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| MEETING | Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee |
| DATE | 17th July 2018 |
| TITLE | Projects |
| PURPOSE | Update Members |
| AUTHOR | Llŷn AONB Projects Officer |
| RECOMENDATION | Accept the Information |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides information to the members for the AONB Service's recent projects.

2.0 REVIEW INTO COMMON LANDS

2.1 This research project was recognised in the last Management Plan. Numerous Common Lands are located within the AONB and they are a characteristic of the area. However, there was not much up to date information about them and it seemed that there were many misconceptions in terms of their ownership and the entitlements relating to them.

2.2 The AONB Service commissioned a local company, Madryn Cyf to research into the background and history of these Common Lands, establish the regulations, asses their condition and their contribution to biodiversity. The research also assesses the current use of these areas and looks at various options for their future.

3.0 INVASIVE SPECIES

3.1 An action to recognise and treat invasive species has been recognised in the reviewed Management Plan. In this financial year, the AONB Service are working with NRW to eradicate Giant Hogweed which grows on the banks of Afon Soch in the Llandegwning area.

3.2 The Giant Hogweed originates from South Russia and Georgia and can grow up to 10 feet in height. It was imported to Britain during the 19th Century to be grown in the gardens of country houses etc. The plant is invasive and its sap can be very harmful to people as it burns the skin.

4.0 RURAL SKILLS TRAINING

4.1 Since 'cloddiau' and stone walls have been recognised as important features in the landscape of Llŷn, it is important to gain the skills to maintain and restore them. Training has been arranged for September to learn these skills.

- 4.2 We have worked with Coleg Meirion Dwyfor and the National Trust on this project as well as a local contractor. The training will be held on part of the Wal Fawr in Llithfaen and Porth Gwylan farm, Tudweiliog. The exact dates and arrangements will be in the local media shortly.

5.0 ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

- 5.1 At the end of last financial year, the AONB Service managed to attract some funding from Welsh Government towards access improvements in the AONB. We aim to finish these improvement during this summer:-

- Improvement to path Number 2 at Pistyll
- Improvements to path Number 12 at Cilan
- Improve access and path Number 7 at Cromlech Cefnamwlch, Tudweiliog.
- Clear, improve and install signage –the path towards Ffynnon Saint, Y Rhiw

6.0 DARK SKIES

- 6.1 Working towards gaining the Dark Skies status for the Llŷn AONB has been recognised as a project in the reviewed Management Plan. As a first step, the AONB Service has commissioned Dark Skies Wales Ltd to research into the sky's darkness and this work is currently ongoing. The Service is also in discussion about working with Ynys Môn AONB, Bryniau Clwyd AONB and Snowdonia National Park to hold events and promote the dark skies of these designated areas.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The members are asked to accept the above information.