

CLEE HILL PARTNERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved 29 March 2011

1. Remit and Status

- 1.1. The Clee Hill Partnership aims to bring together relevant partners to work together for the sustainable natural, cultural and economic future of the Clee Hill area in the county of Shropshire.**
- 1.2. The Partnership will provide a forum for discussion of issues and co-ordination of activity, and will operate in a neutral way, not particularly linked to any existing individual organisation.**
- 1.3. The Partnership is unincorporated and is not a legal entity. As such, the Partnership cannot hold or expend funds itself. Projects and activities recommended or supported by the Partnership will be led by other organisations best placed to do so.**

2. The Clee Hill area

- 2.1. The area for which the Partnership will operate does not need to be defined by a rigid boundary. It is centred on the open hill land of Titterstone Clee and Clee Hill common, and includes the surrounding land which provides the landscape and community setting of the Hill, extending approximately as far as Knowlegate and Knowbury to the south, Bitterley to the west, Cleedownton and Bromdon to the north, and Catherton Common and Doddington to the east.

3. Working principles for the Clee Hill Partnership

- 3.1. The Clee Hill area is a living, working landscape supporting livelihoods and communities as well as having considerable importance for conservation of heritage and wildlife. The Partnership arises from an inclusive and well attended seminar held in February 2011, at which agreement was reached that better communication between relevant parties would help address some of the issues facing the area. The emphasis is however more on maintaining the current valued qualities of the hill and area and enhancing these where possible, rather than seeking major changes.
- 3.2. The scope of the Partnership will be broad and not related to one particular issue. It centres on the relationship between people and the land, and therefore includes aspects such as land management and conservation, recreation and visitor facilities and community links. It will seek to avoid any duplication with existing structures such as Parish Councils, Local Joint Committees, etc and will avoid getting drawn into very detailed discussions of a particular aspect where there is an alternative forum for this.
- 3.3. The Partnership and its members in discussions and any recommendations will respect the rights of commoners and private landowners, while also recognising public rights and values attached to the land and landscape.
- 3.4. The Partnership is not empowered to make any decisions, but through consensus building seeks to offer a valuable advisory and consultative role, and may choose to make recommendations or representations to other organisations.

4. Membership

- 4.1. The Partnership will initially comprise representatives of (in alphabetical order):
- Bitterley Parish Council
 - Caynham Parish Council
 - Clee Hill Commoners Association
 - up to 3 other community and local interest groups
 - Coreley Parish Council
 - English Heritage
 - up to 7 farmers/ landowners
 - Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
 - Hopton Wafers Parish Council
 - up to 3 individual community members
 - Natural England
 - Shropshire Council (up to 4 members and 2 officer reps)
 - Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership
 - Shropshire Wildlife Trust
 - Stoke St Milborough Parish Council
 - Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust

Organisations listed above will nominate their representative to attend meetings. Additional representatives from the organisations listed may be kept on a mailing list and attend meetings where this will be of value.

- 4.2. The Partnership may invite guests to attend meetings for a particular topic. Members of the Partnership will undertake to promote the sustainable management of Clee Hill, attend meetings whenever possible and, if no longer able to attend meetings on a regular basis, to step down or to seek another representative. Organisational members must have a significant material or operational interest in the area and have adequate resources to support effective membership. Individual members must demonstrate commitment in an area of interest relevant to the remit of the Partnership, and be resident in or near to the area.
- 4.3. The Partnership will review its membership every two years, and may co-opt new members.

5. Operation

- 5.1. It is intended that the Partnership be given adequate structure without being burdened by formality. The Group will endeavour to operate by communication and consensus, reflecting its main role of co-ordination and consultation rather than as a decision-making body.
- 5.2. The Partnership will meet three times a year, or as agreed by the membership. One meeting a year will normally be an open public meeting. A Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be nominated annually or as necessary by the members of the Partnership.
- 5.3. Arrangements will be made to provide administrative support. Agendas and any papers will be circulated at least a week before meetings. Members wishing to include items on the Agenda should try to give adequate notice to the Chairman or responsible Officer. Organisations may send alternative or additional representatives to meetings, with the agreement of the Partnership's Chairman.
- 5.4. Minutes and papers of the Group will be made publicly available through an appropriate web platform, having regard to the need for practicality and neutrality.