

SURREY HILLS BOARD

Minutes of meeting held on 12th December 2018 at Warren Farm Barns

CORE MEMBERS

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

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Sandra Nicholls	National Farmers Union
* Nigel Davenport	Surrey Wildlife Trust
* Tim Bamford	CLA
* Liz Cutter	SALC
* Simon Whalley	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC
Kristina Kenworthy	CPRE
* Gordon Jackson	Surrey Hills Trust Fund and Surrey Hills Society

* Members present

IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks	Surrey Hills AONB Office Director
Clive Smith	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Ali Clarke	Surrey Hills Arts, AONB Unit
Caroline Price	Surrey Hills Marketing Communications, AONB Unit
Marika Elzinga	Surrey Hills Society

		ACTIONS
1.	INTRODUCTIONS	
	David Wright welcomed everyone and round the table introductions were made.	
2.	APOLOGIES	
	Adam Wallace, Claire Malcomson, Kristina Kenworthy, Lindsey Dunbar ,	
3.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 th September were agreed.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING	

	No matters arising	
5.	CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURREY HILLS AONB	
5.1	Rob Fairbanks gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting all the activities and events that had taken place to mark the 60 th Anniversary of the Surrey Hills designation as an AONB.	
5.2	David thanked all the team and the partners for their wonderful efforts.	
6	PLANNING ADVISER'S ANNUAL REPORT	
6.1	Introduction. Clive stated that thankfully the Surrey Hills AONB has not suffered from major development. He was confident that the local planning authorities would always give due weight but he expressed concern about Appeal decisions. He stated the benefits of the double protection in having the Green Belt and the importance attached to the Surrey Hills from residents and visitors	
6.2	Local Plans. Clive reported that the challenge in the High Court to the Waverley Local Plan 1 was unsuccessful. Waverley BC was about to consult on the Local Plan 2.	
6.3	Boundary Review. Clive reported that this still had not commenced. It was rumoured that it was being put back because of the Government Review of Designated Landscapes but Glover had stated that Natural England should progress the programme.	
6.4	Development proposals. Clive reported that he does not have enough time to scrutinise applications as much as he would like. He emphasised the importance of good working relations with the planning officers. He is concerned about equestrian uses and the transfer of farmland into horsiculture. If that continued it would have a substantial impact on the character of the landscape, eg farming created a seasonal mosaic which was part of the character. He is proposing that the AONB Management Plan should consider a more restricted approach to equestrian development.	
6.5	Green Belt. David Wright asked about the status of the Green Belt. Clive responded that there were mixed statements from Government in terms of the importance of Green Belt but at the same time putting pressure on local authorities to find more housing. He also stated that Green Belt had a wider purpose than AONB but that Green Belt in the past was often given greater weight.	
6.6	National Parks. Clive expressed concern that the public and local authorities give greater weight to National Parks than AONBs but this should not be the case.	
6.7	Pre-application advice. David Wright asked about generating greater income from pre-application advice. Clive thought that this would increase next year but his principal role was to advise the local planning authority, not the developer..	
6.8	Waverley Local Plan. Mike Band confirmed that CPRE hand Protect our Waverley are seeking leave to appeal on the Inspector's decision to allocate greater housing numbers.	
6.9	Planning consultations. Gordon Jackson asked about the increase in consultations from Guildford BC. Clive thought this was a reflection that he was being consulted more as opposed to indicating the level of development.	
6.10	David Wright thanked Clive for his outstanding efforts.	
7.	GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES	
7.1	Rob introduced the background to the Glover review and the draft response to the Call for Evidence	
7.2	David highlighted the disproportionate distribution of Defra funding between designated landscapes. Mike Band agreed that there needed to be greater equality. Tim Bamford highlighted that the primary goal of the Cotswolds pursuing National Park status was to help safeguard the area from development rather than funding. There was discussion about public and political perception around the greater level of protection given to National Parks.	
7.3	There was discussion about the visitor economy. Simon said that we need to highlight	

	sustainability throughout our response to Glover. Mike Band stressed the importance of the rural economy and the contribution of the AONB needed to be emphasised more, including the provision of affordable housing and rural jobs. Mike Goodman said the visitor pressures and the need to ensure that visitors contribute to the local economy. Simon stated that there is poor public transport.	
7.3	Mike Band said that there are a lot of applications from developers wanting to seek an exception to the policy of needing to provide affordable housing. Clive responded that this was a national issue because land values are often so high that it did not leave a margin for affordable housing. He stated that the Government should ensure that developers need to take responsibility for providing affordable housing.	
7.4	Tim Bamford said that the Oxford Cambridge Arc and the proposed 1m houses is likely to lead the policy and practice related to land value, housing and infrastructure. Mike Goodman said the countryside is always likely to miss out on current policy, although he reported that within Surrey Heath 80% of CIL goes on SANGS	
7.5	David Wright referred to the AONB Management Plan and the lack of teeth to deliver it. He suggested that the duty of regard is weak, but wondered whether a duty to deliver will strengthen the arm of the AONB. Rob Fairbanks raised a concern that any duty to deliver may perversely limit the vision and ambition as public funding was so constrained. Mike Band said that, as its formally adopted by the local authorities, Officers perhaps needed to be more positive and pro-active about how it is delivered. He also stated that the AONB needed wider influence in terms of economic development.	
7.6	Simon Whalley stated the need for wider public support and that the Management Plan is very dry. Rob highlighted that the My Surrey Hills initiative that was an attempt to highlight why the AONB is important to people. This will be used in the promotion of the AONB Management Plan.	
7.7	Stephanie Fudge reported that the National Trust's response to Glover had been submitted which highlighted the need to strengthen the resources and profile of AONBs. Simon stated that national response tended to have generalised position and that we needed to be clear about what we require for the Surrey Hills. Rob reported that the South East National Parks and AONBs had agreed a united response which he would circulate with the final Surrey Hills submission.	RF
7.8	Mike Goodman asked about the status of Neighbourhood Plans and whether they reference the AONB Management Plan. Clive said that a Neighbourhood Plan should have reference to the AONB Management Plan.	
7.9	Tim Bamford stated there was an opportunity for permitted development rights to be extended in the SE National Parks and AONBs.	
7.10	Gordon Jackson highlighted the wine industry as an example of where sufficient flexibility may be needed to allow land use to evolve supported by the appropriate infrastructure. He said there should be room for development to allow more activities and private enterprise. He gave the example of Forest Schools. Mike Band gave the example of Tuesley Farm and the provision of soft fruit. It was agreed this was about sustainability.	
7.11	John Stephenson highlighted concern about the number of visitors. David said that it was an important issue to have the resources to manage visitors. Mike Goodman did not want to discourage visitors but agreed it was important that we have the right level of protection and management. Mike also highlighted the local and national benefit to health and well-being of a beautiful and accessible countryside.	
7.12	Stephanie Fudge supported the reference to the proximity to London and the number of visitors. David asked about evidence and Steph said that the National Trust could help with the provision of figures.	
7.13	Rob to update the draft response to Glover in light of the comments and track the changes. This would be sent to Members	RF
7.14	Following tracked changes, all further comments were requested by Friday 14 th before submission on 17 th December.	ALL
8.	SURREY HILLS FAMILY COLLABORATION	

8.1	David introduced his report. He highlighted that the purpose of the report was to ensure effective collaboration based on a set of principles and taken forward through a Collaboration Group. This would take over from the communications group.	
	Wendy stated that the fundamental purpose to strengthen to family members to ensure that we are all working for the same purpose with respect, and as a result we get more done. David agreed and fully subscribed to this. Rob Fairbanks agreed. Simon Whalley said that there needed to be greater understanding, Mike Goodman said that respect of different views was needed and still to work together. Wendy highlighted the potential to be effective through collaboration and how greater it could be if we collaborated more effectively. Liz commented on how fantastically the team had worked. Mike Goodman commented on how much had been achieved in the Surrey Hills through the family.	
	It was agreed to establish the collaboration group. David Wright said that this would be kept under review by the Chairmen's Group.	
9.	SURREY HILLS ACTIVITY REPORTS	
9.1	Surrey Hills AONB Board.	
9.1.1	Symposium. Mike Band asked about the proceedings from the Symposium. Rob stated that the event was recorded and would be on the website. He distributed the artist representation and said that there would be a summary in the AONB Management Plan. Tim Bamford commented that it was a phenomenal event and praised the organisers.	
9.1.2	Rural Surrey Leader. Mike Goodman highlighted the success of Leader in securing further investment into rural Surrey. Rob praised Sarah and Cathy in the Leader team.	
9.1.3	Environmental Land Management Scheme. Tim Bamford asked if we had heard about Defra Test and Trial. Rob reported that a bid had been submitted but there had been no response.	
9.1.4	Sign declutter. Liz Cutter reported on the highway declutter campaign. She said that it should be progressed as the hard work has been done in getting the practice and the process underway. Mike Goodman said that it was brought up at Surrey County Council Full Council, which was supportive. He stated that Mike Furniss was now the lead Member. Rob and Liz to brief.	RF/LC
9.1.5	Ash Dieback. Nigel Davenport reported on ash dieback. Surrey Wildlife Trust would be undertaking a public safety programme in areas with high levels of public access with work commencing in January and February. This should open up some views and benefit flora and fauna. The timber will be going through Euroforest to the power station in Kent. Steph reported that the National Trust is undertaking similar work on its sites with high public access. Rob referred to the Ash Project and tabled the Ash Book.	
9.1.6	Website. Gordon mentioned that the Surrey Hills Trust Fund site needed reviewing.	CW
9.1.7	70th anniversary. Gordon asked about plans. Rob referred to the working with the South Downs NPA and regional Designated Landscapes on a travel campaign building on the success of the Surrey Hills campaign that Caroline had led. He also referred to an initiative to visualise the Protected Landscapes role in creating a greener, healthier and wilder London City Region.	
9.2	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC	
9.2.1	Wendy Varcoe introduced her report. She mentioned the Members' events, including the business support programme and mentoring. They were seeing more collaboration between members. There were 85 members with clear objectives around further recruitment and the use of The Trademark	
9.2.2	There was a programme of events, including the Food Festival with Fantastic Food Festivals at Denbies, and the Surrey Hills Wood Fair. There was a programme of events to promote the Surrey Hills business and the landscape.	
9.2.3	Simon reported that the Greenscape Project was progressing with woodland owners	

	learning and sharing information. It was a diverse group including large estates, the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust.	
9.2.4	Wendy confirmed Gatwick and Lexus electric cars as two new corporate partners	
9.3	Surrey Hills Society	
9.3.1	The Queen's Award for Volunteer Service. Gordon Jackson mentioned that the Society had been put forward for the Queen's Award for Volunteer Service.	
9.3.2	Newsletter. There was active walks programme and the next newsletter was due to be out in January.	
9.3.3	Commemorative photo book. Gordon tabled a Surrey Hills Society book that had been produced for Chris and Ken as they stepped down as Trustees.	
9.4	Surrey Hills Trust Fund	
9.4.1	Fundraising strategy. Gordon Jackson tabled a paper outlining the fundraising strategy. The document appraised of how funds could be generated and distributed, particularly the different roles of the Surrey Hills Family and the Community Foundation for Surrey. The outcome was to identify the most effective way to handle funds and develop a clear, coherent strategy.	
9.4.2	Projects. Gordon said there was a requirement for closer working with the AONB Board to identify projects. The strategy identified Inspiring Views, engaging with young people, connecting with communities and enhancing environments as the key themes. These were discussed at private dinner following the Symposium and he wanted to identify ambassadors for each theme.	
9.4.3	Education. Mike Goodman stated that the education was the most important one and highlighted 2019 as the year of environmental education. Mike was hoping that Michael Gove would do the next conference and thought that Gordon could have a platform to promote the work.	
9.4.4	Schools. Stephanie stressed the need to link up with schools. Mike Band stated that some of the public schools had a charitable purpose and could help provide funding. Steph highlighted the education work at Box Hill and Nigel the opportunity to use Nower Wood.	
9.4.5	Grants. Two projects had been supported which were the Tales of the Wey and the Shalford Swift Tower.	
9.4.6	Health and wellbeing. Simon highlighted the benefits of health and well-being. Gordon agreed and thought this should be cross-cutting across all the programmes.	
10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	There was no other business.	
11.	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS	
	<i>Wednesday 27th March</i> - <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>Wednesday 19th June</i> - <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>Friday 5th July</i> - <i>Partnership Tour</i> <i>Wednesday 4th September</i> - <i>Board Meeting & AGM</i> <i>Wednesday 4th December</i> - <i>Board Meeting</i>	

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 21st December 2018.

Signature of Chairman

Date