

DEDICATED NEW CHARITY ESTABLISHED FOR THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS

A dedicated new charity has been established this autumn to secure the widest possible individual, community and business support for the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Just registered with the Charity Commission, the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust is setting out to promote the conservation and enhancement of this nationally-designated jewel in the county's crown and its wider understanding and appreciation.

Complementing the work of the mainly government-funded Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, the Trust will initially concentrate on raising and distributing funds to support projects and activities contributing to the Area's agreed Management Plan.

Amongst other things, it will take on responsibility for running the AONB Partnership's highly successful Conservation Fund that provides grants to local groups and organisations, while supporting and encouraging volunteer work throughout the Area.

"We aim to provide a focus for the many individuals, communities and businesses within and around the Shropshire Hills who share our love of its special places and want to contribute towards their future," said the new charity's founding chair, Dr Anthony Morgan from the Redlake Valley in Clun Forest.

"To do this our first task is to find another three volunteers to join our founding group of four trustees in planning and developing our work. We are looking for people who have a strong commitment to the Shropshire Hills and its AONB designation together with charity, fund-raising or organisational experience.

"So if you have the time, skills and interest to help us in this or any other capacity we'd love to hear from you."

A full description of the role of the charity's trustees, its constitution, a simple trustee application form and a place to register wider individual or business interests in supporting the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust are available through the Shropshire Hills AONB website at <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/2016/09/16/new-shropshire-hills-aonb-trust-is-recruiting-additional-trustees/>.

While trustees have clear legal responsibilities, Dr Morgan points out that the Trust's establishment as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) means they carry no individual financial liabilities.

"As a charity dedicated to the Shropshire Hills we very much look forward to bringing together as many people as we can to support and build on the excellent work of the AONB Partnership and the many community groups, organisations and businesses who care for our countryside and its many assets," he said.

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