
Appraisal of current plan and preparation of review statement	Autumn 2022
LA sign-off of extending duration of current Management Plan by 1 year	Winter 22/23 to Spring 23
Triggers met for a substantive review	Anticipated during 2023
Local authorities to confirm AONB Partnership to undertake review	Autumn 2023
Inform Natural England	Autumn 2023
Initial appraisal	Autumn 2023
Policy review and current version consultation	Autumn 2023
Consult Partnership on scope of review	November 2023
Context and topic papers prepared	Winter 2023/24
Stakeholder workshops	Spring 2024
Development of consultation draft	Spring 2024
Partnership approval of consultation draft	June 2024
Public consultation (8 weeks)	July/August 2024

Prepare final draft	Autumn 2024
Consult Natural England	Autumn 2024
Final text-only plan prepared for adoption	Autumn 2024
AONB Partnership adoption	November 2024
Local Authority adoption	Winter 2024/25
Design and publication	Winter 2024/25
New substantively reviewed Management Plan in place	31st March 2025

13. State of AONB analysis and reporting is expected to run 2022/23 – 2023/24 and will be used to inform the substantive review

14. Environmental Assessments / Environmental Outcomes report as required at the time will be iterated alongside substantive review stages.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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07 July 2022

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to confirm a decision by Defra, effective today, to give you and your partners an option to delay the publication of upcoming Management Plans by up to 1 year from their original planned review date, after new Management Plan guidance and new Protected Landscapes outcomes are published.

I am addressing this letter specifically to those Protected Landscape Management Plan Partnerships (hereafter: "Partnerships") that are required by law to review their next Management Plan in 2023 or 2024. For awareness, I have copied this letter to Protected Landscapes bodies who will not be affected by this option to delay and can proceed with their current review timetable as planned.

Please allow me to explain the rationale for this, and to reassure you that you are under no obligation to delay the publication of your next Management Plan if you would prefer not to and/or if a delay is unsuited to your management planning cycle.

The government committed to strengthen Management Plans in its [response to the Landscapes Review](#). We have already begun work to implement non-legislative change during 2022. For example, we are working with Natural England, National Parks England, and the National Association of AONBs to update the Management Plan guidance for both National Parks and AONBs. We are also working to ensure that new ambitious outcomes are agreed for the role of Protected Landscapes in delivering on the government's goals, aligned with the revised 25 Year Environment Plan and interim environmental targets under the Environment Act 2021 and the Net Zero Strategy.

We recognise the scale and significant implications of these reforms for management planning. We have also listened carefully to those of you who have voiced support for a more flexible and less prescriptive approach to management planning during our consultation on the Landscapes Review Response, which ended on 9 April.

We have therefore decided to grant you an option to delay publication of your next Management Plan. In practice, this option to delay will only apply to Partnerships that are required by law to review their next Management Plan in 2023 or 2024 and will therefore apply to Partnerships who currently find themselves in the middle or nearing the end of their five-year Management Plan cycle. Protected Landscapes that are due to publish their next Management Plan from 2025 onwards will not be affected by the delay and will work to the same timelines as planned.

The purpose of this optional delay is to give Partnerships time to digest new outcome-based targets (due to be published in January 2023), new Management Plan guidance (due to be published in Spring 2023), and new policies outlined in the government's response to the Landscapes Review, and to embed these more easily into their Plans.

Defra considers that that any Partnerships wishing to delay their next Plan would still need to respect their five-year review cycles as stipulated by the Environment Act 1995 (for National Park Management Plans) and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (for AONB Management Plans). In order to comply with the law without compromising the integrity of future Management Plans, Defra judges that Partnerships could simply produce a light-touch review in which they commit to produce a new Management Plan after the new guidance is published.

Defra has considered what a light-touch review might look like and advises the following: Partnerships would agree and publish one page of text setting out their intentions for the next Management Plan. This could include a brief vision statement, a summary of how the Management Plan will be structured, and a summary of the Partnerships' objectives over the next five-year review period (carrying forward actions and/or adding new ones for the year affected by the delay). Producing a light-touch review of this nature would allow Partnerships to carry over their existing Plan by demonstrating they have considered the next Plan, in compliance with the law. Partnerships would not need to consult extensively to produce this light-touch review, as we expect it would be pitched as a continuation/extension of the current Plan.

We remain committed, however, to ensuring substantive Management Plan reviews are conducted. We therefore ask all Protected Landscapes electing to delay their next Management Plan to complete a review of that Plan no later than 31 December 2025. We will consider any requests for an additional, exceptional extension on a case-by-case basis. Although we are committed to ensuring the management planning process is more flexible going forwards, we envisage this being a one-off delay in light of the wide-ranging and significant reforms we are proposing to make.

Let me be clear that any Plans that have recently been published will remain valid and effective for their current cycle in full (that is, five years from the date of publication). We recognise the considerable work that has gone into these Plans and want to assure you that any new targets, guidance, or policies can be embedded at a later stage, either during your current cycle or as part of the next five-year review.

Once again, I would like to reassure you that this delay is optional; it is entirely up to you, as Partnerships, whether to exercise it.

I hope that this option to delay can help to ensure a smooth and flexible transition as we roll out reforms to strengthen Management Plans. As we begin this process of longer-term reforms to Management Plans, we would like to explore how we can better harmonise Management Plan cycles so that we can promote partnership working and coordination of plan implementation across the 44 Protected Landscapes, while respecting local circumstances. I look forward to your input as we develop this work.

Management Plans are vital strategic documents and I am grateful for your tireless work to draft, develop and deliver them. My officials and I look forward to continuing to work with you on multiple programmes of work linked to Management Plans, including updating the new Management Plan guidance, setting new targets for Protected Landscapes, and developing the National Landscapes Partnership and the National Landscapes Strategy.

I would be grateful if you could share this letter among your Partnerships and wider networks to ensure they are informed.

I have also copied this letter to Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, Philip Hygate, Chair of the National Association of AONBs, and Andrew McCloy, Chair of National Parks England.

Yours ever,



THE RT HON LORD BENYON

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MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 4 NOVEMBER 2022

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES UPDATE

Recommendation

1. The Committee is recommended to:
 - a) Note the report; and
 - b) Raise and discuss any issues arising.

Background

2. Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme was launched in early July 2021. The programme forms part of the Agricultural Transition Plan (published on 30 November 2020), with funding available for all English National Parks and AONBs across 3 financial years, from 2021–2024.

Summary

3. Information on the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>
4. Guidance for applicants, tailored to the Malvern Hills AONB, can be found at: <https://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Annex-F-Guidance-for-Applicants-211011.pdf>

Funding and Expenditure

5. In the first financial year of FiPL (2021–22), the Malvern Hills AONB was awarded, following reallocation, **£90,000.45**. The breakdown of this expenditure was as follows:
 - Project Grants: £72,265.53
 - Advice and Guidance: £15,425.08
 - Administration: £2,332.6
6. Total Spend for the period was £90,014.21 (an overspend of £13.76)
7. For the 2022–23 Financial Year, the grant amount awarded is **£236,538**. At present, the following amounts have been allocated and/or spent:
 - Project Grants: £144,758
 - Advice and Guidance, and Administration Combined: £31,030
8. Remaining available spend for the 2022/23 FY (to include Projects, Admin and A&G): **£60,750**

9. For the 2023 – 24 Financial Year, the expected grant amount is **£198,027**. At present, the following amounts have been allocated:
 - Project Grants: £15,655
10. Remaining available spend for the 2023/24 FY (to include Projects, Admin and A&G): **£182,372**

Staffing and financing staff time

11. Sash Warden is still in position as Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Officer, working on both Advice and Guidance, and Administration aspects of the scheme.

Grant assessment:

12. In the 2021–22 FY, a total of 5 panel meetings were held, the first meeting of which was an introductory meeting.
13. So far, in the 2022–23 FY, three panel meetings have been held, with a fourth meeting planned to be held on 3 November 2022.
14. A total of 17 of the 22 FiPL projects have been approved by the Local Assessment Panel in the above panel meetings, with Paul Esrich as AONB Unit Manager approving 5 of the projects that were below the £5,000 panel threshold.

Inquiries

15. There have been further inquiries with regards to FiPL. Some of the inquiries have unfortunately been a substantial distance outside of the AONB, or the interest has been more suited to other Schemes (i.e., Farming Transformation Fund). Since the last JAC Meeting there have been a further 12 enquiries, with 9 of these turning into FiPL Projects, either approved or being constructed.

Applications

16. Between the expenditure in Year One, and allocations for Years Two and Three of FiPL, £232,679.85 has been put towards grant funding in the Malvern Hills AONB.
17. 12 projects were approved in Year One of FiPL, with 10 projects being approved so far in this 2022 – 23 FY.
18. Moving forwards there are 9 projects currently in the pipeline for either this current FY or to be spread over the 2023 – 2024 FY.

19. A breakdown of the Projects may be seen below in the table below.

2022–23 - Issues

20. The extremely dry weather of the summer has meant a significant amount of watering has been required on trees that were planted as part of orchard projects in the winter of 2021-22. However, with thanks to Colwall Orchard Group, it is believed that only 2 of these trees were lost over the hot weather period.
21. There are at least two potential projects which involve building ponds; regrettably these projects have stalled due to issues relating to the complexity and time involved in securing planning permission. The AONB Unit is still looking to move forwards with these projects if possible
22. Project MH013 – The Brush Seed Harvester, has been a great success in the 2022 summer, harvesting 150+kg of Meadow seed from three sites in and around the Malvern Hills AONB. It is estimated that the market value of this seed is probably equivalent to the cost of the harvester. Two of the harvested sites were SSSIs and all the seed will go towards projects listed below in Table 1. With thanks to both the Worcestershire County Council Green Space Team, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, and Private Landowners for their help with the harvesting and storage of seed.

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Sash Warden, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer

Tel: 01905 844686

Email: swarden@worcestershire.gov.uk

Project Code	Project Title	Applicant	Approval Date	Year 1 Spend	Year 2 Allocation	Year 3 Allocation
MH001	Malvern Foothill Connections	Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)	23/09/2021	£11,321.80	/	/
MH002	Colwall Orchard Group Traditional Orchards for the Future Initiative (COG TOFI 2021/22)	Colwall Orchard Group (COG)	23/09/2021	£8,520.00	/	/
MH003	Colwall Orchard Group Improving equipment and facilities for people and nature	COG	23/09/2021	£12,760.46	£10,495.00	/
MH004	Regenerative Grazing, Suckley	Private	23/09/2021	£15,235.83	/	/
MH005	Orchard Restoration, Colwall	Private	23/09/2021	£3,960.00	/	/
MH006	Hope End Park Conservation Management Plan	MH AONB	23/09/2021	£8,794.00	£12,556.00	/
MH007	Restoration of the last remaining Donkey Shed, Malvern	MHT	09/12/2021	/	£14,456.00	/
MH008	Restoration of a traditional Orchard, Alfrick	Private	09/12/2021	/	£2,556.00	/
MH009	Species Rich Grassland Creation and Orchard Creation	Private	09/12/2021	£3,649.00	£3,138.40	/
MH010	Tup Paddock, Ledbury	Private	13/02/2022	/	£2,745.50	/
MH011	Conservation enhancement inc grassland and orchard, Upper Colwall (The Purlieu)	Private	31/03/2022	/	£14,307.4	/
MH012	Conservation enhancement inc grassland and orchard, Upper Colwall	Private	26/09/2022	/	£3,496	/
MH013	Brush Seed Harvester	MH AONB	02/02/2022	£8,087.44	/	/
MH014	COG TOFI 2022/23	COG	19/05/2022	/	£24,187.50	£1611.00
MH015	Orchard Restoration and expansion, Suckley	Private	19/05/2022	/	£15,596.00	/

MH017	Eastnor Estates Woodshed Improvement	Eastnor Estates	28/07/2022	/	£17,391.00	£10,932.92
MH018	Increasing local meadow biodiversity for education and as a local seed bank, Colwall	Private	16/08/2022	/	£1,820.00	£2,220.00
MH020	Meadow Restoration, Mathon	Private	26/09/2022	/	£800	£742.50
MH023	Pond and Orchard Creation, Storridge	Private	28/09/2022	/	£5899.50	/
MH024	Woodland management and Forest School, Malvern Wells (Still waiting for approval)	MHT	<i>(Presented to panel 28/09/2022)</i>	/	<i>£5,255 or £6,578 – Panel approved of project but require clarification on some quotes</i>	£149.50
MH026	Hedge Laying at Cherry Green	Private	06/10/2022	/	£1,817.6	/
MH028	Hedgerow (re)creation at Castlemorton	Private	07/10/2022	/	£2,392.50	/
Additional Delivery	Wildflower Seed to supplement Projects MH011, MH012 and MH020 + further items for MH013 Brush Seed Harvester and seed harvesting	Supplement to approved projects	Summer 2022	/	£1,976	/

MALVERN HILLS AONB JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2022

INFORMATION ITEMS

Management Plan ref. (abridged)

LP3 Promote positive change to landowners, managers, developers etc.

HP1 Conserve and enhance the historic and cultural environment of the AONB

FP2 Bring woodlands, orchards and other characteristic habitats into favourable conservation condition through encouraging and supporting management regimes that provide an economic return.

FP5 Support appropriate measures to monitor and control pests, diseases and invasive non-native plant and animal species to protect food production and biodiversity resources.

Project

See FiPL update report.

Malvern Wells Parish Council has agreed to a proposal to manage the grassland on the Village Green in a way that should extend the area of nature conservation interest on the site.

Hope End Park Conservation Management Plan

Consultants have completed survey work and produced a Management Plan for Hope End Park. The draft has been discussed with owners and sent to staff at Natural England and Historic England. Comments are being incorporated into a revised draft. Discussions about works that could be funded via FiPL are now taking place with owners.

Woodland Management Plans

A Woodland Management Consultant is working on our behalf to help prepare woodland management plans and to advise owners.

Severn Treescapes

A new regional project to create a 60 mile corridor of enhanced tree cover connecting two of England's largest semi-natural woodlands - crossing Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire – has just commenced. <https://www.herefordshirewt.org/news/wildlife-trusts-severn-treescapes-project-receives-ps498902-trees-call-action-fund>

Deer management

A landowner event to discuss deer management and the issue of squirrels is due to take place in late November 2022.

BDO1 The distinctive character and natural beauty of the AONB will be fully reflected in the development and implementation of consistent statutory land use planning policy and guidance across the AONB.

RP4 Developments that are likely to lead to an increase in negative recreational effects in an area should contribute to the costs of mitigating and managing these effects

TP2 Provide a Quality public realm with good access and facilities that attract tourists

IP3 Raise awareness of the MHAONB and the significance of its designation

Vision 2040: people are connected emotionally, and spiritually to the area.

Planning

In June 22 staff at the AONB Unit joined with staff from the Cotswolds National Landscape to give a presentation to planners and heritage officers from Malvern and Wychavon re planning issues and good practice in the AONBs.

Planning Officer

Unit staff are working with colleagues in the Wye Valley AONB Unit to recruit a shared Planning Officer.

Recreational impacts study

The Malvern Hills Trust has commissioned advice to better understand the extent of recreational damage being done to the SSSI on the hills and what can be done to manage it. It is hoped that developer contributions will be help to finance necessary management in the future.

Malvern Wells Information Boards

We are working with Malvern Wells Parish Council to put up some information boards about grassland management on sites being managed by the Council.

Website Revamp

Following the liquidation of our former website developers, we have now engaged another local provider – Design in the Shires – to help us. The site is continuing to evolve. If any members have recommendations of local web developers they know of, these would be gratefully received by David Armitage.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We helped out with the celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, by lighting a gas beacon on the Herefordshire Beacon. We made a short video of the event.

Ledbury Poetry Festival

Together with Ledbury Poetry Festival we dedicated 4 walks with poets, authors and youth poets. There's a dedicated page on the website to the event.

Well-being day

We held a well-being day at Barton Court, this highlighted many of the activities that can be done in this beautiful landscape, that improve both mind and body.

Dance Film

We ran a fully-booked premiere of the modern dance film created over lock down, that showed the healing virtues of the Malvern landscape. It will be shown at the Exeter Dance International Film Festival in October.

NAAONB conference

In September AONB staff attended the national AONB conference, whose theme was diversity and inclusivity. We are now taking up the challenge of making our activities, communications and groups more accessible to a wider range of people. We hope to commission desk research shortly to find out both who does and who doesn't currently engage with the AONB, before beginning activities and conversations to find out more about how we can be more accessible.

Recommendation

Members of the JAC are requested to note this information report and contact the AONB Unit if they wish to be involved in any consultations or to receive further information on any of these agenda items.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Paul Esrich, Manager, Malvern Hills AONB Partnership

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Website: www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk

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