

## Press Release.. Press Release.. Press

Contact: Kimmo Evans

Immediate release

Phone: 07722144407

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### **AONB Chairman leaves on high**

**Mike Ellingham, outgoing Chairman and NFU appointed representative on the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, gives the new five year AONB Management Strategy its final seal of approval**

The new AONB Strategy was recently presented at the Partnership's Annual Forum at Bicton College, where Mike Ellingham is also a Governor. It sets out the policies and work areas which guide the work of the Partnership, comprising 16 organisations representing business, community and environmental interests across this protected landscape. As Chairman, Mr Ellingham also helped guide the East Devon AONB, together with the Blackdown Hills AONB, in securing a £2.4 million investment from the Rural Development Programme for England into the AONBs called 'Making it Local', through the South West Regional Development Agency.

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure to lead such a supportive partnership over the past two years which have, in many respects, been challenging. The whole Partnership has been involved in the new Management Strategy and I am delighted that we have been able to secure a significant European funding programme, which is a first for this part of East Devon" said Mike Ellingham.

#### ***Find out more?***

Donald Campbell from the Axe Vale and District Conservation Society, takes over from Mike Ellingham as the new East Devon AONB Chairman. Mr Campbell, along with staff from the AONB and 'Making it Local' teams will all be at the Honiton Show Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August, stand B135, if you want to find out more. Ian Shears' award winning 'seed to loaf' roadshow will also be on the AONB stand offering a chance for kids to win a model CLAAS tractor by making wildlife rolls in his wood-fired bread oven!

Alternatively visit [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk) for information on the work of the East Devon AONB Partnership.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors**

- **Image attached**
- The East Devon AONB was designated in 1963 and covers 268 sq km. Core funding and support is provided by Natural England, Devon County Council and East Devon District Council. Sixteen organisations from environmental groups to statutory bodies, landowners and community representatives work together through the AONB Partnership to conserve this protected landscape. [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk).