



Sub-Committee News

January-March 2008

Enjoying and Appreciating

The sub-committee met twice between January and March on 8th February and the 27th March.

On 8th February:

Michael Banks was elected as Chairman and new sub-committee member, Jo Burgon was elected as Vice Chair. Michael was also appointed as the board's representative on the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Destination Management Organisation, (DMO). Chris Saint was appointed as deputy representative. The board's Business Planning and Project Development Officer, John Mills, presented two reports, one outlining the Conservation Board's involvement in bids for 'LEADER' funding, including the Cotswolds Inter-Regional Partnership.

In his second report, John told the sub-committee about the Cotswolds Green Tourism Project. The board heard a progress report on the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean DMO from Michael Banks and also started to look at ways in which key elements of the board's new management plan could be implemented over the next five years.

On the 27th March:

The sub-committee focused on discussing the board's new management plan, focusing on section 10, Understanding and Enjoying, with a view to identifying future priorities and ways in which they could be delivered. The following Objectives/ Actions / Tasks in the new management plan were agreed as key priorities for delivery over the five-year lifespan of the plan: task EET3, action EEA3, task EET4, objective UE02, task EET 7.

It was agreed that means of delivery should be discussed at future meetings and that the Charter for Sustainable Tourism be discussed at the next sub-committee meeting. The sub-committee also discussed a project for possible inclusion in the 2009/10 business plan and it was agreed that the Information and Interpretation Officer, Claire Cunningham, should develop a short proposal outlining a project which would promote a number of 'Breathing Spaces' (quiet spots where people could go to relax and quietly enjoy the AONB without necessarily going on a walk).

Conserving and Managing

The sub-committee met on Friday 8th Feb. The Management Plan Review was discussed and the board's Planning Officer, Malcolm Watt, updated the sub-committee on the progress of the management plan review process and let members know how their comments on the plan had been implemented.

There were verbal updates on the Cotswold Farming Forum, the road verge management position statement, which is going to the Transport Working Group on April 30th and on the progress of a deer management position statement.

The sub-committee also received a report on the Cotswolds Ancient Woodland Project and how it was progressing.

The Access Conference, which was held back in January, was also discussed and it was agreed that a report on the event needed to be produced quickly.

The scope for a position statement on horse pasture management was considered and it was agreed that sub-committee members, Rebecca Charley and Richard Lloyd would produce an outline for the next meeting.

A field visit which is to take place on May 19th was discussed and it was agreed to look at deer impacts and management to assist in the development of the deer position statement.

Living and Working

The Living and Working Sub Committee met on 5th February 2008. Will Manley, Ian Plaister and Martin Veal were welcomed as new members. Jeffrey West was elected Chairman and Will Manley was elected Vice Chairman.

It was agreed to make representations to the Minister for Communities and Local Government, expressing concern regarding the suggestion in the panel's report on the examination in public of the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy, that some AONB boundaries, including that of the Cotswolds AONB to the south west of Bath, could be reviewed in order to accommodate development.

It was agreed, that over the coming year, position statements would be drafted on guidance for village design statements, farming, biodiversity, planning, and 'dark skies.' It was also agreed that the renewable energy position statement would be reviewed.