

SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT WARREN FARM BARN

CORE MEMBERS

*Cllr Susan Parker *Cllr Hazel Watson *Cllr Rosemary Absalom *Cllr Mike Goodman *Cllr Geoffrey Duck Cllr Ruth Reed *Stephanie Fudge Andrew Smith	Guildford Borough Council Mole Valley District Council Reigate & Banstead BC Surrey County Council Tandridge District Council Waverley Borough Council National Trust Natural England
---	--

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Romy Jackson *Kristina Kenworthy Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira *Tim Bamford *Liz Cutter *Martin Cantor *Chris Howard *Simon Whalley	National Farmers Union CPRE Surrey Wildlife Trust CLA SSALC Surrey Hills Society Surrey Hills Trust Fund Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC
--	--

*Members present

IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks Denise Furlonger Caroline Price Richard Parkinson Ken Bare Maggie Howell Ramsey Nagaty	Surrey Hills AONB Office Director Surrey Hills AONB Office Surrey Hills AONB Office Surrey County Council Surrey Hills Society Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC Guildford Borough Council
--	---

			ACTIONS
1		INTRODUCTIONS	
		Mike Goodman welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions had been made at the AGM.	
2		APOLOGIES	
		Ruth Reed, Gordon Jackson, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Andrew Smith, Wendy Varcoe	
3		MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	3.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 th June were agreed.	
4		MATTERS ARISING	

	4.1	Item 1 - Introductions. Rob Fairbanks said that informal thanks had been given to outgoing Board Members, some of them attended the Partnership Tour in July.	
	4.2	Item 4.1 – Management Plan. Rob Fairbanks gave an update on progress with adopting the new AONB Management Plan. He said that if any of the Members wanted a copy of the pre-publication Draft Management Plan to let him know.	
	4.3	Item 4.2 – 25 Year Strategy of SCC Countryside Estate. Mike Goodman updated that the Strategy was due to go to Surrey County Council Cabinet in October.	
	4.4	Item 6.1 (1.6) Surrey Rural LEADER. Members noted the success of the programme and discussed how pressure could be placed on Government to secure future funding. Mike Goodman responded that there is probably nothing to be done until we know what the Governments plans are after Brexit.	
	4.5	Item 8.1 – Partnership Tour. Rob Fairbanks thanked Members for their support. He had written to thank the Watts Gallery and the Stovolds at Lydling Farm for hosting the day.	
5		MEMBER REQUEST – SURREY HILLS HIGHWAYS	
	5.1	<p>Liz Cutter provided an update and showed a video that highlighted the impact of increased traffic on Markwick Lane in Hambledon. This narrow lane was signed as unsuitable for HGVs yet it continue to be heavily used resulting in accidents, verge damage and problems for traffic trying to pass.</p> <p>The Members discussed the problems of additional traffic through the Surrey Hills. The Members felt that a regional approach should be applied to planning applications on large developments and requested that Clive Smith look at the cumulative impact of sites in and around the region.</p> <p>The Members discussed the difficulties with drivers using SatNavs. The SatNav companies do update them but it is dependent on the end user to update to the latest version. It was suggested that the National Parks and AONBs should act together to try to get controls on routing through Protected Landscapes.</p> <p>The Members were provided with a draft “Surrey Hills – Highways Protocol” which set out the principles, specifications and identifying best practice for maintenance and improvement programmes in the Surrey Hills. Liz Cutter said that she was due to meet with Matt Furniss, the Cabinet Member for Highways, on 13th September to discuss the protocol and support for signing off schemes. Rob Fairbanks stated that it was important that SCC sign off schemes without having to necessarily fund schemes. Liz was asked to report back at the next Board meeting.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>LC</p>
	5.2	The Members thanked Liz and Rob for all the hard work that has gone in to the leaflet.	
	5.3	The Members noted the impact of through traffic and HGV movements in the Surrey Hills.	

	5.4	The Members agreed the updated design principles for highways, subject to sign off with Surrey County Council.	
6		SURREY HILLS ACTIVITY REPORTS	
	6.1	<p>Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC Simon Whalley referred to the activity report. He highlighted that the recruitment of members was going well. Some felt isolated and struggled with some skills, and therefore networking events and workshops were connecting members to support each other.</p> <p>Maggie Howell provided information on the events programme and highlighted the tree planting initiative that will be launched at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair in October. Stephanie Fudge requested some information on where tree planting would be happening as there was a need to educate the public on woodland management and replacing trees.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Simon and Maggie for their report.</p>	
	6.2	<p>Surrey Hills Society In Gordon Jackson's absence, Martin Cantor, as a Trustee of the Society, provided an update. He said that in addition to the great honour of the Society being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, they had also been given a recognition award from Mole Valley District Council.</p> <p>He reported that the Business Plan was still being finalised. The Society, with help from Caroline Price, had been trying to improve the social media presence. They were also trying to engage more with younger people and the badge designed for the Guides has been well received with over 1000 badges having been sold.</p> <p>Chris Howard reminded the Members that the Society AGM will be on 12th October and all Members were welcome.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Martin for the update.</p>	
	6.3	<p>Surrey Hills Trust Fund In Gordon Jackson's absence, Chris Howard gave an update. She said she could not add much to Gordon's report but wanted to highlight the Surrey Hills Challenge event at Denbies on 22nd September. She encouraged Members to take part. She added that the event was being built up over the coming years to be a substantial source of income for the Trust Fund.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Chris for the update.</p>	
	6.4	<p>AONB Unit. Rob Fairbanks referred to his report and invited questions.</p> <p>He highlighted that in July Defra published the interim findings of the Glover Review and these were summarised in his report.</p> <p>The Symposium at the University of Surrey on 27th November theme was the Natural Health Service, promoting the benefits to physical and mental health of nature based therapy.</p> <p>On 24th September Clive Smith will be speaking about planning issues related to affordable housing in the AONB at the English Rural Housing Associations Surrey Hills Seminar. Rob encouraged Members to attend.</p>	

		<p>Rob asked the Members to note the plans for a community Parish Council Forum that in November. Working with the Surrey Association of Local Councils, it was intended to update parish councils on planning issues, the AONB Management Plan, highways issues and the Dark Skies initiative. He encouraged Members to attend.</p> <p>Since the May elections the Byways Working Group had not had a Chairman but Hazel Watson has agreed to be Chair for the next meeting.</p> <p>Rob thanked Caroline Price for all her work on our social media presence which is steadily increasing in numbers of followers. Rob also wished to thank the National Trust for all their support on the Harvest celebration event that will be held on Box Hill on the evening of 28th September.</p> <p>Mike Goodman said that the Surrey Hills Board needed to get involved in responding to the Gatwick Master Plan. Potentially this could greatly affect Surrey. Mike suggested this should be discussed at a future Board meeting.</p>	RF/MG
	6.5	Mike Goodman referred to an email from Sally Blake that the Members had been copied in to. Mike welcomed the interest in the AONB and said that Members should feel free to respond in their own name.	
	6.6	The Members noted the work of the Surrey Hills Family.	
7		ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	7.1	<p>Chris Howard wanted to draw attention to the Guildford Walking Festival circulated leaflets.</p> <p>Chris also noted the date of the Surrey Hills Partnership Tour scheduled for 3rd July 2020 and offered the help of the Society in organising it.</p>	
8		NEXT MEETING	
	8.1	The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4 th December 2019	
9		DATES FOR 2020 MEETINGS	
		<p>Wednesday 4th March - Surrey Hills Board</p> <p>Wednesday 17th June - Surrey Hills Board</p> <p>Friday 3rd July - Partnership Tour</p> <p>Wednesday 2nd September - Surrey Hills Board AGM & Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 2nd December - Surrey Hills Board</p>	

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Signature of Chairman

Date