

COMMITTEE	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	May 26 th 2021
TITLE	National AONB issues
PURPOSE	Inform Members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report contains information on national issues relevant to the AONBs in Wales.

2.0 WELSH PARLIMENT

2.1 Following the recent national elections the First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has made changes to his cabinet. AONBs and National Parks are now part of the Climate Change portfolio. The Minister responsible for this portfolio is Julie James, Labour member for West Swansea. Lee Waters, Labour member for Lanelli, is the deputy portfolio holder.

3.0 NATIONAL DESIGNATED LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

3.1 The National Designated Landscape Partnership (NDLP) has recently been established and a Coordinator and Admin officer have been appointed. The NDLP will coordinate collaboration and joint working between Wales' designated landscapes, set strategic aims, coordinate national projects and challenge work practices.

4.0 SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES SUSTAINABLE PLACES

4.1 Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places is the Welsh Government's programme to support capital projects in National Parks and AONBs. The programme has been running for a good few years now and many key projects have been supported. Information on the Llŷn AONB's projects in 2020-21 has been included in the latest edition of Llygad Llŷn.

4.2 Recently we were notified that projects put forward for capital grant support for 2021-22 in Llŷn have been supported. These projects are:

- Porth Meudwy track repair
- Nefyn beach toilets refurbishment
- Improvements to the quay area at Trefor
- Improvements to a series of public rights of way in the AONB

5.0 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

- 5.1 Natural Resources Wales has responsibilities towards the AONB's and as a result the body, and its predecessor CCW, has been running a national grant scheme for the 5 Welsh AONBs. The grant contributes towards core AONB service costs which includes staff, JAC administration, management plan review, project implementation etc.
- 5.2 The latest grant scheme came to an end this year (a 3 year scheme). It was hoped that a new scheme with a 3 or 5 year agreement would be offered with additional resources for the AONBs in Wales, especially in light of Valued and Resilient. Unfortunately however the offer that has been made is for a lesser contribution than previous years (a 10% cut). There are national discussions taking place regarding the situation at present and an update will be provided at the meeting.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Accept the information.