

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	November 18 th 2020
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.

2.0 NOS PROJECT

- 2.1 It soon became clear that Anglesey AONB and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB were also working on dark sky applications while Snowdonia National Park had already attained Dark Sky Reserve status. It was decided that all four areas could work together on dark sky work and the “Nos” project was established.
- 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 and hold stargazing events. The project Nos work is coordinated by the project officer – Dani Robertson. Dani will join the meeting to provide more information on the project.

3.0 APPLICATION FOR DARK SKY STATUS FOR LLYN 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.
- 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.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To support an application by the AONB Unit to the IDA for Dark Sky Park designation for the Llyn AONB.