



**Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership meeting held on
Thursday 11 February 2010, 2pm at Lizard Youth Hostel, Lizard Point, Cornwall**

The afternoon business meeting was preceded with presentations in the morning. Presentations included an introduction to the Cornwall AONB and Partnership for the benefit of new partnership members; introduction to the Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Landscapes which the Cornwall AONB successfully achieved in 2009; and the National Trust's long term management of the Lizard Point area. A summary of these presentations are attached as Appendix 1 – this also includes agreed actions for some Partners.

Present:

Peter Mansfield Chairman, Cornwall AONB Partnership

Members:

Neil Hatton CC	Cornwall Council
Jim Flashman CC	Cornwall Council
Julian German CC	Cornwall Council
David Hughes CC	Cornwall Council
Richard Glasson	Natural England
Paul Walton	National Trust
Jimmy Scobie	CLA
Peter Burton	CRCC
Bill Holliday	Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership
Victoria Whitehouse	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Phil McMahon	English Heritage
Jemma Roberts	CoaST

Supporting Officers:

Mike East	Cornwall Council
Steve Crummay	Cornwall Council
John Mortimer	CLA
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council
Colette Holden	Partnership Manager, AONB Unit
Pete Maxted	Communications Officer, AONB Unit
Karen Johns	Office Manager, AONB Unit

1. Apologies

Tim German, Low Carbon Cornwall Unit; Mary Combe, Cornwall FWAG; Teresa Timms, VisitCornwall; Malcolm Bell, VisitCornwall; Deborah Boden, World Heritage Site Team; Kath Statham, Cornwall Council; Andrew England, Cornwall Council; Alyson Cooper, Cornwall Council; Nick Russell, English Heritage; June Crossland, Cornwall AONB Unit; Nigel Sumpter, Cornwall AONB Unit and Helen Gay, Cornwall AONB Unit; Ron Daniel, CALC.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Actions

Minutes page 3, item 2.1, Current funding arrangements have been agreed by Natural England (NE) and Cornwall Council until end March 2011 for the AONB Unit Staff and Core costs. M East said there is a proposal that has yet to be formalised by CC to suggest that there is a need for funding to be confirmed for current employment contracts to ensure continuity of services to the public.

R Glasson confirmed that NE budgets beyond 2011 were still uncertain but he had heard nothing negative.

Cornwall Council's Green Cornwall programme was reported to Cornwall Council Cabinet on 10 February 2010.

- It was **AGREED** that this Programme should be brought to a future Partnership for greater awareness.

AONB Unit

Minutes page 3, item 2.1, Environment Kernow (EK) – Wesley Smyth from Natural England (NE) attends and there has been suggestion that a NE regional officer also attends. Draft EK terms of reference – landscape is a key element in the draft – ecosystems, goods and services approach has also been included. National Trust attended the launch of the Cornwall Landscape Group meeting on 27 January 2010 but has not been involved in EK to date.

Minutes page 3, item 2.2, Recruitment of Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager – C Holden has been appointed as AONB Partnership Manager and the Chairman congratulated her on her hard work since taking up that role.

Minutes page 7, item 6, Planning Protocol – NE is involved in Planning Protocols in AONBs in the South East which include Government Offices as signatories. NE officers have met with June Crossland to progress this further for the Cornwall AONB.

Minutes page 7, item 7, Planning matters – agricultural building at Treen – the decision has been quashed and will be re-considered. Good news for the AONB as it has given greater awareness of the AONB to planners in Cornwall to consider the AONB with greater weight than perhaps has been done in the past.

Minutes page 8, item 8, staff changes – Helen Gay, was appointed to SDF Admin Officer post in April 2009 after the previous postholder, Wendy Pascoe resigned.

3. Cornwall AONB Partnership Structure

Changes to the structure and membership of the Partnership was required due to the commencement of the new unitary authority in Cornwall in April 2009. Previous Partnership representation included 7 Councillor reps (1 from each of the County and 6 District/Borough Councils). Officer representation also had to be considered as this had also been made up of officers from both County and District/Borough Councils.

Representation of the Community Network Areas (CNAs) on the Partnership also has yet to be agreed. RCP intends to invite all CNAs to its Partnership meetings.

Current Councillor representation on the Partnership is one from west, east and mid Cornwall Planning Committees and the Environment Portfolio Holder. Each of the Councillors are on the CNAs so are aware how they operate and that they operate in differing ways and are all still at an early stage in development – so suggested best to wait before deciding anything further on CNA representation.

CNA representation could possibly be discussed at the Annual Cornwall AONB Forum later this year and use this as a vehicle to help decide how representation could be effectively achieved.. J German CC suggested that all 96 parish/town councils in the AONB be invited to the Annual Forum (as they have done in the past to the Annual Conference). As 2010 onwards is going to be a Forum approach instead of a Conference this will hopefully help parishes to engage more and encourage attendance to be greater than at past Conferences.

- Partners **AGREED** to not invite representatives from the CNA's onto the Partnership meetings but rather involve AONB parishes in an annual forum event.

AONB Unit

The importance of Cornwall Council Planning Officers attending Partnership meetings was stressed. Planning Officers had been invited but no-one was present at this meeting.

- M East **AGREED** to follow this up to ensure that appropriate officers attend.

M East

4. Cornwall AONB Partnership Agreement and Statement of Intent

The existing Partnership Memorandum of Agreement and Statement of Intent (Sol) have expired. A new Partnership Agreement and Partnership Statement of Intent need to be agreed and signed.

S Crummay and George Brew (who represented NE on the Partnership before R Glasson) had discussions several months ago. As a pilot, Devon County Council has been in discussions with NE regarding the Partnership Agreement.

J German CC stated that he does not envisage any problems financially with Cornwall Council agreeing to sign the Partnership Agreement (formally known as MoA/MoU).

- Partners **AGREED** that the Europarc Charter should be included in the Sol wording e.g. that all partners will continue to work towards the aims of sustainable tourism in its work to ensure continued Europarc Charter status.
- Partners **AGREED** that the AONB Unit bring forward a new Statement of Intent to the next Partnership meeting and that CC and NE would work together to sign the new Partnership Agreement as soon as possible.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit
R Glasson &
S Crummay

5. Review of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan – Update

Since the last Partnership meeting, the AONB Unit has continued to progress with the review of the Management Plan. (It is a requirement of the CroW Act 2000 for the Cornwall AONB Management Plan to be reviewed within 5 years of its publication date (June 2004)).

Community Consultation – the AONB Unit with the help of CRCC, attended 20 local community events (farmers markets, fetes) during the summer 2009 to undertake consultation with the local AONB communities to ascertain what they value about their landscape, and issues they wished to address and suggestions for management of their local area into the future.

Stakeholder Consultation – 13 Stakeholder workshops were held in Oct-Dec 2009 on different themes – e.g. agriculture, marine, landscape, tourism, heritage

to engage with stakeholders and obtain feedback on draft topic papers which were drafted for each of the Workshops. Comments during discussion at the workshops will help with compiling the policies and actions of the Management Plan. Notes of each workshop has been written and will be made available on the AONB website.

AONB Unit

Local area chapters – in addition to the strategic management plan document, stakeholders have previously agreed there is a need for 12 area chapters for each of the 12 separate sections that make up the Cornwall AONB. The AONB Unit has written to 40 Cornwall Councillors whose electoral ward falls within the AONB, and to date, 16 individual meetings have been held with councillors and the AONB Unit to discuss and gain information on local issues in the area etc. Meetings have also been held with key land managers like the National Trust.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – it is also a statutory requirement that this document is produced, which will be written alongside the management plan. The SA will assess the plan policies and actions against environmental objectives and will also include assessing social and economic objectives. A scoping report has been produced and will be sent out for consultation to statutory consultees for a 5 week period. The AONB Unit has received a days training on SA by Land Use Consultants and will be taking forward the SA work in conjunction with Cornwall Council officers and LUC.

Timetable – a timetable for completion of all aspects of the Management Plan was included in the agenda paper for partners' awareness. Partners felt it was not necessary to contact DEFRA to request an extension but just to go ahead and entitle the revised Management Plan '2011-2016'. Entitling it 2010-2015 would effectively lose almost a whole year of its delivery period.

Importance of linkages between the Cornwall Council Core Strategy and the Cornwall AONB Management Plan was re-affirmed by partners.

- Partnership members **AGREED** they should receive the draft Management Plan at least 3 weeks before (but preferably 4 weeks before (i.e. on 18th May) the next Partnership meeting on 8th June 2010. Draft Plan will then go out for public consultation immediately after the 8th June Partnership.
- It was **AGREED** that the AONB Unit will contact members and officers individually to request their involvement with the Partnership technical working group to help advise on the draft Management Plan content and its process.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

6. Sustainable Development Fund Projects 2009-2010 – update on progress

An update on each of the projects funded by the Cornwall AONB Sustainable Development Fund for 2009/10 was included in the agenda paper for partners' awareness.

2010/2011 Projects – the AONB Unit has been working with Community Energy Plus to look for a range of sustainable development projects which will achieve clear climate change and protected landscape opportunities across the Cornwall AONB. All types of projects that lead to protecting the landscape and a reduction in carbon emissions will be considered for funding, including energy efficiency, renewable energy etc. A draft list of projects through CEP is being discussed and a second list of other expressions of interests is also being kept.

The SDF Grants Panel will meet towards end of February to decide which

projects will be awarded funding for 2010/2011. Volunteers for the grants panel were sought.

- The following **AGREED** to form the Grants Panel: Steve Crummay; Jemma Roberts; Neil Hatton CC.
- Partners **AGREED** that both the CEP projects list and the other expressions of interests list should be considered at the grants Panel.

AONB Unit

Partners mentioned that Environment Kernow is leading, through various organisations, a behaviour change programme related to people thinking more about climate change.

7. Other AONB Unit Activity

(i) Planning

The AONB Unit has submitted observations and attended meetings on the emerging Cornwall Local Development Framework reports/documents including

- **Cornwall Core Strategy Issues & Place-based Issues Papers**
- **Truro and Threemilestone Action Area Plan**
- **Camborne Pool Redruth Action Area Plan**
- **Bodmin Master Plan**
- **Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document**

Some of these have shown a lack of reference to the importance of the landscape. Lack of reference to the Cornwall Landscape Character Study work is particularly disappointing.

Higher Newham: development of 1000 houses and associated development adjacent to the Cornwall AONB on the edge of Truro – the AONB Unit attended and gave evidence at the Public Inquiry in Jan/Feb 2010. The AONB Unit commissioned a landscape architect to submit evidence and have cross examined the Appellant's witnesses.

Davidstow – Renewable energy project comprising the erection of 20 wind turbine generators, each with a maximum height of 126.5 metres and associated development. The AONB Unit supported the Local Planning Authority in commissioning landscape evidence to assist in the assessment of the proposal. Submitted preliminary objections and further responses to the proposal. Against Planning Officer advice, Cornwall Council has resolved to grant planning permission subject to resolving matters relating to biodiversity and radar. AONB Unit has supported Natural England in their request that the application be Called In by the Secretary of State – currently awaiting a decision on Call In.

Other significant applications have included affordable housing (Trevone), tourism development (Criggin Mill Mullion, Sandymouth, St Agnes Chalet Park – formerly Woodlands), individual wind farm applications (a substantial number in West Penwith), other sensitive sites (Treen).

David Hughes CC said that he sits on the Strategic Planning Committee and would be happy to ensure the AONB factor is highlighted at Committee meetings on behalf of the AONB Unit/Partnership. This would help with the AONB Unit staff resources issue of not being able to comment on as many planning applications as it would like.

- Julian German CC **AGREED** to seek advice from Cornwall Council on legality of Cornwall Councillors undertaking this role.

J German

Neil Hatton CC expressed concerns about potential conflicts between the role on the sub area planning committee and the role of the AONB partnership.

- Julian German CC offered to seek advice from Cornwall Council's legal section regarding this issue.
- It was **AGREED** that the outcome of planning proposals that the AONB Unit comments on, will be reported in the agenda papers for the next Partnership meeting for partners' interest.

J German

AONB Unit

(ii) Communications

Due to lack of time as the meeting over-ran, the AONB Unit AGREED to email the latest Communications activity update info sheet to all partners for information.

AONB Unit

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of Next Meeting(s)

Thursday 8th July 2010 (**venue to be confirmed**)
 November 2010 (**date to be confirmed**)

Appendix 1

Cornwall AONB Partnership – Presentations – 11th February 2010

Summary of Presentations given during the morning of Thursday 11th February 2010 preceding the Cornwall AONB Partnership business meeting

Introduction to the Cornwall AONB and AONB Partnership

Peter Mansfield, Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairman, welcomed everyone and began the morning presentations with a brief introduction about the Cornwall AONB and how it came into being in 1959. The Cornwall AONB has achieved greater recognition and co-ordination as a result of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, with the establishment of the AONB Partnership and Staff Unit in 2002, and 2003 respectively.

Colette Holden, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager, gave a little more detail, explaining that the CRoW Act 2000 made it a statutory obligation for local authorities responsible for AONBs, to produce a Management Plan. The Act also brought about a duty of regard for organisations, agencies etc e.g. utilities companies, govt agencies to have regard to the AONB (to conserve and enhance) in their work.

Colette added that there is a Statement of Intent (and Memorandum of Agreement – signed by funding partners) which all partners signed up to in 2003. This has now expired and has been delayed in a new one being agreed and signed due to the new unitary authority coming into being.

The first Management Plan for Cornwall AONB was produced in 2004 and ran until 2009. The revised Management Plan is currently being drafted in consultation with communities and stakeholders and is due to be completed at the end of 2010.

The Partnership Review (annual report) for the past 3 years (2006-2009) has just been produced – copies were available at the meeting for partners. Colette also mentioned the celebration of our landscape booklet that was produced in 2009 following the 2008 Cornwall Lecture and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cornwall AONB. There are still copies available, if partners have any suggestions of anyone who should be sent a copy, then let the AONB Unit know.

D Rodda mentioned the excellent images used in the Review document and suggested that all partners should share the AONB image library which would save money by pooling resources and partners using the same set of images in publications and presentations would help show that organisations are part of the AONB Partnership.

Introduction to the Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism

Jemma Roberts, Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project (CoaST) provided a presentation on the work of CoaST and re-affirmed the importance of the landscape to tourism. CoaST works to achieve sustainable tourism to benefit the triple bottom line: people, economy and the environment.

The CoaST network has 1080 members and 24 of them are CoaST Ambassadors – who have also achieved the Green Tourism Business Scheme award and have worked over and above this in their business to make it very sustainable.

CoaST has developed a 3 day course for the business community – which is a BTEC in Sustainable Tourism.

As an example of good practice, a group of CoaST tourism businesses in Fowey got together to manage their own recycling point. CoaST was awarded AONB Sustainable Development Fund money to help fund the project and the businesses now have a communal recycling facility – all achieved as a result of the CoaST network.

All these achievements and ongoing work has helped the Cornwall AONB achieve the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Landscapes which it was awarded in 2009. It was AGREED there is a need for Cornwall Council to promote greater awareness of this achievement.

There is a new tourism initiative currently being set up by Cornwall Council and funded through Convergence and it would be good for CoaST to be involved. Lucy Hunt, Inward Investment Manager at Cornwall Development Company, Pydar House, is the contact – Jemma Roberts will contact her.

Presentation of Europarc Charter certificate

Dan Bloomfield, SW Regional Co-ordinator for Europarc attended to formally present the Europarc Charter certificate to Peter Mansfield, Cornwall AONB Chairman. This was followed by a photo shoot outside of the presentation of the certificate which will be included with a press release.

Dan mentioned the 'Connection between Land and Sea' and 'A Clear View' protected zones documents. He added that the Causeway Coast and Glens were possible comparative areas to Cornwall AONB where there could be opportunities for sharing best practice.

What Europarc means to our business

Sandra Pulfrey is owner of The Hen House B&B and chairs the Lizard Peninsula Tourism Association (LPTA). Sandra is also a CoaST member and Ambassador and helps teach the BTEC in Sustainable Tourism. Sandra explained that her business is very sustainable – they line dry their laundry; have 9 rainwater butts; a wildflower meadow (where they also teach Tai Chi) have an orchard and produce their own jam. They undertake recycling which includes re-use of furniture. They do not offer 1 night stays – guests must stay 2 nights or more as 1 night stays create too much laundry which is unsustainable. Sandra also spends time with her guests, providing information on the local area, recommending local walks, food etc and even loans local OS maps to them so they can make the most of exploring the area. The Hen House is currently investigating future projects such as installation of a wind turbine which CoaST are helping to co-ordinate.

In her LPTA work, Sandra mentioned the Explore the Lizard publication produced 3 years ago; the Lizard & Meneage newspaper guide which is produced annually and includes local events programme. Partners were asked to let Sandra know if they have any events for inclusion in this years' guide. There is a local food guide due to be produced soon and will include B&Bs which provide breakfast which are sourced from local produce.

Walks on the Lizard Peninsula was mentioned. It was produced several years ago in the form of a series of walks on cards as a guide pack. Produced by REP Ltd. A few partners were aware of the publication and knew their organisation had copies in storage. Some detail may be out of date but the main walks info could be checked and then re-used and/or uploaded onto the LPTA website. Steve Crummay agreed to discuss with Sandra during lunch.

The National Trust's long term management of the Lizard Point area

Alastair Cameron, Property Manager, The National Trust, explained that the National Trust is a significant landowner in the Lizard area. Alastair showed examples of projects the NT has undertaken over the last 20 years to restore and enhance the Lizard Point landscape. Examples included:

- Providing safe pedestrian access from Lizard Village to Lizard Point
- wildlife and farming projects which led to the return of the breeding chough to Cornwall on the Lizard in 2001

- historic environmental improvements e.g. acquisition and refurbishment of Lloyds Signal Station
- The Polbreen Hotel – buying and refurbishment of the run-down hotel, which has now been leased to the YHA, and is the Youth Hostel accommodating the Partnership meeting.
- Brews, loos and views – environmentally friendly and sustainably refurbished café and toilets at Kynance Cove; a small information hut installed at Lizard Point (which is staffed by NT in high season) to provide information on the local area

A case study on the National Trust's environmental and sustainable work in the area will soon be available on the National Trust's website, but in the meantime Partners can obtain a copy from Alastair via alastair.cameron@nationaltrust.org.uk

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- Celebrating our Landscape document – copies still available at Partners' request from the Cornwall AONB Unit
- Partners to make use of sharing the Cornwall AONB image library
- J Roberts to contact Lucy Hunt, Cornwall Development Company regarding new tourism initiative currently being set up by Cornwall Council and funded through Convergence
- Partners to let AONB Unit know if they have any events to be included in the 2010 Lizard & Meneage Guide and AONB Unit will forward info to LPTA
- Walks on the Lizard Peninsula Pack – S Crummay to discuss with Sandra Pulfrey, LPTA the re-use of the info and/or the packs