

## **Terms of Reference – Shropshire Hills National Landscape Forum** (Oct 2025)

### **Purpose of the Forum**

**To provide a vehicle for broad and inclusive engagement in relation to the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, and a forum for exploring topics and solutions relevant to the purpose of designation, to Management Plan priorities and to the issues facing the area.**

**The Forum will act as an important engagement mechanism for implementation of the Management Plan for the National Landscape and its review every five years.**

### **Status**

The Forum does not have formal status but is the broad 'umbrella' bringing together the various other groups which are part of the composite structure for the National Landscape. The Forum is not a freestanding entity, and its Terms of Reference may be amended as felt necessary by the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Advisory Committee.

### **Membership**

Membership of the Forum will be open to any organisation or individual who signs up to broadly support the purpose and vision of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (a diversity of views is of course welcomed), and that they commit to working constructively together for our best collective sustainable future in the Shropshire Hills.

All Parish and Town Councils covering part of the National Landscape, along with all relevant Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holders from Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council will be kept on an information mailing list for the Forum. All of these will also be encouraged to sign up as Members of the Forum to enable a greater show of support and engagement.

The Chair of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Advisory Committee will act as Chair and figurehead for the Forum, though meetings will be informal in nature rather than in business meeting format with agendas etc. Membership of the Forum will be administered by the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team and there are no appointments or decisions for the Forum to make, so there will be no requirement for AGMs or voting.

### **Values**

The Forum and its members will support values appropriate to its work, and seek to embody these in its processes, including:

- Developing relationships, respect and listening.
- Honesty and assertiveness.
- Co-creating, collaborating not competing, mutuality and reciprocal benefits.
- Valuing diversity and being sensitive to cultural differences.
- Considering whose voices are not heard.

The Forum may provide a valuable pathway for people to develop greater involvement with the National Landscape through other ways.

### **Meetings**

Meetings will generally be held twice a year in a relatively informal format, potentially with additional ad hoc events – e.g. presentations, informal networking, workshops and thematic field visits. The format will be developed by innovation and trialling new methods. The Forum will also be used as a group for regular communications and engagement related to the National Landscape, providing opportunities for involvement in between meetings. Reporting and information prepared for the Forum will provide useful awareness-raising material, information, topic papers, etc. for wider use.