

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	24th of June 2015
TITLE	Establish a Planning Sub-group
PURPOSE	Present the case for establishing a Planning Sub-group
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Service manager
RECOMMENDATION	Not to establish a Planning Sub-group

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report addresses the method of commenting on planning developments within, and near to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It looks at how comments are made by the AONB Service Manager and the AONB Joint Committee and the possibility of setting up a Planning Sub-group.

2.0 COMMENTS BY THE AONB SERVICE MANAGER

2.1 Under the current system (based on a Service Agreement) the AONB Service Manager receives information about relevant planning applications by the Planning Department. Also a copy of the weekly list of planning applications - which contains information about all applications within the County (excluding the National Park) is sent to the AONB.

2.2 The AONB Service Manager is expected to comment on the relevant applications within the time frame set (usually 3 weeks). The AONB Manager's comments will be considered by the relevant Planning Officer while preparing a Delegated Report or a Committee Report.

3.0 THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3.1 There are discussions on planning issues in the Joint Committee from time to time. Recently there have been extensive discussions on issues of wind turbines on land. Subsequently it was decided to adopt a statement on this issue, with the Service Manager submitting it on relevant planning applications on behalf of the Joint Committee.

3.2 There have been discussions in the meetings also about the possibility of establishing a Sub-group to consider and comment on planning issues relevant to the AONB. Arguments for and against this have been presented.

3.3 In terms of the Constitution of the Joint Committee, it refers to the possibility of calling a meeting of Planning Issues Sub-group:

"The chairman of the Advisory Committee can convene a meeting of a planning sub-group to discuss and submit formal comments on behalf of the Advisory Committee on planning applications which may have a direct effect on the AONB designation and which are drawn to his attention as an urgent matter by the AONB Officer or the Dwyfor Area Planning manager."

- 3.4 As noted, there are pros and cons of establishing a sub-group design. See some of the arguments below:

Benefits

Able to respond more quickly than a full meeting of the Joint Committee
Addressing individual issues (rather than relying on a general statement)

Disadvantages

Increased administration
Members would have to be careful in terms of pre- expression on planning issues.
Does a Subgroup represent the views of all members?

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is believed that the present system of commenting on planning applications works satisfactorily. If a significant issue is raised, the Constitution states that a special meeting of the Joint Committee can be held.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 **Continue with the current system of dealing with planning issues and not to establish Planning Sub-Group for the time being.**