



## MEMBERS' MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

- Date: Wednesday 26 September
- Time: 18.00 to 20.00
- Venue: [The Speech House Hotel](#)

Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting at Speech House and outlined the format of the evening meeting.

Members were asked for input on our destination priorities as part of the Destination Management Plan, which is a plan for destination development – a shared plan between us and our key strategic partners including the Forest of Dean District Council and the Forestry Commission, plus working with the Forest Economic Partnership. It was time for us to revisit the issues facing the destination in the future and to highlight what we need to see happen in order to build and sustain our visitor base and the visitor economy.

Maureen then did a quick update on what had happened since the last meeting.

- New Trails and Videos are being worked on and will be uploaded to the website and members were encouraged to use them to promote the area via their own websites and social media – it was found that no one at the meetings has used the trails or videos as promotional tools. <https://www.visitdeanwye.co.uk/explore/maps-and-guides>
- Also members were reminded of the thousands of images available for free they can use in [the image library](#).
- The national coverage the DeanWye is achieving is very good and the Guardian's "tips" are working well for us, which are being pushed on the closed Facebook group.
- It was revealed that Nick Penny has been nominated for an award and nationally is in the top three councillors in the country, and will be attending an award ceremony to see if he has won.



- The [Wye Valley AONB](#) won the national Bowland Award for this year's Wye Valley River Festival.
- [The Whitebrook](#) are featuring in the TV show the Great British Menu.
- WVFDT is part of a £300,000 Discover England Fund for promoting our products to overseas markets for group operators in a joint project with the Cotswolds, and WVFDT is attending VIBE hosted by VisitBritain specifically to meet and discuss our products with overseas operators.

What's next. Need pictures taken and shared. Ask for events from members. Asked for all events.

The meeting then became a "round table" exercise with different tables being hosted by Board Members, in gathering views from members on different subjects in a speed dating format where everyone changed tables every few minutes.

The feedback at the end of the meeting will be collated and used to help formulate the new destination Management Plan.

The meeting ended with some time for networking.