

WYE NAVIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Purpose

To nominate a representative from the Wye Valley AONB Partnership to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (Wye NAC).

Recommendation

That the JAC nominate the Wye Valley AONB Manager, Andrew Blake, to continue to represent the Wye Valley AONB Partnership on the Wye NAC.

Key Issues

- The Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for navigation on the navigable part of the non-tidal Rivers Wye and Lugg.
- The Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (Wye NAC) is serviced by EA, who require appointments to Wye NAC to be reviewed every 3 years.
- The AONB Manager has represented the AONB Partnership on the Wye NAC since its establishment.
- Several other members of the JAC sit on the Wye NAC in other capacities.
- The JAC needs to consider who should represent it on Wye NAC for the next three years.

Reasons

The Wye Valley AONB Manager, Andrew Blake, has served on Wye NAC since its establishment in 2003. The Guidance issued by the Environment Agency make it clear that no appointments should exceed 10 years in total unless there are exceptional circumstances and no appointment should be for more than 3 consecutive terms unless there is good reason.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the Navigation Authority for parts of the non-tidal Wye and Lugg. The Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (Wye NAC) is serviced by EA, who consult it on all matters substantially affecting the navigation and use of the rivers. Appointments to Wye NAC are for a three year period. A nominated person may act as a deputy for the member of the Committee and may attend and vote at a Committee meeting instead of that member.

The current member representing the interests of the Wye Valley AONB is Andrew Blake, AONB Manager.

Implications

There are good reasons why the AONB Manager should continue to represent the AONB on Wye NAC, having advised on the navigation and use of the river since the establishment of Wye NAC. Other JAC members sit on Wye NAC representing other bodies and they could be asked to represent the AONB Partnership. However this may reduce the influence of AONB issues on Wye NAC. It is proposed that the deputy be Nick Critchley, AONB Development Officer.

Background

The Wye Navigation Order 2002 made the Environment Agency responsible for navigation on the navigable part of the non-tidal Rivers Wye and Lugg. The Wye Navigation Advisory Committee was established in 2003 following the Wye Navigation Order. Wye NAC membership is limited to a specific number of nominated representatives from each relevant stakeholder body or group, as defined in the Wye Navigation Order.

The Wye NAC meets twice a year and advises the Navigation Authority, the Environment Agency, about issues along the public right of navigation between Hay Bridge downstream to Bigsweir Bridge. The Gloucester Harbour Trustees are the Navigation Authority for the tidal Wye downstream of Bigsweir.