

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> October:
  - Discussed initial draft of the Board's response to the A417 missing link consultation, which was submitted by the consultation deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019.
- Wardens Conference held on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> September.
- Great publicity for the Tramper route, including television coverage, on Points West on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
  - Discussed and endorsed the draft planning paper for the Executive Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September.
  - Reviewed draft presentation for RTPI Rural Planning seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- Lead officer: Simon Smith

**Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands Working Group**

- Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October, Tetbury.
- Reported very successful first eight months, particularly seed harvesting and sowing.
- Cotswold Grassland team attended seven 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**