

SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2019 AT WARREN FARM BARN

CORE MEMBERS

*Cllr David Wright (Chairman)	Guildford Borough Council
*Cllr Mike Band (Vice-Chairman)	Waverley Borough Council
*Cllr Lindsey Dunbar	Tandridge District Council
*Cllr John Stephenson	Reigate & Banstead BC
*Cllr Claire Malcomson	Mole Valley District Council
*Mike Goodman	Surrey County Council
Stephanie Fudge	National Trust
Adam Wallace	Natural England

ADVISORY MEMBERS

*Scott Pepe	National Farmers Union
*Kristina Kenworthy	CPRE
Sarah Jane Chimbwandira	Surrey Wildlife Trust
*Tim Bamford	CLA
*Liz Cutter	SSALC
*Gordon Jackson	Surrey Hills Trust Fund/Surrey Hills Society
*Wendy Varcoe	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC

*Members present

IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Denise Furlonger	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Caroline Price	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Surrey County Council

			ACTIONS
1		INTRODUCTIONS	
		David Wright welcomed everyone.	
2		APOLOGIES	
		Simon Whalley, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Stephanie Fudge, Sandra Nichols	
3		MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	3.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 th December were agreed.	
4		MATTERS ARISING	
	4.1	Glover Review. David Wright asked whether there was any comprehensive insights into visitor numbers as this could be a key metric to argue for greater government funding. Rob Fairbanks explained that the Google analytics was the most useful information to compare with other protected landscapes. This was regularly reported in the AONB activity report. Stephanie Fudge agreed that establishing visitor numbers was important.	

	4.2	Sign De-clutter. David Wright said that he would brief Matt Furniss, who had taken over Highways portfolio, to secure his support for the initiative.	DW
5		SURREY HILLS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN (2020 – 2025)	
	5.1	<p>Rob Fairbanks gave the background to the AONB Management Plan and outlined the report of consultation, including the Surrey Hills Symposium and on-line survey He thanked the Officers Working Group, particularly Clive Smith and Rod Shaw, for their work in reviewing the policies.</p> <p>Caroline Price outlined the My Surrey Hills campaign that will be used to help promote the AONB Management Plan through monthly videos and testimonials that showed why people value the AONB. She showed the three videos that had so far been released. Members were very supportive of the initiative but expressed concern whether they were getting enough views. Caroline asked Members to share the links and she would contact the Communication teams at the respective local authorities</p> <p>There was discussion about highlighting the benefits of the environment to people’s health and well-being. Rob explained that this was now identified as an aim and addressed through extending the policies for ‘recreation, health and well-being’.</p> <p>Claire Malcomson expressed concern that there were no specific policies on climate change. Tim Bamford said this was a cross cutting issue and that the AONB Management Plan could not address all the issues to do with climate change adaptation and mitigation. Claire accepted that climate change was a cross cutting issue but stressed the Plan needed to highlight its importance. Mike Goodman agreed that a paragraph to explain how climate change will affect the AONB should be included. Rob to review text, including references to natural capital and ecosystem services.</p> <p>Tim Bamford asked if wording had now been agreed through consultation. Rob explained it had been through Officers Working Group, but there was still an opportunity for Members to comment. The Officers will be meeting again in May to review and amend the Plan, as appropriate.</p> <p>The process and programme for the adoption was agreed.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>RF</p> <p>ALL</p>
6		SURREY HILLS FAMILY ACTIVITY REPORTS	
	6.1	<p>Surrey Hills Enterprises. Wendy Varcoe presented her report. She identified a number of publications that are promoting experiences and businesses provided by Surrey Hills Enterprise’s members. She was working with Caroline Price to increase traffic to the Surrey Hills website and increase the e-bulletin circulation. It was agreed to add the email address of the Board Members.</p> <p>Wendy outlined the role of the new part time Marketing Officer, Maggie Howell, who would be assisting in events. There was greater collaboration between Members and the recent event had 80 members attending. They had presented 2 Gold awards and 2 young business awards. Michael Gove</p>	CP/ WV

		<p>had agreed to attend the Conference on 12th July at Cranleigh School and asked Members to put it in their diary.</p> <p>Wendy outlined the work with Rob Fairbanks and Visit Surrey through the Gateway Gatwick partnership to increase the benefits of in-bound tourism, including encouraging visitors to the Surrey Hills using sustainable transport.</p> <p>David thanked Wendy</p>	ALL
6.2	Surrey Hills Society.	<p>Gordon Jackson introduced his report. He explained that it was hard to divide the Society from the Trust Fund reports as there was greater integration of activities.</p> <p>Gordon said there had been a review of the Business Plan and Action Plan. Working closely with Enterprises looking at discounts for Members and he confirmed that the Society will attend Wood Fair this year.</p>	
6.3	Surrey Hills Trust Fund.	<p>Gordon outlined the strategy as set out in his report. He explained there were some issues about small donations going through Community Foundation or the Society.</p> <p>He emphasised the work with Leatherhead Youth Project and developing the Into the Wild programme. There was an opportunity to engage with cyclists and horse riders, perhaps through membership. Caroline Price was working on a dedicated new website.</p> <p>Gordon referred to the Ride London places that would be raising funds and asked any member interested in taking places to contact Rob who is the administrator for the places.</p> <p>David thanked Gordon.</p>	ALL
7	SURREY HILLS AONB ACTIVITY REPORT		
7.1		<p>Rob Fairbanks gave an update. He explained how the Glover Review is ongoing and various information is being sought from NPs and other AONBs. Glover was expected to report in September or October. He explained the Restoring the Future campaign to visualise a greener, healthier and wilder London City Region. There was also greater collaboration within the South East Protected Landscapes, with activities like the Travel Campaign and research on environmental land management schemes, including research related to the growth in viticulture with Kent Downs and South Downs.</p> <p>Boundary Review. It was reported that Natural England was concluding the Suffolk Coast & Heaths review. Glover stated that his review was no reason to delay any existing programs. Rob to follow up on progress with Natural England to establish the status of the Surrey Hills review.</p>	RF

	<p>Highways – Liz Cutter outlined the strategy for rural highways and schemes being proposed for traffic calming on the A25 and in rural villages.</p> <p>Caroline Price updated the AONB Board on website developments and trying to increase traffic. The Social Media accounts were steadily increasing and the Lark Ascending video had 60,000 views and 465 people had shared it.</p> <p>Caroline outlined the success of the Surrey Hills Arts programme, including BBC Countryfile featuring the House of Invisible Hands sculpture by Walter Bailey on Farnham Heath. An Art & Landscape Symposium will be held at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, on 10th October.</p>	
8	PARTNER PRESENTATION	
	<p>Lisa Creaye-Griffin provided a presentation on A 25 year strategy for Surrey County Council’s Countryside Estate. She explained the background to strategy to manage the countryside estate. The process had involved engaging with major landowners, community groups, the Surrey Countryside Access Forum and the Parks & Countryside Forum.</p> <p>Lisa spoke of the responses to a major on-line survey and outlined the emerging themes: Engagement & Education; Enjoyment & wellbeing; and Habitat & Landscape.</p> <p>The strategy will be launched at the rural conference on 12th July.</p>	
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There was no other business	
10	DATES FOR 2019 MEETINGS	
	<p>The following dates were noted:</p> <p>Wednesday 19th June 2019 - Board meeting Friday 5th July 2019 - Partnership Tour Wednesday 4th September 2019 - Surrey Hills Board Wednesday 4th December 2019 - Surrey Hills Board</p>	

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 27th March.

Signature of Chairman

Date