‘Future Wales: The National Plan 2040’ – representation from The Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

The Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is an independent voluntary charity that is committed to help protect, conserve and enhance the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park for all to enjoy. We welcome the opportunity to submit our views on the latest version of the NDF to the CCERA Committee.

We support and were involved in the full consultation response made by the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes to the 2019 NDF consultation. We also support the recent representations to CCERA made by the Alliance in relation to this latest draft.

Our main concern is that there is no substantive policy or reference to National Parks in the revised text. Whilst there is consideration of their role in relation to locating renewable energy schemes there is little else, beyond diagrams showing their boundaries.

These living, working landscapes play an increasingly valuable role in the health, well-being and economy of Wales. Their existing and potential value should be articulated in this top tier national document – highlighting the coordinated approach to wider policy.

Planning Policy Wales rightly deals with detailed development management policy relating to National Parks but without a link to Future Wales 2040 there is a missing piece of the jigsaw.

We would like to see a succinct vision for National Parks in the final document which:

- Recognises the significance, purposes and potential of all designated landscapes.
- Recognises the particular pressures faced by these landscapes in retaining their special qualities in the face of development pressures.
- Makes reference to Valued and Resilient- The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural beauty and National Parks 2018 – the key guidance over the coming years.
These internationally recognised landscapes should provide the building blocks around which progressive, sustainable land use can be designed. They have established structures and are keen to play a full part in the national plan over the next 20 years and beyond. Fully recognising them in ‘Future Wales: The National Plan -2020’ would enable them to fulfil their true potential. This would seem a logical and simple change to make.