

Surrey Hills AONB Meeting 2 December 2020

Public Question from Sally Blake

for discussion by the Board and a written response in the Minutes please.

The Surrey Hills AONB management plan and monitoring framework do not reflect the now-clear evidence of the devastating impact of climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution and unsustainability. Climate change is barely mentioned. Nor do they reflect the findings of the Glover report.

Does the Board agree that the Management Plan and its objectives need to be changed urgently to include the following and, if not, why not:

1. Giving clear priority to those objectives which focus on the protection, conservation, extension and connection of natural habitats, with particular emphasis on those designed to deal with the potential effects of climate change.
2. Ensuring all planning applications adopt best practice in respect of 1.
3. Proposals for coordinating and supporting measures for:
 - the quiet use by people for the purpose of seeing natural habitats and their flora and fauna;
 - quiet exercise, for health and wellbeing; and
 - education and quiet enjoyment

which are commensurate with the priority objectives.

This could include innovative rewilding projects now taking place in many other counties.

4. Coordination and support of landowners, farmers and public and private organisations in their efforts to meet the objectives.
5. Supporting measures to keep visitors to our natural countryside sites to a sustainable level, to avoid damaging the habitats of the, often rare or endangered, flora and fauna.
6. Avoiding countryside sites being degraded by artificial features, tarmac trails, buildings or visitor centres, and recognizing that the countryside, and its wildlife, as it is, is the attraction.