

# **Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

## **Joint Committee**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, 10:00am**

**The Council Chamber, South Staffordshire Council Offices,  
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire WV8 1PX**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership Agreement states that:-

“At its annual meeting the Joint Committee shall determine from amongst its members a Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee for the period from the commencement of that meeting of the Joint Committee up to the commencement of the next following annual meeting of the Joint Committee”.

At the meeting of the Joint Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007, Cllr Neil Roberts was appointed Chairman and Cllr Tony Williams Vice Chairman up to the annual meeting of the Joint Committee in 2008.

#### **2. Apologies**

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

#### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **5. Declaration of Interests**

#### **6. Presentation by John Bell, Senior Projects Officer, Cannock Chase Council, Chase Heritage Trail**

#### **7. Action Plan Progress**

Report of the Chairman of the Officers' Working Group

#### **8. Financial Update**

Report of the Treasurer to the Joint Committee

#### **9. National Association of AONBs Annual Conference and Ministerial Visit to Cannock Chase AONB**

Oral Report of Cllr Roberts and Cllr Wakefield

#### **10. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Update**

Report of the Assistant AONB Officer

**11. Natural England Update**

Oral Report of Sally Powell, Regional Account Manager

**12. Partner News**

Item for Members to update all from their own part of the AONB

**13. Any Planning Items that may require consideration**

Relevant papers will be tabled

**16. Any Other Business**

**17. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

**Part Two**

**Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Chairman to move:

"That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended) indicated below"

**Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee – 9 June 2008**  
**Report of the Chairman of the Officers' Working Group**  
**Agenda Item 7**  
**Action Plan Progress**

**1 Recommendation**

- 1.1 The Committee notes the progress made since the last Joint Committee meeting.

**2 Progress**

- 2.1 An overview of the 2007/08 achievements appears at the beginning of the Annual Action Plan for 2008/09. Members have already received a copy of this but additional copies will be available at the meeting. Progress against the current Action Plan will be reported in detail at the next Joint Committee. All planned projects and some additional work for 2007/08 were completed and highlights are set out below.
- 2.2 In addition to commencing work on the 2008/09 Action Plan, efforts have focused on completing arrangements for the co-hosting of the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) annual conference in July and planning for other keynote events throughout the year, including the main 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the ministerial visit (separate agenda items at this meeting).

Delivery against Natural England's milestones of particular note in the period is:

Project Delivery (2007/08)

- 2.3 The core funding projects included delivery of:

- The AONB website and its restyling to make it more flexible.
- The AONB newsletters.
- The publication of the Annual Review.
- The annual Partnership conference which achieved financial savings thanks to sponsorship from the Cedar Tree Hotel.
- Four partner awareness events – history, litter, Shoal Hill and forest crafts.
- Research on streams in support of the Management Plan Review process.
- The completion of the first phase of work to monitor horsiculture within the AONB and establish a methodology to monitor into the future. Since the cost of this work was higher than expected, Hatherton Parish Council awarded the Partnership its pledged £1,000 towards the costs. Grateful thanks are extended to the parish for its strong support on the horsiculture issue.

- Creation of signing and interpretation at the Wolseley Wildlife Centre as the first in a programme of works to improve interpretation at all five visitor centres for the AONB.
- The installation of village entry signs, working with three parishes, as commencement of the signage programme. Other signs are already in stock with practical delivery being completed with parishes this year.
- The programme of community involvement, details of which are reported below.

In addition to planned work, funding was used to develop a new format for the AONB Unit Business Plan which now covers the resources for the Unit's delivery and goes on to address a "wish list" of projects that could be funded and the Partnership would like to achieve. This format is already proving useful when talking to potential funders and sponsors. A copy is attached.

#### 2.4 The Project Grant funding incorporated three projects, as follows.

Discovering Nature on Cannock Chase: Wild play sessions carried out, involving 208 children. Family learning days conducted, one at the Wildlife Trust and one based at Marquis Drive with the theme of mammal trapping. Both days over achieved the expected number of families. In total 270 children attended and 130 parents.

Two Valleys project: A report has been produced by Riverwoods on woodland product selection within the AONB. The products produced from this report were used to determine the coppicing work and ensure the long term viability for the management. In addition, a management plan has been produced for the wet woodland of the Sherbrook. Management works were undertaken and in conjunction with the works, an education event was held. The event successfully engendered much public interest and no complaints about works were received. It is hoped that this is as a direct result of the public event. Wide ranging press coverage occurred about the project.

Young Enterprise Programme: Work was carried out with 200 pupils at local primary schools located surrounding the AONB in Rugeley, Hednesford, Cannock and Stafford. The project raised the awareness of the AONB and issues surrounding the AONB by delivering the Young Enterprise Primary Programme in modules Our Community, Our City and Our Nation. Partnerships were also developed with local communities and awareness of the AONB increased.

#### 2.5 The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) of £35,000 attracted ten projects and was administered by the AONB Unit. The SDF allows an administration fee of 10% of the grant awarded to be sought and for the second year, the Unit has attracted these monies to be placed in the Reserves Fund for future projects. Projects completed were:

Friends of Cannock Chase – joint 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and AONB 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2008 calendar. All 1000 were purchased and have been sent around the world to a number of continents, as well as used locally. Profits from sales will be used to reproduce the calendar again this year.

Young Carers Project – respite care for young carers involving fun activity and environmental education. 98 young carers, aged between 6 and 18 years benefitted.

Beaudesert Hall – support of the technical assessment of the hall's remains to progress its preservation, involving volunteer activity to clear scrub from the hall area.

Ownership of sustainable agricultural landscape – a project working with farmers to educate them about the potential for accessing environmental grants from Natural England, raising awareness of the AONB across local land owners and targeting the specific issue of the impact of horse husbandry within the AONB. Equine experts attended a gathering of 30 to 40 farmers to tackle horsiculture issues.

National Navigational Awards Scheme was supported in its public launch of the orienteering map of Cannock Chase which includes information about the sensitivity of the AONB and countryside code.

Support of access for all abilities at Wolseley Bridge visitor centre and a SUDS (sustainable drainage) initiative. Development of a sensory garden and visitor interpretation to include the AONB. (This accounts for a summary of a number of projects delivered by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust).

Creation of an otter underpass on the A513 near Wolseley Bridge.

Production of limited edition 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster incorporating habitats and species of the AONB by Heath Hayes Arts Group. A copy can be seen at the meeting.

### Management Plan Review

- 2.6 All four of the main public consultations have now been completed. The detailed feedback from these sessions and other individual correspondence received via the website is being collated in a palatable form for presentation in the final Management Plan Review report. The process has confirmed the Advisory Partnership's view that the issues identified in the first Management Plan remain pertinent, with no new issues of concern raised.
- 2.7 Early drafts of the next five year Management Plan are being reviewed by the Officers' Working Group and will shortly be discussed with other stakeholders. Work is commencing on developing the detail of the

actions over the five year period. All drafts will also undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as each section of the revised version is rolled out for detailed consultation. With the content remaining essentially the same as the original Plan, changes are focused on the style and presentation. These aim to produce a Management Plan that is relevant to other strategies such as the Natural England Strategic Direction, Local Development Frameworks and Regional Spatial Strategy.

### Community Involvement

- 2.8 Volunteers for the fixed point photography project continue to deliver pictures for monitoring of the landscape and are very enthusiastic to continue. Steve Welch will be delivering a workshop about the project at the NAAONB annual conference on 9<sup>th</sup> July.
- 2.9 Emma Beaman, the Assistant AONB Officer, has given 14 talks to groups including parish councils, farmers, schools, art groups and a Rotary club. Contact has also been made with Scouts groups. A visit by 'A' level students has been provided, as well as a number of responses to other students, in particular from Harper Adams University College.
- 2.10 The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and canine awareness poster competitions have presented the opportunity to make meaningful contact with schools and engender enthusiasm and activity amongst our younger community. In addition, the Staffordshire Commissioner for Children is now helping with networking with young people. She has agreed to fill the vacant space on the Advisory Partnership to act as an advocate for young people within the Partnership.
- 2.11 Although reported in more detail in a separate paper to this meeting, the number of 50 year olds interested in helping and volunteering in the area was high. It is hoped to harness this interest in the formulation of a project focused on community involvement and volunteering that will align with grant funding opportunities.
- 2.12 Since the last meeting, two awareness visits have taken place. The visit to the newly designated Local Nature Reserve at Shoal Hill attracted over 30 people ranging from the age of five to considerably older! Community members noted particularly that now the rationale behind management works has been explained, it causes them far less concern.
- 2.13 The forest crafts day was fully subscribed (numbers using the equipment were restricted) and run by the voluntary sector organisation Riverwoods. A bench, finished after the event, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been presented to the AONB Unit team for use at events. It is notable that as funds were unavailable to cover all the costs of this event, participants were requested to make a contribution towards the catering costs. This has been repeated for the visit to

Chasewater in May and both events have shown no diminution in interest or actual participants and a clear willingness to pay reasonable contributions to costs. This will help in spreading the costs for the provision of future awareness events.

## External Partnerships

2.14 The AONB Unit has been involved in representation with the following in order to progress its work in relation to the AONB:

- Destination Management Partnership event
- FWAG – overseas visitors
- Local Area Agreement – partner contact
- NAAONB training and discussion events
- North Devon AONBs - officer visit
- Natural England stakeholders consultations (via the NAAONB)
- Rural Hub funding information event
- Regional Spatial Strategy consultations
- Regional undergrounding group
- Stropshire Wood Fuel Project

## Press and Communications

2.15 In the period since the last meeting, the AONB has attracted considerable press and media coverage. Much of this has been as a result of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Of particular note are:

- interview with Emma Beaman on Touch Radio on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February about the consultation of the management plan with local communities.
- Central News coverage of the call for 50 year olds to come forward and get involved. Fifty were required and around 300 responded. Coverage also resulted in Heart Fm and other local radio stations also covering the story.
- Articles in two county-wide magazines – Staffordshire County Magazine due on August 2008 and Exclusive in February 2008.

Other printed coverage will be circulated in a file available for inspection at the meeting, as copyright prevents its reproduction.

## Deer Statistics

2.16 Following the recent deer census, it has been confirmed that the population is as follows:

There are approximately 700-800 fallow deer and 80-100 red deer. Approximately 200 deer per year are killed following collisions on roads around the Chase.

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee- 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Financial Update Final Outturn 2007-08 and Budget 2008-09**

#### **Report of the Corporate Director (Development Services) and the Chairman of the Officers Working Group**

#### **Recommendations**

1. The Joint Committee is asked to approve the final outturn position for 2007/08, approve the proposed budget for 2008/09 for the Core and Project Costs and note the position on the proposed partner projects for next year.

#### **Part A**

#### **Why is it coming here – what decision(s) are required?**

2. The Joint Committee in its role under the Partnership Agreement is responsible for:-
  - Approving the final accounts for the year as soon as possible after the year has ended and this report sets out the accounts for consideration.
  - The approval of budget provision for the year ahead including the proposed partner projects. This report sets out the budgets for next year which have been submitted to Natural England for their approval and provides an update on the approvals received so far.

#### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

3. The recommendations represent an effective way to continue to carry forward the implementation of the Management Plan for the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership.

#### **Part B**

#### **Background:**

4. Financial Outturn 2007/08
  - a) The detailed outturn for 2007/08 for the core budget and action projects is set out in Appendix 1 and is compared with the budget originally approved by Natural England. The overall outturn of £164,766 is very much in line with the approved budget of £162,300. Savings previously identified in accommodation and office costs along with action projects delivered under budget enabled the Job Evaluation back payment of £10,629 to be funded from 2007-08 budget. This amount was expected and planned for.
  - b) The detailed outturn for 2007/08 on the approved partner projects is set out in Appendix 2. . Again the total spend achieved by the end of the year of £14,600 was in line with the approved budget of £14,600. The AONB and partners have been very successful this year in delivering the projects within timescales and budget.
  - c) The individual projects which were supported from the Sustainable Development Fund are also set out in Appendix 2 and cover a range of activities and providers. Again this has come

in on target of £35,000 including an administration fee claimed to cover the additional work provided by the AONB Unit.

#### 5. Budgets 2008/09

- a) The proposed core budget and action projects for 2008/09 were presented to the committee at the last meeting for inclusion in the bid to Natural England for grant aid. Details of the submission are set out again for information in Appendix 3. We have not yet received any formal notification regarding the bid. The proposed budget totals £167,350 of which £125,510 (75%) has been requested from Natural England. The remaining 25% is split between the five local authority partners in accordance with the Partnership Agreement. The Joint Committee is requested to approve the proposed core and action projects budget for this year.
- b) This year no application for partner project had been made following consultation with Natural England.
- c) Members of the Joint Committee will be kept informed of the funding which is finally approved for the year by Natural England.

#### 6. Reserve

The reserve stood at £10,213.68 at the start of 2007/08. The balance is now £8,447.14 at the end of the financial year 2007/08 as £1,766.54 has been used to fund the additional costs of back pay under Job Evaluation.

#### 7. **Equalities Implications**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the equal opportunities policies of the County Council.

#### 8. **Legal Implications**

Actions recommended in this report are in accordance with the provisions of the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership Agreement.

#### 9. **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

This report recommends actions to ensure the continued efficient delivery of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan. The matched funding requirements to make up the 25% of contributions towards the core activity are set out in the Partnership Agreement. The project grants submission details which partners will provide 50% towards the projects costs. The SDF is a funding "pot" to be administered to partners who are able to provide the necessary matched funding for their Management Plan project proposals.

#### 10. **Risk Implications**

If continuity of funding and spend are not continued as recommended to the Joint Committee, then the five authorities involved in the partnership will need to seek other methods of fulfilling their statutory obligations for the AONB under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

#### **Report authors:**

Authors Names:

Juliet Hands    Development Services Department 01785 276580  
Ruth Hÿtch    AONB Unit            01889 882613

APPENDIX 1

CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Outturn for 2007/08 for  
Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs

	Approved Budget	Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£
<b><u>AONB Core Budget</u></b>			
Staff Salaries and Associated costs	102,900	100,636	-2,264
JE Back pay	0	10,629	10,629
Accommodation /Office Equipment	15,000	13,539	-1,461
Transport	2,800	1,611	-1,189
Partnership budget for PR events	2,300	2,405	105
Partnership running costs (In kind)	6,500	6,500	0
	129,500	135,320	5,820
<b><u>Core Action Projects</u></b>			
Annual Action Plan	2,000	1,223	-777
Annual AONB Conference	4,600	4,288	-312
AONB Website	200	1,500	1,300
AONB Annual review	3,000	3,489	489
AONB Newsletters	2,500	2,129	-371
AONB partner awareness raising events	1,000	1,125	125 *
Management Plan Review	9,000	7,705	-1,295
Recreation Guidelines	2,000	0	-2,000
Horsiculture Monitoring	1,500	2,725	1,225 **
5C Projects	2,000	1,450	-550
Implement Signs Programme	3,000	2,378	-622
Community Involvement Programme	2,000	1,894	-106
	32,800	29,906	-2,894
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>162,300</b>	<b>165,226</b>	<b>2,926</b>
<b>FUNDED BY:</b>			
Countryside Agency	121,725	121,725	0
Lichfield District Council	1,903	1,902	-1
South Staffordshire District Council	1,902	1,902	0
Cannock Chase District Council	7,610	7,610	0
Stafford Borough Council	7,610	7,610	0
Staffordshire County Council	21,550	21,600	50
Funding from Hatherton PC - Horsiculture		1,000	1,000 **
Donations towards awareness visit		100	100 *
Funding from reserve		1,777	1,777
	<b>162,300</b>	<b>165,226</b>	<b>2,926</b>

\* Denotes additional income for this project from donations

\*\* Denotes additional income for this project from Hatherton PC

APPENDIX 2

CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Budget Update for 2007/08 for  
Partner Projects

June 2008

	Revised Budget 2007/08 £	Outturn 2007/08 £
<b>APPROVED PARTNER PROJECTS</b>		
<u>Sustainable Landscape Use</u> Two Valley Project	14,000	7,000
	14,000	7,000
<u>Engendering Understanding of the AONB</u> Discovering Nature on Cannock Chase Young Enterprise Primary Program in Cannock Chase AONB	11,200 4,000	5,600 2,000
	15,200	7,600
<b>TOTAL APPROVED</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>14,600</b>
<b>AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>		
<b>Committed Projects</b>		
National navigation award scheme		300
Young Carers project		6,093
Friends of Cannock Chase		2,205
FWAG-ownership of sustainable agricultural land		1,550
Beaudesert Hall		7,193
SWT-Wolseley Bridge Visitor Centre - access imp.		1,428
SWT-The Suburban Garden		1,800
SWT-Otter Underpass		3,500
SWT-SUDS		4,200
Heath Hayes Art Group - 50th anniversary poster		3,550
Admin		3,182
		35,000
<b>TOTAL APPROVED</b>		<b>35,000</b>

**APPENDIX 3**

**CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Budget for 2008/09 for  
Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs**

	<b>Budget 2008/09 £</b>
<b><u>AONB Core Budget</u></b>	
Staff Salaries and Associated costs	112,350
Accommodation /Office Equipment	14,200
Transport	4,300
Partnership budget for PR events	2,300
Partnership running costs (In kind)	6,500
	<b>139,650</b>
<b><u>Core Action Projects:</u></b>	
Annual Action Plan	1,500
AONB Website	200
AONB Annual review	3,000
AONB Newsletters	1,000
AONB partner awareness raising events	1,000
Management Plan	7,000
Monitoring Projects (SAONB, visitors, peace & tranquility)	6,000
Signage	2,000
Community Involvement including 50th Anniversary Events	6,000
	<b>27,700</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>167,350</b>

**AGREED FUNDING:**

Natural England	125,510
Lichfield District Council	2,092
South Staffordshire District Council	2,092
Cannock Chase District Council	8,368
Stafford Borough Council	8,368
Staffordshire County Council	20,920
	<b>167,350</b>

**Partner and Other Grant Bids 2008/09**

<b>AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>	<b>50,000</b>
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**Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee – 9 June 2008**  
**Report of the AONB Officer**  
**Agenda Item 10**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Programme of Activity**

**1 Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Joint Committee notes progress to date.
- 1.2 Members support identification of sponsors for delivery of the programme.
- 1.3 Members support events through attendance and championing 50 years of success throughout their own networks.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the designation of Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Work on programmes of activity commenced last financial year, using the anniversary as an opportunity to educate and raise awareness of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; attract funding and other support and celebrate the on-going success of the conservation.
- 2.2 At a previous meeting the Joint Committee agreed that operational responsibility for the programme of activity was to be overseen by the Officers' Working Group. This work has been on-going.
- 2.3 The local programme of work will be complemented by the Partnership co-hosting the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) annual conference with Shropshire Hills AONB on 9-11 July 2008 (also 50 this year) at Harper Adams University College.

**3 Programme of Activity for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

- 3.1 The programme of activity takes the form of two principal events and a number of smaller events. A table is attached showing the plans. The two celebrations will focus on marking the 50 years of success memorably, whereas the smaller events focus on some of the key Management Plan issues.
- 3.2 The first of the two principal events is to be held on the anniversary of the AONB's designation on Tuesday 16 September and will target a local, regional and national audience of supporters, influencers and involved stakeholders. It is planned to hold this event at Shugborough Hall.
- 3.3 The second of the two principal events is aimed at the audience of local communities and is planned to be held in the Country Park. A date for this event is being confirmed and is likely to be during a weekend in

August.

- 3.4 The first of the smaller events – Canine Community Caring for Cannock Chase Awareness and Fun Day - took place on 10 May and is reported in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.5 In conjunction with the programme of events, associated activity to engender involvement and understanding to support the community involvement programme has already begun. These are:
- A schools' competition has already been held to establish an anniversary logo. This was judged by parish council representative and local photographer Steve Welch.
  - A poster competition for young people to create the "dos and don'ts" relating to dogs on Cannock Chase was run with Cllr Billson judging submissions at the Canine Awareness Day on 10 May.
  - Plans to produce a celebration beer – "AONBeer" with Titanic Brewery.
  - Plans to have sponsorship to produce t-shirts – negotiations are under way.
  - Mugs with the anniversary have already been produced.
  - A photographic competition.
  - A limited edition 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster has been produced by Heath Hayes Art Group, supported by the Sustainable Development Fund. Some will be distributed to parish rooms and village halls around the area. Number 1 will be used as a prize at a future event.

Members will receive samples of the products already produced and be able to see children's posters at the meeting.

## **4 Progress on Programme Delivery**

### **4.1 Resources for delivery**

As noted above, delivery of some of the programme has already begun and is linked to the NAAONB annual conference. This work has entailed securing resources to meet the "wish list" of events and activities. In March, JCB Cab Systems was approached to become a sponsor of the 50<sup>th</sup> year. JCB declined. However as time was now short, sponsors for individual events have been and are being sought.

Arden Grange (a dog food company) gave considerable support to the canine awareness day in the form of in kind effort, prizes and give-aways.

The ideal plans for 16<sup>th</sup> September would be over budget if they continue to be pursued. These plans could be scaled down if necessary, however in kind support has already been secured from the Shugborough Hall team and a pledge of £1000 has recently been made by Pritchard Holdings plc via Sara Pritchard. Other private sector supporters are giving positive responses. It is therefore hoped that the best possible keynote event will be delivered.

In addition, the Officers' Working Group has reviewed the human resource required from the AONB Unit team in a year which also includes the final production of the revised Management Plan and the delivery of the NAAONB conference items. This review took place following an extremely high response to the Central News television item calling for 50 year olds to become involved. Whilst this was superbly successful, it was overwhelming for the team and caused interruption to other work. It has therefore been decided that previous proposals for two smaller events should be shelved until next year, as they would be too human resource-intensive. The programme remains ambitious and will be constantly reviewed as it is rolled out.

#### 4.2 16<sup>th</sup> September Event

With the support of the operational team at Shugborough Hall provisional plans have been put in place for an event. This would include some formal addresses about the AONB but also involve as many of the interested 50 year olds as possible. It is hoped that a local photographer who specialises in aerial photographs of groups will be able to create an image of these invitees in the shape of a 50.

It had been hoped that the Board Member of Natural England with responsibility for AONBs and/or its Chief Executive would be able to attend to give a keynote speech. However a diary clash indicates that it is unlikely that any senior representative from Natural England will be available. This is being addressed with the hope that the Chief Executive will be able to visit the AONB later in the year and the potential for a visit from the Minister.

#### 4.3 Community Event

It is intended that this event is run to create a village fête type celebration, with a theme of "picnic on Cannock Chase" and featuring local groups and crafts. The event could be run on the Partnership's behalf by other organisations and is not intended to incur high costs.

## Events List for 2008-2009

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Litter pick	8 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30 – 12:30	Marquis Drive
Canine Awareness Day	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	11am till 4pm	Birches Valley
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Redbrook Hayes
	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Chase Terrace Technology College
	May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:15am	St Peters Primary school
Chasewater awareness day – walk and birdbox making	May 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am – 4pm	Chasewater
NAAONB Conference	9 <sup>th</sup> July – 11 <sup>th</sup> July		Harper Adams
Beaudesert Park Farm visit and barbecue	21 <sup>st</sup> July	9:30 – 1pm	Beaudesert Park Farm then Hall for barbecue
Community 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary day	Weekend in August – confirm with JQ	All day	
Forestry walk and talk (Andy Coggins)	7 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30 – 12:30	Birches Valley
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event	16 <sup>th</sup> September	All day	Shugborough
Litter pick	25 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30 – 12:30	TBA

### Other 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activity

- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo**
- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster**
- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Canine Community Caring for Cannock Chase Awareness and Fun Day Event Summary**

- A1 This event was the first badged as a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and held on Saturday 10 May.
- A2 The event was aimed at tackling, in a fun and high profile way, the numerous complaints received by the AONB Partnership and its individual partners about dog fouling and (lack of) control. These complaints formed the highest number of times raised during the Management Plan Review public consultations.
- A3 The event organisation highlighted the strong partnership working in practice that this Partnership can demonstrate, with the site and traffic management being provided by the Forestry Commission team. On the day, Natural England, the Officers Working Group, community volunteers, the Sea Scouts and Guides, Advisory Partnership and Joint Committee all took part in making the day operate well. Thanks must be extended formally to all these individuals.
- A4 This was the first time a private sector sponsor had been sought for this kind of activity and Arden Grange provided a range of products and other materials to make the day work. The regional representative was so supportive and enthused, she delivered leaflets to all the local pet shops in her own time and arranged for other staff to be present at the County Showground to cover the championship breed show taking place on the same day, allowing her to be present at the AONB event.
- A5 The format of the event was to have two principal displays to provide the fun and attraction to the public with workshops and literature providing the awareness message. Thanks to the sponsorship bags with dog treats, all the relevant leaflets were given to most visitors. Local dog-related charities were present and allowed to collect for their own causes and some local (canine) businesses benefited from being allowed to be present. Of particular note, was the BHS workshop involving a horse and talk about dogs and horses. Representatives were very pleased to work with a nervous dog and the horse in the show ring to develop better understanding and behaviour successfully.
- A6 With very clement weather helping the day, there were 500 visitors counted entering the main gate. It is therefore estimated that between 500 and 700 people attended the day. Feedback from exhibitors and members of the public has praised the atmosphere, delivery and facilities. The Officers Working Group has therefore agreed that this should be repeated next year to tackle one of the most difficult recreational issues experienced within Cannock Chase AONB. Images of the event will be available on the AONB website.

**Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee 9 June 2008**  
**Agenda Item 13 - Planning Issues for period since last Joint**  
**Committee**

**Planning Applications**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Application / Location</b>	<b>Comments submitted</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
Cannock Chase Council	Bleak House Wind Farm	13/2/08	Principal objections relate to the significant impact upon visual quality of the AONB and the fact that the AONB's status has not been treated as nationally significant. Detailed response attached.
East Staffordshire Borough Council	Bagot's Park Wind Farm	5/3/08	The development would be visible at some points from within the AONB but would not have a significant impact on the character of the area.
Lichfield District Council	Erection of stable block, Greensleeves, Longdon	13/3/08	Close attention should be paid to materials used in construction and adherence to the intention to have no made-up access track.
Cannock Chase Council	Proposed grain and machinery store, Chestall Manor, Chestall Hall Estate, Cannock Wood	13/3/08	Existing opportunities for screening of the development should be maximised. Materials for construction should be chosen to minimise visual intrusion. Any access track should be of materials that blend within the landscape.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Application / Location</b>	<b>Comments submitted</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
Stafford Borough Council	Erection of garage/store/stable, White Lodge, Brocton	29/4/08	The buildings extend into open countryside and would be seen clearly from behind the property and nearby rights of way. Careful consideration should be taken of the visual impact of this development.

### **Local Development Frameworks**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Application / Location</b>	<b>Comments submitted</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
Lichfield District Council	Core strategy issues and options	20/12/07	The Partnership welcomes the close attention paid to the statutory duty of the authority to have regard to the AONB and the explicit inclusion of this duty in the overarching policies. The overall approach to the policies relevant to the impact on the AONB is welcomed and supported. For detailed comments see attached.
Lichfield District Council	Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment	22/1/08	Clear presentation of the needs and issues relating to the AONB that are set out is welcomed, particularly that the protection of landscape character is important to the quality of life. The Partnership would welcome the opportunity for the protection and enhancement of the

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Application / Location</b>	<b>Comments submitted</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
			AONB to be linked directly to relevant development through the use of planning obligations monies.
Stafford Borough Council	Borough Wide Development Strategy	21/2/08	Principal concerns relate to recreational pressures and impacts upon green infrastructure, related to additional housing for the area. For detailed comments see attached.
Lichfield District Council	Draft Greens and Open Spaces Document	13/3/08	Links to green rural spaces should be considered and inclusion of objectives relating to sustainable transport to these areas should be addressed, as well as the management of these visitors to sensitive areas.
Lichfield District Council	Draft Chasewater Supplementary Planning Document	13/3/08	The AONB Management Plan identifies places such as Chasewater as target areas for the dispersal of visitors from the AONB. This should be reflected in the Chasewater plans, as it has already been endorsed via our Partnership. Key links that should be included relate to physical links, joint development of on site awareness/education programmes and development of the opportunities for the Cannock Chase to Sutton Park BEA.

Validation criteria consultations

South Staffordshire Council – response submitted 23/1/08  
Stafford Borough Council – response submitted 26/2/08  
Staffordshire County Council – response submitted 3/3/08

Messrs M Aqbal & J Heminsley  
Development Control  
Cannock Chase Council  
Civic Centre  
Beecroft Road  
Cannock  
WS11 1BG

Dear Mazer and John

**Installation of a wind farm  
Land East of Wimblebury Road Heath Hayes  
Reference: CH/08/0001**

I wish to make the following comments on behalf of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee on the application for permission to install a wind farm at land east of Wimblebury Road Heath Hayes. This site is immediately adjacent to the AONB and within its setting.

As you are aware, the AONB is a statutory designated area under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW). The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on all public bodies to "have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty". The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan, prepared in accordance with CRoW, sets out how the AONB will be conserved and enhanced. In addition, the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan sets out in its policies (NC3) that "the landscape quality of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting will be conserved and enhanced, and its nature conservation and recreational value protected and extended".

The AONB Partnership has also agreed a Planning Protocol which includes consideration of any applications that "are likely to have an adverse impact on either the character of the local landscape and/or nature conservation interests within the AONB or on its setting. This includes applications relating to land within the AONB itself and land which is contiguous with, or can be seen from the AONB or where the application is of such a nature that it might undermine the quality or purposes of the AONB." It also specifically refers to consideration of "applications for utilities and other infrastructure, including renewable energy development, telecommunications towers, aerials and extension to existing aerials". I attach a copy of the Planning Protocol to this letter.

Bearing this in mind, I make the following comments.

## **AONB Designation**

Both the Planning Statement and the Environmental Statement are fundamentally flawed in their assessment of the status of the AONB and its designation. This must have a major bearing on your consideration of the application and its impact on the AONB. The application should be reconsidered in the context of the comments made in this letter about the designation of the AONB. The AONB Partnership will not accept any contention that the AONB is anything other than a national designation of the highest importance and objects to this premise as a basis for the lack of mitigation and attention within the applicant's proposal.

The AONB is a national designation made under primary legislation, as set out in the introductory comments above. It cannot in any way be considered a local designation (as referenced at page 24 of the Planning Statement and page 5-5 of the Environmental Statement, as well as by the omission on page 6-10 of the Environmental Statement). The applicant does contradict itself at one point in the Environmental Statement at page 6-20 stating "This is a nationally recognised landscape designation, and is therefore of high sensitivity". This is correct and should have been reflected throughout the entire consideration of the proposal. This has a major bearing on the lack of mitigation and consideration offered by the applicant.

PPS7 is planning policy guidance and should not therefore be considered as taking precedence over the primary legislation that designates the AONB (as proposed on page 5-5 of the Environmental Summary). PPS7 is also clear that its policies should complement but do not overrule other national planning policies and should be read in conjunction with other relevant statements of national policy. Of particular relevance to this application are the Key Principles 1. iv and vi. These specifically set out how the landscape should be dealt with in relation to such new development. In addition, the application seems to have omitted any recognition of the guidance in PPS7 that clearly states that AONBs are nationally designated areas that have "the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty". PPS7 states "planning authorities should continue to ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected, and where possible enhanced".

Other planning guidance under PPS22 is clear that whilst buffer zones are not encouraged, the potential impact on designated areas from renewable energy projects close to their boundaries will be a

material consideration. In addition, it sets out that criteria should be used to identify broad areas at the regional and sub regional level where particular types of renewable energy may be appropriate development. This suggests that reference to the Regional Spatial Strategy should be made in considering how appropriate this proposal is at this particular site.

Under the primary legislation designating the AONB, the Management Plan also has significant status in relation to this application.

### **Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan**

Whilst background data from the AONB Management Plan are quoted within the Environmental Statement attached to the application, a number of key points within its aims and policies require careful attention in relation to this particular application. These are:

#### Development

"...the impacts of any development on the AONB landscape must be considered".

#### *Quality development and Cannock Chase AONB.*

"Not only must appropriateness of development be taken into consideration, but the highest quality must be achieved. Development should enhance the AONB not simply prevent damage to it".

#### *3.4.1 Aims*

- To ensure the impact of development on the AONB is a key consideration in development decisions.
- To ensure where development does take place, it contributes to the quality of the AONB and its communities.

#### *3.4.1 Policies*

- In order to protect the AONB and its setting from intrusive and undesirable development and to achieve high quality development, where it is appropriate, co-ordinated policies will be prepared.

#### Landscape Character and Setting

The Management Plan refers to maintaining views and the openness of the AONB to protect it and sets out in its Policy at 3.1.1 that "Landscape change within and adjacent to the AONB will be monitored, assessed and appropriate measures supported to ensure landscape quality is maintained or enhanced".

In addition, at Policy 3.1.6 it notes that "Landscapes, sites and their settings of significant archaeological and historical importance will be identified, protected and managed to ensure their continuing role in defining the character of the AONB".

### **Planning Protocol**

As noted above, the Cannock Chase AONB Planning Protocol agreed by the Local Planning Authorities of the AONB, implements a number of the Management Plan's Aims and Policies in relation to development matters in practice. The local planning policies of Cannock Chase Council identified by the applicant therefore implement the authority's statutory duty to the AONB and are linked to its national status. In particular, the Protocol requires that the Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee will be consulted upon "...proposals for development including changes of use by virtue of their particular characteristics are likely to have an adverse affect on the landscape character of the AONB and its setting".

### **Visual Impact of the Proposal**

Whilst the proposal is sited just outside the AONB, the nearest turbine is placed at only 500m distance from its boundary. This places the proposal clearly within the setting of the AONB and as such, it should be given detailed consideration, as set out in the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan and Planning Protocol. This is because of its clear impact on the open views and landscape character.

The Partnership believes that the landscape character of a considerable proportion of the AONB will be affected by the development. In particular, views from the Ancient Monument at Castle Ring; open views from Gentleshaw Common (not considered by the Environmental Statement and an omission) and Hazelslade Local Nature Reserve. These open vistas from the AONB are significant to the special nature of its character and contribute to the openness of the landscape. It is the statutory duty of the Partnership to protect this aspect of the AONB. Page 6-20 of the

Environmental Statement strengthens this point by identifying these as “favourite locations”. However 6-20 also appears to suggest that there will be a low level of views towards the proposal site. These areas attract a high level of visitors thus further affecting the already major significance of the visual impact. Whilst it is accepted that the whole of the AONB will not be affected, this is counter to the contention made at page 17 of the Planning Statement that the effects will be localised to the surrounding area. In addition, it is considered that the visual impact at these three locations will be much more imposing than suggested in the Environmental Statement.

### Lifetime of the Development

Page 17 of the Planning Statement seems to suggest that a 25 year lifetime for the wind farm is considered a temporary period of time and therefore there is no impact. This cannot be deemed to be the case for the visual impact of the development which, in the case of the AONB, is immediate and lasting. This contention is therefore strongly disputed. In addition, it seems appropriate to question the applicant about whether the lifetime of the development would be extended beyond 25 years, subject to relevant planning approvals. Without this information our Partnership cannot fully assess the overall impact of the development in terms of the protection of the AONB.

### Mitigation of the Effects of the Development

Whilst mitigation of the effects of the development is referred to in the text of the application, we can find no evidence in the application to support the case that any mitigation of the impact of the wind farm is to be undertaken. It seems appropriate to request the applicant for details of any proposed mitigation measures for the project. In particular, where Tables 6.2, 6.5 and 6.7 in the Environmental Statement refer to the high level of impact and sensitivity at identified points within the AONB, this should be cross-referenced with proposed measures of mitigation. We feel significant further information is required on this point.

### **Non Technical Summary**

Page 3 – We feel that it is important to request further information from the developer about the exact extent of the visual impact to Castle Ring and other AONB sites. There is no proposal for any mitigation of these effects shown in the application.

Page 3 – The statement about the primary impact on local residential areas is misleading, as it ignores the primary impact on the AONB.

Page 5 – There seems to be a conflict of information here. The statement that effects upon nightjar would be during the construction and decommissioning phases seems at odds with the survey results that no nightjar has been found on the site. This requires some careful clarification.

### **Summary of the Partnership's Response**

Whilst the comments above relate to detailed elements of the application's contents, our comments can be summarised as follows:

- The basic premise that the AONB is a local as opposed to a nationally designated area is erroneous. This contention has led to insufficient consideration of the impact on the AONB and insufficient weighting to the importance of that impact. In this context, the Partnership finds the content of the proposal unacceptable. The statutory responsibilities to the AONB need to be re-visited in consideration of this application.
- The visual impact is felt to significantly affect a number of areas of the AONB.
- The 25 year period of the project's operation cannot be deemed to be temporary and the development would significantly affect the AONB within this timeframe.

Please take these comments into account in your decision and if you have any queries about them let me know. I would be grateful if you let me know the outcome of your decision.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Hýtch  
Cannock Chase AONB Officer

Development Plans and Implementation Manager  
Development Services  
Lichfield District Council  
District Council House  
Frog Lane  
Lichfield  
WS13 6YZ

Dear Neil

### **Lichfield District Local Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options**

Thank you for allowing the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership the opportunity to comment on the Core Strategy Issues and Options for your Local Development Framework. The comments on behalf of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee are set out below.

As you are aware, the AONB is a statutory designated area under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). CROW places a duty on all public bodies to "have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty". The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan, prepared in accordance with CROW, sets out how the AONB will be conserved and enhanced. In addition, the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan sets out in its policies (NC3) that "the landscape quality of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting will be conserved and enhanced, and its nature conservation and recreational value protected and extended".

The AONB Partnership has also agreed a Planning Protocol which includes consideration of any applications that "are likely to have an adverse impact on either the character of the local landscape and/or nature conservation interests within the AONB or on its setting". This Planning Protocol should also be considered as a relevant document within the context of your Local Development Framework.

Bearing in mind this context, I would also like to add the following comments.

#### General comments

The Partnership welcomes the close attention the documents have paid to the statutory duty of your authority to have regard to the AONB and the explicit inclusion of this duty in the overarching policies.

The overall approach to the policies relevant to the impact on the AONB is welcomed and supported.

RSS Phase Two Revision. It should be noted that the West Midlands AONBs have submitted a joint response in relation to the consultation on all the options set out in the RSS document. Local issues highlighted for Cannock Chase AONB included the restrictions that the AONB's presence places on the districts in which it falls for housing options. It also points to the need to consider green infrastructure and recreational requirements of the occupants of those housing units in relation to the on-going protection of the AONB.

### Detailed Comments

#### *7 – Issues*

The inclusion of Issues 9 and 10 is particularly supported. In addition, the development of Chasewater to achieve its full potential is fully supported, as the re-direction of visitors from Cannock Chase AONB to this area will support our Management Plan aims of alleviating pressure on the AONB from visitor numbers.

#### *8 – Vision*

The aspirations in 8.12 and 8.14 are particularly supported. In addition, provision of sustainable transport means to visitors accessing the AONB for recreational activity should be included in the vision.

#### *Strategic Objectives*

Objectives 10, 13 and 14 are particularly supported. The reference to conservation areas should extend to all specifically designated areas, thus including the AONB.

#### *Climate Change*

In responding to climate change adaptation needs, the impact of certain renewable energy installations should be carefully considered when allocating appropriate locations. This is particularly relevant to larger installations, such as biomass generating stations and wind farms, when considering their impact on the landscape character of an area such as the AONB. However the Partnership supports the overall principle of the use of renewable energy wherever possible.

In addition, dealing with other impacts of climate change, such as erosion of sites and loss or increase of habitats, should also be reflected in the overall objectives of the Core Strategy.

#### *Question 25*

The aim to maximise the use of sustainable transport modes when addressing recreational needs is supported.

*Question 26*

The Partnership is committed to working with the teams involved in the development of Chasewater to maximise the opportunities it can offer as an alternative to Cannock Chase AONB as a visitor venue.

*Question 28*

There is already a statutory duty to protect the AONB. However please note comments above relating to climate change adaptation and the potential pressures from increased housing and its residents' recreational needs.

*Spatial Options*

Comments on these options clearly focus only on the impact of them in relation to the AONB. Overall, Options 1 and 4 provide simpler management implications for the AONB. This is because the provision of access to the AONB and the implementation of local management controls to protect it from the impact of that access could be very targeted. This targeting would include the provision of green routes to and from the area, sustainable transport options and education and awareness relating to protection measures and peace and tranquillity.

*p36 Natural Environment* – Whilst more people would be closer to the countryside and able to access it, greater care and effort would be required in the areas of countryside management, education and awareness and general protection of the areas being accessed. There may be a requirement to mitigate the effects of these people accessing certain areas such as the AONB. These comments also apply to Option 3.

*10.16 and 10.22* - Aims in this section are supported.

I do hope the comments help the development of your strategy and policies. If you have any queries about the comments please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Hýtch  
Cannock Chase AONB Officer

21 February 2008

RH/

Ruth.hytch@staffordshire.gov.uk

Forward Planning Manager

[Stafford Borough Council](#)

Civic Centre

Riverside

Stafford

[ST16 3AQ](#)

Dear Paul

**Stafford Borough Local Development Framework  
The Plan for Stafford Borough – Borough Wide Development Strategy**

Thank you for allowing the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership the opportunity to comment on the Borough Wide Development Strategy for your Local Development Framework. The comments on behalf of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee are set out below.

As you are aware, the AONB is a statutory designated area under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). CROW places a duty on all public bodies to "have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty". The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan, prepared in accordance with CROW, sets out how the AONB will be conserved and enhanced. In addition, the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan sets out in it policies (NC3) that "the landscape quality of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its setting will be conserved and enhanced, and its nature conservation and recreational value protected and extended".

The AONB Partnership has also agreed a Planning Protocol which includes consideration of any applications that "are likely to have an adverse impact on either the character of the local landscape and/or nature conservation interests within the AONB or on its setting". This Planning Protocol should also be considered as a relevant document within the context of your Local Development Framework.

Bearing in mind this context, I would also like to add the following comments.

## **General comments**

As noted above, your authority has a statutory duty to have regard to the AONB and your Strategy should include consideration of the constraints this may place upon development in this designated area of the Borough. The setting of the AONB also requires the same consideration in the formulation of your Strategy and policies.

Overall, the volume of proposed development is likely to have an effect upon the AONB in terms of additional recreational pressures and a requirement for associated transport to the AONB. In addition, commuter routes to and from any new development should be considered in terms of their impact upon the AONB.

Appropriate economic development linked to visitors could be a positive consideration, in particular in relation to the settlements of Brocton and Milford where there are already facilities that could benefit further from their proximity to the AONB. The final Strategy should therefore take account of infrastructure required to support proposed new development beyond that of the services identified in the Settlement Assessment of Services and Facilities i.e. green infrastructure and sustainable transport links. It could also consider whether the presence of the AONB might contribute (in an appropriately sensitive way) to the economic well being of the settlements near to and within its boundaries.

Clearly, the types of housing and employment development proposed for the settlements within the Borough should take into account their proximity to the AONB. This is particularly relevant to the identified settlements of Brocton, Brocton A34, Great Haywood, Little Haywood and Colwich and Milford.

## **Detailed Comments**

### *Key Question 3*

As noted above, the AONB designation within the Borough should be protected in accordance with the authority's statutory duty and therefore have less change.

### *Issue 2*

The vision should incorporate protection of the quality of landscape and peace and tranquillity with particular reference to the AONB.

### *Key Question 4*

The Partnership's aspirations are as follows. The AONB will continue to be conserved and enhanced and will attract sufficient funding to sustain this task. The AONB will remain open to the (local) communities who wish to visit it for recreation. Those visitors will arrive to the area via means of sustainable

transport, using the parts of the AONB where the habitat and landscape is less sensitive to potential harm, particularly the visitor centres. Visitors will also be directed to other recreational opportunities away from the AONB, within the Borough and beyond, using positive messages. Residents, land owners and businesses within and close to the AONB will only undertake development that is appropriate to its designation and in keeping with the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan objectives.

#### *Issue 5*

As noted above, some early liaison by our Partnership with businesses in the Milford and Brocton area has identified that a co-ordinated development of commercial potential would be of some benefit. Some of these businesses recognise that a link to their immediate environment, i.e. the AONB, is of commercial benefit. Whilst the AONB overall does not offer major enterprise and employment opportunities, there is some potential within the Borough which is yet to be developed. Further management of visitors to the Brocton and Milford areas where there is a hotspot for visitors to the AONB would benefit these settlements and could offer some small employment opportunities.

#### *Issue 7*

To re-iterate points made above, recreational pressures from the additional housing within and around the Borough will create a greater need to conserve the AONB through careful management of development and of the visitors when they arrive. For this reason, an option under 2.4 where development is focused away from settlements close to the AONB and probably dispersed around the Borough would be more favoured. However an option where the majority of development falls within Stafford would imply simpler practical delivery of sustainable transport and green route provision to and from the AONB.

I do hope the comments help the development of your strategy and policies. If you have any queries about the comments please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Hýtch  
AONB Officer