

Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee 4 November 2024

This was an interesting meeting. Key issues:

1. the 'Dark Skies and Artificial Light Pollution' Position Statement will be shared with Parish & Community Councils. It will shortly be uploaded to the Wye Valley National Landscape Website having been endorsed by the Joint Advisory Committee at the July 2024 meeting.
2. National Landscape Funding and Memorandum of Understanding (between the 4 constituent authorities)
3. Species Action Plan and Nature Recovery, 3 out of 5 plans have been published:
 - a. Bumblebees
 - b. Pinemartens
 - c. Hedgehogs
4. No applications received via the Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement Grant element of Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). These schemes were limited to grant funding not exceeding £3000. Some landscape and biodiversity enhancement projects have been funded through other schemes.
5. Cardiff University research draft questioning the influence of phosphates on algal blooms.
6. Review of the JAC being carried out by Anna Jones, Diversity Lead for Landscapes Wales.
7. Funding. All funding comes to an end in March 2025, the support of Community Councils is vital, smaller council support leverages in support in the order of 20:1.
8. Generally concerns about spending reviews. DEFRA have received a flat settlement in the budget. The core funding streams are:
 - a. National Grid – England
 - b. WG and NRW – Wales
 - c. DEFRA - England