

Date: 2nd December 2020
Report: Dark Skies Matter
Written by: Surrey Hills AONB Director

Purpose of Report

To agree the support of the Surrey Hills AONB Board as a Founding Supporter of Dark Skies Matter

Summary

John Evans, a resident of Surrey, started the Dark Skies Matter campaign in 2019. John gave a presentation to the inaugural Surrey Hills Community Forum in November at the Burford Bridge Hotel.

Dark Skies Matter seeks to reduce the prevalence and harmful effects of unnecessary, artificial light and to protect fragile oases of natural darkness wherever they are still to be found on the basis that:

- It destroys a precious heritage of natural beauty that for millennia has inspired us and expanded our understanding.
- It is wasteful, consuming resources unnecessarily and contributing to climate change.
- It destroys the natural darkness that is essential to human health and well being.
- It disrupts wildlife and impacts the wider ecology and biodiversity
- It travels far from its source, escaping to pollute the countryside.
- Our roads and neighbourhoods can still be safe with informed lighting design and practice

John has been working closely with the AONB Director and partners including CPRE Surrey, Surrey Wildlife Trust and RSPB Guildford on developing the initiative. At the AONB Board, John will present the case for Dark Skies Matter, the development of the website and promotional campaign, with a proposal that the Surrey Hills AONB Board is identified as a Founding Supporter.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the presentation and agree to be a Founding Supporter of Dark Skies Matter

Author: Rob Fairbanks
Job title: Surrey Hills AONB Director
Contact no: 07772 385036
E-mail: rob.fairbanks@surreyhills.org.uk