



**Cannock Chase AONB Partnership
AGM and meeting of the Joint Committee
Monday 12th July 2021 at 11.00 AM**

To be held at the Rising Brook Community Church, Burton Square, Stafford ST17 9LT

(please park behind the church and not in front of the shops – thank you)

Members of the public are welcome to attend in person. Social distancing rules will apply.

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1	Election of Chair and Vice Chair This item to be overseen by John Rowe, Honorary Secretary of the Joint Committee	DECISION	
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11	Planning update Report of the AONB Landscape Planning Officer (a) Development management and planning policy (b) High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a (c) Dark Skies – Good Lighting Guide	INFORMATION	<u>30</u>
12	Date, time and venue of next meeting 6 December 2021		

Item 4	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2021
Item for:	Approval
Author:	Richard Harris, AONB Land Management Officer
Financial implications:	None
Recommendations:	The Committee approves the minutes of the meeting and considers any matters arising.



Cannock Chase AONB Partnership
Meeting of the Joint Committee
Monday 15th March 2021 at 10.00 AM
Held remotely via Microsoft Teams, and live webcast

Attendees

Members present

Cllr Frances Beatty
 Cllr Len Bates
 Cllr Victoria Wilson
 Cllr Alan Pearson
 Cllr Josh Newbury (observing)

Representing

Stafford Borough Council
 South Staffordshire Borough Council
 Staffordshire County Council
 Cannock Chase Council
 Cannock Chase Council

Officers

Ian Marshall
 Julia Banbury
 Richard Harris
 Nikola Mihajlovic
 Sarah Bentley
 Patrick Walker
 Stephen Stray

AONB Unit
 AONB Unit
 AONB Unit
 Staffordshire County Council
 Staffordshire County Council
 South Staffordshire Council
 Lichfield District Council

Advisers

Jeff Sim
 Mary Cope

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
 Beaudesert Park Farm

Guests:

Pepita Hanna

Arts Connect

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Cllr Beatty opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the AONB Partnership Joint Committee.

2. Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Janene Cox	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Iain Eadie	Lichfield District Council
Julian Woolford	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Jaclyn Lake	Natural England
Jenny Aldroyd	RSPB
Thomas Cox	Cemex

- 2.2 Apologies were also received from the following who have moved to new roles and will no longer be attending the Joint Committee including Mike Shurmer, RSPB, and Sam Caraway, National Trust. Hazel McDowell, Natural England is on secondment; and Glenn Watson (officer), Cannock Chase Council is retiring. The Joint Committee extends its thanks for their help and support, in particular to Glenn and Mike.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11th December 2020

- 3.1 AONB Guides. J Banbury has written to all of the Chairs of the Planning Committees of Local Planning Authorities. Joint Committee Members to speak with the Head of Planning at their own local authorities. The Guides have already been sent out to Planning Officers and J Banbury is referring to both in her responses and encouraging officers to make applicants aware and use them.
- 3.2 Cllr Bates has asked his planners to inform J Banbury of any applications that affect the Chase. Cllr Beatty to follow this up with her local authority. If there is an application for which there are concerns a copy of the response is being emailed to the elected member as requested at the previous AONB Joint Committee meeting.
- 3.3 Cllr Pearson raised the issue of the impact of birch invasion growing in nightjar breeding areas. Roger Broadbent West Midland Bird Club to have a discussion with I Marshall to pinpoint the specific areas of concern which can then be discussed with the relevant landowner.
- 3.4 Cannock Chase business engagement. I Marshall updated members that the place brand and sense of place toolkit have both been signed off. A page on the AONB website is being developed for resources for local businesses to use. Cllr Beatty raised that it might be useful to pass this information onto Business Officers at local authorities to help publicise this. I Marshall is also producing hard copies of the documents printed and will send to elected Members on the Joint Committee.

3.5 **Resolved:**
The minutes of the previous meeting are agreed as a correct record and are approved.

4. Financial report

4.1 A report was presented by Nikola Mihajlovic.

4.2 The total budget is £199,720. At the moment spend and commitment to date is £160,791, and our forecast outturn is a break even position for this year.

4.3 Sustainable Development Fund projects approved amount to £4,078 with admin fees of £1,307 (transferred to the AONB reserve). Due to the impacts of Covid and ineligibility of some expressions of interest, the SDF has been underspent. Consequently, £7,685 has been reallocated to AONB projects.

4.4 Projects approved to the value of £20,839 are forecast to be spent by end of the financial year.

4.5 Reserves forecast at end of financial year is £56,126 after transfer of admin fee of £1,307 from Sustainable Development Fund.

4.6 Cllr Wilson congratulated the AONB Unit given the pressures that we have faced over the last twelve months. Cllr Pearson asked what the £8k for RAF Hednesford Project was for? I Marshall confirmed this was for refresh of interpretation around the RAF Hednesford camp utilising the Cannock Chase brand, bringing in contributions from the SAC Partnership and County Council.

4.7 Defra settlement for 2021/22 is still awaited. It is possibly tied up to a ministerial announcement of new National Landscapes Service. Cllr Beatty raised that the changes to the legislation will have to go through consultation. Amanda Milling MP and Theo Clarke MP have both been asked to raise the matter of the Government's response to the Glover Review - but not sure if they have taken it forward.

4.6 **Resolved:**
That the Committee approved the Financial outturn 2021/22

5. Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan – progress on the delivery of the first 2 years of the Implementation Plan

5.1 Report of the AONB Development Officer.

5.2 The AONB management plan sets out our vision, policies and actions to enable us to fulfil our statutory duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chase. Plans operate on a 5 yearly cycle and our current plan runs from 2019-24.

5.3 I Marshall presented our progress to deliver actions during the first two years of the plan. Of the 15 actions due to start in 2019 we have completed or substantially progressed 13 and started a further one; one hasn't yet started to create a Cannock Chase Landscape Trust which is on hold until we have more certainty about the

outcome of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Glover review and whether there are implications for AONB resources.

- 5.4 In relation to the 20 further actions due to start in 2020 we have completed or substantially progressed 6 of those and partially progressed a further 2; 8 actions have been started and are partially completed. 4 actions haven't yet been started.
- 5.5 A highlight of the achievements made against each of the themes set out in the AONB Management Plan is set out in Section 6, page 15 of the Agenda and Papers. This gives an impression of the huge range work we have been able to deliver directly as a Team with the support of our local authority partners and other partners. Actions we haven't done or in progress of delivering are included in the next AONB business plan 2021-23.
- 5.6 The AONB website has been updated, including governance of the AONB and how we operate, how to get involved, our publications and technical documents. We encourage members to visit this regularly. We are now approaching 1200 subscribers to our e-newsletter.
- 5.7 Cllr Beatty asked why we still have the 'deer' logo. I Marshall explained the deer logo referred to the AONB Partnership whereas the Cannock Chase Place brand relates to Cannock Chase the place. Every partnership has its own logo, but the purpose of the Cannock Chase brand is to unite under a new place brand, a new narrative, new key messages, Cannock Chase the place, so we give the area a greater sense of identity and sense of pride. I Marshall to make it clear how to subscribe to the e-newsletter. Cllr Beatty acknowledged it was fantastic the amount that has been done. Cllr Wilson recognised we are making good progress.
- 5.8 Cllr Beatty asked how we take the management plan forward in terms of projects and actions taking place: is it through the business plan or through a new updated management plan? I Marshall confirmed it was to be through the new business plan approved by Members in December 2020 which will be taken forward for the next two years. Then we will have a one-year business plan (2023-24) that will primarily focus on the next refresh of the management plan. The new management plan will go out to consultation to stakeholders and wider community. Cllr Beatty extended her thanks to the Task and Finish Groups who have inspired the work going forward, and opened up the offer to the wider community if you have the skills and knowledge it is worth putting yourself forward for consideration to be represented on the various Task and Finish Groups.

6. CCLCEP Arts Programme Partnership

- 6.1 Report of the AONB Landscape Planning Officer and presentation by Cannock Chase Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)
- 6.2 A report was brought to members in December 2020 about the National Arts Strategy that the NAAONB has adopted. Officers have been considering how to take an arts project forward in the AONB. Recently the AONB has been approached by Cannock Chase LCEP to collaborate on a programme of arts development for young people from Cannock Chase District. Cannock Chase LCEP are working with Arts Connect, the Bridge

Organisation for the West Midlands, aiming to improve the quality of arts engagement for children and young people across the region.

- 6.3 The project we hope to develop will work to shape a new opportunity for young people to have more cultural and arts experiences and include the key themes of environment and sustainability. This will include key environmental messages such as leaving no trace, protecting wildlife and avoiding wildlife disturbance, understanding the landscape and taking responsibility whilst out and about.
- 6.4 P Hanna explained Arts Connect is funded by Arts Council England and tasked to support local cultural educational partnerships. They operate as a co-investor bringing other partners together to work collectively. They have £25k to put on the table to support the LCEP, to develop its relationship with local partners, and it seemed through conversations with the AONB that there is a fantastic synergy around the work that the LCEP was doing and some of the AONBs ambitions around engaging local communities, families, schools in the environmental and climate issues around the Chase, at a point of time where Cannock Chase's profile is going to be incredibly high with the Commonwealth Games. The project aims to engage young people, their families, and their schools in local activism around environmental change and climate issues; topics young people are very passionate about. It is intended as a 2-3-year programme, not just a one-off project. Arts Connect will also offer to support the AONB to write its own Arts Strategy.
- 6.5 L Rose explained that evidence from Arts Council England indicates Cannock Chase has a very low level of arts engagement which led to the establishment of the Cannock Chase LCEP. Building on community engagement this proposal has come at a really good time strategically to access funding and create a key partnership for the district.
- 6.6 P Hanna – Arts Connect are excited to work with the AONB Partnership and bring people from different sectors together with a common agenda, particularly involving children and young people as citizens of the future, this is why they are totally committed to this proposal.
- 6.7 Cllr Beatty asked if it covered the Cannock Chase District Council area or the whole of the Cannock Chase area? Although the project will mainly work with young people from Cannock Chase there will be opportunities to engage more widely, for example through public arts, events, and on digital platforms.
- 6.8 Cllr Wilson welcomed this project particularly at a time when there has been so little opportunity for cultural activity due to the pandemic, and asked about the expected programme? It is the intent to get a core group of young people to form a committee at the end of summer to and start thinking about programming and commissioning arts activity with a view to starting face to face activity from Autumn onwards, subject to government guidance.
- 6.9 J Sim informed the meeting that SWT colleagues in the people engagement team are planning similar activities, and asked if there is an opportunity to contribute to the project? L Rose confirmed there is, and there are already links through inspiring healthy lifestyles to the Wolseley Centre. Cllr Beatty pointed out that Mary Cope and the Scout and Guide Camp at Beaudesert work with young people so there is a lot of

opportunity to create a network with other organisations focussing on young people on the Chase.

6.10 L Rose – added that the AONB Dark skies project is something to brief the young people with, so there would be the opportunity for added value, through potentially developing online tools, engaging with the families, and working with professional artists to enhance engagement.

6.11 Cllr Bates proposed, Cllr Pearson seconded the proposal and Cllr Beatty agreed for the AONB to be involved in the project and that a commitment of £5,000 of core funding is made in 2021 and a further £5,000 in 2022.

6.12 **Resolved:**

(1) The Committee agrees to be involved in the project

(2) The AONB commits £5,000 of core funding in 2021 and a further £5,000 in 2022

7. Farming in Protected Landscapes

7.1 Report of the AONB Development Officer.

7.2 In December I Marshall presented an item about the additional funding that protected landscapes nationally had received from Defra to advocate to farmers the changes coming to UK agriculture particularly the new Environmental Land Management and the principle of paying farmers public money for delivering public environmental goods. It is a short-term project running from December until end of March. The funding allowed the appointment of consultants to improve our knowledge and understanding of farming and farmers on and around Cannock Chase, to engage with those farmers to make them aware of the changes that are coming, to share information and to seek their views about the changes and what they feel about them and their state of preparedness for them. We have engaged about 90 public and private farmers and land managers on the Chase and within a 1km buffer.

7.3 In December the Government also announced a new programme for farmers and land managers in Protected Landscapes in England that would be delivered by the National Parks and the AONBs called Farming in Protected Landscapes. Delays have meant that we are still awaiting details of this programme. Nevertheless, it is important to raise this with members because the programme could be transformative for the AONB in terms of what we do. A brief summary of what we do know is provided in the report.

7.4 Important factors that will need consideration include:

- A budget allocation will be offered to Cannock Chase AONB (decided by Defra).
- Budget is likely to be split between environmental outcomes and access improvements (may be decided by Defra or for us to decide?).
- Budget profile across the three years – possible frontloading with higher budget in year 1 creates real challenges. If the programme is due to start from April 1st it will take a few months before we have a system up and running in order to deliver it and liaise with farmers.

7.5 There are also lots of decisions about how the programme would be run with farmers and landowners, who would be eligible – farmers, other landowners, public, private;

what would the priorities be; what criteria would we use for deciding where the money would be delivered. Panels are mentioned as being set up locally in each protected landscape to assess the applications that come in; how long would the grant be given for; what conditions would be attached; how would the programme dovetail with the existing environmental land management schemes that farmers and land owners can already apply for; how would payments be made; how would it be monitored.

- 7.6 In terms of implications - the AONB team has not had this kind of relationship with farmers and land managers on Cannock Chase. We would need to learn how to become the trusted partner with farmers and land managers through this scheme. It has the potential to significantly raise the AONBs profile with rural communities, it would support farming and jobs in the rural economy and has the potential to deliver environmental, health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 7.7 The Programme presents huge opportunities but comes with a number of challenges. It will be a new work area for the AONB Team; farmers and land managers will be unfamiliar with the AONB and its Team and vice versa, and there are likely to be teething problems with a new programme. The AONB Partnership, with the breadth of expertise and knowledge of its individual partners, is well placed to make this a success.
- 7.8 M Cope – it is a very good summing up of the challenges and the potential for good work to come from this. Equally, there is no information coming through to farmers. From a farming point of view farmers will be probably be glad of a point of contact to work alongside them. Relationships are likely to be drawn up between farmers and the AONB. Lots of potential but still no detail and until that is provided it is hard for any farmers/landowners to do any business planning and come forward with any input.
- 7.9 Cllr Beatty - To be brought forward in the July Agenda assuming something has happened. To think about how we as a group address a response to Defra, perhaps with the National Association of AONBs, and with the co-operation of NFU, CLA etc.
- 7.10 S Bentley made the point that if Defra do come back with an offer, they are likely to want a rapid response so we may not be able to wait until the next Joint Committee meeting before considering it. Could the Committee consider how it would respond to that request, whether the Committee can delegate that decision making, or whether we need to do something by correspondence. It has big implications for the team. We may need to call an extraordinary meeting. To help and support the AONB team it might be worth having something in place about how we will respond.
- 7.11 Cllr Beatty - it is hugely important not least because of the financial implications.
- 7.12 Cllr Pearson raised that we may need an extraordinary meeting at short notice to support our officers in this and farmers and landowners in the AONB.
- 7.13 Cllr Bates asked whether the Joint Committee needed a workshop on this? Cllr Beatty asked if I Marshall and M Cope could give us some direction on how best to achieve this. Close contact with farmers and landowners is going to be so important.

7.14 I Marshall acknowledged that the NFU and CLA are both going to be important going forward and the AONB has spoken to Staffordshire CLA and Staffordshire NFU during the current advocacy work.

7.15 **Resolved:**
Members noted the report and the preparations required for the Programme.

8. Planning update

8.1 A report on planning matters was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by J Banbury.

8.2 **Planning** – Summarising from the Planning Report, approximately 25 planning applications were reviewed, 2 amended applications, 18 didn't need full response as no particular concerns to raise. The AONB has also been involved in pre-application discussions - one relating to the Commonwealth Games.

8.3 Where proposals are considered inappropriate, consultation responses often seek more sympathetic solutions and enhancements. Amended applications in response have been welcomed as these enhance the quality of the application, to a level appropriate to the AONB so that objections can be withdrawn. Reference to the AONB guides will deliver more sensitive design solutions in the longer term.

8.4 **HS2** - Members will be aware that HS2 Phase 2A gained royal assent on the 11th February. As a result, one of the two conditions attached to the release of the Groups Environmental Enhancement Fund has been met. The Environmental Enhancement Plan is being finalised ready to be issued to the Secretary of State for approval. The Group has been consulted and commented on some Early Environmental Works. Following Royal Assent we will get more consultation on design work within the Group's area of interest.

8.5 **Dark Skies Project update** – CPRE's Star Count took place in February. Due to national lockdown this was by necessity home based. It was widely publicised through CPRE and other partners. Hope to see some good participation as people were looking for an exciting activity to do during lockdown.

8.6 Members will be aware we intended to commission a consultant to carry out a more methodical Sky Quality Survey across the AONB, but because of lockdown we were unable to do this. Having consulted with dark skies expert Bob Mizon we purchased 6 sky quality meters, and with the help of volunteers in partner organisations this survey was carried out in March. Results will be report later in the year.

8.7 **Resolved**
Members noted progress on planning matters and Dark Skies project.

9. Protocol for public questions

9.1 Presentation by the AONB Development Officer

9.3 Members were reminded that at the December meeting of the Joint Committee it was resolved that:

(1) Public speaking at meetings of the AONB Joint Committee is permitted

(2) A procedure for public speaking is adopted

(3) The Standing Orders to the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership Agreement 2016 are amended accordingly

9.4 Appendix 1 of the circulated Agenda and Papers sets out a proposed protocol for consideration by Members in relation to public question time during Joint Committee meetings. I Marshall has looked at a number of different protocols that committees operate, and thinks it is broadly consistent with various protocols for public questions.

9.5 Cllr Bates asked about the questions 3 days prior to the meeting. It is very important that if people want to ask questions at the meeting that you should have sight of that question beforehand. Can we ask for this please? I Marshall asked if the protocol wasn't explicit enough on this point. Cllr Bates didn't feel it was. People need to realise that they need to form a question and send that question to you in order that we can find out exactly what is needed. I Marshall will add in something along the lines that if questions haven't been submitted in advance they won't be allowed to be asked at the meeting. Cllr Beatty added that this would be essential otherwise we don't know if the question is valid or not. 5-7 days might be more helpful to be able to provide a response.

9.6 Cllr Wilson agreed with Cllr Bates comments, and added with regards to the conduct of the speakers that they will be asked to leave the meeting if they do not conduct themselves in an orderly manner, it may need to go further and say that we will actually remove them from the meeting if speakers do not conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Cllr Wilson raised we want to have the power to actually remove them from the meeting and asked for other Members thoughts.

9.7 Joint Committee members agreed. Cllr Pearson recommended questions should be received 7 days prior to the meeting especially if the AONB Unit needed to work on several questions. Cllr Pearson raised that although we only allowed two minutes for each question, he asked how many members of the public do we allow to speak at each meeting? Cllr Beatty responded that there is only 15 minutes for all questions, so once we run out of time everything else will have to be answered in writing later on.

Cllr Beatty raised that we are asked to approve this. I Marshall asked if the Committee would like to approve it with amendments or would you like to circulate a revised version to members outside of the meeting for approval by email? Cllr Beatty suggested the second approach should be taken and this was agreed.

9.8 **Resolved:**
A revised version of the Protocol for public questions to be circulated to members outside of the meeting for approval by email.

10. Heritage Strategy

- 10.1 Presentation by Janine Young, Fearn Heritage and Archaeology on the Cannock Chase AONB Heritage access and interpretation strategy
- 10.2 I Marshall introduced the project and its aims to: i) encourage the responsible care of the historic environment on Cannock Chase; ii) tell the story of Cannock Chase's historic environment in exciting and innovative ways; iii) improve the experience for visitors to come on the Chase; iv) inspire local people and partners and help generate a greater sense of pride.
- 10.3 J Young informed members about progress in producing the strategy. It is important to keep in mind that the heritage of Cannock Chase is not just a pretty set of archaeological features in a nice landscape, it's the whole landscape itself, it's the dynamic shifting landscape that contains all the evidence of man's interaction with the landscape leading up to how it looks today. It is linked in with the memories of people who live near the Chase.
- 10.4 The strategy takes forward two key policies in the Management Plan: (1) conserving the Chase's historic environment, and (2) connecting communities with the Chase's history and culture.
- 10.5 The approach has involved: background research and familiarisation, site visits, and stakeholder consultation involving 4 virtual workshops in January to tease out from people what are their priorities around the heritage and the Chase.
- 10.6 The strategy sets out an overarching Vision that aligns with the two key policies in the AONB Management Plan.
- 10.7 It then presents proposals for Interpretation and Access, and Conservation: looking at how to interpret the heritage assets, and how people can engage with them; and how can we ensure they are kept in the best possible condition; and how the two interlink. A portfolio of projects has been produced, all of which could work towards delivering on the objectives and recommendations in the Strategy, lined up with funding options and flexible enough that if key funding streams do come up there are some projects that are ready to go.
- 10.8 Running through the Strategy are themes which have been developed from the stakeholder workshops as what people see as the most important aspects. These are: Theme 1 – The Chase at War, feedback was there is a huge public interest in this and feel a connection with that military past. Theme 2 – Home is where the Heath is, Cannock Chase has been home to all sorts of people through time, rich, working, marginalised, prisoners and refugees and how the Chase has given them a sense of belonging and place, and how relevant it is to people today. Theme 3 – Work and Leisure, looks at the Chase has been used through time for two opposing things, for subsistence and recreation and again. It opens up possibilities of exploring how the Chase has been used in the past but also makes it relevant to today and will hopefully encourage responsible recreation. Theme 4 – Connections and Divisions, this came up a lot in the stakeholder workshops, people were interested about how people got across the Chase, routeways, trackways across and how its connected but also divided

people. Division of the land is something that has always caused conflict and tension in the past. It is something that has a big impact on landscape so a very relevant theme but also idea of connections on the Chase to the wider world, putting Cannock Chase in its context of what's going on elsewhere whether that be soldiers who are trained on the Chase going off to fight elsewhere, how industry on the Chase has expanded onto the wider world as well. These themes will be finalised, and a series of messages will be set out around them.

- 10.9 One of the big things to take away from the project is that the historic environment needs to work closely with the natural environment especially now there is so much focus on the natural environment, so much focus on access to green space, biodiversity loss. How can the historic environment and natural environment work really closely together, thinking about place as a whole, the landscape holistically, and how can we put in place the partnerships, methods of working that will help us achieve that.
- 10.10 Cllr Beatty thanked J Young for her presentation and highlighted that the involvement of volunteers is something that is so important to the Chase. Cllr Pearson liked the idea of trainees/apprenticeships being taken on. J Young pointed out there may be funding available now helping youth unemployment particularly. Cllr Wilson – this resonates everything that she likes and history side about the Chase and is delighted with it. Engagement with local people is so important because they do feel the Chase belongs to them as well as to previous generations, so the voluntary aspect of things is something she would like to find out a little bit more about as we want to get that level of engagement locally so people feel they are contributing on their Chase.
- 10.11 Cllr Bates thanked J Young for her presentation. In his role as Cabinet member of South Staffordshire he is very involved in Climate Change, as part of his portfolio, and asked if J Young was going to build in a strategy into the work being done at the moment? J Young responded that Climate Change is a big thing that runs through the Strategy although it hasn't been included as a separate component, but it focuses in on the conservation side, and what are the implications and issues around the conservation of the heritage assets and the monuments and how does climate change affect them. It is in the strategy, but perhaps not as an individual thing. Cllr Pearson asked that they be highlighted please.
- 10.12 Cllr Beatty responded that when you think about integration with the AONB Management Plan, it will come through into the business plan. It is hugely important to weave in through the whole of the document.
- 10.13 A discussion was held on timing of completion of the report and feeding in comments. I Marshall - the draft will be finished over the next few weeks and a final version brought to Members in July. Cllr Beatty proposed it is signed off and adopted then. Cllr Pearson and Cllr Wilson agreed.
- 10.14 **Resolved**
Members noted a final version is to be brought to Joint Committee in July.

11. Any other business

- 11.1 Cllr Bates raised his disappointment that there wasn't a representative from Lichfield District Council at the Joint Committee and asked could we please write to the leader of the Council and ask for a representative in future. We have officer representation on the Joint Committee today - S Stray, Spatial Policy & Delivery Manager, Lichfield District Council. Cllr Iain Eadie was due to attend but gave his apologies at the last minute due to a personal commitment. I Marshall to write to the leader of the Council. S Stray will provide feedback to Cllr Eadie when he meets with him shortly.
- 11.2 Cllr Beatty thanked everyone for their attendance and for their contributions to the meeting and looked forward to the AGM in July.

12. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Monday 12 July 2021 (AGM)

Monday 6 December 2021

All meetings to take place remotely via Microsoft Teams, unless otherwise informed.

Item 5**Public questions****Item for:**

Questions received (in advance) from members of the public

Author:

None

Financial implications:

None

Recommendations:

The Committee notes the questions and is invited to respond.

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee- 12th July 2021

**Financial Update
Final Outturn 2020/21 and 2021/22 Budget Update**

Report of the Treasurer to the Joint Committee and the AONB Officer

Recommendations

1. Final Revenue Outturn and Closing AONB Reserve for 2020/21

That the Joint Committee approves the:

Final outturn position for 2020/21 for the Core, AONB Project Costs, Land Management Scheme and the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

The closing balance held on the AONB reserve.

2. Revenue Budget and AONB Reserve for 2021/22

That progress on the current net revenue spend and the current balance held on the AONB Reserve for 2021/22 is noted.

Part A

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

3. The Joint Committee in its role under the Partnership Agreement is responsible for:-
- Approving the final accounts for the year 2020/21 as soon as possible after the year has ended and this report sets out the accounts for consideration.
 - This report sets out the new 2021/22 budget which has been formally approved by Defra and its current, initial forecast outturn position.

Reasons for Recommendations:

4. 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:

5. Final Outturn 2020/21

The detailed net revenue outturn for 2020/21 for both the Core and Action Projects Budget is set out in *Appendix 1* and is compared to the £199,720 approved budget for the year. The final net revenue spend was £199,720 compared to the budget resulting in a breakeven position.

The breakeven position includes an underspend of £7,685 on the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) which was re-allocated to the AONB Projects and an overspend of £1,224 on the AONB projects after the transfer from the SDF. The individual projects, totalling £5,385 for the SDF including the £1,307 administration fee, are set out in *Appendix 2* and £20,989 for the AONB projects, are set out in *Appendix 3* and both cover a range of community-based activities and providers.

6. Budgets 2021/22

The 2021/22 net revenue budget for the Core and Action Projects budget was previously approved by the Joint Committee at the December 2020 meeting.

The budget for 2021/22 is £192,510.

As previously reported, the net revenue budget for 2021/22 reflects no annual inflationary uplift on salaries but does make provision for incremental growth within pay scales, 1% on pension fund contributions and 0% on all non-pay items. The budget includes Core and Programme costs for £167,360 of which £125,520 will be funded by the annual Defra revenue grant and a £25,150 allocation set for the SDF and AONB projects.

The forecast financial position for the Core and Action Projects Budget is set out in *Appendix 4* which shows a nominal net spend to date of £27,013 together with the outturn currently predicted for the year. The predicted outturn for the end of the financial year totals £199,720, compared to the approved net budget of £199,720, giving rise to a breakeven position.

The latest position for the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for 2021/22 is set out in *Appendix 5* with projects approved amounting to £500 in total. After the administration fee earned by the AONB Unit of £1,000 is deducted from the SDF Grant this leaves a balance of £8,500 still to be allocated to projects during the year.

The latest position available for the AONB Projects for 2021/22 is set out in *Appendix 6* with projects approved amounting to £5,000 in total, leaving a balance of £10,150 still to be allocated to projects during the year.

7. The Cannock Chase AONB Reserve

The Cannock Chase AONB Reserve at the end of the financial year 2020/21 stood at £56,204 following the transfer in of the admin fee for the SDF projects of £1,307 and accrued interest for the year of £78.

It is anticipated that the balance on this reserve as at the end of 2021/22 will be £62,664 before interest is applied. This is an increase of £6,460 from 2020/21 and is due to the transfer in of the admin fee for the SDF projects of £1,000 and a one-off contribution of £5,460 received from HS2. A summary of the reserve is attached at *Appendix 7*.

It has previously been agreed that the priorities for the use of the reserve funds should be as follows:

- Income from sales, donations and consultancy work should be available to supplement the delivery of projects within the Annual Action Plans and to provide matched funding for any major grant applications and,
- The remaining funds should be earmarked to enable the AONB Unit to respond to the implications of any reductions in future funding.

These priorities need to be reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual update of the Risk Register.

8. Equalities Implications

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

9. Legal Implications

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

10. 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 SDF is a funding “pot” to be administered to partners who can provide the necessary matched funding for their Management Plan project proposals.

11. 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 Name Nikki Mihajlovic Finance Unit 01785 278829
Sarah Bentley Rural County 01785 276047

List of Background papers

None

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs

Outturn for 2020/2021

	Budget *	2020/21 Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£
Core Budget			
Salaries	131,910	132,390	480
Training Expenses	1,510	550	-960
Travel and Subsistence	2,200	144	-2,056
Staff and Associated Costs	135,620	133,084	-2,536
Office Equipment	2,600	3,234	634
Annual Audit	400	0	-400
Volunteer Costs	500	0	-500
National Liaison	3,000	3,156	156
Print & Publicity	5,000	4,185	-815
AONB Website	0	0	0
Annual Conference	2,000	0	-2,000
Core Activity (including monitoring, community involvement, etc)	9,240	13,478	4,238
Partnership Running Costs	9,000	9,000	0
Core Budget subtotal	167,360	166,137	-1,223
Sustainable Development Fund	13,070	5,385	-7,685
AONB Projects	12,080	20,989	8,909
Environmental Land Management Scheme	7,210	7,210	0
Total Budget/Outturn	199,720	199,720	0
New Projects to be developed	0	0	0
Outturn as at 31 March 2021	199,720	199,720	0
Funded By:			
DEFRA Grant			
Core	-125,520	-125,520	0
Sustainable Development Fund	-13,070	-13,070	0
AONB Projects	-12,080	-12,080	0
Environmental Land Management Scheme	-5,210	-5,210	0
DEFRA Grant subtotal	-155,880	-155,880	0
Local Authority Contributions			
Lichfield District Council	-2,090	-2,090	0
South Staffordshire District Council	-2,090	-2,090	0
Cannock Chase District Council	-8,370	-8,370	0
Stafford Borough Council	-8,370	-8,370	0
Staffordshire County Council	-20,920	-20,920	0
Local Authority Contributions subtotal	-41,840	-41,840	0
Sales and Donations	0	0	0
National Association of AONB - Environmental Land Management Scheme.	-2,000	-2,000	0
Membership Fee Income	0	0	0
Funding from(+)/to reserve(-)	0	0	0
Total Funding	-199,720	-199,720	0

* Budget rounded to nearest £10

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Sustainable Development Fund

Outturn Update for 2020/2021

Outturn 20/21	Budget	Outturn 2020/21	Variation
	£	£	£
Approved Projects			
West Midland Bird Club - long-eared owl monitoring	465	465	0
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - wildlife garden	813	813	0
National Trust - orangery restoration	1,000	1,000	0
Cannock Chase Film	800	800	0
Then and Now Photo Project	1,000	1,000	0
Approved Projects Total	4,078	4,078	0
Admin Fees	1,307	1,307	0
Funds Re-allocated to AONB Projects	7,685	0	-7,685
TOTAL	13,070	5,385	-7,685

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

AONB Projects

Outturn Update for 2020/2021

Outturn	Budget	Outturn 2020/21	Variation
	£	£	£
Approved Projects			
Brindley Heath Interpretation	3,000	3,000	0
RAF Hednesford	8,000	8,000	0
Dark Skies	731	731	0
SWT Woodland Sites Survey	6,500	6,500	0
Deer Road Deterrents	1,534	2,758	1,224
Approved Projects Total	19,765	20,989	1,224
Unallocated	0	0	0
TOTAL	19,765	20,989	1,224

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs

Forecast for 2021/2022

	Budget * £	2021 Actuals £	Predicted Outturn £	Variation £
Core Budget				
Salaries	136,260	22,755	136,561	301
Training Expenses	1,510	0	1,209	-301
Travel and Subsistence	2,200	33	2,200	0
Staff and Associated Costs	139,970	22,788	139,970	0
Office Equipment	2,600	0	2,600	0
Annual Audit	400	0	400	0
Volunteer Costs	500	0	500	0
National Liaison	3,160	3,156	3,160	0
Print & Publicity	5,000	69	5,000	0
AONB Website	0	0	0	0
Annual Conference	2,000	0	2,000	0
Core Activity (including monitoring, community involvement, etc)	4,730	0	4,730	0
Partnership Running Costs	9,000	0	9,000	0
Core Budget subtotal	167,360	26,013	167,360	0
Sustainable Development Fund	10,000	1,000	10,000	0
AONB Projects	15,150	0	15,150	0
Total Budget/Initial Forecast Outturn	192,510	27,013	192,510	0
New Projects to be developed	0	0	0	0
Anticipated Forecast Outturn as at 31 March 2021	192,510	27,013	192,510	0
Funded By:				
DEFRA Grant				
Core	-125,520	0	-125,520	0
Sustainable Development Fund	-10,000	0	-10,000	0
AONB Projects	-15,150	0	-15,150	0
DEFRA Grant subtotal	-150,670	0	-150,670	0
Local Authority Contributions				
Lichfield District Council	-2,090	-2,090	-2,090	0
South Staffordshire District Council	-2,090	-2,090	-2,090	0
Cannock Chase District Council	-8,370	0	-8,370	0
Stafford Borough Council	-8,370	0	-8,370	0
Staffordshire County Council	-20,920	0	-20,920	0
Local Authority Contributions subtotal	-41,840	-4,180	-41,840	0
Sales and Donations	0	0	0	0
Membership Fee Income	0	0	0	0
Funding from(+)/to reserve(-)	0	0	0	0
Total Funding	-192,510	-4,180	-192,510	0

* Budget rounded to nearest £10

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Sustainable Development Fund

Budget Update for 2021/22

Jun-21	Budget	Spent or Committed to Date	Predicted Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£
Approved Projects Apples on the Chase: a Chase Through Time legacy project	500	0	500	0
Approved Projects Total	500	0	500	0
Admin Fees	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Currently Unallocated	8,500		8,500	0
TOTAL	10,000	1,000	10,000	0

Appendix 6

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

AONB Projects

Budget Update for 2021/2022

Jun-21	Budget	Spent or Committed to Date	Predicted Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£
Approved Projects Contribution to Art in the Landscape programme	5,000	0	5,000	0
Approved Projects Total	5,000	0	5,000	0
Currently Unallocated	10,150	0	10,150	0
TOTAL	15,150	0	5,000	0

Appendix 7

Cannock Chase AONB Reserve

Financial Year	Opening Balance	Income/ Donations	Membership Fees	Visitor Survey Work	Admin Fees	Transfer to/from Reserve	Balance of Admin Fees / Underspends	Interest	Closing Balance
	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
2007/2008	10,214					-1,766	-1,766		8,448
2008/2009	8,448	572			9,303	-1,590	7,713		16,733
2009/2010	16,733	1,326			6,166	-371	5,795		23,854
2010/2011	23,854	896	525	9,564	4,744	-921	3,823		38,662
2011/2012	38,662	1,240	1,367	17,845	3,983	-4,204	-221		58,893
2012/2013	58,893	387	1,108		3,218	-533	2,685	195	63,270
2013/2014	63,270	1,001	1,675		2,459		2,459	249	68,654
2014/2015	68,654	596	1,720		1,327	-54	1,273	289	72,532
2015/2016	72,532		569		500	-2,383	-1,883	293	71,512
2016/2017	71,512	1,475	553		1,565	-108	1,457	132	75,129
2017/2018	75,129	1,471	52		1,809	30,703	32,512	189	109,353
2018/2019	109,353	169	104		2,056	34,361	36,417	685	146,728
2019/2020	146,728				2,307	-94,792	-92,485	577	54,819
2020/2021	54,819				1,307		1,307	78	56,204
2021/2022	56,204	5,460			1,000				
		14,594	7,673	27,409	41,744	-41,658	87	2,687	62,664

Experience and enjoyment

- Preparation of Brindley Heath interpretation
- Preparation of RAF Hednesford interpretation
- Managing recreational growth (supporting the SAC Partnership proposals, Sustainability Matters video)

Communities and Business

- Release of Resources for local businesses
- Art in the Landscape collaboration

Governance and communication

- Publication of AONB Business Plan 2021-2023
- Formation of land owner and emergency services group
- Introduction of public question time at Joint Committee meetings
- Raising our profile (roll out of Cannock Chase place brand, updating the AONB website, creation of e-newsletter)

Overview - AONB finances

3. Financially our income and expenditure balanced (£192,510). During the year we brought in nearly £57,000 of additional project income.

Looking forward

4. The Review highlights two significant announcements made towards the end of the year which could have major implications for the AONB. The first of these is a new three year 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme to be delivered by AONBs and National Parks (more under Item 10). The second is for AONBs and National Parks to be brought together under a new National Landscapes Service.

Recommendation

5. The Committee is requested to approve the Annual Review for publication and dissemination.

Item 8 **AONB activities progress report 2021-22**

Item for: Information

Author: Ian Marshall, AONB Development Officer

Financial implications: Activities are funded through the 2021-22 AONB budget.

Recommendations: The Committee notes progress made on the progress delivering AONB funded activities and is invited to make any comments

Background

1. The Cannock Chase AONB Business Plan sets out how the AONB Partnership, notably through its dedicated staff team, will deliver commitments in the AONB Management Plan over the two year period 2021-2023.
2. This report updates members on our current activities. Information is provided in summary form, but more information is available from the AONB Team.

Landscape Character and Planning

3. Officers continue to engage with the **Commonwealth Games** Organising Committee and Forestry England over the design of the new event course, as well as access infrastructure and traffic and spectator management and the legacy from the Games. The latter includes a Ride with Respect Campaign, the construction of a new bike play facility for children learning to ride, as well as the decommissioning of the current promoted 'blue' cycle route through the Sherbrook Valley.
4. A refresh of the 2005 **Highways Design Guide** is in preparation, with the close involvement of Staffordshire County Council Highways colleagues. Text refinements and illustrations are being sought pending its desktop publication in readiness for consultation in the Autumn.
5. During the Spring, volunteers undertook sky quality meter readings across the Chase to help identify where our night skies are affected by lighting and light spillage. This will also help inform a **Good Lighting Guide** for developers, householders and public authorities (more under Item 11).
6. All materials have been received from the **Environmental Land Management advocacy project** (Dec 2020 – March 2021) and fed back to the National Association for AONBs for reporting to Defra. The project has provided an insight into farming in the AONB and begun to establish contacts with farmers which will prove valuable as we deliver the new **Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme** (more under Item 10).
7. The AONB has been approached by Natural England for the potential for further applications to National Grid's **Landscape Enhancement Initiative**. The AONB already has one scheme on Gentleshaw Common (see below) funded through this initiative. Opportunities for further schemes might be possible, for example, to create heathland south of Prospect Village, and for visual landscape improvements between Gentleshaw and Upper Longdon. However, without development funding to work-up these bids they are unlikely to progress.

Wildlife and Nature

8. Officers have been discussing with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Forestry England the potential to reinstate the positive conservation management of the four areas of the Cannock Chase Forest that formed part of the **Connecting Cannock Chase Corridors**. It is hoped that grazing and other measures may be restarted from 2022. The potential for other heathland restoration initiatives is being explored through the **Midlands Heathland Heartlands** initiative as well as through the use of mechanisms such as off-site **biodiversity offsetting**.
9. Discussions have begun with landowners, Natural England and other organisations about the state of **adder** populations on Cannock Chase. Their conservation is hampered by a lack of knowledge about their numbers, how they use the landscape and their habitat requirements. Learning from adder conservation approaches used at other sites, eg, Kinver Edge, plans are being made for tracking animals, DNA testing, and a survey in the 2022 season.
10. Monitoring has continued of habitat and access improvements on **Gentleshaw Common** funded through National Grid and delivered by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
11. Preparations are underway with the Woodland Trust and the National Trust for practitioner training this Autumn for the conservation management of **veteran trees** on the Chase. This will be followed in 2022 with an initiative to encourage volunteers to locate and record more veteran trees so that we can conserve them for the future.
12. A framework for a **Deer Management Strategy** has been circulated with the main public landowners and other bodies. The strategy will explore the impacts of deer on the landscape, population monitoring, and the need and approach to managing deer numbers. The strategy will, in turn, inform an annual deer management plan.
13. We are looking to engage the University of Northumbria to carry out an assessment later this year of the condition of the 5 **Local Geological Sites** located within the AONB.
14. The West Midlands Ringing Group is carrying out a third successive **nightjar breeding survey**. The AONB team will be supporting the group to collate and report the findings so that they can inform future management strategies for the heaths and forest on the Chase.
15. A project is being discussed with partners to carry out an **audit of invasive non-native species** on the Chase. These species (flora and fauna) can have significant negative impacts on native plants and animals as well as on the local economy and the resources of landowners and agencies to manage them. The audit would improve our knowledge and understanding of the main problem species, and inform future conservation measures.

Historic Environment and Culture

16. The AONB includes two **Ordnance Survey triangulation stations (trig points)** one at Brocton Field and the other to the east across the Sherbrook Valley. Volunteers have photographed and surveyed the condition of the structures – highlighting a specific problem with erosion around the pillar bases and the need for jointing of cracks.

Maintenance requirements will be discussed with the County Council rangers, works unit and archaeologists.

Experience and Enjoyment

17. A new A7 pocket-size **Cannock Chase Explorer map/guide** is in the early stages of drafting to inform, educate and inspire visitors about this nationally important landscape. The main public landowners, 6 visitor centres/hubs and the SAC Partnership will be involved in its preparation. This product is part of the roll-out of the Cannock Chase place brand, intended to improve the visitor welcome.
18. An evidence base of all known **promoted cycling, walking and horse riding routes** is being collated to inform the rollout of recommendations contained within the SAC Partnership Site User Detailed Implementation Plan. These include long-distance recreational routes, as well as other routes promoted by the AONB Partnership and other bodies. The case for retaining each of them, and the need for signage and waymarking will be considered in the light of managing visitor pressures on the Cannock Chase Special Area for Conservation.
19. Officers have been working with SAC Partnership officers to translate behavioural messages in the **Cannock Chase code**, Cannock Chase place brand and Forest code into a unified series of easily understandable icons. The aspiration is that these will be adopted by landowners and visitor centres/hubs across the Chase to provide consistent messaging.
20. The AONB is contributing £5000 towards the development of a local arts programme engaging young people with the arts and the environment of the AONB. The programme is awaiting the appointment of a project manager who will begin to shape the programme themes.

Communities and Business

21. The window for the first round of applications for the **AONB Sustainable Development Fund** closed in May. Five applications have been received for projects including: updating on-site interpretation at Gentleshaw Common, interpretation and landscape gardening the pets cemetery at Shugborough, provision of health and wellbeing courses, researching the origins and uses of the apple trees that grow on parts of the Chase, and improving drainage at the Beaudesert Activity Centre.
22. Local businesses are being encouraged to develop a closer relationship with the AONB by utilising the Cannock Chase place brand. So far ten have registered to use the **Sense of Place toolkit**, logo, business locators and images.
23. An application for £250,000 submitted in April to the **Green Recovery Challenge Fund Round 2** was unfortunately unsuccessful. The Future Guardians of Cannock Chase project aims to inspire a love of nature and the outdoors in the children and young people of Staffordshire by delivering a wide-ranging and inspiring programme of outdoor activities and events, resource packs, performance and creative arts, interpretation, and community engagement. Alternative sources of funding and support for the project will now be sought.

24. Measures are being put in place to allow AONB volunteers to re-open the **Great War Hut** to the public this summer. Unfortunately, whilst the hut lay unused during 2020 mice got into the building and damaged some of the exhibits. The incident has led to a review and clarification of roles and responsibilities of the building, its contents and use.

Governance and Communication

25. The **Standing Orders of the AONB Joint Committee** have been amended to allow for public questions to be asked at meetings of the AONB Joint Committee, in accordance with the protocol approved at the March meeting of the Joint Committee.
26. Cannock Chase AONB has contributed £500 to a **Collaborative Climate Change Action Programme** being co-ordinated and developed by the National Association for AONBs on behalf of the AONB family. Protected landscapes can play a crucial role in tackling climate change through adaptation, mitigation and influencing. The programme will improve understanding and climate change solutions in AONBs under five key workstreams: agriculture and climate change, nature-based solutions, sustainable tourism and transport, building design and planning, and renewable energy.
27. Staffordshire County Council Communications Team is supporting the AONB to engage with our local farming community to promote Defra's new **Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme** (more under Item 10). Communications will include local press releases, direct communications to more than 180 individual farmers and land managers in the AONB, postings by representative farmer and landowner organisations, the creation of a dedicated webpage on the AONB website, and a presence at the Staffordshire Show (25/26 August).

Recommendations

28. The Committee notes progress made on delivering AONB funded activities and is invited to make any comments.

Item 9**Commonwealth Games 2022****Item for:**

Information

Presentation:

Andy Harvey-Coggins, Forestry England

Financial implications:

None for the AONB Partnership

Recommendations:

The Committee notes progress on preparations for next year's Commonwealth Games and its legacy and is invited to make any comments.

Item 10**Farming in Protected Landscapes****Item for:**

Information

Presentation:

Ian Marshall, AONB Development Officer

Financial implications:

Additional funding on top of annual core grants is being made available from Defra for Protected Landscapes to deliver the 3-year Farming in Protected Landscapes. A proportion of the allocation is available for administration and farmer advice and guidance in addition to the payment of grants for projects.

Recommendations:

The Committee notes the scope, purpose and implementation of the Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and the progress being made by the AONB Team for its delivery, and is invited to make any comments.

Item 11

Planning update

(a) Development management and planning policy

(b) High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a

(c) Dark Skies

Item for:

Part (a): Information

Part (b): Information

Part (c): Information

Author:

Julia Banbury, AONB Landscape Planning Officer

Financial implications:

None

Recommendations

1. The Joint Committee notes progress made on planning matters since the last meeting,
2. Members to note the update on High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a
3. Members note the update on the Dark Skies Project

Part (a) Development management and planning policy

1. Since March 2021 the Landscape Planning Officer has reviewed 30 applications, of which 7 were for consultations for amended applications in response to previous objections. 11 applications did not need a full response as there were no concerns to raise.
2. The table below indicates applications where an objection was made and the outcomes to date. Full responses are available from the AONB Landscape Planning Officer.

Category	Summary of response	Outcome/notes
Planning Application		
CH/20/381 Land used as a pony paddock, field to the north of, Rawnsley Road, Cannock Residential development (60 houses) Additional information	The proposal to infill green space is a fundamental concern as if permitted this would adversely affect the character, quality and openness of the setting of the AONB and potentially impact on the AONB itself. The development has potential to be prominent in the landscape. Photomontages and sections demonstrate that in some views the development would be intrusive. The planting proposals would not greatly enhance assimilation into the landscape over time. The potential impact of lighting has not been considered. Impacts on the SAC requires adequate mitigation.	Awaiting decision
20/33151/FUL Casa de Lune	Application is for a larger scale, higher 2 storey garage with side façade directly on the	Awaiting decision

32 Pool Lane, Brocton Garage with accom over	road frontage than approved in 11/15995/HOU. This would be visually intrusive, dominate and be out of character with the street scene. Would have a negative impact on the density of development in the area and detrimental impact on the AONB. Mature trees would be affected by development, not acknowledged in the application.	
20/33270/HOU Bracondale, Chase Rd Brocton Variation of Condition 2 on 17/26901/HOU	Amended scheme. Objection withdrawn	Approved 23.04.21
21/00359/FULM Colton Mill Farn Carwaden Springs Solar Farm	Conditional objection Concerned would be glimpsed views of panels and structures on the more elevated parts of the site, in particular note the Substation is on a relative high point in the centre of the site. Could be mitigated	Awaiting decision
20/00988/FUL Land South of Parkside Lane Hatherton New field access and turning area	Area it is highly vulnerable to inappropriate development that would erode the special landscape qualities and natural beauty of the AONB. The application would remove hedgerow and introduce urbanising features with detrimental impacts.	Refused 03.05.21
20/33463/FUL The Paddock 182 Main Street Milford	Mitigation Planting requested, resist any future proposals for floodlighting manège as this would have detrimental impact in this elevated location. Application boundary recently extended to include space for mitigation planting.	Awaiting decision
21/00332/FUL Fern Bank, Commonside Detached house	Seek more varied building form sympathetic to local architecture. Fencing on the highway is intrusive. Concept landscape scheme requested to deliver visual mitigation, and condition to control lighting	Pending consideration
CH/21/0083 Land at Colliery Lane, Brereton Change of use to stabling and as a residential caravan site	The proposal would introduce uncharacteristic obtrusive structures into the landscape and overdevelop a constrained site, causing detrimental effects on the landscape and natural beauty of the AONB	Refused 26.05.21

21/00052/FUL Land at Mansty Lane, Penkridge Stables block	Concern regarding position and loss of hedgerow in the setting. Application amended	Approved 14.05.21
21/00442/FUH 20 Upper Way, Upper Longdon	Clarity sought regarding tree protection and wider visibility of proposal	Awaiting decision
21/00040/FUL Springslade Works Cannock Road, Bednall Redevelopment 5 new dwellings	Concerned regarding tree removal. Landscape proposals should enhance visual mitigation, help assimilate the development into the landscape and deliver on biodiversity. Include trees of stature to filter views of the upper elevations of the development and consider views from the adjacent green lane.	Awaiting decision
21/00381/FUL Church Farm, Church Lane Hatherton Agricultural building	Conditional Objection: Materials and colours are in keeping with the farm, however development is set apart from the main farm complex, which would extend the proportion of the view in which development is visible, and detract from views. Closer association with the main complex would reduce detrimental impacts or request scheme of landscape mitigation.	Awaiting decision
CH/21/0180 Crawford House, Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood Lawful Development Certificate – use of land for storage of vehicles and plant in connection with business	Evidence from aerial photos that was still a paddock in 2017. If convinced that a LDC is justifiable, request this describes the precise nature of the use, limiting the machinery stored to that expressly described in the submission, preferably limiting the height of equipment. Welcome removal of PDR if possible.	Awaiting decision
21/00396/FUL Shore Croft West Wing Sandy Lane Hatherton Extension to an existing stable block to include further stables, and manège	Concerned regarding cumulative impact LVIA requested	
21/00236/COU Land at Mansty Lane CoU to outdoor activities including	Request conditions for: approval of roofing colour to be recessive; landscape scheme for biodiversity enhancement and visual mitigation to reduce visual detractors in the	Awaiting Decision

mobile building and parking	AONB setting; condition requiring approval of any lighting	
CH/21/0055 Silver Trees Caravan and Chalet Park Change of use and extension	Amended application to include enhanced mitigation and clarity regarding tree protection. Objection removed	Awaiting Decision
Commonwealth Games 2022 EIA Screening request	<p>Concerned regarding potential damage to wildlife habitats on Cannock Chase SAC and disturbance to habitats and protected species in the wider AONB caused by spectator access for the event.</p> <p>Critical areas of concern: Traffic management including that of non-ticketed spectators accommodated outside the Site boundary. Spectator management between car parking locations to the event Management of spectators arriving unannounced on the day of the event. Ensuring effects outside the Site boundary are fully assessed and mitigated.</p> <p>Seek appropriate, enforceable conditions that ensure protection of the AONB and the SAC with minimisation and mitigation of any detrimental effects arising from spectator management, and temporary fixtures within the Site and across the wider AONB outside the red line boundary.</p>	Awaiting Decision
Pre- application discussions	None	
Planning Policy		
SBC Local Validation Criteria	<p>Request inclusion that impacts on the AONB and its setting need to be fully assessed; and reference to Cannock Chase AONB Views and Setting Guide will assist applicants in preparing LVIA's and inform decisions on matters such as siting, scale and mitigation.</p> <p>Would welcome a statement that all applications within Cannock Chase AONB and its immediate setting should be considered sensitive, therefore Landscaping Details would be more likely to be required to provide mitigation. Sign-posting applicants to the AONB Design Guide, and for</p>	

	applications in the AONB setting, to the AONB Views and Setting Guide would be welcomed to help inform design.	
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Part (b) High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a

5. In March, progress on the Environmental Enhancement plan to date was reported. The Environmental Enhancement Plan has now been approved by HS2's internal governance process and has been submitted to the Secretary of State with their support. The Group are expecting to be notified shortly of the outcome. Assuming the Plan is approved by the Secretary of State, delivery on some projects is expected to start in mid-September 2021.
6. The Group is grateful to Staffordshire County Council for agreeing to act on their behalf as accountable body and administer the financial framework for delivery of the Environmental Enhancement Plan.
7. Since the last Joint Committee meeting the Group has been consulted on design proposals for Early Environmental Works, and this is ongoing. It is anticipated that some engagement on early design ideas for the main works will commence next year, though a further update from HS2 on time scales is expected.

Part (c) Dark Skies – project update

8. Following on from the report to Joint Committee in March, the AONB carried out a Sky Quality survey with the help of volunteers from National Trust, Forestry England, and Staffordshire County Council. The darkest location was found to be at Shugborough; readings around the Marquis Drive area indicated brighter skies than might have been expected in that location; not unexpectedly the fringes of the AONB are relatively bright due to light spillage and street lighting. Several locations that were anticipated would be quite dark were found to be adversely affected by poorly orientated floodlighting, often associated with businesses.
9. Officers have prepared a first draft of the Cannock Chase AONB Good Lighting Guide to raise awareness of light spillage and encourage people to help to minimise this. The Draft is based on a similar guide produced by the Blackdown Hills AONB but tailored to Cannock Chase, and offers general advice, good practice, and signposting to other information. The draft has been disseminated to stakeholders for their input.

Recommendations

10. (1) The Joint Committee notes progress made on planning matters since the last meeting.
(2) Members to note the update on High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a.
(3) Members to note the update on the Dark Skies Project