

# SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2018 AT WARREN FARM BARNS

### CORE MEMBERS

*Cllr David Wright	Guildford Borough Council
*Cllr Mike Band	Waverley Borough Council
*Cllr Lindsey Dunbar	Tandridge District Council
*Cllr John Stephenson	Reigate & Banstead BC
*Cllr Claire Malcomson	Mole Valley District Council
*Cllr Mike Goodman	Surrey County Council
*Stephanie Fudge	National Trust
*Adam Wallace	Natural England

### ADVISORY MEMBERS

*Sandra Nichols	National Farmers Union
*Kristina Kenworthy	CPRE
*Nigel Davenport	Surrey Wildlife Trust
*Tim Bamford	CLA
*Liz Cutter	SSALC
*Chris Howard	Surrey Hills Society
*Gordon Jackson	Surrey Hills Trust Fund
*Wendy Varcoe	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC

\*Members present

### IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks	Surrey Hills AONB Office Director
Denise Furlonger	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Clive Smith	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Ken Bare	Surrey Hills Society
Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Surrey County Council

			ACTIONS
<b>1</b>		<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
		David Wright welcomed everyone. Introductions had already been made at the AGM.	
<b>2</b>		<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
		Simon Whalley	
<b>3</b>		<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>	
	3.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> September were agreed.	
<b>4</b>		<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	4.1	<b>Item 7.9 Quiet Lanes &amp; De-Cluttering Working Group.</b> Liz Cutter reported that there had been problems with the sign declutter project. She	

	<p>explained that signs were about to be removed, with the agreement of Surrey County Council, but Shere Parish Council wanted to be fully consulted so everything went on hold. The Chairman responded that in this instance there was a large parish with differing views and that it will require persistence.</p> <p>Mike Goodman said that Surrey County Council does not consult with parishes when they take down signs. The highways authority takes the decision to remove them. Chris Howard suggested that parish councils feel they are there to be consulted, so it was important to offer them an opportunity to come out to see what is being planned.</p> <p>The AONB Director thanked Liz for all she is doing. David Wright acknowledged that Liz should be paid expenses to cover the cost of her travel as this is involving a lot of her time. Rob Fairbanks also thanked Surrey County Council for its support as this is a national first and there had been great success in some parishes.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>SURREY HILLS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	
5.1	<p>Rob Fairbanks presented the pre-publication draft AONB Management Plan (2019 – 2024). He reminded Members that as the Glover Review may create new purposes for National Parks and AONBs, the AONB Board had agreed to undertake a light touch review. He explained that the AONB Management Plan is a statutory document that set out the vision and the policy framework for the Surrey Hills AONB and it needed to be adopted by the constituent local authorities by the end of 2019, as set out in the paper.</p> <p>Rob Fairbanks explained that there was also a need to review the Business Plan and the Constitution for the next 5 years, the timetable for which was also set out in the paper. The Officers Working Groups was providing technical support and advice to the AONB Director on behalf of the local authorities and Natural England.</p> <p>Mike Band stated the need to also engage with the local authority economic development strategies and queried whether these interests needed to be represented on the Officers Working Group. Mike also stated that the consultation needed to generate a portfolio of projects. Rob to ensure this is reported to OWG and covered in the consultation.</p> <p>Mike Goodman raised concerns that the launch of the consultation should not conflict with the Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust consultation on the future of its countryside estate. It was suggested that the AONB Management Plan consultation was launched at the Surrey University Symposium in November.</p> <p>Stephanie Fudge stated the important role of the AONB Unit of enabling partnership working on a landscape scale for biodiversity and amenity benefits. Adam Wallace stated that the delivery mechanisms to secure net gains in biodiversity needed to be addressed.</p> <p>John Stephenson said that the AONB condition indicators were a bit light. Rob Fairbanks agreed that condition monitoring was an area that the</p>	<b>RF</b>

	<p>AONB team had struggled with as it did not have the capacity or access to the data. He thought this issue would be considered as part of the Glover Review as it was common among AONB partnerships. In the meantime, the Unit was building collaboration with the Surrey Nature Partnership and Surrey University. He highlighted that the recent drone footage could be undertaken every 5 years and analysed by the University as part of a citizens' science programme.</p> <p>Gordon Jackson said the Symposium should be a good opportunity to identify new technologies and how this could be applied to the Surrey Hills in the future. Adam Wallace highlighted Natural Capital mapping and the opportunity to collaborate with partners, including the network of South East AONBs and National Parks.</p> <p>Rob Fairbanks thanked Members for their input and invited further comments by email which would be considered by the Officers Working Group.</p> <p>Members approved the Consultation Draft for publication, subject to amendments delegated to the Officers Working Group and the AONB Director</p> <p>Members agreed the outline programme for the review and adoption of the new AONB Management Plan, subject to amendments delegated to the Officers Working Group and the AONB Director</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>SURREY HILLS ACTIVITY REPORTS</b>	
	<p>6.1 <b>AONB Unit.</b> The AONB Director outlined all the activities relating to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The Chairman said that the 60th anniversary celebration event at Speaker's House had been a great success and thanked everyone involved.</p> <p><b>Planning.</b> Clive Smith reported that Guildford Borough Council had published its Local Plan modifications. It had been challenged to meet Woking's unmet housing needs. Clive will bring his annual report to the December meeting.</p> <p><b>Leith Hill.</b> Rob Fairbanks reported that the exploratory drilling application had been withdrawn as Michael Gove made a decision not to renew the Forestry Commission lease.</p> <p><b>Environmental Land Management Schemes.</b> Rob Fairbanks said that he had submitted an outline Test and Trail pilot scheme to Defra with the University of Surrey and the Surrey Nature Partnership. Defra was expected to confirm successful schemes in the autumn.</p> <p><b>Quiet Lanes and De-Cluttering Working Group.</b> Liz Cutter reported progress in identifying demonstration enhancement schemes in rural villages and the excellent input of Colin Davis.</p> <p>Mike Band said traffic calming measures needed evidence to compare incidents before and after the measures. Rob Fairbanks agreed that getting evidence should be a priority. He would raise this again with colleagues at</p>	<b>CS</b>

		Surrey County Council and re-establish research links with Surrey University.	<b>RF</b>
6.2		Rob Fairbanks said that he would like to note his personal thanks to the AONB Team who had taken on a lot of extra work due to the anniversary year. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked the Team and noted how much had been achieved by such a small team and added that it proved to be great value for money.	
6.3		<p><b>Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC (SHE).</b> Wendy Varcoe said a 3 year Business Plan had been developed and the vision is for a thriving rural economy. Wendy reported on some new members that had joined and Sue Sturgeon, the former Chief Executive at Guildford Borough Council, had been appointed as a new Director. A grant bid had been submitted to Wates Group which had been successful.</p> <p>Wendy reported on upcoming events including the Fantastic Food Festival at Denbies, and the Wood Fair that was being held at a new venue, the Cranleigh Showground.</p> <p>Wendy asked the Members if they were happy to have their email addresses added to the Enterprises newsletter distribution list as this was a GDPR regulation. The Members all agreed they are happy to receive the newsletter direct to their email addresses.</p>	<b>WV</b>
6.8		<p><b>Surrey Hills Society.</b> Chris Howard said that this was her last meeting as the Society Chairman. This had been a very busy year with all the AONB 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations along with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society. Chris thanked everyone for their support at all of these events.</p> <p>Chris reported that she will be walking part of the North Downs Way on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. This is to support Pete Morris as part of the North Downs Way 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Chris invited everyone to join her on the section walking from Dorking to Guildford. She presented a book she had published on walks in Surrey including promotion of the Surrey Hills.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Chris and Ken Bare, who will be stepping down as Vice Chairman, for all they had achieved. Chris responded that it had been a pleasure working with everyone and that they would both still be involved.</p>	
6.9		<p><b>Surrey Hills Trust Fund.</b> Gordon Jackson reported that he had been working on the fundraising strategy for the Fund and the relationship with the Surrey Hills family. One key issue was the collection of donations as the Community Foundation for Surrey was not set up to collect small donations, which may therefore be a role for the Society.</p> <p>Gordon also explained the need to generate greater giving through Ambassadors and a more effective governance structure. He would present proposals to the next AONB Board meeting</p>	<b>GJ</b>
6.10		The Members noted all the activity reports and the Chairman thanked everyone for their commitment, enterprise and hard work.	

<b>7</b>		<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	7.1	<p>Rob Fairbanks said that the Surrey Hills Challenge and the inaugural Festival of Sport will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Denbies Vineyard. The Festival was an opportunity to promote all outdoor sport, including greater awareness and understanding of cyclists and horse riders.</p> <p>Rob Fairbanks also reported that a “Be Nice Say Hi” campaign was being launched by Cycling UK and BHS to encourage friendly interactions on shared bridleways. There would be a Surrey Hills promotion of this campaign in 2019 with additional signage on the Cycle Surrey Hills network.</p> <p>Kristina Kenworthy commented that there is a problem with road cyclists leaving rubbish behind in the countryside, particularly after events. Rob Fairbanks said that he would raise this with cycle clubs and event organisers as part of the AONB Management Plan engagement.</p>	<b>RF</b>
<b>8</b>		<b>DATES FOR 2019 MEETINGS</b>	
		<p>The following dates were agreed</p> <p>Wednesday 20th March 2019 - Board meeting  Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - Board meeting  Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 - Partnership Tour  Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Surrey Hills Board  Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Surrey Hills Board</p>	

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Signature of Chairman

Date