

Report on Draft CCB Lifelong Learning Strategy

Author: Cathy Rose Activities and Education Officer

Summary: The Board has a primary purpose of promoting the understanding and enjoyment of the AONB by people of all ages. A Lifelong Learning Strategy is being developed to address the provision of learning opportunities to everyone, regardless of age, background, race or physical and mental ability.

Purpose of Report To present the Board with a Draft Lifelong Learning Strategy document for discussion.

Background

1. The scale and variety of landscapes, buildings and habitats in the Chilterns offer a tremendous learning resource. The Board and its partners are developing learning opportunities to meet the needs of all through a wide range of programmes supporting both formal and informal learning.
2. Limitations on staff and resources within the Conservation Board dictate that priorities must be set. This strategy gives us the opportunity to identify the role of the Board in providing learning opportunities for the broadest possible audience.
3. The draft strategy has been developed by the Activities and Education Officer with input / comments from :
Shirley Judges (CCB), David Nimmo-Smith (CCB), Heather Barrett-Mold (CCB), Peggy Ewart (The Chiltern Society), Julie Lloyd-Evans (Chiltern Study Centre)

Why Lifelong Learning?

4. Lifelong learning means that everyone is provided with opportunities for learning at all ages and in numerous contexts: at work, at home and through leisure activities, not just through formal channels such as school and higher education.
5. The concept of increasing knowledge and understanding should be at the heart of everything the Board does in relation to raising awareness of the special qualities of the Chilterns. Through its publications, events and website, everyone, young and old will have the opportunity to learn more about the extensive natural, cultural and built heritage of the Chilterns AONB.

The Aims of the Strategy:

6. The aims of the Chilterns AONB Lifelong Learning Strategy are:

- to provide opportunities for the widest possible audience to learn about, understand and appreciate the special qualities of the Chilterns AONB.
- to promote partnership working between the Chilterns Conservation Board and education providers across the Chilterns.
- To add value to the education projects currently provided by our partners.
- To encourage visitors and residents to have direct, positive learning experiences and in the process instilling a sense of guardianship.

What should the Board's role be?

7. It can be argued that the Board is not best placed for direct delivery of formal education programmes and that maybe a supporting / signposting role in this area would be more appropriate. The Board has a proven track record in organising informative programmes of walks, talks, family days and events which, with careful promotion, have the potential to reach a wide and diverse audience.
8. Adopting a Lifelong Learning ethos brings the Board into contact with a huge range of audiences, which include:
 - Formal Education (schools, Adult Learning)
 - Community Groups (U3A, WI, youth groups)
 - Families
 - General public
 - Volunteers
 - Special Interest groups and enthusiasts
 - Non-Traditional Countryside Users (e.g. people with disabilities, Black and Ethnic Minority groups, urban dwellers)
9. Meeting the differing needs of these audiences can be achieved in two ways. 1) Specifying priority audiences and tailoring provision for them, or 2) developing a range of learning opportunities that work across the board and are (as much as possible) inclusive to all. It is suggested that the latter option is more practical, in view of restrictions on staff time and budgets, though this is open to discussion.
10. The attached draft Lifelong Learning Strategy (Appendix 1) indicates which areas of the Board's current and planned work contribute to increasing the knowledge of our audiences and includes a work programme and mechanisms of delivery.

Recommendations:

1. **The Board approves the Lifelong Learning Strategy subject to any amendments.**