

5.0 A VISION FOR THE LLŶN AONB

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the Plan moves on to consider the area's future and how the Plan can be of benefit to the AONB. The basic aim of the Management Plan is to deliver the core purpose of the AONB – which is to conserve, maintain and enhance the area's natural beauty and special qualities. To realise this it will be necessary to influence activities that are detrimental or beneficial to those qualities.

5.1.2 The Vision is the long term aim for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is a specific statement and therefore it is necessary to look further into the future beyond 2019, when the Management Plan is to be reviewed again. The initial Vision referred to 2020 but during the review it was decided that 2040 was a suitable milestone for the revised Plan.

5.1.3 Of course the Vision needs to give attention to the special qualities of the AONB but it will also refer to likely future developments and local and global trends. In addition, when reviewing the Vision reference was made to::

- Future developments and local and global trends
- the interaction between environmental quality and supporting economies and local communities – which are at the root of sustainable development
- climate change and the responses to it
- the wide range of natural services and benefits the special environment of the AONB offers and provides

5.2 Basic Principles

5.2.1 Prior to setting a Vision for the area it was decided to establish a set of principles which will form the basis for the Management Plan itself. These principles were defined following the consideration of the fundamental reasons for the AONB designation, the long-term well-being of the area, sustainability and relevant local and global issues.

5.2.2 During the Management Plan review process the principles were re-assessed and four new principles were drawn up for 2010-15. The revised principles can be seen below:

PRINCIPLE 1
Preserve, maintain and where appropriate restore features which make Penrhyn Llŷn special and unique.

5.2.3 It is a combination of qualities and assets that make Llŷn a unique area and these form an important part of the area's character. These characteristics or qualities were defined in previous sections of the Plan and they include the landscape, wildlife, historic environment, communities and language. The main focus of the Management Plan will aim to conserve, maintain and where possible enhance these qualities.

- 5.2.4 It is also important to ensure that any new developments permitted are in keeping with the area and therefore issues such as size, scale, design and materials will be important. Often, the impact of new developments in the landscape and environment can be lessened through measures such as location, suitable design and landscaping
- 5.2.5 The planning system will play an important part in this by assessing development applications and not permitting developments which would have an unacceptable impact on the AONB or attaching conditions to make developments more acceptable.

PRINCIPLE 2

Take steps to promote sustainable development and prepare for future climate change.

- 5.2.6 The Management Plan and the activities of the AONB Service have an important role to play in raising awareness regarding local and global environmental issues, sustainable development and the implications of climate change.
- 5.2.7 Raising awareness and local implementation can contribute to national action to reduce pollution, save energy, minimise travelling and try to ensure that development is sustainable in the long-term. Also, attention has to be given to the possible impact of climate change and rising sea levels, especially in coastal areas such as Penrhyn Llŷn.

PRINCIPLE 3

Identify, promote and develop an appreciation of the environmental services and benefits provided by AONB.

- 5.2.8 National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were designated for their Natural beauty and they are special areas of the countryside and the coast. In addition, these areas have an important role to play in providing opportunities for all types of activities for relaxation and leisure for local people and visitors. Presently there is more and more awareness of the importance of such opportunities and the benefit these areas can offer in terms of the health and general welfare of the population.
- 5.2.9 This Management Plan and the actions that emanate from it will contribute a great deal to raising the awareness of local people of the opportunities on their own doorstep. Also, there are opportunities to convey similar messages to all types of visitors who come to Llŷn. The Plan also raises the awareness of leaders in the fields of health and welfare as well as politicians regarding what protected landscapes can offer.

PRINCIPLE 4

Support the people and communities who work and live in Llŷn and encourage involvement in AONB activities and the area's future.

5.2.10 It's important to realise that the Llŷn AONB is a living landscape. The local people and the communities they form bring life, variety and colour to the area as well as being instrumental in safeguarding many of the qualities which make the area special and unique. These people need to be supported and also encouraged to take a more proactive role in the AONB's management and the area's future.

5.3 The Future of Llŷn

5.3.1 The Vision was formulated on the basis of the information gathered and presented in the previous sections of the Plan. These sections define what is special about Llŷn, assess the condition of these qualities and what activities place pressure on them or are of benefit to them. In addition, the Vision has regard to the founding principles referred to at the beginning of this section.

5.3.2 **Therefore, this is the Vision for Llŷn in the year 2040:**

AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST WITH A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE WHICH PROVIDES A RANGE OF NATURAL SERVICES. HISTORIC FEATURES BEING RECORDED AND VALUED AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

5.3.3 In order to be more specific regarding specific qualities in the area, individual visions were formulated that are more detailed. These visions set out a scenario as regards the condition of each of the qualities in the future.

5.4 The Landscape, Coast and Seascape

5.4.1 The natural beauty of the landscape, the coast and the associated views were the reasons for the AONB designation in 1957 and the Heritage Coast in 1974. The above Vision aims to maintain these special natural qualities and an important part of this is that any future new developments are of a good standard and in keeping with the area's environment.

5.4.2 The vision adopted for the future is as follows:

A Peninsula of plateau land and prominent hills with a beautiful coastline. Stunning natural views and a close relationship with the sea. New housing, roads and other developments blending in well with the AONB environment.

5.5 Tranquillity and Low Pollution

- 5.5.1 Presently Llŷn is an area with low environmental pollution and the Vision anticipates that this will continue with perhaps some improvements in the future. It is also hoped that the low levels of activities, noise and sky glow in Llŷn will be maintained and therefore the tranquil and peaceful character of the area will continue.
- 5.5.2 The vision can be seen below:

Low levels of pollution, noise and sky glow and a tranquil, isolated and peaceful atmosphere.

5.6 Habitats and Wildlife

- 5.6.1 Unfortunately, many natural habitats in Llŷn have deteriorated significantly during the second half of the last century due to agricultural mechanisation and some are now a rare resource. Heathland and some other important habitats need to be safeguarded and restored and their management improved in order to realise the vision.
- 5.6.2 The rural and coastal character of the area and also its unpolluted nature means that it is a haven for a wealth of wildlife. It is hoped that Llŷn will continue to be a habitat for a great variety of animals, reptiles, insects, birds and marine creatures including some that are now rare in European countries.
- 5.6.3 The vision is:

Heathland and other key habitats of Llŷn being safeguarded and managed effectively and the abundance of wildlife being maintained and safeguarded.

5.7 The Historic Environment

- 5.7.1 The Llŷn and Bardsey Island area is included on the Register of Landscapes of Exceptional Historical Interest in Wales as a recognition of the area's historic environment wealth.
- 5.7.2 As was seen in the previous section of the Plan, the area's historic environment includes a vast variety of resources. These resources include early archaeological and historical remains such as standing stones and forts, remains of industrial activities such as old quarries, mining works, coal yards and lime kilns. In addition, there are historical buildings and traditional parts of villages which are an important element of the built heritage. Studies indicate that some historical buildings are in danger due to lack of care and maintenance and unsuitable developments which impair their character and appearance. However, on the whole, traditional parts of villages have maintained their original character well.

5.7.3 It is also hoped that there will be more information available on the historical environment and more opportunities to visit sites and buildings.

5.7.4 See the vision adopted for the future is:

Historic characteristics such as standing stones, hedges, wells, churches and cottages being protected and properly maintained. Good opportunities for visiting and learning about remains, historical sites and important buildings in Llŷn.

5.8 People and Communities

5.8.1 The people who live and work in the area contribute to its character and identity and maintain traditions, the language and culture. By having fair living conditions and opportunities for enjoyment and to make a living in the area the Vision envisages that communities will be stable and will flourish. The local residents and the communities will in turn be a means to sustain another special characteristic of Llŷn, namely the Welsh Language and culture.

5.8.2 The vision can be seen below:

Stable communities enjoying a good quality of life with people and children being aware of the area's history and traditions and sustaining the Welsh Language and culture.

5.9 The Welsh Language and Culture

5.9.1 Llŷn has a unique local culture with a special Welsh dimension and the Welsh language is an integral part of this. The Welsh language and culture is under considerable threat due to outward migration from the indigenous community and immigration of people who are often unaware of the area's history and culture. Through activities, projects and campaigns in the years to come the hope is that the Welsh Language will continue to be the main language in the area in 2030.

5.9.2 The other aspiration is that local linguistic and cultural elements will be recorded and promoted during the period in question, via various projects by communities, public authorities and other enterprises.

5.9.3 See the vision below:

Welsh being the main language of Llŷn, Welsh names being used and the Welsh culture flourishing and well documented.

5.10 Work, Produce and Skills

5.10.1 Over the centuries primary traditional industries such as agriculture, mining and fishing have had a strong influence on the area's character and have

been the foundation of the local economy. It is believed that they will still contribute to the Llŷn economy, however, the adoption of more sustainable methods of operating would be of great benefit to the area's special qualities. In addition, small self-employed businesses in Llŷn are important for the rural economy and contribute to the economy and character of the area.

5.10.2 The tourism and leisure industry make a significant contribution and helps maintain local services. However, it is also obvious that there are some detrimental side effects linked to certain qualities related to the industry. In future, it is hoped that a balance can be struck between profiting from the industry, reducing its impact and sustaining the quality of the environment. Developing the industry on the basis of sustainability offers significant benefits to the local economy and in terms of the effect on the special qualities.

5.10.3 The vision is as follows:

That agriculture, fishing and quarrying continuing to provide employment and quality local produce. Tourism and other small rural industries to contribute to the local economy without impairing the area's special environment.

5.11 Paths and Access

5.11.1 Rights of way and rights of access are important as a resource to an area such as Llŷn. Without these rights it would not be possible to gain access to extensive parts of the area and coastline. In future, it is hoped that these rights will be safeguarded and that the paths are maintained, although we realise that priorities will have to be based on resources. Research work has indicated that there are opportunities to improve the provision for the disabled in Llŷn and by 2040 it is hoped that improvements will have been introduced in certain places where that is practicably possible.

5.11.2 Another aim will be to ensure that the increase in the use of rights of way, cycling and use of public transport in the future – on the basis of well-being and public health, increase the appreciation and enjoyment of the AONB and for the benefit of the environment. Therefore, raising awareness is important as well as management to reduce conflicts and develop better relations between owners, managers and various user groups.

5.11.3 The vision adopted for the future is:

Rights of way and land with access rights being enjoyed without obstacles and improved access opportunities for the disabled. Walking, cycling, horse riding and non-motorised leisure water activities are popular activities.