

Overview of C&M led work 2017/18. November 2017

TASK	STATUS / PROGRESS / COMMENTS
Climate Change	
Review delivery of the actions within the Climate Change Strategy annually.	
<p>Deliver a Cotswolds @ 50 programme engaging the local community in creating a vision for the future Cotswolds</p> <p>Establish a Future Landscapes Partnership</p>	<p>Community events held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlbury Memorial Hall - 1st April 2017 • Notgrove Village Hall - 12th April • Chedworth Village Hall - 15th April • The Friary, Hinton Charterhouse – 24th May • Sherston Village Hall – 13th June • Winchcombe – 14th June <p>Turn-out very low ranging from nil to 10. The exception was the Friary – 20. Images collected from Notgrove, Chedworth and Winchcombe.</p>
<p>Improve the landscape setting of Bath by supporting the 'BATHSCAPE' Landscape Partnerships bid to HLF</p>	<p>Simon Smith is on the Landscape Partnership Board and on the steering group. Development Stage underway and the partnership have commissioned via tender a range of studies.</p> <p>We have successfully bid for the contract to develop the Bath circular path - Creating a clear, well way-marked, well promoted and easily accessible 20-26 mile path that circumnavigates the city's green setting, linking with green radials that connect the circular walk to the city centre allowing separate sections of the route to function as standalone day long walks.</p> <p>The contract is worth circa £13.5K and will be led by Richard Watson.</p> <p>Work on the contract started in June. Cotswold Wardens helped with identifying and walking draft routes and listing the work required. Draft report submitted to Bathscape Project Board at the end of September and comments received. Final report to be submitted by end of November</p>
<p>Scope and develop a new Landscape Partnerships bid</p>	<p>Initial discussion and scoping exercise with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership to identify heritage, issues and potential projects in the Evenlode catchment.</p> <p>Results of scoping exercise along with guidance on Landscape Partnerships and the 4 questions HLF will need answered have been circulated to the ECP for comments to be received by Christmas.</p>

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Undertake a broad review of changes in road verges and views from roads within the AONB. Seek to identify new opportunities to improve roadside management	
Seek to influence a post-Brexit agri-environment scheme that will achieve the best outcomes for the Cotswolds	<p>Farming Focus Group to meet on 11th July to discuss farming in the Cotswolds after Brexit. The group is to look at what farmers and land managers need after Brexit to be able to produce food and conserve the Cotswolds AONB. Discussion areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support or investment would be required? • How could any support and investment be tailored to the Cotswolds? • How would it be delivered? <p>The objective is to develop a clear case to Government departments, politicians etc, as to what the Cotswolds needs for its farming economy, conservation and enhancement after 2019.</p> <p>July meeting agreed there is support for a Cotswold Agri-environment and Rural development scheme. Comments made have been incorporated into a draft proposal. Proposal, at least in outline, discussed with most local MPs, Chairman of Natural England and presented to the Board on 5th October.</p> <p>Second Farming meeting held on 2nd November. Agreed proposal was on right track but needed to be made more Cotswold specific. Third meeting to be held after the Government releases it's 25 year Environmental Plan</p>
Raise awareness of sustainable land management through engaging with the farming and land managing community	<p>Farming working group established to discuss farming in the Cotswolds after Brexit.</p> <p>Farming Forum 2018 is on Tuesday 8th March. Booking with RAU confirmed.</p>
Provide landscape advice to bodies implementing natural flood management projects to ensure that Cotswold river catchments remain in keeping with the landscape character and special qualities of the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit with Brailes Flood Group on 6th April. • Agreed revised tree planting proposal west of Milton-under-Wychwood aimed at reducing flooding on the Littlestock Brook. • Chasing the EA regarding final landscape design for the flood alleviation scheme in Broadway and flagged interest in upstream NFM.
Complete the delivery of the Magnificent Meadows Programme and find ways to	<p>Since 1st April 2017:</p> <p>1 site visit 1 talk (Bath Naturalists Society)</p>

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<p>further extend the natural grassland in the AONB</p>	<p>2 events (Cleeve Common Discovery Day and Minchinhampton Marking Day) 3 training days for volunteers 1 school event (85 primary school children at Kelston Round Hill) Pollinator interpretation board erected amongst bee-friendly plants at Chipping Norton Health Centre thanks to efforts of Community Champion Deb, Community Champion, is returning with her grasslands of the Stroud Valleys exhibition at Museum in the Park for the month of July</p> <p>Currently at 98.62 Maintain and 576.5 Restore Potential 300+ha to confirm</p> <p>7 events organised for National Meadows Day weekend across the Cotswolds</p> <p>To continue expansion of grassland a training event is being held on seed harvesting, drying and sowing on 14th July. Voluntary Wardens, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts attending.</p> <p>A private donor has offered circa £50K to continue the SoMM in the Cotswolds. The problem is finding the match funding.</p> <p>Seed harvesting totally washed out by rain. Several funding bids developed and submitted for a Glorious Cotswolds Grassland project. Awaiting reply.</p> <p>SoMM ended on 6th October and final submission and claim made. Final figures available as an infographic.</p>
<p>Support landscape scale conservation through the Cotswolds Ecological Networks Forum and the two Cotswolds Nature Improvement Areas</p> <p>Influence and respond to strategic documents e.g. DEFRA, NE, EN and FC. Inc. 25 year Plan</p>	<p>Summer meeting cancelled.</p> <p>December meeting – 11th December, 10.30, Northleach.</p> <p>Government’s 25 year Environmental Plan due Dec/Jan.</p>
<p>Keep existing position statements under review.</p>	<p>Management of Wild Deer, and the Keeping of Horses and Ponies position statements revised and adopted by Exec, 1st June, on behalf of the Board.</p>

Other activity relating to C&M

Flowers on the Edge

Developing a bid to the People's Lottery with Plantlife and 11 other AONBs –

Flowers on the Edge Outcomes:

- Increased local awareness and understanding of the value of road verges, leading to positive changes in attitude and behaviours to their management
- Local people develop skills, take action and volunteer time to the management of road verges for their wildlife
- The management of road verges for conservation is better understood, explained and interpreted, resulting in their improved condition
- Significant Increase in area of road verge being managed to improve biodiversity including for pollinators, landscape character and historic environment

The Cotswolds element of the bid seeks to work with 10 communities and the highway authorities to:

- Enhance 4ha/4 miles road verge
- Record 4ha in detail
- Record a further 110 miles of road verge and use results to target highway authority work
- Produce 10 plans for (community) action
- Engage 500 people in learning about road verge biodiversity etc
- Attract 190 volunteers to undertake practical action

The deadline for the outline bid, led by Plantlife, is September 2017

Bid submitted but unsuccessful

Magnificent Meadows 2

A new partnership has come together with Plantlife as the lead to develop a bid to the HLF for Magnificent Meadows 2. The focus in the Cotswolds is:

- Village Greens and community greenspace
- Community Road verges
- Meadows for flood management
- Mini meadows (smaller holdings and horse paddocks)

Plantlife aim to submit the stage 1 application in December 2017. Interim Project Board met in September and agreed revised submission date of March 2018.

Drover's Pool, Hawkesbury Upton – plans being drawn up for the Cotswold Warden's to restore the pond in the early Autumn, funded by the Warden's Countryside Fund. Report being written, principally for the parish council and landowner, explaining rationale to the restoration, process and aftercare requirements. The Wardens are organising the excavation and removal of the silt

Report written and circulated. Contractors to excavate and remove spoil identified. Parish Council supports proposal but awaiting final response from landowner.

Tree Species and Provenance Position Statement and Guidance – adopted by the Board on 29th June.

Back from the Brink – discussing with the project lead from Butterfly Conservation their plans for the project in the AONB over the 4 year lifespan and what they may be asking the Board to assist with. Back from the Brink aims to restore a network of limestone grassland sites across the Cotswolds that support a range of threatened species such as Duke of Burgundy, Rugged Oil beetle, Cotswold Pennycress and Greater Horseshoe Bat