Members of the Chilterns Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are hereby summoned to a meeting of the full Chilterns Conservation Board on

20th June 2018 at 10.30 am
(Following on from the AGM)

Crowmarsh Battle Farm, 84 Preston Crowmarsh,
Wallingford, OX10 6SL

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 21 February
4. Matters Arising
5. Public Question Time
6. Board Review – including Report from Executive and Planning Committees
7. Statement of Accounts 2017-18
8. Review of National Parks and AONBs
9. National Park Status
10. AONB Management Plan 2019-2024
11. Meeting Dates 2018-19
12. Any other business

Lunch

Followed by a tour of Crowmarsh Battle Farms with Philip Chamberlain

Future Meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Board</td>
<td>17th October 2018</td>
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<td>27th February 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>19th September 2018</td>
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<td>23rd January 2019</td>
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<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>7th March 2018</td>
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<td>18th July 2018</td>
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<td>21st November 2018</td>
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</table>
1. Turning towards Preston Crowmarsh opposite Anaerobic Digester site entrance

2. At corner of road, turn left into office complex, drive right around to the rear of the buildings

3. Board meeting in 'The Cart Shed' Parking on grass within orchard behind converted barns, Entrance gate in far corner by tennis court
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CHILTERNS CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21st February 2018 at The Horse Trust, Speen, Princes Risborough HP27 0PP
commencing at 10.00 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Appointed by Local Authorities
Cllr David Barnard
Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown
Cllr Paul Duckett
Cllr David Collins
Cllr Heather Kenison
Cllr Lynn Lloyd
Cllr Charles Mathew
Cllr Hugh McCarthy
Cllr Richard Newcombe
Cllr Ian Reay

Appointing Body
North Hertfordshire District Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Three Rivers District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Wycombe District Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Hertfordshire County Council

Appointed by the Secretary of State
Colin Courtney
Alison Doggett
John Nicholls
Elizabeth Wilson

Elected by Parish Councils
Cllr Alison Balfour-Lynn
Cllr Susan Biggs
Cllr John Griffin
Cllr Charles Hussey
Cllr Clive Thomas

Hertfordshire
Oxfordshire
Oxfordshire
Buckinghamshire
Buckinghamshire

CCB Officers
Graham Hurst
Sue Holden

CCB Finance Officer
CCB Chief Officer

Other:
Deirdre Hansen

Clerk to the Board

17/18.26 Item 1 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Nick Rose Chiltern District Council, Ian Waller Secretary of State appointed and Helen Tuffs Secretary of State Appointed.

The Chairman welcomed the new members to the Board.

17/18. 27 Item 2 Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were made.

17/18. 28 Item 3. Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 25th October 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

17/18.29 Item 4. Matters Arising
a. Following the excellent presentation by Les Mosco, Trustee of the Chiltern Society, it had been decided to invite trustees of the Chilterns Society to join the workshop following this meeting to enhance collaboration and working together.
b. The request for a farm visit will be met with the next Board meeting being held in Crowmarsh Gifford. A farm visit will follow the meeting.

17/18.30 Item 5. Public Question time
None.

17/18.31 Item 6. Board Review
The progress report from the Chief Officer, including the Executive and the Planning Committee reports had been received.

The Chief Officer highlighted:

- The successful recruitment process for the 2 new posts on the Hillforts Project.
- The adjournment debate by Cheryl Gillan MP was very useful in raising the profile of the Chilterns and the Prime Ministers confirmation of her commitment to protecting the Chilterns AONB was much appreciated.
- The Governments review of AONB’s.

The members had the opportunity to raise questions.

The Planning Officer was commended for the excellent assistance that she had provided with a number of planning applications and an examination.

The Chairman congratulated the Chief Officer and her team on the hard work they were doing.

1. The Board NOTED the reports and the decisions made under delegated authority.

17/18. 32 Item 7. 25 Year Environment Plan
The Government had published a 25 Year Environment Plan on 11 January 2018 which sets out the intentions for ‘protecting and enhancing’ the natural environment.

The Chief Officer outlined the implications and opportunities for the AONB and the CCB. It was noted that legislation and a budget would be required to accompany this plan.

10.15 Cllr Charles Mathew arrived.

1. The Board NOTED the 25-year Environment Plan and its implications and opportunities for the Chilterns AONB.

The Business Plan and Budget 2018-19 had been circulated, following approval by the Executive Committee on 24 January 2018.

The Chief Officer reported that the finances look healthy, the largest increase in costs is the Management Plan Review. With total income and expenditure anticipated to reach £1 million, the return on the grant received from DEFRA will greatly improve.

Members asked questions and discussed income generation. The Chairman reminded members that the CCB performs functions that Councils themselves would need to carry out for AONB’s if there was no Conservation Board.

Finding alternative sources of funding for core activities is extremely difficult.

The Chief Officer was commended on the work that was demonstrated going into this plan.

1. The Board NOTED the CCB Business Plan and Budget 2018-19.

17/18. 34 Item 9. Management Plan Review- Update

The Chief Officer presented an update on progress with the Management Plan Review. A launch meeting was held with senior Local Authority officers. Following the Board meeting a workshop will be held for Board Members.

1. The Board NOTED the progress made on the AONB Management Plan Review.

17/18.35 Item 10. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Finance Officer briefed the Members on the new General Data Protection Regulation coming into force 25 May 2018, the implications for the Board and the actions taken and prosed to ensure the CCB complies.

Graham Hurst has been appointed the Data Protection Officer. An internal audit on personal data held has been undertaken and GDPR requirements are being incorporated into CCB policies and procedures.

Members discussed the implications and it was agreed that the Data Protection Officer will summarise the CCB’s insurance position for members. Members were assured that the CCB’s IT systems are robust.

1. The Board NOTED the changes being brought about by the GDPR and the actions being taken by the CCB in compliance with those regulations.

17/18.36 Item 11. Annual Audit Return

The Finance Officer reported on the completion of the external audit 2016-17.

The auditor certified that they have completed their review of the Annual Return 2016-17 and discharged their responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for the year to 31 March 2017. They found the information in the annual return to be in accordance with proper practices.

One issue was raised under the “Issues Arising Report”: “minutes not signed or initialled”. This is factually incorrect; all the minutes are signed and the pages initialled by the Chairman at the next meeting. The auditors were informed that their report was incorrect, but the auditors are no longer the CCB’s external auditors so it has not been possible to resolve the issue.
The external auditors are not appointed by the CCB, but by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd.

Members expressed their disappointment at BBO, the external auditors.

1. The Board APPROVED and ACCEPTED the audited annual return and NOTED that the response to the issues arising report for 2016-17.

17/18.37 Item 12. Any Other Business

1. Correspondence had been received from Sharon Walters expressing her appreciation of the presentation made to her for Alan Walters at the last Board Meeting.
2. The Chief Officer gave a presentation on the refresh of the CCB’s logo. Members were asked to reflect on this and respond to the Chief Officer with their views. Members expressed their positive attitude to the first attempt. Some minor modifications were suggested. The Chief Officer took those away and will await further responses.

Future meeting dates:

Board meetings: 20th June (+ AGM) 2018
17th October 2018

Executive Committee: 23rd May 2018
19th September 2018

Planning Committee: 7th March 2018
18th July 2018
21st November 2018

The meeting was followed by a workshop on the Management Plan to which trustees of the Chiltern Society had been invited.

The Chairman……………………………………………….. Date…………………. 
Item 6  

Board Review June 2018

1. **Highlights**

1.1 We are extremely pleased that the third Chilterns Walking Festival, which has just finished, saw double the number bookings from last year. Great publicity contributed to this achievement, including appearing in The Mirror’s list of ‘Best things to do during half term’. Social Media by volunteers also helped get the festival out to a wide audience (see 5.1 below).

1.2 We are delighted to welcome Wendy Morrison, Ed Peveler and Vicki Pearce to the team, bringing the staff team to 16, with freelancers helping us in 5 other part-time roles.

1.3 Other highlights and items of news from the last three months appear as agenda items at the Board meeting.

2. **Report from Executive Committee, 23 May 2018**

2.1 The Executive Committee considered and noted the positive financial result for the year ending 31 March 2018, a surplus of £27k created partly due to project delivery changing and which will be offset by a deficit in the following year. The Committee also considered an updated budget for 2018-19 noting the level of reserves required to provide cashflow for the large projects.

2.2 The Committee noted that Financial Regulations have been reviewed and that no changes were required. And noted that appropriate action had been taken by the CCB in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

2.3 The Committee discussed a proposal for increasing collaboration across the Chilterns using the 2019-24 management plan as the starting point for a strategic partnership approach.

3. **Report from Planning Committee, 7 March 2018**

3.1 The main item was a workshop reviewing the planning chapter of the AONB Management Plan. Committee had the opportunity to consider and provide feedback on the content, policies and format of that chapter, which is proposed to expand to cover both development and transport. As background Committee was updated on a recent Planning Forum workshop held to gather views of our main planning stakeholders on the planning content of the AONB Management Plan.

3.2 Committee approved the recent responses to local plan consultations and planning applications. Of note were responses to several major local plans covering the
Chilterns (Wycombe, South Oxfordshire, Vale of Aylesbury and Central Beds), giving evidence at the examination of the North Herts Local Plan on sites proposed for housing east of Luton, and responses on some larger neighbourhood plans (Goring and Watlington). On the planning application side, the Board had objected to major housing developments at Woodcote and Sonning Common, including schemes at appeal, and responded to the proposals for Century Park next to Luton airport.

4. **Landscape and Conservation**

4.1 **Beacons of the Past – Hillforts in the Chilterns Landscape HLF Project**

The new project staff took up their posts in April – Wendy Morrison as Project Manager and Edward Peveler as Landscape Heritage Officer. They have already made great progress, strengthening links with partners and forging ahead with delivery, including:

1. Forming the Steering Committee and setting the first meeting

2. Putting the Evaluation Consultancy contract out to tender and awarding the contract to The Places Team,

3. Visits to 50% of the hillforts, making good connections with key stakeholders

4. Putting together the tender document for the LiDAR Survey, a major contract worth £80-180k. The tender was issued on 25 May and deadline for submissions is 02 July. Advertised on Contract Finder.Gov, it has received over 175 hits.

5. Drafted a data sharing agreement with the Historic Environment Records (HERs) whereby CCB will receive regularly updated HER data in perpetuity for no charge

6. Launch event planned for 15 September at Desborough Castle, High Wycombe

7. Over 160 volunteers now recruited with a series of ‘Meet & Greet’ sessions to be held weekend of 14-15 July in each of the four zones established to help manage and facilitate volunteer access across the AONB

4.2 **Chalk, Cherries and Chairs HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS)**

The proposals are now entering the final stage of development before submission of the £2.4m bid in August. HLF have confirmed that the scheme is on track and project plans are developing well. However they cautioned that they are anticipating one or more LPSs being unsuccessful at stage 2 following changes to the scheme. Issues identified by HLF as the main areas of risk needing to be addressed more strongly
include:

1. **Legacy and sustainability** - need for more detail and an over-arching strategy for how the partnership and its vision for the area will be taken forward after the closure of the scheme.

   Update: We are in the process of working up more detailed proposals and strengthening the overall strategy. (Potentially links well with creation of a wider AONB partnership approach currently under discussion).

2. **Fundraising** – recent HLF changes mean a higher proportion of the match funding must now be secured by submission of the bid. In addition, with the stage 2 now being competitive the more that is secured the lower the perceived risk.

   Update

   £117,500 of the target of £460,000 cash match funding has been secured to date (with thanks to Wycombe DC CIL, Bucks CC, Bucks Bird Club). Discussions are underway with landowners regarding match funding for works on their land. Other key components of the fundraising strategy include a bid to the HS2 Community and Environment Fund (outcome in early July) and proposals for funding from the HS2 Additional Projects AONB fund.

   HLF advised that securing HS2 related match funding will be important for our scheme given the case we made for ‘why here, why now’ strongly HS2 related.

4.3 **North Chilterns Landscape Initiative**

   A meeting with HLF in April provided useful and positive feedback on the initial project ideas and identified further development work needed.

   The emerging project is based around the chalk escarpment and Icknield way corridor of the northern Chilterns, with a strong focus on engagement with urban communities in and around Luton / Dunstable/ Houghton Regis.

   Until HLF’s new strategic framework is announced, the only scheduled deadline for applications above £1m is this August (16th). This final window in the current scheme is going to be highly competitive.

   Having considered the HLF feedback the project advisory group remains committed to working towards a submission to meet this August deadline and to continuing to make the case for significant investment (>£2m) in this scheme. Partners are currently working on project proposals and seek further advice from HLF at a meeting in late June.
4.4 **High Speed Two**

*Detailed Design Principles* are still awaiting sign off by two of the local authorities; all other Review Group members including CCB have agreed the document.

**Main works contractors:** several workshops have been held to date with Main Works Contractors to explore particular elements of design with members of the Review Group. A further meeting is scheduled for late June to review all design components to date including head houses, portals and viaducts.

**Additional Projects:** feasibility studies are about to be commissioned – one on access enhancements; the other on landscape and biodiversity connectivity enhancements. Both will produce strategic mapping to direct priorities for spend from the £3m budget as well as seeking to influence the main works contractors. Once the mapping is completed (summer 2018) CCB will bring forward a project proposal for the landscape and biodiversity scheme as potential match to our Landscape Partnership Scheme.

5. **People and Society**

5.1 The third Chilterns Walking Festival has just finished and was a great success, with over twice the number of bookings as last year. There were 86 walks on offer, with 659 bookings made direct through the Festival site plus many more which were booked directly with the walk providers (we are collating data for this). There were many new events this year, with a focus on family-friendly walks during the May half-term aimed at attracting new audiences. The big increase in bookings is partly down to the work of the 15 Festival volunteers recruited to help publicise the events in their local patch. Planning has already started for the 4th Festival which will take place 6 – 21st October!

5.2 The CCB is working up a full bid to the HS2 Business and Local Economy Fund for a £240,000 project ‘Open for Business’ which will focus on expanding the visitor economy in the Central Chilterns through a 3 year programme. A workshop was held at Missenden Abbey in May to present the proposed bid to local businesses and organisations and to seek their views. Over 30 organisations attended and now additional consultation is taking place with key businesses to gather input and help shape the bid which has to be submitted by end of September.

6. **Development and Communications**

6.1 Work to ensure the CCB complies with new GDPR legislation continues. We have reviewed personal contact information stored by the CCB and sent a series of opt-in emails to contacts. We received positive-opt-in from 674, meaning we have had to remove 54% of contacts. Although this figure may seem high, it does mean those who have opted in are likely to be more engaged and responsive to the work of the Board. This work was completed in time for the deadline of 25th May.
Our Privacy Policy has been refreshed in accordance with the legislation and the website now includes Terms and Conditions.

We have selected Hubspot as a free CRM database solution and our Administrative Officer is working additional hours to prepare the database for use.

6.2 This year’s Outstanding Chilterns magazine is about to go to print with an updated design.

6.3 The new CCB logo will become public with the publication of Outstanding Magazine and Annual Review. The website, social media platforms and our email signature will be updated with the new logo and colour palette.

6.4 We continue to benefit from volunteer support, with two volunteers giving time on a weekly basis to support communications and website work, and a further two providing high quality photographs which can be used for the Management Plan.

6.5 Recruitment to the position of Communications Officer was successful; Vicki Pearce commenced in post on 4th June. John Waxman will continue to support communications work around the Management Plan.

6.6 Fundraising for the LPS remains the highest priority. A bid to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation was unsuccessful. We continue to explore and apply for all funding opportunities and are working with partners to access alternative sources of funding. A case for support has been developed and accompanied a speculative approach sent to 12 trusts and foundations in May.
Item 7  

**Statement of Accounts 2017-18**

**Author:** Graham Hurst, Finance Officer

**Summary:** The year end position shows an overall surplus of income totalling £27,550 which has added to reserves

**Purpose of Report:** To present the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2017-18.

**Final results**

1. The Statement of Accounts and associated Annual Audit Return are attached.

2. The Annual accounts show that the Board made an overall surplus of income over expenditure of £27,550.

3. The Boards Reserves at 31 March 2018 were:

   - **Pensions Reserve**  
     - £1,079,000

   - **General Reserve**  
     - £100,000

   - **Budget Equalisation**  
     - £134,218

   - **Development**  
     - £293,744

   - **Chalk Streams Project**  
     - £ 35,988

   - **Friends of Red Kites**  
     - £ 5,859

   **Total**  
   - £508,591

**Recommendation**

1. The Board approves the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for 2017-18, including the Annual Governance Statement.
# Statement of Accounts 2017-18

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<td>4 Statement of Movement in Reserves</td>
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FOREWORD

This Statement of Accounts details the Board’s activities for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, and has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2005.


The Board operates to a budget based on the agreed grant aid from the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and local authorities. Additionally, the Board either takes the lead role or actively participates in a range of partnership schemes to secure external funding for additional project work. Income is also raised through sales of merchandise, donations and consultancy fees.

The Statements included in these accounts are:

Revenue Account (pages 3)

This shows the Board’s Income and Expenditure for the financial year. Total income amounted to £808,835 whilst expenditure was £781,285 giving rise to a surplus of income for the year of £27,550. The surplus is added the Board’s reserves and enables the Board to continue to support and finance its activities.

Balance Sheet (page 4)

This details the Board’s financial position as at 31st March 2018 listing its assets and liabilities.

Statement of Movements in Reserves (page 5)

This sets out the movements during the year for the reserves held by the Board.
### CHILTERNs CONSERVATION BOARD

#### REVENUE ACCOUNT 2017-18

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<td><strong>787,000</strong></td>
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<td>- 244,742</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>- 787,000</td>
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<td>Transfers</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>-5,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movements in the year</td>
<td>1,497</td>
<td></td>
<td>26,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As at 31st March 2018</td>
<td>5,859</td>
<td>35,988</td>
<td>293,744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Item 8  

Review of National Parks and AONBs

Author: Sue Holden, Chief Officer

Purpose of Report: To update the board with the recently published terms of reference of the Designated Landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) Review.

**Introduction**

The Board will recall that the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan committed to review National Parks and AONBs.¹

The government’s press release said “an independent panel will look at how these iconic landscapes meet our needs in the 21st century – including whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to expand.” ²

The review will report in 2019, the 70th Anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

**Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference of the review have now been published and confirms positively that the review “aims not to diminish the character or independence of our designated landscapes, or to impose new burdens on them and the people who live and work in the areas they cover. Instead, its purpose is to ask what might be done better, what changes could assist them, and whether definitions and systems - which in many cases date back to their original creation - are still sufficient.” ³

The objectives of the Review have been given as the following:

In the context of meeting both local and national priorities and wider environmental governance, the review will examine and make recommendations on:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets


• the financing of National Parks and AONBs
• how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
• how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
• how well National Parks and AONBs support communities

**Review Process**

The policy paper suggests that the review will draw on existing evidence and that submitted by interested groups and individuals during the Review. The review team will also visit people and places in a range of designated landscapes. There is no information yet as to how or when we can give evidence.

The review is being chaired by Julian Glover, a journalist and former Downing Street advisor, recommendations will be made to the Government and implementation will be led by the Defra Secretary of State.

**Designations and Boundary Reviews**

The policy paper outlining the terms of reference says the following

“Expanding on work already underway, the review will also take advice from Natural England on the process of designating National Parks and AONBs and extending boundary areas, with a view to improving and expediting the process.”

Board members will want to bear this in mind when considering the questions raised in the following agenda item.

**Recommendation**

1. Board members are asked to note the terms of the Review

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Item 9  National Park Status

Author: Sue Holden, Chief Officer

Summary: A call has been made for the Chilterns to become a National Park. A request for consideration of this can be made to Natural England and consultation on the question could happen as part of our Management Plan Review.

Purpose of Report: To seek agreement from the Board that a request to consider National Park status is made to Natural England.

To seek agreement form the Board that the question of National Park status is consulted upon in our Management Plan review.

Introduction

Following a meeting with Cheryl Gillan MP in December, at which concerns about development pressure and change were raised, Cheryl has been seeking support for the Chilterns to become a National Park. Cheryl has written to local authorities, local councillors, MPs and government departments promoting this idea.

Natural England (NE) have responded to say that to move the idea forward the Chilterns Conservation Board needs to present NE with a compelling case. And that we should include the aspiration in our draft AONB Management Plan and consult upon it through the plan’s consultation process.

NE also proposed we discuss this with their Thames Region Area Manager and I am meeting him on 21 June.

The Case for Change

The Chilterns AONB is facing unprecedented change, directly from housing and infrastructure but also indirectly from growth in London and South-East, increasing traffic, changes in land-use and lack of resources in local government and agencies for conserving landscape and the natural environment. Huge numbers of small incremental changes over the long term are detracting from our Special Qualities, which include views, tranquillity, dark skies, rare habitats and species, and the immense potential we have for access and recreation.

At the same time society needs green space for people’s health and well-being, and the natural services provided by a landscape, more than ever. Time outdoors, in
greener, wilder, tranquil places, offers significant health benefits for everyone. Plus the opportunities for recreation, learning, volunteering, tourism and the rural economy of a cared-for, well-known and thriving landscape are significant.

Greater weight and attention needs to be given to the Chilterns and its setting to ensure the landscape and natural beauty is conserved and enhanced, for everyone to enjoy for ever. To achieve this, an enhanced planning role and powers are required. Increased influence could be achieved by becoming a statutory consultee or by having the ability to create a strategic development plan for the whole AONB. Or it could be achieved by becoming a National Park.

**The Criteria for National Park Status**

NE have advised that the following should be answered in making the request to become a National Park:

1. **A proposal needs evidence to satisfy statutory criteria of outstanding natural beauty and recreational opportunity. The criterion ‘opportunities for open air recreation’ is particularly important.**

   The Chilterns is already designated for its outstanding natural beauty and we have a long list of special qualities e.g. chalk streams and ancient woodland, some of which are rare nationally and even internationally and many of which are unique in the region.

   On recreational opportunity, there are few other designated landscapes which could claim to have as much recreational opportunity as the Chilterns, due to our extensive network of rights of way, to 1.6 million people living within 8km and to ten million people living within an hour. The Chilterns is probably the most accessible protected landscape in Europe, due to the extensive road, rail, underground and rights of way network of the area.

2. **The additional benefits arising from NP designation would need to be shown.**

   National Park status would give a greater recognition to the value of the Chilterns and would create the potential for a more strategic view to be taken on the need for and impacts of development across the whole geography.

   The Chilterns needs greater protection due to its location on the edge of Greater London, and of the new Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge arc and for the benefit of all. National Park status would contribute to this. The current protection for AONBs is, in theory, equal but it is not in practice, with the absence of statutory planning powers.

3. **The case for designation must be made in an England wide context.**
There are no national parks in central southern England. Proximity to London and a South-East location means the Chilterns faces more pressure than most designated landscapes (the Chilterns ranks 3rd in the table of housing applications per km²). The lack of other designated landscapes in the region and the enormous population nearby makes the Chilterns ideally placed to be a new National Park and would help it fulfil its potential, to benefit society.

The context for a request

The government’s Review of AONBs and National Parks is covered in the preceding agenda item and the review will “take advice” from Natural England about the process for designating National Parks and AONBs. Board members are aware that there is a list of requests for National Park status, Conservation Board status and boundary reviews and that the process of reviewing each request can take a number of years.

Our request would also feed into plans to change local authorities in parts of the Chilterns. Local Authorities might be concerned that a National Park would take on some of their existing responsibilities, but this is for consideration. In the South Downs National Park, some of the councils have retained responsibilities for determining planning applications, working to policies in a single national park local plan. It is also possible that further variations of the National Park model emerge from the government’s Review.

Recommendations

1. The Board are asked to give approval for a request for National Park status to be made to Natural England.

2. The Board are asked to approve that the proposal goes into the draft management plan for consultation with partners and the public.
Item 10  

AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

Author:  Sue Holden, Chief Officer

Summary:  The CCB has a duty to review the AONB Management Plan and we will consult the public and partners on changes. A new Management Plan will run from Spring 2019 to Spring 2024.

Purpose of Report:  To update the board with progress made on the AONB Management Review and to seek views on the draft vision, goals and strategic objectives.

Introduction

Over the last six months we have gathered views and input from the public and partners to inform a review of the AONB Management Plan. 1500 people responded to our public survey, over one hundred partners and experts attended workshops and we are now finalising a first draft for partner consultation during June and July. A second draft will be produced in August and September for a formal public consultation from October to December. Final publication is planned for late spring 2019.

A Vision for the Chilterns

The new Management Plan requires a simple succinct vision. We propose this vision includes the need to protect the AONB forever and for everyone, specifically recognising its potential to benefit the AONB’s large adjacent population, either through direct recreation and visiting, or through the indirect ‘services’, such as clean water, the natural environment provides for society. We therefore propose the following:

| Our vision is that the Chilterns will be saved forever and for everyone, where people can enjoy and be inspired by its distinctive natural beauty, space and tranquillity. We will celebrate and enhance its history and unique character. There will be more space for nature and abundant wildlife. We will protect the natural services the Chilterns provides society. It will be a haven for nature and recreation in the busy South East. |

Goals for the Chilterns

Our management plan will have a set of high level aspirations, goals which are important for the vision to be achieved. These goals should be ambitious and should help make the case for the highest level of protection being afforded the Chilterns.

Flowing from the vision, we propose a number of principles on which we will base the goals for the management plan:
1. That all the special qualities, and the natural capital, of the Chilterns should be protected forever.

2. That the AONB is designated for the nation, and must be protected by the nation.

3. That to ensure its future protection (and potentially achieve enhanced status) more people need to appreciate and understand the value of the Chilterns, as a unique and special place, of national and international significance.

4. That we aspire to engage the population around the Chilterns fully. The potential, to contribute to the enjoyment and health and well-being of a large number of people, is a key factor in ensuring the future protection of the Chilterns.

5. That the Chilterns is open to, and enjoyed by, more of the 1.6 million people who live within 8km, especially the adjacent urban populations, and that those who live in or near, manage, visit and love the Chilterns can all help care for it.

6. That we aspire to have more people using the Chilterns for quiet recreation, with the important caveat that damage to special qualities must be prevented. The AONB is probably the most accessible protected landscape in Europe, a significant USP for enhanced protection.

7. That, given the Chilterns is already more developed than most protected landscapes, and given the potential benefit of the landscape to millions, only the most essential development should take place within the AONB and where it takes place, there should be no adverse impact on landscape, special qualities or access, and an environmental net gain delivered.

**Strategic Objectives**

The Management Plan is divided into subject sections and each section has a set of strategic objectives. The draft objectives which have emerged from the first phase of review are given in Appendix One.

We want a set of objectives which create an ambitious agenda for our new plan, which demonstrate the need for the highest possible level of protection and resourcing and which highlight the need for significant partnership working across the Chilterns.

We would welcome the Board’s view on whether the draft objectives achieve this.

**Recommendation**

1. *The Board is asked to give views on the vision, principles and strategic objectives for the Management Plan.*
Appendix 1: Draft Strategic Objectives

Wildlife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W O1</th>
<th>Increase the range and abundance of populations of key wildlife species.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W O2</td>
<td>Ensure that spaces for wildlife are well connected, well managed and diverse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W O3</td>
<td>Ensure that chalk habitat management in the Chilterns is widely considered an exemplar of best practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W O4</td>
<td>Enable people to understand and be inspired by the natural environment of the Chilterns; ensuring that policies and decisions in the Chilterns recognise its value to society, and for its own sake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W O5</td>
<td>Encourage people from different organisations, communities and backgrounds, to work together to ‘make space for nature’ in the Chilterns.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE O1</th>
<th>Protect the significance of the historic environment from harm, seek new discoveries and exploit opportunities to reveal its significance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HE O2</td>
<td>Ensure the coordinated management, conservation, enjoyment and understanding of area’s historic and cultural assets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE O3</td>
<td>Significantly enhance the condition and status of the Chiltern’s historic environment and cultural heritage; take every opportunity to discover more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE O4</td>
<td>Ensure that the historic and cultural assets of the Chilterns contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place by increasing people’s understanding and enjoyment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE O5</td>
<td>Protect the range and diversity of traditional culture and skills that sustain the special qualities of the AONB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE O6</td>
<td>Develop and maintain an awareness and understanding of the nature, extent, significance and condition of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land Management and Forestry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LMF O1</th>
<th>Ensure that the Chilterns remain a functional, working landscape with viable, sustainable and diverse farming, forestry and rural economy sectors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LMF O2</td>
<td>At all times, maintain and enhance the landscape character and special qualities – including landscape features, important wildlife habitats and cultural heritage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMF O3</td>
<td>Increase resilience to pests, diseases, non-native invasive species and climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMF O4</td>
<td>Ensure that those who work in the landscape, local and national policy makers, and the public, understand the link between environmentally sustainable farming, forestry, rural economy sectors and a healthy Chilterns AONB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Including species characteristic of the Chilterns, species for which the Chilterns is important, and rare or notable species found in the Chilterns

2 The term ‘significance’ is used by English Heritage and others to mean the value of the heritage asset, its setting and associations to this and future generations.
Access, Recreation, Learning, Visiting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARLV O1</th>
<th>Secure national recognition for the wealth of accessible recreational opportunities the Chilterns countryside offers to residents and visitors.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARLV O2</td>
<td>Offer high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation, life-long learning and volunteering to all, especially urban audiences and young people who are currently under-represented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARLV O3</td>
<td>Ensure more people are able to enjoy healthier and happier lives by participating in outdoor recreation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARLV O4</td>
<td>Make more people aware of what makes the Chilterns special; inspire them to help care for it and contribute to its protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARLV O5</td>
<td>Encourage much greater use of the Chilterns countryside by people from the towns/urban communities surrounding the Chilterns.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social and Economic well-being

| SEW O1 | Ensure that the Chilterns are widely recognised as one of the premier and most accessible destinations for outdoor activities and leisure visits, with the potential to increase their contribution to the local economy. |
| SEW O2 | Ensure that the AONB is recognised and valued by residents, visitors and the health sector for the contribution it makes to peoples’ physical and mental health and wellbeing, offering tranquillity and a wide variety of recreational opportunities. |
| SEW O3 | Ensure that the natural capital of the Chilterns and its contribution to society is understood and valued by all decision makers and used to lever in funding. |
| SEW O4 | Ensure that businesses and communities in and around the AONB value its specialness, support Chilterns initiatives and help raise the profile of the area. |
| SEW O5 | Enable much greater use of the Chilterns countryside for health and wellbeing activities, especially by urban communities surrounding the Chilterns. |

Planning and Development

| D O1 | Make sure planning decisions put the conservation and enhancement of the AONB first. |
| D O2 | Ensure that where development happens, it leaves the AONB better than it was before; richer in wildlife, quieter, darker at night, designed to have a low impact on the environment, and beautiful to look at and enjoy. |
| D O3 | Embrace opportunities to restore natural beauty on sites currently degraded by unsympathetic development, pylons, infrastructure or dereliction. |
Item 11  
Meeting Dates 2018-19

Author:  
Sue Holden, Chief Officer

Purpose of Report:  
To update the Board on the 2018-19 dates for Board and Executive Committee meetings

Full Board

17th October 2018
20th February 2019
26th June (and AGM) 2019
10th October 2019

Executive Committee

19th September 2018
22nd January 2019
22nd May 2019
18th September 2019

Recommendation

1. To note the set of 2018-19 meeting dates