

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2nd July 2018

AONB PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL STUDY TOUR

Purpose

To endorse the date and outline programme for the Annual AONB Partnership Study Tour.

Recommendations

That the JAC

- A. Note the date of Friday 21st September 2018 for the Study Tour.
- B. Encourage a good attendance on the Tour.

Key Issues

- This year the Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour will be held on Friday 21st September.
- The programme is still being finalised but will focus predominantly on projects and management issues in the northern part of the AONB in Herefordshire.
- Initial invitations for expressions of interest to attend will be sent out shortly.
- The Tour falls within 'Outstanding Week' 15th – 23rd September, which is the fourth year of this week promoting and celebrating AONBs.

Reasons

The Annual Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour is hosted by the JAC and has a good reputation for networking and achieves good attendance from the wider AONB Partnership. The invitation to attend the Tour is extended to all members of the Joint Advisory Committee, to Senior Officers and County and District Councillors whose wards fall within the Wye Valley AONB and all Town/Parish/Community Councils that lie within the AONB. It is thus a key tool in the transfer of information to the wider partners and interested parties in the AONB.

Implications

The date of 21st September was chosen for the Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour because there appear to be no conflicting council meetings of the four constituent local authorities. Unfortunately the date clashes with a Brecon Beacons National Park Authority meeting so an invitation cannot be extended to our neighbouring Designated Landscape in Wales. The programme for the Tour is still being finalised, however the Tour will focus on projects and management issues in the northern part of the AONB in Herefordshire. The event reaches a wide audience of AONB partners and interested parties and always proves to be very popular

and informative for those who attend. An adequate lunch and transport will be included in the total cost of £15 per person.

Background

Each year the JAC hosts the Annual Study Tour. A total of 29 people participated in the 2017 AONB Partnership Tour. There was a good spread of representation from throughout the AONB even though the Tour was focused on the part of the AONB between Ross-on-Wye and Lydbrook. The Tour visited the riverside at Ross, Goodrich Castle, Coppett Hill Common, Brelston Green and Lydbrook Bridge. Feedback from attendees of the Tour was extremely positive.

The 2016 Tour visited sites in and around Tintern in Monmouthshire. The 2015 Study Tour visited Symonds Yat Rock, Lancaut Church, St Briavel's Castle Youth Hostel, Stowfield Quarry, the mindSCAPE project log circle at Braceland and the river bank by Biblins Bridge.