**DARK SKIES**

AGENDA ITEM 10

**Summary:** To present a work in progress draft report for comment.

**Recommendation: That the Executive Committee identify gaps in the report and areas for clarification.**

**Officer Ref:** Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer (01451 862006)

**Background**

1. To aid the Board’s understanding of the importance of dark night skies, the potential of seeking a darks skies designation and the processes involved, the Board established the Dark Skies Task and Finish Group. The group has been asked to report to the Board at its December meeting. The remit of the group, which has met twice to date, is:

* To review the potential for a Dark Skies designation for the Cotswolds AONB, taking account of CPRE’s dark skies research and the development of other dark sky sites, parks and reserves within the UK;
* To review the criteria and application process and develop an action plan for securing dark skies status for the AONB or significant parts of the AONB;
* To review and propose updates to the Board’s Tranquillity and Dark Skies Position Statement.

The members of the group are:-

George Lambrick - Cotswolds Conservation Board

Liz Hodges - Cotswolds Conservation Board

Neil Havard - Cotswold Astronomical Society

Robin Smitten - Chipping Norton Astronomical Society

Richard Lloyd - CPRE, Gloucestershire

Mark Connelly - Cotswolds Conservation Board

2. The first two parts of the remit are to be fulfilled by the production of a report to the Board. The report is being progressed but not finalised - it is still a work in progress. However, it is timely to seek the input of the Executive Committee as the report heads towards completion.

3. The Executive Committee in particular are asked to identify gaps and areas for clarification.

4. A draft position statement on Dark Night Skies and Artificial Light is also in preparation but will not be ready for Board’s December 2018 Meeting. The draft position statement will be brought to the Executive’s meeting in February 2019.

**Supporting Paper(s):**

**Appendix ‘A’ - Dark Night Skies - draft report to the Cotswolds Conservation Board**