

Agenda Item No.13

Committee: High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee

Date: 1 November 2010

Title of Report: 'Landscape for Life' the Twelfth National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Annual Conference – July 2010

By: High Weald AONB Director

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Advisory Committee is recommended to note the report.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) was formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

1.2 The National Association's membership is primarily composed of representatives from local authorities whose boundaries include AONBs. It is administered by a Management Board and holds an annual conference at a different location each year, which provides an opportunity for those working in AONBs to join together and address issues of current concern.

2. LANDSCAPE AND NATURE FOR ALL - NAAONB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2.1 This year's annual conference was held on the 12 – 15th July at the Mercure Hotel at Hythe in Kent. The conference was hosted by the National Association for AONBs, the Kent Downs AONB, the Surrey Hills AONB and the High Weald AONB and is supported by 2 Seas INTERREG IV A Programme, Produced In Kent, Kent County Council, Federation des Parcs Naturels Regionaux and the PNR de Cap de Marais.

2.2 The conference brought together representatives from the AONBs of England, Wales and Northern Ireland under the theme of "Landscape and Nature for All" and gave the delegates an opportunity to hear presentations from a range of internationally and nationally recognized land use specialists and attend a number of field trips to English and French protected landscapes to learn of a wide range of initiatives and projects.

2.3 The High Weald AONB Unit led a field trip hosted in part by High Weald AONB Patron Dr Lisbet Rausing at Rolf's Farm and Wadhurst Park Estate. The day illustrated how successive generations of people have collaborated with nature to create the distinctive High Weald landscape, changing it from the unpopulated area it was 10,000 years ago to the very human and cultural landscape we see today. The delegates learnt, among other things, how a landscape approach is the only viable framework for integrated decision making to ensure people and communities are able to find ways of sustaining a range of benefits and services from a given area.

2.4 Copies of the presentations given and the proceedings of the conference will be made available at the National Association for AONBs website www.aonb.org.uk

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Members are asked to note the report and to thank the support shown by Dr Rausing, her staff and also a number of local community representatives.

Contact: Sally Marsh & Jason Lavender Director (job share) director@highweald.org