

Wye Valley River Festival AONB working agreement and partnership wording

Working agreement

Invited by the Wye Valley River Festival Community Interest Company (WVRF CIC) Directors:

An AONB staff member (Sarah Sawyer &/or Andrew Blake) will take on a non- executive role as an 'enhanced' member of the WVRF CIC Advisory board.

This role will be recognised and elaborated upon in the new WVRF business plan 2021 – 2026 and will be endorsed by the AONB's governance body, the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).

Initially, this role will be for a term of three years to cover the next iteration of the business plan which will run to 2024. Covering the 2022 and 2024 festivals, and associated year round work planning.

This continued close affiliation between VW AONB unit and the new WVRF CIC will ensure continuity of vision, partnerships, relationships, and combined missions, whilst allowing the new organisation to create and shape its identity.

The Wye Valley AONB Unit will continue to be a conduit between WVRF CIC and the wider AONB Partnership, other national AONB cultural opportunities and environmental partners and stakeholders, both in England and Wales. It will include advising with permissions, consents, new funding opportunities and any other cross sector possibilities that support the delivery of the festival and its activities.

The Wye Valley AONB Unit will support the Wye Valley River Festival CIC as an applicant to the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), offering advice and assistance, advising on the shaping of the festival as an event, to ensure conditions are fulfilled and as staff capacity dictates.

The AONB Unit will be engaged with the Wye Valley River Festival organisation as a local operator and collaborator, co-working on specific environmental / non-arts elements, taking part in strategy and development and sharing knowledge on locations, practicalities, and being present at festival events.

[Further opportunity to extend this agreement includes](#) an AONB JAC member being invited by CIC Directors to become a Non-executive Director, providing a formal link between the AONB Partnership and the WVRF CIC, reporting to JAC and AONB Unit.

Partnership wording

The Wye Valley River Festival is a highly successful collaborative initiative created and developed in partnership by Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit and Arts Professionals Desperate Men and Phillippa Haynes.

The first festival was delivered in 2014. In 2021, the partnership established the Wye Valley River Festival CIC as a stand-alone organisation. Building on the past eight efficacious years of delivery, this biennial festival, inspired by the landscape and led by arts and environmental professionals, continues to collaborate with local communities who live and work in the area.

As a stand-alone organisation, WVRF CIC embarks upon a new chapter of development to include a year-round programme of co-created cultural activity with our constituencies.