

Monmouthshire

Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL LOWER WYE VALLEY CATCHMENTS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT / UCR'S IN TINTERN/ANGIDY

DATE: 20 FEBRUARY 2018

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform Local Access Forum of the funding sought and the proposed approach

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's consideration and views.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The condition of key countryside access routes, rights of way, unclassified roads and access routes in Public Forest in the lower Wye Valley is a matter that the LAF has previously discussed along with the potential conflicts around their condition and use. Recent discussions between MCC and NRW have also highlighted the need for a shared and more strategic approach to access management rather than considering routes and issues in isolation.
- 3.2 MCC, the Wye Valley AONB Partnership and NRW have all invested resources into improving the overall outdoor recreation provision in the area. However, there remain a number of specific, significant and complex sites where a more integrated and innovative approach is required to step beyond single-issue solutions to address multiple compounding or cumulative impacts at a landscape or catchment scale, adopting a green infrastructure multifunctional benefit approach.
- 3.3 NRW's new Collaboration Fund has presented an opportunity to develop a proposal for an integrated catchment management based approach. As a result of discussions an Expression of Interest has been prepared and submitted by the AONB on behalf of the AONB, MCC, Wye & Usk Foundation, Gwent Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust.
- 3.4 This proposes a catchment approach, covering 4 Wye tributaries and 54km² of the Wye Valley AONB (see plan below), developing practical sustainable solutions addressing land management, water run-off, access and invasive weed issues through an Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy. Surface water run-off and flooding impact on people's ability to access and enjoy the countryside.
- 3.5 If successful it would fund a project officer employed by MCC and seconded to the Wye Valley AONB Unit, to work with project partners and interested parties to

strategically identify and address issues relating to access, communities and biodiversity, particularly affected by water run-off. This strategy would investigate outdoor recreation opportunities and constraints across public forest, rights of way and the quiet road-network. This would include key UCRs in the Tintern/Angidy area including Chapel Lane and at Pont y Saeson. A green infrastructure approach would prioritise the outdoor recreation network, incorporating higher level users and well-being objectives for less-able/-active users, assessing projects/proposals, for immediate delivery or further funding.

3.6 The results of the EOI should be known prior to the LAF meeting. If approved to the next stage a full application will be required which if successful would allow the project to commence in Summer 2018 for 18 months.

3.9 The forum's views are sought.

4. **AUTHOR:**

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