

Cllr Kirsten Ellis – proposal to set up a working party for Surrey Hills AONB review.

It is timely to set up a set up a working party that can prepare for our Council's response, and I would expect that there would need to be some outreach and involvement for reflecting the evidence-base that will also be prepared by our town's community groups for this?

Surrey Hills AONB have selected their consultants for this process but the Surrey Hills Board and team are inviting councils, community groups, residents' associations, land-managers and stakeholders to contribute evidence-based submissions. A range of views and interests will be considered.

Therefore whilst no formal submission is necessarily required per se, HTC will be expected to make recommendations and take a position on community submissions.

The criteria for AONB designation are outlined in the presentation:

<https://mk0surreyhillsnfif4k.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NE-slides-for-Surrey-Hills-Community-Forum-2021-DV270721.pdf>

As I understand it, there are 18 areas within the Haslemere area that are under consideration.

The Surrey Hills AONB Board and team need to establish that candidate areas have outstanding natural beauty under current legislation, and that it is desirable to designate them, for the purpose of conserving and enhancing them, and will take a sequential approach in assessments as they decide where the new boundary should be.

https://mk0surreyhillsnfif4k.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Guidance-on-Assessing-Landscapes-for-Designation-Updated-2021_final-30.6.21_2ndtestpdf.pdf

Overview:

<https://www.surreyhills.org/planning/#aonbmap>

The working party or point person/group would be expected to report back to the Full Council and have a dialogue with Haslemere stakeholders and community groups on this matter, as local consensus will be an important factor.

Relevant deadlines:

Sept 2021: List of local consultants to be finalised, following submitted suggestions from local Councils, community groups and stakeholders,

Winter 2021/2022: Input from, and engagement with, local Councils, community groups and stakeholders with a view to **final decision by early 2023.**

A working party or point person/group should be available to make convey informed feedback to both Surrey Hills AONB and to Full Council and to submit a document to Surrey Hills AONB as to their recommendation, the deadline for which (as per below from Surrey Hills AONB website) is end July 2022:

By this time Surrey Hills AONB need to be able to:

- "Review all available evidence relevant to the assessment of natural beauty and to the desirability of designation, engaging with stakeholders with regard to evidence gathering and consideration of relevant issues; prior to undertaking the technical assessment of natural beauty; determining the desirability of designating any qualifying areas and to identifying proposed revised boundaries."