

Item 6. Planned 'Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum' event

1. Summary

This paper seeks comments on detailed arrangements for a Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum event planned for 27th February.

2. Background

Many organisations are working on how best to input views on government land management policy and programmes post-Brexit. We are involved in these discussions including through the NAAONB and the Uplands Alliance at national level, and at a county level especially through the Local Nature Partnership. There is however a gap for bringing together interests at a Shropshire Hills level to look at these topics, especially for the uplands, for which the issues are distinct, and not always well represented in national or even Shropshire structures. The AONB Partnership is well placed to convene an event to address this gap.

There is no specific government consultation right now on which to focus this event, but there is still a need to get this activity going now, as there will be a range of opportunities over the coming months to feed ideas in. This is intended as a one-off event, open to the public with a strong (though not exclusive) focus on farmers and land managers, along with other organisations with an interest. It is anticipated that follow-up events for further discussion may split on a more local basis into the three main upland areas of the Shropshire Hills – the Long Mynd-Stiperstones area, the Clun catchment and the Clee Hills, using existing structures such as the Clun Catchment Partnership and a possible new partnership group for the Long Mynd-Stiperstones.

Two speakers and the venue have been booked and a further speaker is needed, along with some decisions on how to run a panel Q&A and/or break out workshop discussions. Costs are modest and can be absorbed by the AONB Partnership, but hopefully some partner contributions can also be secured. The event would be widely publicised locally making full use of relevant networks.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

The Transition Board is recommended to comment on the planned event.

This paper has been prepared by Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager. For further details contact 01743 254741/ phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk.

Appendix 1 Draft poster for Uplands Forum event

You are invited to a

SHROPSHIRE HILLS UPLANDS FORUM

Speakers and discussion on post-Brexit policy and programmes for land management in the uplands

**7.00pm – 9.30pm Monday 27th February 2017
Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms**

Options, priorities, risks and opportunities

Working together to influence decisions for the Shropshire Hills



Resilient hill farms and land-based businesses

Public benefits for public money

Local schemes for local outcomes

Thriving ecosystems and wildlife

Landscape and culture

Making the transition

Speakers:

Julia Aglionby (Chair of The Uplands Alliance & Executive Director of the Foundation for Common Land) – Scenarios for Uplands support

2nd speaker to be confirmed

Andrew Hearle, National Trust – Opportunities for a new landscape-scale conservation project in the Long Mynd – Stiperstones area

Please let us know you are coming - contact alison.kay@shropshire.gov.uk or 01743 254740

Before the event - please think about what works well in current upland support systems