Training for Board Members

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Summary: It is proposed to organise a series of training sessions and field visits on specific topics for interested Board members. The annual cost is estimated to be in the order of £1,200.

Purpose of Report: To support provision of additional technical training for Board members.

Background

1.   Currently the provision of training for Board members includes;

   - Occasional post Board meeting sessions.
   - Two Board tours each year and walking tour.
   - Occasional workshops.

2.   In general, awareness raising is based on Board papers, presentations at Board meetings and member involvement in task groups.

3.   This format doesn't provide many opportunities for more in depth coverage of a specific topic. It is, therefore, proposed to introduce a series of training sessions, many involving field visits, on specific subjects such as:

   1. Vernacular buildings
   2. Woodland management
   3. Farming for Wildlife
   4. Access provision for the less mobile
   5. Field archaeology
   6. Ecology of chalk streams
   7. Working with minority groups
   8. The urban fringe

4.   The programme is intended primarily to provide members with technical knowledge of the subject and to enhance awareness of the geography of the Chilterns. They also provide scope to develop themes such as ways of working and exploration of new subjects and issues.

5.   The main problem to overcome with any training programme is lack of Board member time. It is proposed to:

   1. Introduce a post Board meeting training session in the afternoon of Board meetings. This is an evolution of the short introduction sessions which have taken place during the last two years.

   2. Hold half day and full day workshops where it is expected that member attendance would be approx 5 - 10. The sessions would be organised and

led by members of staff and members themselves. Colleagues from other organisations might be invited as guest tutors. The full day sessions are likely to be partly based in the field.

6.   It is estimated this form of training programme will cost approx £1,500 per annum.

7.   More effort will be given to highlighting other events in which members may be interested such as the Chalk Streams Forum, Access Conference, Planning Conference and Woodland Forum.

Recommendations

1.   **A series of training sessions are organised for Board members.**

2.   **Members advise on the subjects they would find most useful to learn more about.**