

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3rd July 2017

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 22nd September 2017 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 22nd September.
- The programme is still being finalised but will focus predominantly on projects and management issues in the Herefordshire part of the AONB.
- Initial invitations for expressions of interest to attend will be sent out shortly.
- The Tour falls within 'Outstanding Week' 16th – 24th September, which is the third year of this week promoting and celebrating AONBs.
- Perseverance over a joint initiative with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (NPA) has yet to bear fruit. However representation from the Wye Valley AONB Partnership has been requested at the Welsh National Parks' Seminar in Brecon on 3rd & 4th October 2017.

Reasons

The Annual Wye Valley AONB Partnership Tour is hosted by the JAC and has gained a good reputation over recent years and is achieving 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 22nd 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. The programme for the Tour is still being finalised, however the Tour will focus on projects

and management issues mainly in the Herefordshire part of the AONB. 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. As always an adequate lunch and transport will be included in the total cost of £15 per person.

It had been hoped that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (NPA) could join the Tour, but unfortunately the date clashes with a full NPA meeting. However discussions are on-going over a joint event. Meanwhile the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority have invited representation from the Wye Valley AONB Partnership at the Welsh National Parks' Members Seminar on 3-4 October 2017.

Background

Each year the JAC hosts the Annual Study Tour. A total of 31 people participated in the 2016 AONB Partnership Tour. There was a good spread of representation from throughout the AONB even though the Tour was focused on the Monmouthshire part of the AONB. The Tour visited Tintern Abbey, Old Station Tintern, Kingston Brewery, lunched at Abbey Mill, then visited Upper Wyndcliff and Penterry Church. Feedback from attendees of the Tour has been extremely positive.

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.