

SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2017 AT WARREN FARM BARN

CORE MEMBERS

*Cllr David Wright	Guildford Borough Council
*Cllr Mike Band	Waverley Borough Council
*Cllr Lindsey Dunbar	Tandridge District Council
*Cllr John Stephenson	Reigate & Banstead BC
*Cllr David Mir	Mole Valley District Council
*Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Surrey County Council
*Paul Redsell	National Trust
*Adam Wallace	Natural England

ADVISORY MEMBERS

*Sandra Nichols	National Farmers Union
*Tim Harrold	CPRE
*Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira	Surrey Wildlife Trust
Tim Bamford	CLA
*Liz Cutter	SSALC
*Chris Howard	Surrey Hills Society
*Neil Maltby	Surrey Hills Trust Fund
*Simon Whalley	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC

*Members present

IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks	Surrey Hills AONB Office Director
Denise Furlonger	Surrey Hills AONB Office Secretariat
Clive Smith	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Marika Elzinga	Surrey Hills Society
Wendy Varcoe	Surrey Hills Enterprises

			ACTIONS
1		INTRODUCTIONS	
		David Wright welcomed everyone and round the table introductions were made.	
2		APOLOGIES	
		Mike Goodman, Tim Bamford, Nigel Davenport, Stephanie Fudge, Kristina Kenworthy	
3		MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	3.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 th September were agreed.	

4		MATTERS ARISING	
	4.1	Item 7.4 Quiet Lanes & De-Cluttering WG – The Director stated that the proposal was going to be presented to the Local Committees.	
	4.2	Item 5.8 Into The Wild - The Director said that he had not yet distributed the list of groups involved.	
5		PARTNER PRESENTATION – SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST	
	5.1	<p>The Chairman introduced Sarah Jane Chimbwandira from the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) who gave a presentation on how SWT aims to recover Surrey’s nature over the coming 30 to 40 years. She said that one third of species are in decline in Surrey and explained that key factors include development, fragmentation of habitat, and pollution. The Surrey Nature Partnership had produced a report, The State of Surrey’s Nature. For further information please press control key and click on the link - https://surreynaturepartnership.org.uk/</p> <p>Sarah Jane said that private sector funding is available if businesses calculate the financial benefits of protecting the environment. The Surrey Nature Partnership will be working on building relationships with businesses to explain the opportunities of large scale investment in the countryside. SWT is also targeting its work on the North Downs Biodiversity Opportunities Area and engaging with the North Downs Escarpment Facilitation Fund Project to working with farmers, land owners, and land managers.</p>	
	5.2	Mike Band said that the importance of Surrey being on the doorstep of London was key. Simon Whalley stated that Michael Gove will be attending the Rural Conference in March. Adam Wallace said that a vision for Surrey is needed and directed at politicians. John Stephenson added that politicians are focussed on the Green Belt issues which should therefore be considered.	
	5.3	Sandra Nichols said that the New Forest Future Farming Group has issued a 3 page document with 4 annexes. She will ask if she can circulate this to the Board. Chris Howard added that Max Lu, Vice Chancellor of Surrey University, is keen to be involved.	SN
	5.4	It was agreed that Adam Wallace, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Rob Fairbanks, Lisa Creaye-Griffin and Chris Howard should meet in January or February to discuss the approach to natural capital in the Surrey Hills. In the meantime any useful documents and rural statements should be sought for information that should be included. Simon Whalley stated that there was already a Rural Statement produced by SCREF which was agreed as a good starting point.	AW/SJC/RF /LCG/CH
	5.5	The Chairman thanked Sara Jane for her very informative presentation.	
6		SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD BUSINESS PLAN	
	6.1	The Director explained that the Business Plan provides the basis for delivering our contract with Defra and the delivery of the AONB Management Plan. It sets the framework for the Unit’s work plan and individual work programmes. He said that the AONB Management Plan is due to be reviewed ready for adoption by the constituent local authorities in 2019. The Family Delivery Plan also identifies the lead bodies for specific roles within the Surrey Hills Family. He highlighted key project priorities for 2018/19 and invited questions and comments about the document and	

		responsibilities.	
	6.2	Chris Howard said that a lot of work is going on behind the scenes with this document as the master plan and it works well.	
	6.3	Lisa Creaye-Griffin pointed out that the financial statement showed Surrey County Council were reducing their core contribution in 2021-22 but this was incorrect. Denise Furlonger acknowledged that this was a typing error and will be amended.	DF
	6.4	Sarah Jane Chimbwandira said that SWT was continuing the river monitoring work that had started as part of the Tillingbourne Tales Project, and Chris Howard added that she has been approached by schools that want to continue to be involved in projects that came about as part of Tillingbourne project.	
	6.5	Adam Wallace said that he thought it was a good and well balanced document and stated that another Facilitation Fund bid had been submitted. Rob explained that this was to work with woodland owners and was referred to in the AONB Unit report.	
	6.6	It was agreed that a programme needs to be formulated for the review of the Management Plan. The Director will arrange for the Officers Working Group to meet and a calendar created to ensure that it fits with local authority committees diary dates. The Board will review the programme at the March meeting.	RF
7		SURREY HILLS ACTIVITY REPORTS	
	6.1	AONB Unit. The Director said that a lot of work is going on for the 60 th anniversary and in particular wanted the Board to note all the hard work that Caroline Price has been doing. Displayed on the table were some draft posters that are being produced by local artist Louise Dunckley, and these will form the basis for a lot of the promotional activity around the travel campaign. He was still seeking a sponsor for the civic event at Speakers House on the 8 th May. Surrey Life magazine will be distributing a copy of their calendar with the January edition of the magazine. It focusses on the Surrey Hills and uses the winning photographs from their photographic competition. A private viewing will be held at Denbies on the evening of 29 th January to which the Members will be invited. The photographs will remain on public display for the rest of the week. The Director showed a calendar of the key dates for celebrations and asked if Members could let Caroline Price know of anything that is missing. The calendar will be updated and circulated with the minutes of the meeting. The Director invited questions or comments from the report.	CP/DF
	6.2	Item 2.2 – Waverley Local Plan. Mike Band felt that this item should be more carefully worded as it highlighted sensitive issues. This was noted by the Board.	
	6.3	Off Road Working Group – David Wright said he had been in touch with the police regarding the replacement for CountryWatch but has not had any response. Sandra Nichols said that she has been speaking with PC Laura Rowley who is very enthusiastic and suggested getting in contact with her. Sandra will forward her details. It was agreed to invite David Munro to attend a Board meeting to discuss rural policing.	SN RF
	6.4	Mountain Bike Working Group – David Mir said that he had nothing to add to the written report.	
	6.5	Quiet Lanes and De-Cluttering Working Group – Liz Cutter said that communities are concerned about matters relating to HGVs. It was agreed	

		that this should be the theme for the next Partnership meeting and will be a good way to encourage attendance by parish councils, local authorities and the County Council. This should be reviewed as soon as possible to ensure it is in people's diaries. Chris added that the Society Chairman's Day is good for engaging the parishes so we should pool resources. Rob and Chris to discuss.	RF/CH
	6.6	Equestrian Access Working Group – David Mir said there was nothing to add to the written report.	
	6.7	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC (SHE). Simon Whalley said that they have started to gain interest from a wider group of businesses and would like to extend influence into the whole of Surrey rather than just the Surrey Hills. The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey had agreed to become SHE's Patron. Chris Howard queried why a separate patron was required as Penelope Keith is the Patron for the whole Surrey Hills. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Chairmen's meeting next week. Wendy Varcoe outlined the new Business Plan and explained that they were aiming for a stronger marketing platform. Wendy presented the new trademark that came in a range of colours that would complement each business's own livery. Some Members had concerns that the trademark did not reflect the Surrey Hills brand or colours. It was agreed that the Family Communications Group should review and give their recommendations for the Chairmen to discuss at the meeting next week.	DW RF/CP
	6.8	Surrey Hills Society. Chris Howard said that the Society continues to support the AONB Board for the celebrations for the 60 th anniversary and Ken Bare had been very busy progressing with the booklet on the last 60 years of the AONB. The Society is also very busy working with Peter Morris of the North Downs Way helping to deliver a series of walks to celebrate its 40th anniversary.	
	6.9	Surrey Hills Trust Fund. Neil Maltby said they were very keen to promote the new strapline "Enhancing Landscapes and Lives". He is hoping that the 60 th anniversary will be a boost to the promotion of the Trust Fund. The Development Strategy was attached and Neil welcomed any comments.	ALL
	6.10	The Members noted all the activity reports and the Chairman thanked everyone for their commitment, enterprise and hard work.	
8		ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	8.1	The Director stated that the British Horse Society is keen for there to be a default of no height barriers at car parks. This had been raised at the Equestrian Working Group. Talks had been held with SWT and Surrey CC but the conclusion was that each car park must be dealt with separately as they each have different issues. Paul Redsell said that the National Trust has no height barriers at their car parks as they are restrictive to public access. He added that fly tipping happens everywhere not just at car parks.	
9		DATES FOR 2018 MEETINGS	
		The following dates were agreed subject to confirmation: Wednesday 21 st March 2018 - Board meeting Wednesday 13 th June 2018 - Board meeting Friday 6 th July 2018 - Partnership Tour	

		Wednesday 12 th September 2018 - Surrey Hills Board Wednesday 12 th December 2018 - Surrey Hills Board	
--	--	---	--

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017.

Signature of Chairman

Date