



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

4.00 pm, WEDNESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED Tuesday, 9 November 2021)

LLŶN A.O.N.B JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Gwynedd Councillors

Anwen Davies
Simon Glyn
John Brynmor Hughes
Aled Wyn Jones
Gareth Williams

Others

Aberdaron, Buan, Botwnnog, Clynnog, Llanbedrog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanengan, Nefyn, Pistyll and Tudweiliog Community Council nominees.

Gwynedd Council's Countryside Champion

Nominees of the following agencies/institutions:

National Trust,
Natural Resources Wales,
Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum,
Cyfeillion Llŷn,
National Farmers Union,
Farmers Union of Wales,
Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership,
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales,
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust,
Llŷn Fishermen's Association.

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 9

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of this committee, held on 26 May 2021, be signed as a true record.

5. LLŶN COSTAL BUS

Oral presentation by Cynan Jones, Consultant.

6. AIRCRAFT NOISE OVER THE LLŶN AONB

10

Morus Dafydd, AONB Project Officer to give a report on the Aircraft Noise over the Llŷn AONB.

7. GWYRDDNI PARTNERSHIP

11 - 13

Report by GwyrddNi Project Officer, Elis Smits.

8. DARK SKY DESIGNATION

14 - 15

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to give a report on the Dark Sky Designation.

9. CAPITAL PROJECTS

16 - 17

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to give a report on the Capital Projects.

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 26/5/2021

Present:

Cllr Gruffydd Williams (Chair)

Members: Councillors Simon Glyn, John Brynmor Hughes, Gareth Williams, Aled Wyn Jones, Angela Russell, Annwen Davies (Gwynedd Council) and also Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council), Morgan Jones-Parry (Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum), Molly Lovatt (Natural Resources Wales), Andrew Davidson (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust), Andy Godber (National Trust), John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partneriaeth) and Eirian Allport (Clynnog Fawr Community Council), Jina Gwyrfai (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), Wenda Williams (Aberdaron Community Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (Llŷn AONB Officer), Elin Wyn Hughes (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer), Wyn Williams (Countryside Manager), Natalie Lloyd Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Gruffydd Williams as Chairman for the 2021/22 period.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor T. Victor Jones as Vice-chair for the 2021/22 period.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Gillian Walker (Cyfeillion Llŷn).

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note.

5. URGENT ITEMS

A matter raised, following the publication of the agenda, was shared regarding aircraft flying from Valley over the area and affecting its tranquillity.

It was noted that there had been a discussion at the Westminster Parliament with the minister in question explaining that the matter of flying above the sea was about to be resolved. However, as part of the training it was a requirement to fly above land from time to time.

It was proposed that the Joint-Committee sends a letter noting their concerns regarding this intrusion.

DECISION:

Resolved to write a letter as a committee to express concern about the situation of aircraft from RAF Valley flying over the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

6. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint-committee held on 23 March 2021, as a true record, except for the following:

- A letter was written to the Welsh Government expressing concern about the second home situation and the response received from the Minister was shared.
- It was added that an apology had been received from Wenda Williams for the urgent meeting
- It was asked if there was an update on the Dark Skies Designation Item from 18 November, 2020 as there was no quorum to come to a decision during the meeting. Assurance was given that this item would return to the Joint-Committee at the next meeting.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

The report was presented by the AONB Service Officer updating the Joint-Committee on national level issues as follows:

- Following the Senedd elections, it had been announced that Julie was the new minister with responsibility for the AONB.
- The National Designated Landscape Partnerships were mentioned and their aim was to assist collaboration between the areas.
- Information was given regarding the Capital Environmental Improvements Grant and noting that further details were available on the internet for the three projects in question.
- It was noted that there had been a cut in Natural Resources Wales finance this year, however, a supplementary fund had appeared to support projects dealing specifically with Nature and Biodiversity.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- It was asked for what purpose money from the new fund would be allocated as there were several local projects in progress.
- A request was made for further details regarding improvements in Trefor

In response, it was noted:

- That the fund was for biodiversity and ecosystems resilience and the AONB Unit was working on proposals to be submitted before Natural Resources Wales.
- The Trefor plans were initial plans only with an estimation of what was required such as tidying up, installing new benches, replacing railings.

8. UPDATE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

An update was given on the Sustainable Development Fund and attention was drawn to the expenditure namely that £87,500 had been claimed from the £100,000. It was explained that the underspend was as a result of projects being suspended due to Covid-19, however, some of the successful projects were shared with the Joint-Committee.

The Joint-Committee was informed that there was £100,000 in the fund again this year and thus far, with the projects accepted, there was £15,000 remaining. It was recommended that members of the Joint-Committee informed their organisations that there was money left.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- It was asked when the latest fund was opened for applications as only £15,000 was left, and where was the fund advertised.
- One member explained that there was money left as a result of the grants panel resolving to refuse an application from an organisation with substantial financial funds.
- It was suggested that the Joint-Committee should have an opportunity to consider applications or for the AONB Service Officer to share the framework steps with all the members so that they are aware of the criteria.

In response, it was noted:

- That the fund opened early to receive and approve applications so that applicants had sufficient time to deliver their projects and for the underspend risk to be lower.
- The fund was advertised widely in the area and information was shared with local councils.
- That applications were considered by the AONB unit and then by the Grants Panel, therefore the Joint-Committee had a voice here.
- Offering training to members could enable them to comment on the projects

9. DINAS DINLLE HILLFORT

A representative of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was welcomed to discuss the Dinas Dinlle Hillfort. Concern was raised about the current condition of the Hillfort and its deterioration due to erosion. It was added that the area was not part of the AONB, however, it had an historical importance for the whole area.

It was explained that the site had been excavated in the past in order to monitor erosion from the direction of the fields as a result of rainfall, and not from the sea. It was explained that the matter needed to be dealt with from an inland perspective. It was added that this was a process that had been happening for centuries and excavation was required before the deterioration got worse.

The National Trust representative gave an additional viewpoint, namely land management, that excavation was required to get as much information as possible about the site as it will be lost in the future. It was added that the area was eroding very quickly.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- Concern was expressed as the site was one of exceptional importance in relation to the area's history and the history of Wales.

- It was asked whether it was possible to install more large boulders in an effort to prevent the loss of the Hillfort.
- It was asked what the Joint-Committee could do to ensure that intervention was undertaken.
- It was suggested that a letter should be sent to the organisations that manage the site to express the Joint-Committee's views.
- It was proposed that Andrew Davidson, as an expert, should offer his expertise on the subject as it was an area full of archaeology and was important.

In response:

- It was agreed that the site was notable with an importance to Welsh history and the local area
- It was suggested that CADW was the contact point where any correspondence to express concern on the matter should be referred to, or the National Trust as managers.
- It was noted that it was possible to internally contact the YGC department for their opinion on the situation.
- Andrew Davidson agreed to offer his expertise.

DECISION

Resolved that the AONB Service Officer, Principal Archaeologist, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and a Representative from the National Trust would meet for further discussions with the Head of YGC regarding expressing the Joint-Committee's wishes to protect this site from damage.

10. LISTED AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

Following a special meeting convened to discuss the planning application for Tan y Mynydd, the AONB Service Officer asked for the Joint-Committee's views and for any suggestions for the Gwynedd policy unit as it reviewed the current policy.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- Reference was made to Policy 7 (Snowdonia National Park Development Policy) noting that a similar one was required for applications in an AONB.
- It was noted that there were no room for the discretion of individual officers when it came to modernising a traditional house
- Reference was made to the hope of a Dark Skies designation in the AONB and this would not be possible if modern buildings with large windows were permitted.
- It was added that the situation with the Tan y Mynydd application indicated that a more robust policy was required so as there was no damage to a traditional building or the surrounding landscape.
- It was asked whether it was possible for the Joint-Committee members to give their views on relevant planning applications.

The AONB Service Officer added that he was trying to get additional planning guidance within the AONB and had raised this with the policy unit and therefore they intend to act on this.

DECISION

Resolved to adopt the Snowdonia Development Policy 7 when considering applications in the AONB from now on (namely the day of the meeting) and that it should be considered when reviewing Gwynedd planning policies.

11. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

The discussion on this item was led by the AONB Service Officer who reminded members that a system already existed whereby the planning department consults with the AONB unit in cases where there are applications within the area or close to the boundary, if they are likely to affect the area.

The planning system was explained further in relation to applications in the AONB, and it was emphasised that the Chair of the Llŷn AONB Joint Committee was entitled to call a meeting of a sub-group to discuss and submit formal comments on behalf of the Joint-Committee, if the application was likely to impact the AONB.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- Concern was expressed as cases had arisen in the past where members of the Joint Committee had not agreed with the opinion of the Llŷn AONB Officer or the Planning Officer.
- It was added that members of the Joint-Committee needed a right to convene a meeting as well as the Chair.
- It was felt that members of the Joint-Committee did not have a voice and there was no means for them to express an opinion on a contentious planning application.
- One member asked how many applications a week were relevant to the AONB, and was it possible to copy the comments of the AONB Service Officer for Joint-Committee members in order that we may respond.

In response, it was noted:

- That time was tight with applications and it was complex and holding additional meetings would add to the workload.
- Approximately 120 applications dealing with the AONB are received annually.
- There was concern with sharing observations and receiving observations back from individual members of the Joint-Committee as this would add excessively to the workload.

DECISION

It was resolved to add the following clause to the relevant part of the Constitution that was passed: .."Or, in exceptional cases, by 2 or 3 members of the Consultative Committee".

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and concluded at 6.30pm.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 6

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
DATE	17th of November 2021
TITIL	Aeroplanes over the Llŷn AONB
PURPOSE	Share Information
AUTHOR	Morus Llwyd Dafydd Llŷn AONB Project Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report derives from the meeting of the Joint Advisory Meeting held on the 26th of May.
- 1.2 At the meeting the Advisory Committee decided to write a letter about the situation of aircraft from RAF Valley flying over the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Llŷn.
- 1.3 As it happens Jeremy Quin was asked a parliamentary question about the noise caused by the Texan T1 by the member of parliament Hywel Williams. In the response by the minister of state for defence Jeremy Quin, he wrote that aviation flights by sea were now authorized, in particular the Texan T1, but excludes flight in periods where the sea is extremely rough. It was noted that the Texan T1 will of course have to fly over land at times, in order to train the pilots, and in the event of sea air traffic.

2.0 OFFICIAL RESPONSE

- 2.1 In response to the letter written by the committee, Dave Williams, a squadron leader in RAF Valley stated that he did not believe there were restrictions on flying aircraft over Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, SSSI's or National Parks. Dave Williams also stated that the RAF train overseas whenever possible, and that they aim to spread the noise fairly at times when they fly over land.
- 2.2 For information Jeremy Quin also disclosed that the RAF want to increase levels of engagement with the communities they engage in. They also want to include proactive airspace information, flight authorization processes, and their aviation program on their website.

3.0 RECOMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to accept the information.

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint-Advisory Committee
DATE	17th of November 2021
TITIL	GwyrddNi
PURPOSE	Share Information
AUTHOR	Elis Smits, GwyrddNi Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 GWYRDD-NI

- 1.1 Recently a new Climate Change movement has been established in Gwynedd called GwyrddNi. This body is operating in 5 areas including the Llŷn Peninsula.
- 1.2 As this is a topical issue which will be of interest to members of the JAC more information on GwyrddNi has been provided in the attached appendix. In future it may be possible to attend a meeting of the JAC to provide an update on the project.



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Mudiad newid hinsawdd cymunedol newydd sbon ydi GwyrddNi. Mae'n dod â phobl ynghyd mewn pum ardal yng Ngwynedd i drafod, dysgu a gweithredu yn lleol ar newid hinsawdd, ac yn gwneud hynny mewn partneriaeth â sefydliad cymunedol ym mhob achos. Yma ym Mhen Llŷn, Ynni Llŷn yw'r partner. Mi fydd GwyrddNi hefyd ar waith yn Nyffryn Nantlle, Dyffryn Ogwen, Blaenau Ffestiniog a Dyffryn Peris.

Bwriad y mudiad - sy'n cael ei ariannu gan Y Loteri Genedlaethol - ydi dod â phobl at ei gilydd i weithredu yn lleol ar newid hinsawdd, boed hynny ar ffurf plannu coed, sefydlu mentrau egni adnewyddadwy i ddefnyddio adnoddau naturiol Llŷn, prynu cerbydau trydan i bawb eu defnyddio neu rywbeth hollol wahanol. Bydd GwyrddNi yn cynnal pedwar Cynulliad Hinsawdd yn Llŷn yn ystod 2022-2023 er mwyn rhoi cyfle i ni drafod a dysgu, cyn torchi llewys i greu cynlluniau ac yna eu rhoi ar waith cyn gynted â phosib, a hynny, wrth gwrs, gan sicrhau bod y budd yn dod yn ôl i gymunedau Llŷn.

Wrth gyd-greu a chyd-wireddu ein syniadau a'n cynlluniau ein hunain i fynd i'r afael â newid hinsawdd, y gobaith yw y byddwn ni, fel trigolion y cymunedau hyn, yn magu hyder a ffydd yn ein gallu i fynd i'r afael â materion eraill sydd yn bwysig i ni, waeth bynnag eu maint.

Wrth i'r mudiad ddatblygu byddwn yn cefnogi ein pum cymuned i adeiladu ymhellach ar eu gwaith, gan wireddu eu cynlluniau i weithredu ar newid hinsawdd, beth bynnag yr ydynt - mae'r penderfyniadau hynny yn llwyr yn nwylo'r gymuned.

Mae Elis Smits wedi ei benodi yn Hwylusydd Cymunedol GwyrddNi ym Mhen Llŷn. Un o Mynytho ydi Elis. Astudiodd Elis radd mewn Daearyddiaeth yng Nghaer a Rheolaeth Amgylcheddol ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Ar ôl ei astudiaethau, bu'n trafailio ac yn gweithio yn Awstralia a Canada, cyn dod yn ôl i weithio yn Spar Pwllheli. Yn ddiweddarach bu Elis yn gweithio fel Cydlynnydd Partneriaeth Natur Gwynedd, cyn ymuno â GwyrddNi.

Dros y misoedd nesaf fe fydd Elis yn cynnal trafodaethau a sgysiau ar hyd a lled y penrhyn, gydag unigolion, grwpiau, sefydliadau a mudiadau eraill er mwyn rhannu gwybodaeth am GwyrddNi a Chynulliadau Hinsawdd Llŷn, er mwyn ennyn diddordeb a sicrhau bod pawb o bobl Llŷn yn cael cyfle i fod yn rhan o'r mudiad amserol a chyffrous hwn.

Gallwch ddisgwyl clywed gan Elis dros y misoedd nesaf, neu mae croeso i chi gysylltu ag o ar: Elis@deg.cymru / 07825515171



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GwyrddNi is a brand new climate change movement. It will bring people together in five areas of Gwynedd to discuss, share and act locally to tackle climate change, and doing it in partnership with a Community-based organisation in each area. Here in the Llŷn Peninsula, Ynni Llŷn is the partner. GwyrddNi will also be working in Dyffryn Nantlle, Dyffryn Ogwen, Blaenau Ffestiniog and in Dyffryn Peris.

The aim of the movement - funded by The National Lottery- is to bring people together to take local action on climate change, perhaps by planting trees, establishing a renewable energy enterprise to utilise the natural resources the Llŷn provides, purchasing an electric vehicles for everyone to use, or something completely different. GwyrddNi will hold four Climate Assemblies in Llŷn in 2022-2023, creating an opportunity for us to discuss and learn together, before turning our thoughts into plans that we can carry out as soon as possible. In doing so, always ensuring that any benefits are returned to the local communities of Llŷn.

We hope that by cooperatively creating and implementing our own ideas and initiatives to address climate change, we will feel empowered and more confident in our ability to address other issues that matter to us.

As the movement grows and develops we will support our five communities to build on the actions taken in the first phase, making their climate action plans a reality, whatever they may be - those decisions are yours, the people of Llŷn.

Elis Smits has been appointed as GwyrddNi's community facilitator for Pen Llŷn. Elis is originally from Mynytho. He completed a degree in Geography at Chester and Environmental Management at Bangor University. After his studies, he travelled and worked in Australia and Canada, before coming back to work in Spar, Pwllheli. Recently, Elis worked as Natur Gwynedd's Partnership Coordinator, before joining GwyrddNi.

Over the next few months, Elis will be holding discussions and conversations across Llŷn with individuals, groups and organisations to share information about GwyrddNi and the Llŷn Climate Assemblies, in order to create an element of interest and ensure that everyone from the Llŷn has the opportunity to be part of this timely and exciting movement. We hope you'll join us on this journey.

You can expect to hear from Elis over the next couple of months, or you are more than welcome to contact him on: elis@deg.cymru/ 07825515171

 [@GwyrddNi](https://twitter.com/GwyrddNi) www.deg.wales/gwyrddni

Agenda Item 8

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	November 17 th 2021
TITLE	Dark Sky Designation
PURPOSE	Inform members and seek support
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Support an application for Dark Sky Park designation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 For some time now the AONB Unit has been working towards applying for an International Dark Sky status for the Llŷn AONB area.
- 1.2 The first step was commissioning a Dark Sky Survey to assess how dark the night sky was over the area and how much light pollution was present. This survey, which was financed by Welsh Government, proved that the night sky was indeed very dark over parts of Llŷn and pollution levels were low.
- 1.3 Following a presentation the possibility of applying for a Dark Sky designation for the Llŷn AONB was discussed at the meeting in November 2020. However at the time there were insufficient members still present to make a decision.

2.0 “NOS” PROJECT

- 2.1 The “Nos” project has been established in partnership with Anglesey AONB, Clwydian Range and Dee valley AONB and the Snowdonia National Park (which has been designated as a Dark Sky Reserve). The Nos Partnership has appointed a Dark Sky Officer – namely Dani Robertson.
- 2.2 The aim of Project Nos is to work together to maintain, safeguard and promote the dark sky in the various areas and work on dark sky designations. As part of this project we will work together to monitor the dark sky, raise awareness of light pollution, promote good practice and hold stargazing events. **It must be emphasised that there is no intention to switch off street light as part of this project.**

2.3 The Dark Sky Officer has already made a presentation to the JAC on the benefits of safeguarding the night sky – environmentally, economically and socially. In addition, at the request of the Committee all relevant community/ town councils within the AONB were invited to view the presentation and ask questions. Not many councils took up the offer but the AONB Unit did receive some messages of support following the presentation.

3.0 APPLICATION FOR DARK SKY STATUS FOR LLŶN AONB

3.1 It is the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) which has established the concept of Dark Sky areas and it is the body responsible for designations. There are a series of designations possible – including Sanctuary, Community, Park and Reserve. The AONB Unit staff have taken part in an online meeting with representatives of the IDA and there is support for an application for this area.

3.2 Originally the intention was for the Llŷn AONB to apply for Community status. However on the basis of monitoring results and discussions with the IDA we are of the opinion that a Park status would be a better reflection of the quality of the area's dark sky and would also have more prestige.

3.3 As part of the Dark Sky Application process there will be a need to produce and adopt a Supplementary Planning Guide and arrange a programme of events to raise awareness.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To support an application to the IDA for Dark Sky Park designation for the Llŷn AONB.

Agenda Item 9

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	November 17 th 2021
TITLE	AONB Capital Projects
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report contains information on the Llŷn AONB capital projects. These projects are part of the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places programme by Welsh Government which is available to support capital projects within AONBs and National Parks.
- 1.2 The programme has been running for a good few years now and numerous key projects have been realised through it's support. Information on the Llŷn AONB 2020-21 projects was included in the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn which has been distributed to members.

2.0 2021-2022 CAPITAL SLSP PROJECTS

- 2.1 The projects for this financial year (2021-22) are:
- Porth Meudwy track repair
 - Improvements to the quay area at Trefor
 - Improvements to a series of public rights of way in the AONB
 - Nefyn beach toilets refurbishment
- 2.2 An update on the progress on these projects will be provided at the meeting.

3.0 FUTURE CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 3.1 Officers of Welsh Government's Designated Landscapes and Countryside Access Section have suggested that monies will be again available for the 5 AONBs and 3 National Park in the next

financial year. However this cannot be confirmed until the Welsh Government budget for 2022-23 has been set.

3.2 Officers have noted however that if finance is available that the themes for projects will be the same as those for this year i.e:

- Biodiversity and nature recovery
- Decarbonisation
- Resilient and green communities
- Sustainable Tourism

3.3 Guidelines and regulations regarding the SLSP grant scheme are now being drawn up. There will also be a process of discussions with officers and other Designated Landscapes before draft projects are submitted at the beginning of next year.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Accept the information.