

Item 5. AONB Team Work Programme and budgets update

1. Summary

This paper presents a brief update on selected work programme items, plus an update on the current year's budgets and those for 2017-18.

2. Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Team Work Programme – selected updates on recent work

Meeting held at Defra 9 Feb regarding Conservation Board proposal. HLF Resilient Heritage bid submitted on 3 Feb.

Landscape Partnership Scheme – two new traineeships have been awarded, and the first trainee has completed his year. Works at the Pontesford Engine House, the largest capital project in the scheme, are in progress. Young Rangers scheme is under way and interpretation at various sites in preparation.

Clun catchment – team members were involved in a visit to the River Clun by Sonia Phippard, Defra's Director General Environment, Rural and Marine. Her blog write-up stated *"it was great to see NE, EA and the Shropshire Hills AONB team working closely together – and working with the local Rivers, Wildlife and Woodland trusts – to improve water quality in the River Clun."*

Fords survey of the Clun catchment for Natural England has been completed by Mike Kelly with Heather Scott (Harper Adams placement student). A highway drains survey of the Redlake catchment for Environment Agency is also under way. Fencing, tree planting and gateway improvements continue at various sites.

Cath Landles spoke at CPRE's Conference on Rural Shropshire on 3 March.

Nigel is now involved with the NAAONB Communications Officers group. A weekly #outstandinghour has been instigated on Twitter to highlight AONBs.

Great Days in the Shropshire Hills leaflet has been produced by Shropshire Hills Tourism with our support. A leaflet swap event at Stokesay Court has been planned for 29 March. The Shuttles promotion for 2017 has been prepared, with gaps in the season for economy.

There are 18 full applications to the Conservation Fund, with the Panel meeting on 20th March (over-subscribed by roughly 2x).

Western Power have been doing undergrounding work on electricity cables at Rhos Fiddle.

HLF's decision on the Upland Commons application is due on 22 March.

3. Notes on 2016-18 AONB Partnership budgets

Appendix 1 gives revised budgets for the current Financial Year 2016-17 and for 2017-18.

- i. Income earning is projected to exceed that expected and a small budget surplus on the year is now expected, subject to variables of the year end closing of accounts.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

The Transition Board is recommended to comment on the work programme and budgets.

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Appendix 1 2016-18 AONB Partnership budgets