



**Sub-Committee News**  
**Cotswolds Conservation Board**  
**March – October 2008**

**Living and Working**

The Living and Working Sub-Committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008. It was agreed that South Gloucestershire Council would be informed that the board did not support any of the suggested options for development in rural areas, which were set out in the council's draft Core Strategy. Instead the board would prefer to see a policy based upon its position statement on housing. This strongly urges local authorities to only allow housing to meet identified local needs within settlements in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

A draft position statement on telecommunications was discussed, and agreed to be sent out for consultation with the local authorities. The sub-committee is still in the process of drafting position statements on biodiversity, planning, dark skies and farming.

It was noted that correspondence had been exchanged with the Office of the Rail Regulator regarding the dualling of the North Cotswolds line and the Swindon to Kemble line.

The sub-committee has submitted comments to the Government on the proposed "eco-town" at Long Marston, near Stratford-on-Avon, and on draft proposals for the protection of World Heritage Sites. All consultation responses are posted on the Board's website at [http://www.cotswoldsaonb.com/category\\_content.asp?pageID=40&categoryID=116](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.com/category_content.asp?pageID=40&categoryID=116)

## **Enjoying and Appreciating**

The Enjoying and Appreciating Sub-Committee met twice between March and October on the 26<sup>th</sup> June and the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **On the 26<sup>th</sup> June**

The chairman of the sub-committee, Michael Banks, who also acts as the board's representative on the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Destination Management Organisation (DMO) gave a verbal report on the organisation's progress. He said that in his opinion that the DMO was placing a heavy emphasis on marketing and promotion of the tourism industry in the area but that Sustainable Tourism did not appear to be high on the DMO's agenda. It was noted that the board's Green Tourism Officer Sue Perry has taken part in some meetings to try and encourage the DMO to include Sustainable Tourism on its agenda.

The sub-committee was introduced to the concepts behind the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and was invited to commence discussion on its possible adoption by the board. The Business Planning and Project Development Officer, John Mills was asked to liaise with the DMO on the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of the Charter in order to prepare a report for a future meeting of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee discussed a new project to be put forward for inclusion in the 2009-10 business plan that would encourage people to visit the Cotswolds by providing information on places with adequate facilities where they could relax and enjoy the AONB. It was recommended that the proposal be put forward for inclusion in next year's business plan.

### **On 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

The sub-committee received a report from the Chairman Michael Banks on the concept of Learning out of the Classroom, a government initiative, which was launched in 2005 and has now been taken over by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. Michael Banks let the sub-committee know that the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are investigating the possibility of delivering a project where they work with children outside. This would be a follow-up to their success in 2007 where they worked with Red Dog Productions on a child-focused interpretation project.

Michael Banks also gave a report on progress with the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Destination Management Organisation, in his role as the board's representative on the DMO. He reported that the DMO now has a marketing strategy and the sub-committee noted that there were many positive inclusions within the strategy that reflected the aims and objectives of the board but that there were also some areas where the board could suggest further inclusions.

The sub-committee also discussed ways in which future areas of work, which cover the Enjoying and Appreciating agenda could be funded. One useful suggestion was that the board should investigate the possibility of securing funding that may emerge as a result of a report that is about to emerge from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, (NICE) which is expected to confirm that 'green exercise' benefits health.

## **Conserving and Enhancing**

The Conserving and Enhancing Sub-Committee met twice between March and October on the 19<sup>th</sup> May and the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **On the 19<sup>th</sup> May**

The sub-committee meeting started with a field visit to the Calmsden Estate to look at deer impacts and deer management issues and to view the deer larder, followed by the formal meeting.

The sub-committee discussed the position statement on deer management produced by board member Judith Webb. The position statement was essentially agreed and it was intended to take the final version to the Executive Committee and board for adoption in June. The sub-committee have also been taking forward a position statement on the management of roadside verges and amendments were discussed from the board's Transport Working Group and endorsed. The text was subsequently circulated for a further round of consultation

The first draft of a third position statement produced by board member Rebecca Charley on horse pasture management was also considered. A further version is to be produced and it was agreed that the Living and Working Sub-committee will need to be involved

The revised set of six Landscape Strategy and Guidelines was agreed and a paper on common themes in the guidelines was considered. Also discussed was how to promote the use of the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines by local authorities, agencies and other groups.

### **On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

The meeting started with updates on the Cotswolds Ancient Woodland Project, Road Verges Position Statement and next year's Access Conference. The provisional theme for the Access Conference, which came out of the feedback from the first conference, is risk, responsibilities and the law

The sub-committee then considered the draft position statement on the management of wild deer which board member Judith Webb has led on. Some amendments were agreed and the position statement will now progress to the Executive Committee.

The brief for the Farming and Forestry Study was discussed and a range of amendments and additions made. A further version is to be produced and circulated by email

The sub-committees have been invited to comment on the initial ideas for the 2009/10. The meeting concluded with a substantial discussion on this and how to prioritise activity where some hard choices may need to be made. The sub-committee looked at the board's existing commitments, proposals already identified and possible new activity and scored activity under three headings: Must do, should do and could do. The results are being fed into the ongoing work on the plan.