



Donhead St Andrew Parish Council <donheadstandrewpc@gmail.com>

Cranborne Chase AONB: Our Bid for Dark Sky Reserve Status [Scanned]

Amanda Scott <AmandaScott@cranbornechase.org.uk>

Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 10:06 AM

Dear Parish Clerk

I am writing to you with information about Cranborne Chase AONB's bid to be an International Dark Sky Reserve, which I would be very grateful if you could please pass on to your members. I have recently been appointed as Dark Sky Advisor for the AONB, in order to coordinate the bid – I am really delighted to be working on this project.

We aim to submit the bid in the first part of 2019, but want to ensure we are engaging with local people, including parish councils as representatives of the AONB's communities. We know that the residents of villages and parishes within the AONB are keen to preserve the character and tranquillity of the area, including its night skies – which are some of the darkest in the south of England – by working together to prevent unnecessary light pollution. Achieving Dark Sky Reserve status would be of huge benefit in helping to maintain this for the future.

My main purpose in writing is therefore to let you know how you can find out more about the bid to become a Dark Sky Reserve, and two things you could do to help us.

- I would be very happy to attend one of your council meetings, to give a short presentation about the Dark Skies bid and discuss any questions you may have, so do please get in touch if you would like to take that up. I realise that your agendas get very busy, however.
- Another alternative is that I could write a short article for your local parish newsletter or website, so that your residents can find out more about the benefits of being a Dark Skies Reserve. You can also find out more on our website: www.chasingstars.org.uk.
- We know we have support from many people for our bid, from the many comments we receive, but it would be really helpful if you could consider writing us a letter of support for becoming a Dark Sky Reserve from your Parish Council. It doesn't need to be long: a simple statement of support for preserving the quality of Cranborne Chase AONB's dark skies, and avoiding unnecessary light pollution, will be absolutely fine. Our bid can then refer to concrete evidence of support. If you are happy to write a supporting letter, it can be addressed to me to the contact details in my sign-off below.
- People can also sign our Dark Skies Pledge (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NL375VD>): it only takes a minute, but will be a real demonstration of local commitment to our wonderful dark skies. The more signatures, the stronger our bid becomes, so we'd welcome any help you can give in spreading the word!

I am of course always happy to answer any questions you may have about the bid and Dark Sky Reserves. I am usually in the office on Mondays to Wednesdays, and you can contact me via email (amandascott@cranbornechase.org.uk) or telephone (01725 517417).

With best wishes, and many thanks



Amanda

Amanda Scott

Dark Sky Advisor (Monday to Wednesday)

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<http://www.chasingstars.org.uk/>