

20/10/2008

**Welcome to the E-bulletin of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership.** We hope you will find this a useful update of things going on in the AONB. Please feel free to forward it to anyone you think may be interested. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the circulation list, please contact the SHAONBO mailbox.

### **AONB Management Plan Review - consultation**

The new AONB Management Plan for 2009-14 is now out for public consultation until the end of December. This statutory Plan has been prepared by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on behalf of five local authorities. The Plan provides detailed information on the special qualities and assets of the AONB, along with trends and influences. It sets out five key priorities for 2009-14 and sets out policies and actions for a wide range of parties in relation to these:

- Valuing, conserving and enhancing what we have
- Keeping the Shropshire Hills countryside thriving
- Shifting to low carbon
- Adapting for the future, working alongside nature
- Helping people to connect with the AONB

Through the various groups of the AONB Partnership many people have been involved in the preparation of the draft Plan, but views from a wider audience are sought in this consultation period. A summary page about the Plan and a poster about 6 local consultation events are attached below. If anyone can put one of these posters up somewhere, we would be very grateful. To see the whole Management Plan, go to <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/Mgtplan09-14.htm>

### **Friends of the Shropshire Hills**

A new group, the Friends of the Shropshire Hills will aim to foster a sense of belonging amongst local people - to encourage more people to care about the landscape, take pride in the area and contribute to conserving and sustaining the Shropshire Hills. The Friends will be launched at our 'Shropshire Hills - The Next 50 years' sustainability event on Sat 1 November at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre (drop-in event 9am - 2pm, along with Farmers' Market). A small membership fee will go entirely towards community projects in the Shropshire Hills through our Sustainable Development Fund. As well as supporting the Shropshire Hills and the AONB, members will have opportunities to learn more, attend events and get involved. Come along on 1st November or email us if you are interested in joining. <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/thingstodo/events.htm#november07>

### **Sustainable Development Fund projects**

The 22 projects supported this year with a total of £61,000 from the Fund are doing great things. Household energy surveys are available within the AONB through Light Foot Enterprises, see <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/publications/energysurveys.htm>.

Recent practical classes at Hopesay Glebe Farm in hen and bee keeping and growing organic vegetables and fruit have been well attended and greatly enjoyed. Outdoor classroom areas are being developed at Bitterley and Bucknell Primary Schools, Hopton Castle is being restored, and two projects are looking at how promoted and organised walks can link better to public transport. For more information on current and past SDF projects see

<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/partnership/sdfund.htm#reports>

### **LEADER in the Shropshire Hills**

We have recently appointed a full time Co-ordinator for LEADER, who will start early in November. We are continuing work on the Strategy which is required to gain formal approval of the funding, and on the structures and processes for appraising and approving grants. We will shortly be publicising unpaid roles on Panels to fulfil these functions. These are open to people beyond the AONB Partnership, and if you would like to be sent details, please email us. The Panels and Co-ordinator will be discussing Project Ideas which have been submitted, and LEADER grant offers are likely to start from April 2009.

As ever, your comments and views on these or any issues relating to the AONB are always welcome.

Phil Holden, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Manager