



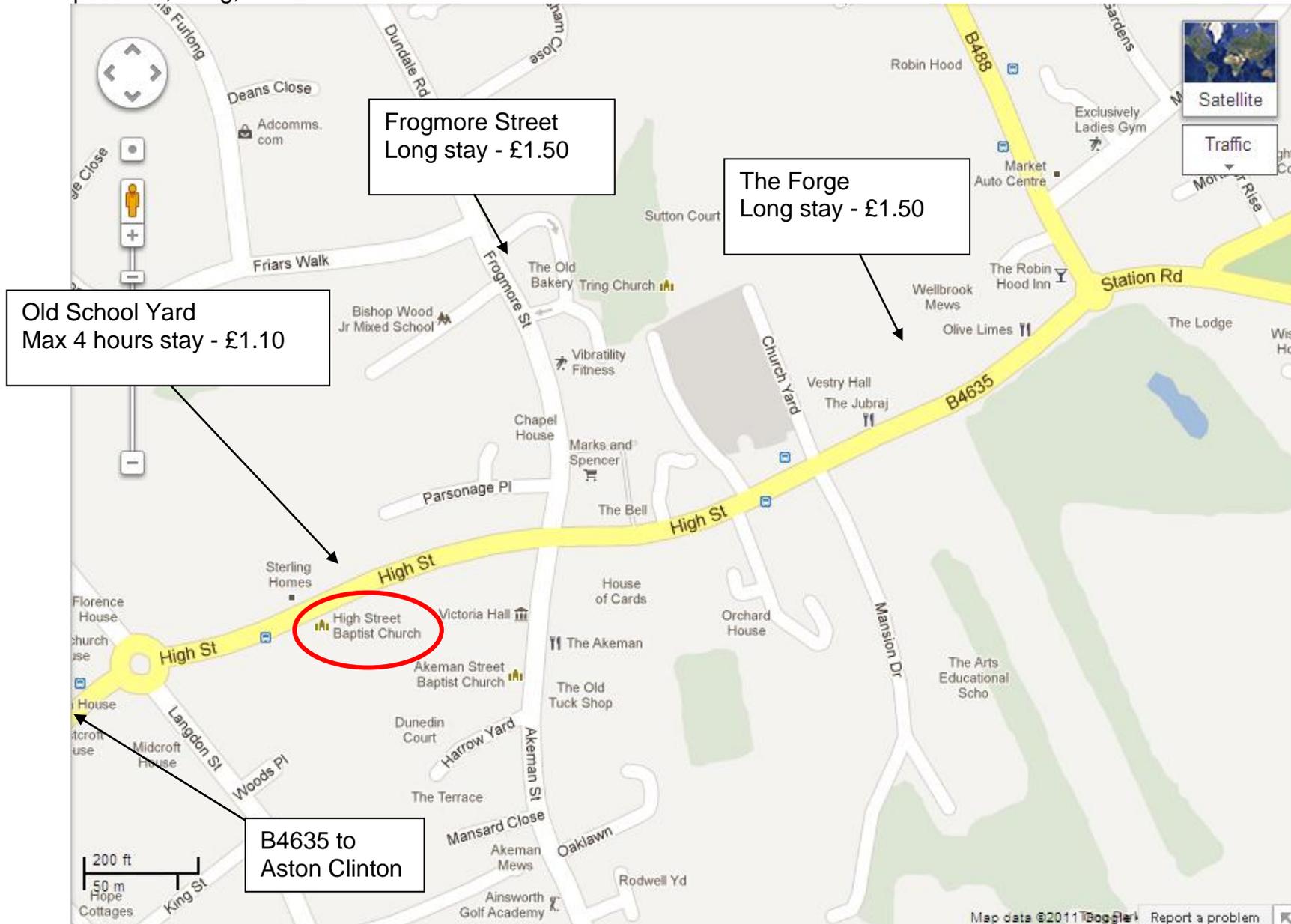
Board Meeting

10.00 a.m. 19th January 2012
Baptist Hall, Tring, HP23 4AB

Agenda

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|-----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Apologies | 10.00 - 10.01 |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest | 10.01 - 10.03 |
| 3. | Minutes of Previous Meeting | 10.03 - 10.06 |
| 4. | Matters Arising | 10.06 - 10.11 |
| 5. | Public Question Time | 10.11 - 10.13 |
| 6. | Report from the Executive Committee | 10.13 - 10.33 |
| 7. | Report from the Planning Committee | 10.33 - 10.45 |
| 8. | Election to Executive Committee | 10.45 - 10.55 |
| 9. | High Speed 2 | 10.55 - 11.40 |
| 10. | Report on the Water White Paper – Water for Life | 11.40 - 12.10 |
| 11. | Progress Report on the Commons Project | 12.10 - 12.30 |
| 12. | Celebrating the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee | 12.30 - 12.50 |
| 13. | Work Programme Update to Dec 2011 | 12.50 - 1.00 |
| 14. | Date of Future Meetings | |

High Street Baptist Hall, Tring, HP23 4AB





DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th October 2011 at Naphill Village Hall, Naphill HP14 4 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 13.05PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Member	Appointing Body
Appointed by Local Authorities	
Cllr David Barnard	North Herts District Council
Cllr Marion Mustoe	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr David Nimmo Smith	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Brian Norman	Three Rivers District Council
Cllr Richard Pushman	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Ian Reay	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr Chris Richards	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr Jeremy Ryman	Chiltern District Council
Cllr Bill Storey	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Dave Taylor	Luton Borough Council
Cllr Alan Walters	South Buckinghamshire District Council

Appointed by the Secretary of State	
Mike Fox (Chairman)	Secretary of State
Bettina Kirkham	Secretary of State
Kevin Mayne	Secretary of State
Dr Simon Mortimer	Secretary of State
Ray Payne	Secretary of State
Helen Tuffs	Secretary of State

Elected by Parish Councils	
Cllr John Griffin	Oxfordshire
Cllr Margaret Jarrett	Hertfordshire
Cllr Shirley Judges	Buckinghamshire
Cllr Barbara Wallis	Buckinghamshire
Cllr Julia Wells	Oxfordshire

Officers	
Deirdre Hansen	Clerk to the Board
Steve Rodrick	CCB Chief Officer
Chris Smith	CCB Finance Officer
Colin White	CCB Planning Officer

33. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Dr. Heather Barrett-Mold, Kevin Payne and Cllr Mary Goldsmith

34. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

35. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments were made:

item 22.1: at the end of the sentence "of which £21,000 was related to core activities" was added.

Item 23: in the 1st sentence "Executive" was omitted.

Item 25.3: in the final sentence "Environmental was added before Impact Assessment.

Item 29: BCC was replaced by Buckinghamshire County Council

36. Matters Arising

1. Launch date for Chilterns Gateway Project not yet known.
2. Launch date for the "Caring for the Chilterns Fund" will not be the end of 2011, a more realistic date spring 2012.

37. Public Question time

No members of the public were present.

38. Report from the Executive Committee

The members received the report of the Chief Officer

At its meeting on 13th September the Executive Committee:

1. Received a report on the financial position to the end of August.
2. Reviewed the Risk register.
3. Discussed the medium term financial Plan.
4. Approved a revision to the Reserves Strategy. The Development Reserve is new and will be in place to support larger projects.
5. Reinstated the allowances for members of the Sustainable Development Fund.
6. Discussed the potential mechanisms for reviewing members' allowances.
7. Noted that funding support has been requested from all Town and Parish Councils, 14 responses to date of which 7 positive.

- 1. The Board NOTED the matters discussed by the Executive Committee and the decisions made under delegated authority.**

39. Report from the Planning Committee

Members received the report from the Planning officer, the purpose of which was to bring to the attention of the Board the items considered by the Planning Committee and the decisions taken under delegated powers. The following was noted:

1. The Chilterns AONB Planning Forum will take place 18th November 2011 at Aylesbury Vale DC's Gateway offices.

2. The Planning Conference had been well attended.
3. Proposed student research project: implications of internet land sales. This is now ready to start. The Chief Officer noted that the Board had been slow to make use of its numerous and varied contacts with research establishments, but should endeavour to do so more in the future.
4. The Committee was informed of Development Plan Responses made under delegated powers and planning applications on which the Board had been consulted on.

1. The Board NOTED the report from the Planning Committee.

10.40 Cllr Shirley Judges joined the meeting

40. Annual Return

The Finance Officer reported that the Audit Commission had completed their audit of the Board’s accounts for 2010-11 and signed the Annual Return. The Board had been advised that there were no matters which required them to raise issues arising from the Accounts.

The Finance Officer was congratulated on his management of the accounts and the presentation of the financial reports to the Board. They proved very helpful to the Board.

1. The Board APPROVED and ACCEPTED the audited Annual Return for 2010-11.

41. Review of Members Allowances.

The Chief Officer advised the Board of the proposed review mechanism, the suggested terms of reference and the suggested membership of the review panel.

It was suggested that a review panel is appointed every 5 years made up of an independent member, a Human Resources member and the Finance Officer. The SDF panel allowances would also be included in the review.

The panel terms of reference would include the relationship with any annual cost of living award to staff.

It was considered that the cost of a review panel would be in the order of £2,000.

Conservation Board Members’ Allowance 2011-2012

Allowance	£ per head	Total £
Basic	660	17,820
Chairman of the Board	2202	2,202
Vice-Chairman of the Board	550	550
Committee members	550	9,900
Chairman of a committee(2)	824	1,648
SDF Panel	550	3,024
Total		35,144

1. The Board APPROVED the proposed terms of reference
2. The Board APPROVED the proposed membership of an independent review panel.
3. The Board NOTED the likely cost of the review.

4. The Board RESOLVED that the panel prepare a review for 2013-14.

42. Submission on National Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Officer reported the key highlights in the Government published Draft National Planning Policy Framework which will replace current Planning Policy and Minerals Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes. The policy texts have been significantly reduced, but some important details have been lost. In particular in connection with protected landscapes. The proposed response had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Members commented on the draft responses and made some observations.

1. The Board APPROVED the proposed response to the Draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation.

43. Report on Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation: scoping document-Department for Transport.

The Chief Officer reported that the Government is consulting on a proposed framework for the development of aviation which includes assessing impacts of aviation on the environment, local communities and related areas of government policies. It does so in the context of promoting sustainable economic growth as an overriding priority. Many of the objectives for integration of aviation policy with other areas of government policy are of relevance to the proposal for a high speed railway. Some of the aspirations for reducing environmental impacts on local communities and reducing carbon emissions are supportable, but are notably inconsistent with the proposal for HS2.

The Board and many others have argued that all major decisions affecting Transport should be in the context of a National Transport Strategy. Such a national overview is required in order to enable balanced decisions to be made which require assessment and examination of the relationships between various modes of transport.

11.30 Kath Daly joined the meeting

Members made a number of observations.

1. The Board APPROVED the proposed submission to the Department for Transport in response to its consultation on proposed aviation policy.

2. The Board DECIDED to make a submission to the Department for Transport highlighting the inconsistencies between its approach to aviation and the proposed development of High Speed 2.

3. The Board DECIDED to write to MP's with its concerns as it had done for HS2.

44. Report on the Natural Environment White Paper

Following from the June Board meeting, the Countryside Officer informed members of the Government's White Paper, "*Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature*", on the Natural Environment and the UK National Ecosystem Assessment published early June. The key themes of the White Paper are:

- Protecting and improving our natural environment
- Growing a green economy
- Reconnecting people and nature
- International leadership
- Monitoring and reporting.

The White Paper is a follow up of the Lawton Report September 2010. Particular challenges for landscape scale conservation in the Chilterns include the level of complexity- intricate habitat mosaics, habitat fragmentation, and complex landownership patterns.

Nature Improvement Areas (NIA):

The Board has submitted a Chilterns Chalk NIA application in this competitive national competition announced in the White Paper. The second stage of the application is due Mid-December should the Board's application get to the second round. If the Chilterns proposal is not supported in the NIA competition, it will be important to work with partners to explore whether there are alternative ways of funding elements of the proposals.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNP):

Another initiative announced by the Natural Environmental White Paper. The Board has made 4 applications under this scheme of which 2 have received conditional offers; (Bucks and Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire) those for Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire were not approved, but they may reapply to the next round. The funding on offer is only to set up the LNP's. The expectation is that they will be financially self-sustaining once established. Board staff expect to work closely with and contribute to the emerging LNPs and continue to work with the existing partnerships in those parts of the AONB not covered by LNPs.

Biodiversity Offsetting:

The White Paper also announced the government's intention to work with local planning authorities and their partners to test biodiversity offsetting in their areas. The CCB has expressed an interest in being a member of the more informal offsetting toolkit Sounding Board. The CCB is looking at best practice, facilitating and informing.

UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA):

The key messages are that the natural world is critically important to our social and economic well-being but consistently undervalued in the conventional economic analysis and decision making processes.

The Chairman had written to the Rt. Hon. Caroline Spellman, Secretary of State for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs, seeking reassurances that the government will apply this approach to its own activities included HS2.

12.00 David Barnard left

12.05 Helen Tuffs left

Members posed questions and comments were made.

1. **The Board NOTED that an application has been made for a Chiltern Nature Improvement Grant.**
2. **The Board SUPPORTED the new Local Nature Partnerships in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.**
3. **The Board SUPPORTED the creation of comparable local arrangements for biodiversity in Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire.**

- 4. The Board wishes to maintain an informal link to national proposals to introduce biodiversity offsetting.**
- 5. The Board to SEEK reassurances from the government that it will apply the National Ecosystem Assessment approach to its own activities.**

45. Report on Sustainable Development Fund

The Countryside Officer gave a report on the Sustainable Development Fund applications received and grants awarded. The total fund available for 2010-11 was £45,000 of which £43,207 was paid in grants, with the balance paying for members' allowances and administration.

33 applications had been received in 2010-11 of which 22 were approved. The total value of the projects funded was £203,186, on average SDF grants represented 21% of the total cost of each project. The scheme is well used by local community groups and charities, but business applications are few. Repeat application can pose a problem. The SDF grants provide many opportunities for the Board to maintain a high and positive local profile.

12.30 Roger Emmett and Brian Norman left

- 1. The Board NOTED the report and continued to support the Sustainable Development Fund.**
- 2. The Board would encourage more applications from small businesses.**

46. Report on HS2

The Chief Officer reported that following the formal public consultation phase of HS2 there is a need to decide on the CCB programme for the period prior to the Secretary of State's decision on whether to proceed with HS2. He reported that it has been decided not to challenge the process of consultation.

The members discussed the matter.

- 1. The Board DECIDED to reflect upon its strategy for HS2 for the period until the government makes an announcement on whether it intends to proceed.**

47. Promoting Wood fuel.

The Chief Officer reported that the demand for all types of wood fuel is increasing and is being boosted by the introduction of a Renewable Heat Incentive- a government subsidy. The effect on woods in the Chilterns could be significant as wood fuel markets provide a commercial return sufficient to encourage management of previously neglected woodlands.

- 1. The Board NOTED the growth in the market for wood fuel and its potential benefits for woodlands and woodland owners in the Chilterns.**
- 2. The Board ENCOURAGES the installation of more wood fuel heating systems particular in public buildings.**

3. The Board will **PROMOTE** the new Forestry Commission grant to ensure there is a high uptake in the Chilterns.
4. The Board will **ENCOURAGE** applications from the wood fuel sector to the Sustainable Development Fund and LEADER programme.

48. Work Programme Update to September 2011.

1. The Board **NOTED** the work programme update to September 2011.

49. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 19 January 2012 location tbc.

50. Dates of Future meetings:

Thursday 29th March 2012, Thursday 21st June 2012, Wednesday 17th October 2012. Locations to be confirmed.

The meeting closed 13.05

The Chairman..... Date.....

Item 6 Report from the Executive Committee

Author: Steve Rodrick Chief Officer

- Summary:** At its meeting on 7th December the Executive Committee
1. Received and approved a report on the financial position to the end of October 2011. There were no significant issues to report.
 2. Received a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-2015. This included a number of issues which are expanded more fully in this paper.
 3. Received a report on the response from parish and town councils to the request to provide financial support.
 4. Approved a report on celebrating the Olympics and Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
 5. Received a report on High Speed 2.
 6. Received the Chief Officer's report.

Financial Statement April – October 2011

1. The Finance Officer advised members of the Board's financial position as at the end of October 2011 and what the likely position would be at the end of the year. The current position was satisfactory with no significant problems to report. The end of year surplus was forecast to be £12,009, £3,428 below the budget estimate of £15,437.
2. Notably the Countryside Festival, budgeted to break-even, made a profit of £4,614 making a significant contribution to the target for earned income

Medium Term Financial Plan

3. The Medium Term Plan covers the period (2011-2015) over which cuts in government and local authority support can be predicted, approx. 30-35%. The plan had been brought up to date for the remaining period 2012-2015. As previously reported to the Board the decline in grant would result in an increasingly large annual deficit unless action was taken. A number of options to cover the deficit had been presented to previous meetings of the full Board and Executive Committee. The strategy for balancing the budget involved three key elements.
 1. Reduction in costs.

2. Increase in revenue from other sources to cover both core and project expenditure.
3. Controlled use of reserves
4. The Executive Committee had to decide on additional relevant matters.

1. Whether to award a cost of living increase and if so at what level?

The Committee decided that for 2012-2013 the cost of living award applied to staff salaries and members' allowances should be restricted to 1%.

2. Whether to re-instate the discretionary salary increment based on performance?

It was decided that discretionary increments should be available. They had been frozen in 2011-2012.

3. Whether to increase mileage payments in line with adjusted HMRC rates?

It was decided to increase mileage payments from 40 pence to 45pence for all staff and Board members.

4. Whether to increase the car allowance by inflation.

It was decided to increase the essential car user allowance by the Consumer Price Index from 1st April 2012.

5. Whether or not to progress with the planned review of members' allowances?

It was decided to recommend to the Board that the review of Members' allowances, both the scheme itself and rates of allowances, estimated to cost £2,000 should be postponed and the matter re-considered in 2013-14.

6. Whether or not to continue with the staff incentive scheme?

It was decided that the options for retaining the scheme should be presented to the next Executive Committee.

5. The Executive Committee will refine the current draft of the plan at its next meeting on 2nd March and present a Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2012-2015 for the Board's approval at its meeting on 29th March.
6. The resulting provisional budget will be used for the Board's application to DEFRA for grant aid in 2012-13 which must be submitted by 20th January.

Support from Parish Councils

7. The Chief Officer reported that 117 parish and town councils had been approached to contribute to the Boards operating costs. At the time of the Executive Committee meeting 15 had responded positively offering approx. £2,000 in 2011 - 2012. Ten

councils have said they cannot contribute this year of which half said they would consider a contribution in 2012-13. The majority (92 no.) had yet to respond and it was agreed the Chairman would send a follow up letter early in 2012. The aim is that by 2015, fifty councils will offer assistance totalling over £7,000.

Celebrating the Olympics and Queen's Jubilee

8. The Committee decided it would be appropriate for the Board to mark the Olympics, Paralympics and Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was decided to allocate total budget of up to £3,000 from the Development Reserve. It was also decided to set up a sub group of the Board to consider how these events should be celebrated. (now referred to the full Board)

Report on HS2:

9. The Chief Officer gave a report to the Committee on HS2 related activity. It was noted that the new Secretary of State for Transport, Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP had announced a delay until January on whether to proceed to the next stage.
10. It was agreed that it was almost inevitable that the Secretary of State would give the go ahead to the next stage, and almost certainly using the current preferred route. In which case the Board's next steps should be:
 1. To continue opposing the plan.
 2. To ensure the Board is consulted at all stages of the Environmental Impact Assessment including the interpretation of the findings.
 2. To seek involvement with community and environmental for a which HS2 Ltd intends to set up.
 3. To work closely with HS2 Ltd to ensure best possible outcome for the AONB if the railway is to be built.
 4. To press for the business plan for HS2 to be revised to incorporate a value on the environmental impacts.
11. It was felt crucial that the Board continued to work closely with environmental bodies, local action groups and local authorities.

Recommendations

1. **To note those decisions made under delegated authority.**
2. **To postpone the Review of the Member's Allowance scheme and review the proposal in 2013.**

- 3. To approve the proposed cost of living award of 1% applied to staff salaries and members' allowances**
- 4. To approve the changes to the mileage payments and essential car user allowances.**
- 5. To approve the unfreezing of discretionary performance related salary increments.**
- 6. To note the proposed review of options for the staff incentive scheme.**

Item 7

Report from the Planning Committee

Author: Colin White - Planning Officer

Summary: The Planning Committee met on 30th November. The following items were discussed:

1. Election of Chairman
2. High Speed 2 update
3. Feedback from the Planning Conference
4. Feedback from the Planning Forum and an update on visits to local authorities
5. Planning training for Parish and Town Councils for early summer 2012
6. Proposed student research project – implications of internet land sales
7. Responses to development plans
8. Responses to planning applications

Purpose of Report: To bring to the attention of the Board the items considered by the Planning Committee and decisions taken under delegated powers.

Election of Chairman

1. Barbara Wallis had decided to step down as Chairman of the Committee. Bettina Kirkham was nominated and duly elected as Chairman of the Committee for the following year and she and the Committee expressed their sincere thanks to Barbara for her chairmanship over the previous 6 years.

High Speed 2 update

2. The Committee heard that the Transport Select Committee report on HS2 had been discussed at the wider HS2 group meeting, that the Secretary of State had recently met with MPs (see <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/high-speed-rail-meeting/high-speed-rail-meeting.pdf> for a transcript) and that an announcement about the way forward was likely to be made in the New Year. It was agreed that Secretary of State appointed Board Members should meet as soon as possible to discuss whether representations should be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Feedback from the AONB Planning Conference 2011

3. The 9th Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference took place on 5th October at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. 45 attendees from 24 different organisations had attended. The focus of the Conference was renewable energy and implications for protected landscapes. Copies of the presentations are available via the following link - <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/conservation-board/planning-development/planning-conference.html>. The field trip to Matthews' brickyard at Bellingdon was regarded by many as inspirational. The feedback provided was very positive overall. Various comments and suggestions were noted and will be borne in mind when preparing for

this year's conference. The Committee agreed that the conference should take place on Wednesday 3rd October this year.

Feedback from the AONB Planning Forum and update on visits to local authorities

4. The Planning Forum took place on 18th November at Aylesbury Vale DC's Gateway offices and discussed various issues including: the format and attendance at the forum; the implications of the Draft National Planning Policy Framework; the Localism Act (in particular neighbourhood planning, green space and role of the Design Guide) and the proposed position statement on renewable energy. The Forum was attended by 14 people with 8 of the Chilterns local planning authorities being represented. The possibility of combining the Planning and Environment Forums was discussed, though it has subsequently been resolved that the Planning Forum should continue in its present format. Those attending the forum had expressed the desire that it should remain in some form as it was very useful.
5. The meetings that the Planning Officer and the Chairman have been having with local planning authorities to try and re-invigorate the Forum have been successful and will continue to be organised for early in 2012.

Planning training for Parish and Town Councils

6. The Board has offered planning training in the past to Parish and Town Councils and the Committee approved the setting up of a short series of events in the summer of 2012. The events would follow the format of previous years. The enactment of the Localism Act and the likely adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework will provide subjects relevant to the intended audience. The Board is likely to have started the process of review of the Management Plan, which could also be discussed. Costs would be covered by a small fee and it will be possible to offer discounts to those Councils that have previously made financial contributions to the Board.

Proposed student research project – implications of internet land sales

7. The Committee was informed that students at Oxford Brookes had recently been approached about this research project and that the matter would be reported to the following meeting.

Development Plan Responses

8. The development plans responses detailed below were approved by the Committee.

Wycombe DC – Draft Delivery and Site Allocations DPD

9. The Board supported many of the policies in connection with Green Infrastructure, open spaces, protection of sites and the water environment (particularly in connection with the de-culverting and improvement of the River Wye and its corridor).

Wycombe DC – Position Statement on Housing and Land for Business

10. The Board generally welcomed the Position Statement but made comments about the need to fully consider the implications of some of the specific sites that are detailed which are within or adjacent to the AONB (RAF Daws Hill, Picts Lane at Princes Risborough and sites at Lane End).

Buckinghamshire CC – Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Submission DPD

11. The Board: made comments about the need for consistency of wording when discussing the AONB and the need to adequately address CRoW Act Section 85 duties; welcomed the support that would be given to the Chilterns' brick industry; called for minerals safeguarding areas to be excluded from the AONB and objected to the proposed waste transfer station at London Road, Amersham.

Oxfordshire CC – Draft Minerals and Waste Plans

12. Various potential sand and gravel sites are located at Cholsey and Caversham and lie within the setting of the AONB. The Board suggested that because of their likely impacts on the setting of the AONB they should be deleted, or, failing this, detailed landscape and visual impact assessments should be prepared to assess and address the impacts. Comments were also made about the consistency of wording in some instances and concern was expressed about possible waste developments at or close to Henley and Wallingford.

Further details of the development plans responses and all other papers can be viewed at: http://www.chilternsaonb.org/uploads/files/ConservationBoard/Board_Meetings/PI_agenda_3_01111.pdf

Planning applications update

13. The Committee heard that so far this year details of 123 planning applications or appeals have been brought to the attention of, or requested by, the Planning Officer. 122 of these had been responded to, with 21 being the subject of formal representations (19 objections and 2 supports). 11 of the applications have been determined with 7 in line with the Board's comments and 4 not in line.

Recommendation

1. **The Board notes the report from the Planning Committee.**

Item 8 Election to the Executive Committee

Author: Steve Rodrick Chief Officer

Summary: A vacancy has arisen on the Executive Committee with effect from 1st February. An election must take place from the members appointed by the Secretary of State.

Purpose of the report: To advise that a member must be elected to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee

Background

1. Kevin Mayne will be resigning from the Board as he will be taking up a new job in Brussels. DEFRA will not be appointing a new member to replace him until April 2013 although the process will begin in late 2012.
2. Kevin has been a member of the Executive Committee since January 2005. The Board should fill this vacancy to comply with its own standing orders on committees. This means that the vacancy can only be filled by members appointed by the Secretary of State.
3. The Committee meets 4 times per year usually between 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. All meetings are held in the Board's offices.
4. There is an allowance of £550 per annum. Travelling expenses are payable.
5. The meeting dates for 2012 are:
 - 24th May
 - 20th September
 - 12th December

Recommendation

1. **To appoint a member to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee with effect from 1st March 2011.**

Item 9 **Report on High Speed 2**

Author: Steve Rodrick Chief Officer

Summary: On 10th January the Govt announced its intention to proceed to the next stage and seek Parliament's approval in 2013. The route changes included some improvements to the Chilterns but other changes given less prominence, were negative

The Board has had a high media profile since the announcement and must now consider its next steps. Many community groups look to the Board for re-assurance, encouragement and guidance

Purpose of Report To report on recent events and decide on the next steps.

Secretary of State for Transport

1. The Rt.Hon Justine Greening MP was appointed as the new Secretary of State for Transport on 14th October to replace Phillip Hammond who was appointed Secretary of State for Defence.
2. In November the chairman wrote to the new Secretary of State encouraging her to respond to criticism by the Transport Select Committee of HS2 by delaying her announcement on whether to proceed to the next stage. Many other advised the same course of action and the Secretary of State announced in mid December that she would delay her decision until January 2012- but no date was given.
3. The Secretary of State announced on 10th January that the Government intended to proceed to the next stage on the current preferred line along the Misbourne Valley. Some changes to the design and route were made in the Chilterns including additional tunnelling. Other changes were less beneficial. A presentation will be given to the meeting explaining the proposed changes.
4. The Govt. has chosen to ignore the results of the public consultation which were overwhelming critical with objections often accounting for 90% of the 55,000 responses.
5. There has been considerable media coverage and the Board has played a full part in voicing objections to the proposal.

Transport Select Committee

6. The Transport Select Committee report was published on 7th November. Whilst the Committee supported the case for a high speed railway, the report was deeply critical of just about all major aspects of the current proposal and the way it had been presented.

7. It criticised the failure to investigate fully alternatives, cast serious doubts over the preferred route, and was highly sceptical of the claims about economic regeneration. It recommended that a new business case be prepared which gives less weight to the value of time saved and greater weight the impact on the environment - currently it gives none. It unequivocally stated that HS2 should not be referred to as a carbon reducing scheme.
8. In the event the Government ignored nearly all the recommendations of the Select Committee.

Labour Party Statement on HS2

9. The Labour Party published its position on HS2 which was supportive, but in recognition of the damage to the Chilterns and in conjunction with its belief that the railway should go via Heathrow, suggested a route alongside the M40. In fact it suggested it would, thus, avoid the AONB altogether. A letter has been sent correcting this mistake.

Meeting with HS2 Ltd

10. On 16th November Mike Fox, Ray Payne and Steve Rodrick met Sir Brian Briscoe, chairman of HS2 Ltd and Peter Miller, Head of the HS2 Ltd Environmental Planning Team.
11. HS2 Ltd gave an undertaking that the Board would be invited to participate in at least two of the environmental fora it will be creating.
12. HS2 Ltd confirmed that it had not been instructed by the DfT or any other government department including DEFRA, to revise its business plan to incorporate a monetised value for environmental impacts, as would be required under the Ecosystem Appraisal approach newly adopted by Government. The Board has already written twice to the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and for Transport, to ask whether the Government will be applying this approach to its own projects. The answers do not make it clear that they will, so a further letter has been sent seeking clarification.

Environmental Impact Assessment

13. HS2 Ltd confirmed their timetable for undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment. It will begin in the early spring with publication of a scoping report. Data collection will take place during spring, summer and autumn of 2012. The report itself will be prepared from late summer onwards concluding in spring 2013. There will be some consultation but it is not yet clear on the extent to which this will include public consultation. As a statutory body, the Board expects to be consulted on all parts of the report.
14. The timing is designed to enable the Hybrid Bill to be laid before Parliament by October 2013. The EIA will only cover the initial section between London and Birmingham.

Parliamentary Lobby Day

15. A lobby day for MPs took place on Monday 28th November in the Grand Committee Chamber in the Houses of Parliament. The event was chaired by Andrea Leadsom, MP for South Northamptonshire, Jerry Marshall, chairman of the AGAHST federation of local groups and the Board's Chief Officer who spoke about the environmental impacts. A small number of MPs attended at some point during the session, but there was an unfortunate clash with a major debate in the House on North Africa which limited the numbers.

Visit to Kent Wildlife Trust

16. Staff and members have already made several visits to Kent to see HS1. A further visit was made on 22nd November to talk specifically to the Kent Wildlife Trust about the impact of the railway on wildlife. The chairman of HS2 Ltd, once Director of Planning for Kent CC, had stated publicly that many of the misgivings about the environmental impact of HS2 had been resolved for HS1.
17. A request was submitted to HS2 Ltd, under the Freedom of Information Act, for the information on which these claims were made. HS2 Ltd subsequently confirmed that they held no such information. It seems they are based on hearsay and no formal monitoring has taken place.
18. Whilst the passage of time has helped to heal some of the landscape scars in Kent and new tree planting has some benefits for wildlife, the results are generally disappointing and in the absence of any monitoring there is no evidence as to show if they have been successful. HS2 Ltd has been asked, therefore, to desist from making such claims in future and to commission an evaluation report into the environmental mitigation and management of HS1 that has taken place which may be relevant for HS2.
19. Unquestionably the close alignment of HS1 with the M20 motorway creates an entirely different local environment which helps to mask the intrusion caused by the railway in a way which can never be achieved in the Chilterns.

Legal Advice

20. The Board attended a meeting with legal counsel organised by local action groups and the HS2 Action Alliance. Following that meeting further consideration will be given as to whether HS2 Ltd has complied with the legislation covering Strategic Environmental Assessments.

Wider HS2 Group

21. The Board has continued to convene a meeting of local authorities and local action groups. Recently meetings have been on 8th November and 22nd December. It is particularly useful that the meeting is attended by Cllr Martin Tett, Leader of Bucks CC, who is chairman of the 51M alliance of local authorities fighting HS2, and Nigel Shepherd, who is the vice chairman of the AGAHST federation of local action groups.

Other Recent Developments

22. In December the Scottish Government published a long term infrastructure plan which included a commitment to provide £9 billion worth of High Speed 2. This looked like political posturing as the annual capital expenditure by the Scottish Government on all transport infrastructure is only £300 million.
23. A major part of the business case for HS2 is that the capacity of the West Coast Mainline is insufficient to cope with predicted demand. This was based on claims that existing peak time trains are full. Requests for this information were made under Freedom of Information Act by the HS2 Action Alliance but the Government has refused to release any information on actual train loading factors.
24. The HS2 Action Alliance therefore undertook its own counts of peak time trains from Euston, which was verified by Ipsos Mori. Those counts showed that current load factors for those peak time trains are only 56%. This is important as based on the actual current load factors, options to enhance seating capacity on existing trains and scope to increase the number and speed of services using the West Coast Main line means that it is realistic in the short term and relatively low cost (less than £300m) to meet even HS2's highly optimistic demand forecasts for the next 30 years.
25. In January YouGov published a poll of 1800 people showing that 67% of respondents are against High Speed 2. This was a significant increase in opposition since the last poll in autumn 2011.

Next Steps

26. Following the announcement the Board needs to undertake a detailed analysis of the effects of the proposed changes to design and alignment.
27. Based on an initial assessment the changes do not significantly affect either the environmental or business case the Board should maintain its opposition to the plan.
28. The Board needs to take note of legal advice on options for opposing the railway. It is not proposed that the Board puts its name to any legal challenge or provides funding towards legal fees. If appropriate the Board could provide indirect support for any legal challenge which it believes would result in reducing or avoiding damage to the AONB.

Environmental Impact Assessment

29. HS2 Ltd has now confirmed it will commission an Environmental Impact Assessment. This is a piece of work that the Board must take a direct and continuous involvement in to ensure all potential impacts are included. The Board must ensure it is consulted at all stages including interpretation of the findings. It is notable that the Government does not believe that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is not needed which requires a full appraisal of realistic alternatives on which it must consult the public,

Environmental and Community Fora

30. HS2 Ltd has indicated that during 2012 it intends to create a number of community and environmental fora. The Board must seek involvement in each. This is likely to require both staff and Board members being nominated to take part to ensure good coverage and attendance.

Design and Mitigation

31. It is likely that when the Government makes its announcement later this month it will also instruct additional mitigation of the route through the Chilterns. The Board must be prepared to work closely with HS2 Ltd to ensure the best possible outcome for the AONB if the railway is to be built. This includes detailed scrutiny of all aspects of design.

Revised Business Plan

32. In line with the Transport Select Committee Report the Board must continue to press for the business plan for HS2 to be revised to incorporate a monetised value on the environmental impacts, based on the National Ecosystem Appraisals approach adopted by Government in June 2012.

Liaison with local Groups, Local Authorities and MPs

33. It is crucial that the Board continues to work closely with environmental bodies, local action groups and local authorities. The Board has also built good relationships with local MPs which will be even more vital in the run up to the presentation of a Hybrid Bill to Parliament in late 2013.

Recommendations

1. **The Board maintains its opposition to the railway as it will cause major and irreversible damage to the AONB.**
2. **In 2012 involvement with the Environmental Impact Assessment, the new fora to be created by HS2 Ltd, and scrutiny of mitigation and design are a high priorities in the Board's overall work programme.**
3. **Funding is allocated as required from the Development Reserve, subject to authority being given by the Executive Committee.**

Item 10

Water White Paper

Author: Allen Beechey Chalk Streams Project Officer

Summary: 'Water for Life', the Government's Water White Paper was launched in December 2011 setting out its vision for water management in the future. The Paper aims to address the key challenge of protecting the health of rivers and lakes, maintaining water infrastructure and managing water resources effectively. The measure planned are unlikely to bring about the significant improvements needed for rivers in the Chilterns.

Purpose of Report: To brief board members on the Government's Water White Paper on how it will affect the management of water resources in the Chilterns area in the future.

To see approval to register with Govt the Board's concerns about the inadequacies of the proposed measures.

Background

1. The Water White Paper (WWP) was launched on 8th December 2011 to address the issue of water stress in parts of England and the fact that only one quarter of the country's water bodies meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The WWP follows on from the Natural Environment White Paper, which was released in summer 2011.
2. The Paper sets out a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, water companies are more efficient and customer focused, and water is valued as a precious resource.
3. Many of the issues raised by Martin Cave's '*Review of Competition and Innovation in Water Markets in England and Wales*', Anna Walker's '*Independent review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services*', and more recently David Gray's '*Review of Ofwat and consumer representation in the water sector*', are central to the White Paper.
4. The paper recognises that although there has been significant investment since privatisation of the water industry, water supplies in many areas are under stress and that pollution and over-abstraction has left only one quarter of water bodies as fully functioning ecosystems.
5. In stating the case for change, the paper states that the combined effects of climate change and population growth are likely to put increased pressure on water resources and the environment in future.

Key commitments

6. The Paper sets out a number of key commitments under five main headings:

1. Secure, sustainable and resilient water resources

1. Reform of the abstraction regime. Introduction of new legislation will be by mid to late 2020's (2027 according to the shadow minister).
2. Increased interconnection of water supplies through bulk water trading between suppliers (short distance) and by looking further into the feasibility of long distance transfers of water.

2. Protecting our rivers

1. Improving water quality through Defra's 'catchment-based approach' to water quality and diffuse pollution. Reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy to promote the farming industry's role as custodian of the natural environment.
2. National strategy for urban diffuse pollution to be developed for consultation.
3. An action programme for addressing unsustainable abstraction up to 2027 and beyond to be developed as part of the second cycle of River Basin Management Plans.
4. Include water company solutions for restoring sustainable abstractions in the price review process and to ensure these solutions are included the water companies' water resource management plans.

3. Planning and building for the future

1. The Government and regulators will minimise the burdens on water companies from the separate planning processes in the water sector.
2. Strategic overview to be taken of the quality and capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure. Further consideration is to be given to whether strategic national infrastructure projects will be necessary.
3. New national standards and a new approval system for sustainable drainage will be developed.
4. Importance of options to reduce demand to be reinforced through strategic policy statement and social and environmental guidance to Ofwat.
5. Strengthening of guidelines for water company Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP) to ensure that all water use demand management measures are thoroughly explored and tested.

4. Developing a customer focused water industry

1. Publication of guidance to water companies on the introduction of more support to vulnerable customers.
2. Package of reforms to extend competition in the water sector.

5. Taking action

1. Government to provide incentives to promote efficient use of water and encourage voluntary water efficiency labelling to enable customers to choose more efficient products.
2. Increased collaboration between the Government, water companies, regulators and customers on a campaign to save water and to protect the environment.

Delivery

7. To address the issue of unsustainable abstraction, the Government will 'ramp up' (their words) work to reduce unsustainable abstraction during the current Price Review Period (2010-2014) and bring forward the deadline for reporting on the current Environment Agency investigations into low flows to December 2012. A new strategic policy statement and social and environmental guidance for Ofwat will be produced later this year and proposals for the new abstraction regime will be consulted on in 2013.
8. The second round of River Basin Management Planning is also being brought forward to the end of the year to enable more comprehensive and detailed actions to be incorporated. A national strategy on urban (but notably not rural) diffuse pollution will be consulted on this year.

Conclusions

9. Despite over investment of £90 billion in the water industry since privatisation, water supplies in many areas of the country are stressed and only a quarter of water bodies are healthy because of over abstraction and pollution.
10. Of the nine rivers within the Chilterns, none currently attain Good Ecological status or Potential according to Water Framework Directive standards. The chief reasons for this are low flows and pollution
11. The proposed changes to the abstraction licensing regime will be too late to address the issue of over-abstraction in the Chilterns in time for the Water Framework Directive reporting deadline in 2027.
12. The Paper does not identify fully how efforts to reduce abstraction in the short and medium term, will be 'ramped up', beyond speeding up existing processes. This is unlikely to deliver the necessary reduction in abstraction levels to make a significant difference to the chronic low flows found in most of the Chilterns rivers.

13. Changes to the abstraction licence charging scheme to enable funding of river restoration measures will not address unsustainable abstraction, and will instead aim to improve the quality of rivers which are both smaller and shorter because of permanently reduce flows. A precedent for this strategy has already been set in the case of the River Gade (where enhanced flows may never be possible) and it is likely to be applied to other rivers in the Chilterns as an alternative to reductions in abstraction.
14. Increased interconnection and trading in bulk supplies of treated water could provide a mechanism to reduce over-abstraction and provide a means for water companies to more effectively manage drought situations.
15. There is little in the Paper to address per capita demand reduction beyond the provision of incentives to water companies and users rather than enforcing measures, through legislation and regulation.
16. The Paper does not go far enough on the issue of water meters. While it recognises meters are a proven means of reducing water use, it does not support compulsory metering in water stressed areas.
17. The White Paper does not address the issue of Combined Sewerage Overflows (CSO). CSO's are an issue which affect several Chilterns Chalk Streams including the R. Gade, Bulbourne, Chess and Misbourne.

Government Inquiry

18. In December, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee announced its intention to hold an inquiry into the Water White Paper. The committee is seeking evidence on whether the White Paper's aims are supported and the likelihood of these objectives being effectively fulfilled by the approaches it proposes. The deadline for written submissions is 23rd January 2012.

Recommendations

- 1. To note the Government policies and strategy to manage water resources.**
- 2. To make a submission to the Committee (referred to in paragraph 18) registering the Board's concern that the measures do not go far enough and are unlikely to be successful in the Chilterns.**

Item 11 Progress Report on Chilterns Commons Project

Authors: Rachel Sanderson Project Officer
 Kath Daly Countryside Officer

Summary In June 2011 the Heritage Lottery Fund approved a grant of £403,000 for a project to enhance the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of common land in the Chilterns which will run from July 2011 – June 2015.

Rachel Sanderson was appointed as the project officer in August 2011. The programme of works on commons and training events has begun. This report provides an update on achievements so far and the programme for the year ahead. The Board has already approved its annual contribution of £4,000.

Purpose of Report: To report progress to date and to seek feedback on the work programme planned for 2012.

Background

1. There are 187 commons covering 2,000 hectares across the Chilterns AONB. These commons are important, not only for their extensive coverage of the AONB, but because they often have high quality wildlife habitats and historic environments. Most of them have either a local or national nature conservation designation (81% of the common land by area), and all now provide open access as defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
2. Many commons have local groups which are dedicated to looking after them or as part of their wider environmental interest. For many years the Board has fostered expansion of these groups and co-operation between them and has, in recent years, hosted the (unconstituted) Chilterns Commons Network, in which more than 20 groups and landowners regularly participate. The network has successfully recruited the assistance of volunteers and organised a regular programme of events and publications, including a quarterly newsletter, a copy of which is circulated with the Board members' papers.
3. By 2009 it was recognised that the Board did not have the resources to develop the network any further and yet there was much more that the Board and local groups wanted to do. An application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund which initially awarded a grant of £34,600 to prepare a development plan and application for the full project. That application was successful and the HLF awarded a grant of £403,000 in June 2011. Rachel Sanderson, who had prepared the development plan, was then successful in her application to become the project manager for August 2011- June 2015.

4. The main aims of the project are:
 - To enhance the environment and heritage of commons.
 - To promote improved arrangements for the management of common land.
 - To enhance the understanding, enjoyment and involvement by local communities with their common.
5. The development plan included a full and detailed programme of works, events and training which is now underway. The principle elements of the programme are:
 - Commons Historic Environment Project
 - Commons Futures Project
 - Interpretation and Awareness Project
 - Commons Management
6. Since July 2011 the following has been achieved.
 - Recruitment of Project Officer
 - Launch of Project at Totternhoe Knolls, 1st October
 - Practical work undertaken on 4 commons
 - 2 training workshops held, both fully booked
 - New web pages, project leaflet published and display banner produced
7. Key elements of the 2012 programme include:
 - Our Common History Seminar to launch history project (28.1.12)
 - Practical conservation and habitat improvement work on more than 10 commons across the AONB
 - A programme of training workshops designed to provide volunteers with the knowledge and confidence to manage their local common
 - A touring exhibition of old photographs of commons which will raise awareness of their location and historical significance
8. In order to secure the grant from the HLF, the programme of work had to be detailed but there is, nonetheless, some discretion to alter the programme as the project develops. The Board is the host of the project and has, as a condition of the grant, set up a Steering Group comprising representatives of The Chiltern Society, local groups, landowners, local authorities, the National Trust, local Wildlife Trust and the Board to oversee the management of the project. Natural England, the Open Spaces Society and the Chiltern Woodlands Project are involved as advisors.
9. A presentation will be given to the meeting and members are invited to provide feedback on progress to date and views on what is planned for the year ahead.

Recommendations

- 1. To note progress to date.**
- 2. To provide feedback on achievement to date and the planned programme.**

Item 12 **Celebrating the Olympics and Jubilee**

Based on a paper presented to the Executive Committee on 7th December 2011

Author: Steve Rodrick Chief Officer

Summary: The Executive Committee was of the view that the Board should mark the 2012 Olympics, Paralympics and Queens 60th Jubilee and recommended that a budget of up to £3,000 be allocated from the Development Reserve. A sub group of the Board is being set up to consider how these events should be celebrated.

Purpose of Report To seek suggestions and feedback on how the Board should mark the Olympics, Paralympics and Queen's Jubilee

2012 Olympics

1. 2012 (27th July- 12th Aug) will be notable for the London Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Olympics would be a double celebration as the Paralympics, with its spiritual home in Stoke Mandeville.
2. Rowing is the one of the sports in which Great Britain can expect to do well - a sport with its spiritual home on the Thames with renowned rowing clubs still based at Henley and Marlow (home of Steve Redgrave). The 1948 London Olympic rowing course was at Henley.
3. The Olympic torch will pass through the Chilterns on 8th, 9th and 10th July. (see map of the route)
4. The aims of any celebration organised by the Board should be:
 - To encourage a healthy lifestyle by taking exercise.
 - To promote the Chilterns as a place for outdoor activity.
 - To promote the Chilterns as a visitor destination.

What could we do?

5. The Board could participate in a small number of local events organised in the towns and villages through which the Olympic torch will pass including Luton, Hemel Hempstead, Marlow, Henley, Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville.
6. The torch will be taken by boat along the Thames between Henley and Marlow. This may provide special PR opportunities.
7. The PR given to the torch route will highlight specific venues and backdrops in the AONB.
8. The AONB web site should have an Olympic theme with dedicated pages and the spring/summer edition of Chalk and Trees could be a special Olympic issue.

9. There is particular scope to promote enjoyment of the Thames, not least as the rowing events will take place at Dorney rowing lake, only a few miles outside the AONB between Slough and Windsor.
10. To consider creating a lasting memorial to the games;
 - Tree Planting
 - Chalk Figure
 - Sculpture
 - Re-named landscape features

2012 Paralympics

11. The Paralympics, with its special association with Bucks and Stoke Mandeville, will take place between 29th August - 9th September.
12. The Board should aim to mark these games in the same way.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

14. June 5th will be a public holiday to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
15. Suggestions on what the Board could do:
 - Promoting 60 Places to visit
 - Suggesting 60 Things to do
 - Planting 60 Trees
 - Highlighting 60 Royal Connections
 - Organising an Exhibition 1952 – 2012 (The Chilterns then and now)
16. The web site and Chalk and Trees could also be given an Jubilee theme. It would also be fitting to commemorate the year with a lasting memorial. No doubt many trees will be planted.
17. Much can be done by simply badging planned events and publications.
18. A sub group has been formed to oversee the Board's celebrations. An initial meeting is organised for 11th January. Verbal feedback will be given at the Board meeting.

Recommendations

1. **The Board should celebrate the Olympics incl. the Para Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Members are asked to provide suggestions.**
2. **A provisional budget should be created by allocating £3,000 from the Development Reserve.**

Item 14 Date of Future Meetings

29th March 2012

26th June 2012

17th October 2012

Chilterns Conservation Board – Provisional Work Programme 2011-2012

Conserve and Enhance Natural Beauty

No.	Area of Work	Key Actions and Outputs	CCB Budget	Progress April - Sept.
1	Management of Chalk Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for site management on 3 sites.(contributing to improved management on around 15 ha lowland calcareous grassland.) • Training Programme • Chalk Grassland Managers Day (50 delegates) • Promotion of ELS and HLS (Environmental Stewardship Schemes) • Support for BBOWT chalk grassland project 	£3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management advice (including sheep grazing) to LA & individuals. • Chalk grassland manager's day held at Dancer's End / Aldbury Nowers 14th July – 50+ participants • Liaison with NE over ELS/HLS priorities to pass onto farmers. • Contribution to works at Oakley Hill via Chalk grassland budget. Chalk grassland day part hosted by BBOWT's Chalk grassland project, one outcome of which is provision of feedback to site managers from participants and species experts giving in-field talks. Proposals being developed with BBOWT chalk grassland officer re. joint approaches to working on sites outside BBOWT.

				<p>reserves.</p> <p>Contributions under discussion – juniper mapping, Grangelands, Interpretation at Whipsnade downs and fencing to facilitate grazing at Prestwood LNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New database set up • Chilterns Chalk Nature Improvement Area proposals developed and submitted to Defra
02	Management of Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for site works (3 no.) (contributing to improved management /restoration of around 15 ha BAP priority habitat) • Annual Commons Day (40 delegates) • Training Programme for local groups • Support for Commons Network • Publication and promotion of guidance incl. newsletter (2 editions) • Maintenance of database 	<p>£7,000</p> <p>Total budget £500,000 (June – Dec 2015)</p>	<p>(NB: £4000 of the budget reserved as match funding for HLF project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commons Day and HLF project launch at Totternhoe Knolls took place on 30th September – 80 participants. • Commons Network site visit and meeting held 23rd June, Brush Hill (18 participants) • Commons Network site visit and meeting held 8th December, Box Moor (25 participants). • Newsletter published in May (spring), August (summer), October (autumn), December (winter).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If HLF Stage 2 application successful, project officer will be employed to run the Commons Project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLF application successful – grant of £403,000 awarded by HLF. Project Officer (Rachel Sanderson) started in August. Steering Group created and met on 26 September and 17 January. Contribution to small works agreed for Nettlebed and under discussion for Downley
3	Woodland Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice and training on all aspects of woodland management to owners of small woodlands (target of 50 no. = 200 hectares of woodlands) – via Chiltern Woodlands Project. Hedgerow Trees Initiative to promote management and planting of trees in hedgerows and in-field 	<p>£5,000</p> <p>Need to secure additional resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement in place with Chiltern Woodland Project – 20 visits have taken place Initiative delayed due to additional work pressures created by HS2 Presentation of new ADAS Tree Risk Policy to October Land Management Group
4	Ancient Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of all woodlands to identify ancient woodland (partnership with NE, FC and CWP).Feb 2010- Dec 2011 	<p>£34,000 (ring fenced reserves + income from partners)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey in progress All surveying for 2011 undertaken Project operating within budget Project officer has successfully transferred to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

5	<p>Promotion of good land management practice</p> <p>Events and publications- C'side Dept budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active promotion of uptake of the agri-environment and forestry grant schemes • Advice service, especially to new owners of land. • Promotion of good hedgerow management • Distribute information pack (30 no.) 	<p>£1,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice to 2x local groups on site specific management. • Land management Group (partner organisations and farmers) held 27th June & 31st October. • Participation with Wycombe Rural Forum farm tour, 23rd June. • 5 packs issued via Open Farm Sunday events. • National Environment White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - partnerships bids supported for Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) - Submitted bid for Chilterns Chalk Nature Improvement Area (NIA) - Expression of interest to Biodiversity Offsetting Sounding Board
6	<p>Conservation of Chalk Streams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Chalk Streams Project • Pursue and develop new funding opportunities • River restoration programmes for Misbourne, Chess, Gade, Ver, Bulbourne, Hughenden, Wye • Riparian Management incl. willow 	<p>£19,200</p> <p>Combination of project grant aid, ring fenced reserves and project support budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project operating with full support • Working with Thames River Restoration Trust to secure funding for restoration projects through DEFRA river improvement fund. 2 project bids submitted. Both have been shortlisted for funding through phase 4 of the scheme (April to

		<p>pollarding and river corridor landscape enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River enhancement through schemes and support of local community partnerships – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dacorum Environment Forum Water Group (R. Ver, Bulbourne and R. Gade) ○ River Chess Association ○ Impress the Chess partnership ○ Misbourne River Action ○ Revive the Wye ○ Chiltern Society (bedlining scheme) • Implement relevant actions in CCB Management Plan. • Comment on all relevant plans • Liaising with Environment Agency and Water Companies to reduce abstraction • Support BBOWT water vole recovery project work on Chiltern chalk streams 		<p>Sept 2012). Final confirmation expected in April. Combined project income = £107K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of Project by EA confirmed for 2012/13 • Partnership projects with EA on Misbourne at Little Missenden and Sarratt on R. Chess. £46 000. Tender issued for Lt. Missenden project • Supporting River Chess Association in lobbying against combined sewage overflows. Thames water now investigating options to increase stormflow storage at Blackwell Hall STW. No CSO's have occurred this year. • Revive the Wye - Kingsmead restoration scheme completed - October. • Chiltern Society's revised HLF bid for bedlining scheme to be passed before committee prior to submission in March 2012. • HS2 consultation - CCSP comments incorporated into CCB response
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bucks CC Surface Water Management Plan for Chesham and High Wycombe commented on • Veolia R. Misbourne flow augmentation trial completed (Sept '11) • Advice given to EA on priority restoration projects for Chess and Misbourne as part of Restoring Sustainable Abstraction programme • R. Chess water vole survey completed. Water vole population now recovered back to 2001 population size (size prior to population crash). More R. Misbourne surveys have revealed further populations in H. Denham area. Ewleme Brook population stable. • Expression of interest to host a Chilterns rivers catchment as part of DEFRA's catchment management pilot scheme accepted by EA.
7	Orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new project • Recruit volunteers • Undertake survey work and condition assessment • Training programme • Events programme • Submit bid to HLF 	Staff time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project delayed due to additional work pressures created by HS2 • Continued liaison with groups and private individuals over training, events, planting and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote grants and advice to owners 		management.
8	Response to Planning Applications and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit response on relevant planning applications. (approx 40) Submit response to consultation on development and mineral plans Respond to all relevant national and regional planning plans. 	Staff time	<p>Main areas of work have been :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Oxon DC core strategy Wycombe Sports Stadium and Village Arla Dairy, Aylesbury HS2 Comments submitted on 21 planning applications
9	High Speed 2 Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain objection to HS2 proposal Assess impact of HS2 proposals 	£10,000 Staff time. It is impossible to determine the scale of input needed at this stage, but is likely to be an ongoing area of work for many years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has involved considerable staff and member time. It has resulted in a diversion of effort from other areas of work. Requests for additional support from NE and HS2 Ltd were declined. Completion and analysis of landscape audit, photographic surveys etc. Publication of results via web pages. Chief Officer gave evidence at Transport Select Committee on 6th Sep Considerable media coverage Current exp. approx £5,000
10	Promote Planning Policies and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Planning Policy Guidelines Offer training and advice 	£1,500 Staff time (may need allocation from project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Planning Policy Framework Localism Bill

			support budget)	
11	Roads in the Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote newly published and revised guidance. • Lobby for low noise road surfaces • Assess major highway proposals for environmental impact 	Staff time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low key area of work to date. • Advice given to National Trust on options for traffic calming at Bradenham
12	Buildings in the Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote new edition of Building Design Guide. • Promote use of all published guidance. • Organise Building Design Award with C'Soc (20 entries) • Organise annual Planning Conference. (70 delegates.) 	£500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of new edition ongoing. • Copies circulated to all parish councils and local planning authorities • Design Award ceremony held and awards presented with follow up publicity. • Planning conference took place on 5th October with theme of renewable energy, 45 attendees with very good feedback.
13	Under-grounding of power lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying power lines suitable for under grounding (1no.) • Securing agreement from power companies (EDF and Scottish and Southern) to include in their 5 year regional programmes 	Staff Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing but SSE have suspended their involvement in the programme
14	Building design, renewable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish guidance on building design 	£2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early stages of preparation

	Energy and climate change	adaptation for climate change and <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publish position statement on renewable energy technology	Staff Time	
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Promoting Understanding and Enjoyment				
No	Area of Work	Key Actions and Outputs	CCB Budget	
17	Events Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's On programme – on line • Wildlife on the Move Programme (12 events) 	Sponsorship/ advertising income target of £1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On target - programme on going • Income from Wildlife on the Move bookings £230 plus £510 donations from business partners • Dates and volunteers agreed for Wildlife on the Move 2012 programme • Lantern walk income £383.50
18	Orchards Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement programme • Volunteers (50 days) • Research • Events • Web pages and leaflets • Talks 	Staff time New funding source to be secured – poss HLF bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed pending diversion of effort to HS2
19	Red Kites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events Programme • Friend of Red Kites scheme • Merchandising • Information service 	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Red Kite scheme on hold – to be evolved into Caring for the Chilterns Fund • Red kite merchandise income £1,333 to date • Donations for red kite talks / walks / pin badges £986 • Much time spent dealing with red kite feeding issues / queries- interview on R4 Today programme- 11.10.2011

20	Countryside Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countryside Festival • 4,000 visitors • 100 exhibitors • Net income of £3,000 	No net cost to CCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held on 18th September in partnership with National Trust. • Over 100 exhibitors • Over 3,300 paying adults (approx total visitors ~ 6,000) • Net income £4,615 • Date of 16th Sept set for 2012
21	Major Events Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend 5 major events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henley Show • Bucks Show • Thame and Oxfordshire Show • 2 others 	£1,000 Donations- £1,000	Attended : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thame Show • Armed Forces Day • Open Farm Sunday (see below) • Several HS2 rallies • Bucks Show • Henley Show • Chilterns Countryside Festival
22	People and Places Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 15 profiles (total to 100) • Publication based on profiles currently on web site 	Part of web site budget. To be self financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Planned booklet behind scheduled - now re-scheduled for summer 2012
23	Schools Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Learning Directory • Produce Chilterns-wide education pack for KS2 History and Geography • Support Trout in the Classroom project (two schools in Chess Valley) 	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Directory distributed. • 'Understanding the Chilterns in Place and Time' produced and distributed free to over 300 schools. Remainder to be sold. Income to date £125. • Trout in the Classroom project underway

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop on line learning zone 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Zone incorporated in the re-design of web site
24	Access for All Programme (includes Chilterns Country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Chilterns Country series and decide which to reprint • Lead a disabled ramble • Design and promote an additional 2 stile-free routes in the Chilterns • Work with partners to get three new access for all trails on to web site (Coombe Hill, Totternhoe, Dunstable). • Investigate access for all trail at Hodgemoor Woods in conjunction with the Forestry Commission. • Access Audit at Penn Wood for the Woodland Trust (CCB providing 10 days paid consultancy time) 	<p>£3,100 plus partner contributions</p> <p>£2,000 fee from the Woodland Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Wycombe and Bradenham Walk being reprinted (£200 contribution from Fox's Amersham). The Ridgeway Link being updated electronically. • Led Disabled Ramble on 20th August 2011 starting at Dunstable Downs -20 participants • Two stile-free walks designed and on web site (Greys Court). Mapledurham route in production and additional 4 stile-free routes in South Oxfordshire being planned with the CSoc. • Additional Estate map designed for Greys Court showing walks in the area, now on web site • Initial appraisal has taken place with FC and Disabled Ramblers and a route proposed. Awaiting detailed costings from the Forestry Commission before can progress further. • Inception meetings and user consultations have taken place.

				Written report must be completed by February 2012
25	Development and Management of Walks and Rides Web Site and other on-line information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote web site by publicising new walks, promoting walk of the month and press activity Target income from web advertising £1,000 Promote blog and investigate other mechanisms to update the site regularly and make it more interactive. 	Staff time or self-financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New walk of the month feature on web site £690 through web advertising to date Walking and cycling blog updated
26	Chilterns Cycleway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reprint and distribute 10,000 promotional leaflets Promote and sell guide book (1,000 guide books) Pursue Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Expression of Interest with CTC More circular day rides from gateway towns On-going assessment of signage improvements, especially in Tranquil area Carry out market research to elicit user feedback Keen Cycleway Blog updated 	£3,000 plus staff and volunteer time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaflets have been reprinted and distributed, £200 received from Fox's of Amersham for an advert on the leaflet Three additional retail outlets for guide books LSTF expression of interest submitted 8th June, workshop was held in December and full application to be submitted Feb 2012 A proposal has been drawn up for signage improvements in the Tranquil area, awaiting detailed costings for installation before can progress. West Wycombe circular ride and Wendover loop ready to promote. Further day rides in production. Signage improvements implemented in northern

				<p>Chilterns (area 3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research was carried out to elicit user feedback and estimate visitor spend. Results have been collated and distributed.
27	Access Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise conference (70 delegates) 	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for 9th March 2012 at Bellingdon Village Hall.
28	Enjoying the Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk Back in Time events programme (Summer and Winter – 40 events) Chilternsaetna newsletter (biannual-electronic version only) 	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Walk Back in Time programme published and distributed Chilternsaetna published July. 1,500 printed copies, plus downloadable from website Chilternsaetna published Jan 2012, 1,500 copies plus downloadable from website
29	Enjoying Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support training courses on woodland archaeology organised by CWP Publish woodland heritage booklet Organise Annual Woodland Forum with CWP (60 delegates) 	<p>£3,500</p> <p>Income to CWP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 course held Woodland Heritage Booklet delayed Woodland Forum planned for March 16th 2012 Project being developed to promote the understanding of the ecological and cultural importance of Box Wood. A project group has been formed

				and an initial Eol submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund – a positive response has been received .
30	Wood Fuel Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support establishment of Chilterns Wood Fuel Group 	£500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation as a funding partner in the TIMBER (wood fuel) EU funded project
31	Raising Awareness of Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement programme to raise public awareness of farming. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Sunday • Updated farming calendar on web site 	£500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in 2x Open Farm Sunday events (Hampden Bottom and Offley Hoo) • Contact with other participants resulting in providing information and leaflet packs for 3 other farms in addition to above • Promotion of Open Farm Sunday, including individual events, via CCB web site.
32	Chalk Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management advice visits to riparian owners – 10no • Increase community involvement in chalk streams management • Hold an Annual Forum (50 delegates) • Published Annual Report • Organise Events Programme • Develop website education resource • Campaign to reduce water abstraction and to conserve water. 	£19,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 advisory visits to landowners to date • Misbourne River fly monitoring group set up. Ver and Ewelme Brook groups to receive training in 2012 • Habitat enhancement project on Wye completed with volunteer involvement • Annual Forum held in Misbourne Valley – June. • Annual report published and distributed • 5 walks and talks held to date.

				<p>2 more talks scheduled in current FY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led Queen Mary Univ. of London MSc. Course field trip – 30th Sept. • Lobbying Environment Agency on issue of unconsented works to R. Misbourne • Flow watch page set up on website • Kick off meeting with web designers held in December. Awaiting quote for work. • Project operating with full support
33	Promoting Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in South East Protected Landscape tourism project. Work with local tourism businesses to encourage participation in the project and get them to sign up to the Our Land web site. • Organise regular Chilterns Tourism network meetings and progress Leader tourism bid. • Promote membership of Green Tourism Business Scheme 	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project underway. Providing advice and contacts to product developer who will work with tourism businesses and taking part in Project Steering Group. 11 businesses signed up to date, others being progressed. Launch event took place on 14 October. • Regular meetings held, Chilterns Tourism Network now has over 60 members, steering group has been appointed. Leader Expression of Interest has been submitted and Ngage have approved progressing to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute literature to tourism businesses 		<p>full application. Full application now being taken forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTBS- upgraded to Gold Standard • Ongoing
34	Getting to Know the Chilterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site developed particularly to provide visitor information. (170,000 visits) • Publish Chalk and Trees – two editions published (15,000 copies and • Publish range of information literature 	£9,675	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 148,068 visits to website from 1 April 2011 to 11 Jan 2012. • New website live on 23rd Sept. Running smoothly, staff learning to update it via Content Management System. Online shop, OS and Amazon affiliate links built to provide income. 44 online sales to date. • Spring/Summer edition of Chalk and Trees published in April, Autumn/Winter edition published in October. • 5,000 Getting to Know the Chilterns leaflets distributed
35	Working with the Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 40 press releases • Target of 10 radio/TV interviews • Publish articles – 10no. 	Staff time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 press releases and 7 letters issued • 17 radio and 6 TV interviews • 3 articles published • Loads of HS2 interviews, letters and articles – have lost count
36	Photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update library 	Staff time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Electronic AONB photo library

				being re-organised and edited
37	State of the Environment Monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise annual state of the environment workshop. Publish State of the Environment Report (electronic version only) 	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the Environment forum held - 24 organisations represented. 2012 report published and on website December 2011
38	Conserving Tranquillity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object to any proposals which will result in increased noise caused by over flying Promote measures to reduce noise pollution arising from road traffic especially along the M40 and 'A' roads. 	Staff time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HS2 Lobbying for low noise surfacing for A413 and A4128 Response to consultation on national strategy for aviation
39	Promotion of River Thames Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the addition of two more walking loops linking in with the Thames Path Produce a programme of costed possibilities with view to possible HLF bid Continue with South East Protected Landscape work, promoting walking breaks along the Thames. 	Staff time with view to funding bid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First walking loop from Whitchurch underway

Managing the Chilterns Conservation Board

	Area of Work	Key Actions and Outputs	Budget
1	AONB Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion 	Staff Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
2	Annual Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish report 1,000 copies 	£1,100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review published
3	Board Bulletin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic bulletin 6 editions per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 editions of bulletin published
4	Annual Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Forum with attendance of 140 representing at least 50 organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took place on November 11th at Amersham Rugby Club. 89 delegates representing 35 organisations
5	CCB meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4 meetings per year Av 85% attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meeting held in June and October (89% attendance) New clerk (Deirdre Hansen) appointed with effect from 1st June
6	CCB Executive Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4 meetings per year Av 85% attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings held in May (78% attendance) September (56%) and December (56%)
7	CCB Planning Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4 meetings per year Av 85% attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings in May (100% attendance), September (67%) and November (89%)
8	Sustainable Development Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All funds allocated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 applications. Fund (£40,000) fully allocated
9	Annual General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To hold an AGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held on 19th October
10	AONB Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two tours held for members (April and Sept) Walking tour (June) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour held in April Walking Tour held in July Sept tour replaced by workshop on review of AONB Boundary with site visits to Chinnor Hill and Bledlow

