



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, 16TH MARCH, 2022

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

For public access to the meeting, please contact us.

Contact Point

Sioned Mai Jones

01286 679665

SionedMaiJones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED Tuesday, 8 March 2022)

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 17 November 2021, be signed as a true record.

5. NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

10 - 11

To provide information on the Nature Recovery Action Plan.

6. LLŶN AONB CAPITAL PROJECTS

12 - 13

To provide information on the Llŷn AONB Capital Projects.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14 - 15

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to give a report on the membership of the Joint Advisory Committee and the arrangements in place to alternate Gwynedd Council members.

8. AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

16 - 17

Bleddyn Jones, AONB Officer to give a report on the AONB Management Plan.

Agenda Item 4

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 17/11/2021

LLŶN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 17/11/2021

Present:

Cllr Gruffydd Williams (Chair)

Members: Councillors Anwen J. Davies, John Brynmor Hughes, Aled Wyn Jones, Angela Russell (Gwynedd Council) and also Andrew Davidson (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust), Noel Davey (Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales), Jina Gwyrfai (Llanaelhaearn Community Council), T. Victor Jones (Llanbedrog Community Council), Molly Lovatt (Natural Resources Wales) and Wenda Williams, (Aberdaron Community Council).

Officers: Bleddyn P. Jones (AONB Service Manager), Morus Llwyd Dafydd (Llŷn AONB Projects Officer), Wyn Williams (Countryside Manager) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 5: Cynan Jones (Consultant) and Wil Parry (O Ddrws i Ddrws).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Gareth Williams, Andy Godber (National Trust), Rhydian Owen (Farmers' Union) and Sian Parri (Tudweiliog Community Council).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note.

3. URGENT ITEMS

It was reported that John Gosling (Abersoch and Llŷn Toursim Partnership) had stepped down, and he was thanked for his service on this Joint Committee.

It was noted that it was important for the Joint Committee to submit its observations on the Clwyd Alun development at Penrhos. Some members were concerned about the scale of the development and the number of houses proposed. It was hoped that the provision would be sufficient to meet the nursing needs and the lack of older people's homes within the County. The AONB Service Officer would share a link to the consultation with the Joint Committee to allow the members to submit their observations.

It was also decided that the Llŷn AONB Officer should summarise the Joint Committee's observations and submit them to the consultation.

The proposal to install Solar Panels on Coed y Wern land was discussed. It was noted that there were not currently many details available; no planning application had been submitted, only a pre-application. It was likely that a planning application would be submitted in due course. It was added that this site was not in the AONB, although it was visible from the AONB. It was reported that the Joint Committee had requested to provide input on such matters.

It was decided to hold a Special Meeting to discuss the potential development. Solar Panels on Coed y Wern land when relevant (currently premature).

It was noted that a Tourism Conference would be held on 30 November 2021, entitled 'Tourism Conference, Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035 Event'. The AONB Service Officer was asked to provide details to the Joint Committee members that wished to participate.

It was decided that an invitation should be sent to Joint Committee members to attend the Conference.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Joint Committee held on 26 May 2021, as a true record.

The opportunity was taken to report back on the situation of the Hillfort in Dinas Dinlle, and the concern about the condition of the Hillfort and its deterioration due to erosion. A meeting had been held in July between the AONB Officer, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and the National Trust representative and the Head of YGC to discuss the erosion from the sea and land. It was decided that nature should be left to take its course; it was reported that there was no protection policy and no available funding. The AONB Officer read the letter that had been received from CADW in response.

5. LLŶN COASTAL BUS

Cynan Jones (Consultant) and Wil Parry (O Ddrws i Ddrws) were welcomed to the meeting. The report from the O Ddrws i Ddrws officer was presented, noting that the objective of the Llŷn Fflecsi Bus was to offer a service that was more flexible for passengers who wished to use public transport in Llŷn.

He further explained that the Llŷn Fflecsi Bus project had been established during the Summer 2021, following an offer from Transport for Wales in April 2021 to run a Fflecsi Pilot in Llŷn. This was an on-demand, corner to corner bus service; the Pilot had proceeded as there were already existing schemes to make the Llŷn Coastal bus an on-demand service. This scheme would serve additional areas to those on the Llŷn Coastal Bus route. It was intended to create a service to supplement the public services, and encourage local residents and visitors to reduce their dependency on cars. The bus service could be booked over the phone or through the App.

It was reported that the Covid-19 situation had created uncertainty, especially during spring 2021 when planning ahead was difficult. It was acknowledged that things had gone wrong; there had been delays with the App and copyright issues about updating the leaflet from the designer. Apologies were expressed that neither the AONB nor Natural Resources Wales had been given due acknowledgement and publicity. The service would continue in 2022, and it was hoped that the situation would be more stable by then.

The Consultant guided the Joint Committee through his evaluation of the service, noting that the App had work exceptionally well, e.g. current information about the location of the bus was provided on time. The bus also reached the end of its route on time, sometimes early. It was noted that the Llŷn Fflecsi bus service had scored 4.9 out of 5 on the App by service users, which was very positive. The Consultant added that he had received further statistics that day, and they would be added to the report.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- A question was asked about the period over which the figure of 1590 requests were received.

- Interest was expressed in comparing the number of passengers from the 2019 bus service with these numbers, if this was possible.
- A question was asked about how much notice was required to book the bus. Concern was noted that we were leaving a stable and dependable service and moving to a service that might be less user-friendly.
- A question was asked about how many tourists and how many local people used the service.
- It was questioned whether the service truly reduced the carbon footprint.
- Concern was expressed that this service would weaken the public bus service and a question was asked about what would happen to the core service if fewer people used it, and grants such the one for this enterprise ran out.
- It was suggested that other groups should be targeted in addition to walkers, and to consider providing a similar evening service.

In response, the following was noted:

- 1590 requests had been received between 19 July 2021 and 1 November 2021, and of these, 1469 trips were completed.
- Although it was difficult to compare the project as it was a different service to the normal service, i.e. carried fewer passengers, and due to the Covid-19 period.
- The bus could be booked in a matter of hours but generally, the average booking time on the App was two days in advance. It was noted that a one-way journey cost £3, and it was added that this price was far cheaper than the price of a taxi.
- There should be a way of measuring how many tourists and how many local people used the service. The observation was appreciated, and it was suggested the reason for the journey could be asked, thereby providing more information about who was using the service.
- Evidence from other places supported the notion that this service would reduce the carbon footprint. It was added that O Ddrws i Ddrws would have an electric minibus next year that would substantially reduce the carbon footprint.
- In response to concerns regarding the public bus service, it was explained that the purpose of the project was to see whether there was a different way to provide the core service. It was acknowledged that more work was needed to look at integration rather than duplication. It was added that the public bus service as it stood was ineffective and it was proposed that the service needed to be more flexible. The O Ddrws i Ddrws Officer would be very pleased to see one of the public bus service operators running this service as it was so convenient and flexible, and reduced the mileage made by empty buses that made it more cost effective.
- It was explained that Transport for Wales and Gwynedd Council were currently undertaking a review of Gwynedd's public transport networks.

DECISION

It was decided to accept the information contained in the report to Evaluate the Llŷn Fflecsi Bus and the verbal report by Cynan Jones (Consultant) and Wil Parry (O Ddrws i Ddrws).

6. AIRCRAFT NOISE OVER LLŶN AONB

An update was provided on this urgent matter that had been raised at the meeting held in May. The report noted that a letter had been sent by the Joint Committee to express concern about the noise of aircraft from RAF Valley flying over the Llŷn AONB. The response received from the Squadron Leader in RAF Valley was noted; it reported that

whenever possible they tried to undertake their training over the sea. Additionally, Jeremy Quinn, in response to a question from Hywel Williams MP, had said that the RAF intended to increase its engagement with communities and be more proactive in publishing information on its website.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- It was noted that the noise levels had reduced over the past months, and that the number of complaints from local people had also reduced.
- Some Members had visited RAF Valley, and it was noted that they now had the necessary equipment to enable the Texan T1 to be flown over the sea.

In response, the following was noted:

- The situation would continue to be monitored.

DECISION

To note and accept the information in the report.

7. GWYRDDNI PARTNERSHIP

Information was provided about GwyrddNI, a new Climate Change organisation established in Gwynedd. The statement provided by GwyrddNi Project Officer, Elis Smits, was outlined, and it was noted that perhaps he could attend a future meeting of the Joint Committee to provide the group with a further update. It was explained that the organisation's intention was to encourage discussions about climate change and to bring people together to learn and take action locally. It was noted that more information was available on the internet if Joint Committee members wanted further details, and that the AONB Services Officer could also share any further information received.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- For information, it was noted that the member representing Llanbedrog Community Council had already had a telephone conversation with Elis Smits, having read his statement. It was reported that Mr Smits would be attending the Prynawn Difyr meeting in Pwllheli the following day to introduce himself and to give a presentation to the group.

DECISION

Resolved to accept the information in the report from the GwyrddNi Project Officer, Elis Smits.

8. DARK SKY DESIGNATION

The Joint Committee was provided with a summary of the Llŷn AONB Officer's report, and was requested to support the recommendation to support an application to the IDA (International Dark Sky Association) for a Dark Skies Park status for the area.

It was reported that discussions had already taken place between the Unit's staff and the IDA's staff, who were very supportive of the intention to submit an application for

dark skies status for the Llŷn AONB. It was considered that this area had a strong case for receiving the designation. The IDA was of the opinion that an International Dark Sky Park status rather than a Community status would be more appropriate for this area, and would be a better reflection of the quality of this dark sky. It was added that the application would be submitted next year if the Joint Committee was supportive.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- It was noted that some of the Community/Town Councils were uncertain about supporting the application. It was reported that women in particular tended to be wary of the darkness when walking at night, and that many of the concerns stemmed from this.
- The AONB Service Officer was asked to attend a Meeting of Nefyn Town Council, and other Community Councils, to give a presentation to members and alleviate their fears. It was believed that there was scope for a further discussion on this matter.
- A Member said that he was not in favour of the application due to safety reasons, and concerns that the designation would be used as a reason not to proceed with some matters, such as the provision of more road lighting.
- Additionally, there were concerns regarding farms; it was argued that farms needed brighter lighting due to the fact that work took place there at night.
- A question was asked about the difference between a Dark Sky Community and Park.
- Some members of the Joint Committee wished to support this application; it was noted that the purpose of the designation was to ensure that lighting was available in the places where it was needed, and to reduce light wastage and pollution.
- It was argued that this area was suitable for the project, and that many people enjoyed star-gazing in the area.
- It was proposed to defer the matter in order to undertake further consultation.

In response, the following was noted:

- There was no intention to switch off street lights. Rather, it was intended to promote, educate, hold events and use best practice, e.g. direct lights downwards, use lighting that was less bright.
- Dark Sky Park status was more prestigious than Community status as they were larger in size and fewer in number. It was explained that the whole AONB area would receive Park status.
- There were many benefits from the above designation, and assurance was given that the designation would not affect the area's residents.
- The AONB Service Officer would be willing to attend Town/Community Council meetings, or to have further conversations with Members who were dubious about the scheme, and bring the matter back to this Joint Committee. It was reported that it would be preferable to have the Joint Committee's support.
- There would be further consultation on this issue. The AONB Service officer would arrange a virtual meeting at the beginning of the year at the earliest, and would invite all the Community/Town Councils within the AONB in order to provide the Committee with an opportunity to ask questions. It was added that there were insufficient resources to visit each individual Community/Town Council.
- A virtual meeting had already been arranged for Town/Community Councils, which was somewhat frustrating, but the AONB Officer would re-arrange in order to provide a further opportunity.

DECISION

It was resolved t to defer the matter in order to undertake further consultation. The AONB Service officer would arrange a virtual meeting at the beginning of the year and invite all the Community/Town Councils within the AONB. The Llŷn AONB Officer will send information on to the Community Councils; the officer would contact the Community Council Clerks to make arrangements.

9. CAPITAL PROJECTS

Information was provided about the Llŷn AONB capital projects, providing an update on this year's projects, namely:

- Porth Meudwy track repair – It was noted that a financial contribution had been made following the landslide that had disrupted the road. The work had now been completed and the track had been repaired.
- Improvements to the quay area at Trefor – It was reported drat plans for the tender had been completed and it was hoped to start the work soon in the new year.
- Improvements to a series of public rights of way in the AONB – It was noted that there were a total of six paths and the majority of the work had been installed. The AONB Service Officer added that he was confident that the work would be completed within the timetable.
- Toilet refurbishment, Lôn Gam, Nefyn – it was explained that the background work had been completed regarding costs prior to the recent landslide, that had delayed progress. It was further reported that it had been confirmed that the work could proceed; the tender documents were currently being prepared.

It was added that conversations had taken place with Welsh Government. It was necessary to wait until the Senedd had set the budget before receiving confirmation that funding was available for the 2022/23 financial year. Following the receipt of this confirmation the Joint Committee would know how much funding was available, and there would then be time for consultation. It was noted that the themes for the projects would remain the same as for the current year.

During the discussion, members raised the following matters:-

- A question was asked about how much funding was given to the Porth Meudwy project.

In response, the Llŷn AONB Service Officer noted that a contribution of £30k had been made towards this work. He added that the work was being managed by Gwynedd Consultancy.

DECISION

To accept the information in the report.

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm and concluded at 5.50pm.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 5

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 16 th 2022
TITLE	Nature Recovery Action Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Biodiversity Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 2019 was a turning point in recognising the escalating nature emergency and stepping up action for biodiversity. Wales also declared a climate emergency, with Gwynedd Council itself following suit in March 2019. In response the National Nature Recovery Action Plan was published and part 1, “Our strategy for Nature”, setting out the commitment to reversing the loss of biodiversity in Wales and the objectives for action ([The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020 to 2021 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/government/policies/nature-recovery-action-plan)). Since then, the Welsh Government has also declared a nature emergency in June 2021.
- 1.2 Following on from this, Welsh Government have asked each Local Authority, National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty across Wales to produce their own Action Plan, detailing how each area should approach nature recovery.

2.0 GWYNEDD AND LLŷN NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

- 2.1 Gwynedd and Llŷn AONB have decided to produce a joint Action Plan, which will not only aim to address the national objectives, but also address those environmental challenges and concerns closer to home. For instance, when the communities of Llŷn were asked what is good about their area during recent consultations for the Ardal Ni project, it was noted that “Environment and proximity to natural attractions e.g. mountains, the seaside and the countryside” scored the highest. We want to ensure that we have a plan in place which ensures that our communities and local residents across Gwynedd and Llŷn can continue to enjoy and benefit from our own byd natur.
- 2.2 The Action Plan itself is a policy document we are producing that will aid in the recovery of nature in Gwynedd and the Llŷn. The document is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, partners, groups and individuals who have an interest in nature recovery or are key to it. We will be holding consultations aimed at various groups starting at the end of spring this year (2022). The outcomes of these consultations will be used to lead and initiate action towards nature recovery in Gwynedd and Llŷn, so we would urge you to participate where you can.

- 2.3 For more information on the Nature Recovery Action Plan, visit the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website by clicking the following link: [Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Nature Recovery Action Plan \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](https://biodiversitywales.org.uk)

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 6

COMMITTEE	Llyn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 16 th 2022
TITLE	Llyn AONB Capital Projects
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report contains information on the Llyn 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.

2.0 2021-2022 CAPITAL SLSP PROJECTS

2.1 The projects for this financial year (2021-22) were:

- 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 The work on the Porth Meudwy track has been completed since summer 2021. Work on the three other projects has been ongoing over winter and they are now nearly completed. It is expected that we will be able to claim all of the grant money that was offered.

3.0 FUTURE CAPITAL PROJECTS

3.1 It has been confirmed that a capital grant will again be available for the 5 AONBs and 3 National Park in the next financial year. To date the actual total grant or the number of years (there is a possibility of it being a 3 yr period) is yet to be confirmed.

3.2 The themes for future capital 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 We are awaiting confirmation of the amount of grant and the final SLSP scheme regulations soon and in the meantime looking at various potential projects.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 7

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 16 th 2022
TITLE	Membership of the Joint Advisory Committee
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report includes information on the membership of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and the arrangements in place to alternate Gwynedd Council members. In accord with the JAC's constitution these changes are meant to take place following local council elections – such as the one taking place on May 5th this year.
- 1.2 At present there are 11 electoral wards within the AONB (wholly or partially) i.e: Aberdaron, Abersoch, Buan, Botwnnog, Clynnog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanengan, Llanbedrog, Morfa Nefyn, Nefyn, and Tudweiliog. However, as a consequence of the boundary review, part of the Llanengan ward joins Llanbedrog and Morfa Nefyn joins Tudweiliog and also Aberdaron joins Botwnnog. The total number of wards in the AONB will then be reduced to 8.

2.0 EXISTING GWYNEDD COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 2.1 Following the most recent local elections held on May 4th 2017 Gwynedd Council members for the following wards were invited to the Joint Committee:
- Buan
 - Botwnnog
 - Llanaelhaearn
 - Llanengan
 - Tudweiliog
- 2.2 It was also decided later that the Gwynedd Countryside Champion became a member of the JAC. The present Countryside Champion represents the Llanbedrog ward which is within the AONB.
- 2.3 In accordance with the established order the membership period of these members now come to an end. We wish to thank these members for their time and support to the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty over the last 5 years.
- 2.4 After the election the intention is to invite members from other AONB wards to be members of the JAC. The boundary revision complicates matters slightly in this respect and there will be an element of overlap with areas which have been

represented over the last 5 years. The intention is to invite members from the following wards to sit on the JAC for the next period: **Pen Draw Llŷn** (Aberdaron/Botwnnog), **Abersoch a Llanengan**, **Clynnog**, **Morfa Nefyn a Thudweiliog** and **Nefyn**. Gwynedd's Countryside Champion will also continue to be a member.

3.0 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3.1 The other members of the JAC are:

- Community/ Town Councils in the AONB
- The National Trust
- Llŷn Fishers Association
- Natural Resources Wales (member without vote)
- Cyfeillion Llŷn
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
- Abersoch and Llŷn Tourism Partnership
- Farmers Union of Wales
- National Farmers Union
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum
- Business Sector (empty seat)

3.2 The above bodies/societies choose their own representatives to sit on the Joint Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Accept the information.

Agenda Item 8

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	March 16 th 2022
TITLE	AONB Management Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Preparing and publishing a Management Plan is one of Gwynedd Council's responsibilities in relation to the AONB as a consequence of the CRow Act 2000.
- 1.2 It is noted in the Act that relevant Authorities need to review the Management Plans every 5 years after the initial adoption. The existing Llŷn AONB Management Plan period is 2015-20 and the intention was to review the Plan during 2019/2020. Unfortunately this has not happened due to a number of factors including the pandemic, work on other projects and capacity issues.
- 1.3 The Joint Advisory Committee has a role to play in the Plan review process.

2.0 THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 The former Countryside Council for Wales has published guidelines for Local Authorities on the preparation and review of Management Plans.
- 2.2 As well as reviewing the actual Plan itself there will be a need to update the associated environmental reports, ie:
 - **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**
 - **Habitats Regulations Assessments (European Sites)**
- 2.3 When reviewing the Management Plan there is a need to consider the most up to date information on the area's features, relevant plans and strategies, conservation objectives, local projects etc.

3.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 Some time ago a discussion has been held between the 3 northern AONBs, the Snowdonia National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Issues discussed included methods of consulting, good practice, working in partnership to gather information, Area Statements etc.

- 3.2 An internal review of the existing Plan has been undertaken- trying to identify sections which have proved effective and others which could be improved.
- 3.3 In 2021 the AONB Unit commissioned an update of the State of the AONB Report. This Report contains information on the condition of the AONB's special features, pressures etc.
- 3.4 The intention is to present a further report with more information and a timetable for the Management Plan review to the next Joint Committee meeting.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Accept the information.