

Summary: Update for the Executive on task and finish and working groups

Recommendation: To note the progress update

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Background

The report below provides a summary of the work of the task and finish and working groups since the report submitted to the Executive in September 2019.

A417 Working Group

- Last meeting held on 22nd October:
 - Discussed initial draft of the Board's response to the A417 missing link consultation, which has to be submitted by the consultation deadline of 8th November. The Group subsequently provided further comments on - and revisions to - the draft response that is being presented to Executive Committee on 5th November.
 - Graham Hopkins has now joined the group.
- Date of next meeting: TBA.
- Lead officer: Andy Parsons (supported by John Mills and Mark Connelly)

Walking & Exploring Working Group

- Last meeting held on 30th August 2019.
- Wardens Conference held on 11th October and themed on '*access from a different perspective*'. It was attended by 150 people, including rights of way officers from Glos, Wilts, South Glos, BANES and Worcestershire. Speakers included:
 - John Cuthbertson, Disabled Ramblers
 - Pippa Langford, Natural England
 - Mark Weston, British Horse Society
 - Robert Killen, CLA.
- Ongoing projects include: Cotswold Gateways, Cotswold Discoverer Pass. A successful women's walk with wardens from Stanway, in association with the Gloucester Friendship café, on 7th September 7th.
- Great publicity for the Trumper route, including television coverage, on Points West on 10th October.
- CTAP meeting held and Ed Macalister-Smith appointed as new chairman of the group.
- Date of next meeting: To be agreed.
- Chairman: Ed Macalister-Smith
- Lead officers: Becky Jones / Alana Hopkins

Planning & Infrastructure Working Group

- Last meeting held on 11th September 2019.
 - Discussed and endorsed the draft planning paper for the Executive Committee meeting on 17th September.

- Reviewed draft presentation for RTPI Rural Planning seminar on 18th September 2019.
- Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th January 2020.
- Chairman: TBC (at next meeting).
- Lead officer: John Mills

External Funding Working Group

- Reviewed draft Funding Plan and presented to the Executive Committee in September. The feedback from the meeting was for the group to review the plan as there is still a lot of activity – perhaps too much.
- Consideration to be given on how the Board could fund a role that focuses on business engagement and fundraising.
- Challenge paper to Board Members on hold as it could be supported by this new role.
- Date of next meeting 17th December 2019.
- Lead officer: Simon Smith

Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands Working Group

- Meeting held on 8th October, Tetbury
- Reported very successful first 8 months, particularly seed harvesting and sowing.
- Cotswold Grassland team attended 7 events including Open Farm Sunday and Wychwood Forest Fair
- The approach being developed for branding Cotswold Grasslands was supported.
- Agreed the approach for the Cotswolds Grassland business plan/advice and timetable for commissioning and completion.
- Date of next meeting: 3rd February 2020, Tetbury
- Lead officer: Mark Connelly

Previous task and finish and working group, who have delivered their remits:

- Caring for the Cotswolds (Visitor Giving) task and finish group
- Rural skills task and finish group
- Dark skies task and finish group

Supporting papers: None