



**Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership meeting held on
Wednesday 26 January 2011 at 1.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Truro City Council offices, Truro.**

In attendance:

Members:

Peter Mansfield	Chairman, Cornwall AONB Partnership
Peter Bowden	Natural England
Julian German	Cornwall Councillor
Neil Hatton	Cornwall Councillor
David Hughes	Cornwall Councillor
Phil McMahon	English Heritage
Manda Brookman	CoaST
Jimmy Scobie	Country Land and Business Association
Rupert Hanbury-Tenison	Country Land and Business Association
Jeremy Best	National Farmers Union
Mary Combe	FWAG
Ed Nancekivell	Bodmin Moor Livestock Initiative/Cornwall Agri-Food Council
Bill Holliday	Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership
Tim German	Low Carbon Cornwall, Cornwall Council/Cornwall Dev Company
Peter Burton	Cornwall Rural Community Council
Julian Payne	Environment Agency

Supporting Officers:

Steve Crummay	Cornwall Council, Living Environment
Terry Grove-White	Cornwall Council, Planning and Regeneration
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Historic Environment
Kath Statham	Cornwall Council, Landscape and Urban Design Unit
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council, Transportation
Deborah Boden	Cornish Mining, World Heritage Site
Colette Holden	AONB Partnership Manager, Cornwall AONB Unit
Nigel Sumpter	AONB Officer, Cornwall AONB Unit
June Crossland	Planning Officer, Cornwall AONB Unit
Pete Maxed	Communications Officer, Cornwall AONB Unit
Karen Johns	Office Manager, Cornwall AONB Unit

1. Apologies

Jim Flashman, Cornwall Councillor; Richard Glasson, Natural England; Paul Walton, Ian Kemp and Nick Lawrence, National Trust; Paul Cottington, NFU; David Rodda, Cornwall Agri-Food Dev Team; Malcolm Bell and Emma Rojano, VisitCornwall; David Edmondson and Andrew England, Cornwall Council Planning; Victoria Whitehouse and Fay Robinson, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Helen Gay, Cornwall AONB SDF Admin Officer.

2. Minutes of last meeting (8 July 2010) and matters arising

- The minutes of the last meeting were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record. The following matters arose:

Page 2, item 2, Green Cornwall Programme – it had previously been agreed a presentation on the Green Cornwall Programme could be given by Cornwall Council at a future Partnership meeting. J German stated that he would be happy to facilitate a presentation when required.

Action(s)

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J German CC

Page 2, item 2, Planning matters - Higher Newham planning appeal – the appeal decision was to refuse planning which is a positive outcome for the AONB, and is a very useful case study as the decision included the AONB as being a reason for the refusal.

Page 2, item 2, Davidstow wind farm – a new application is expected to be submitted to Cornwall Council. Height of wind turbines would be the same height as Brown Willy so would have a huge impact on the AONB landscape.

Page 2, item 2, planning matters – D Hughes mentioned Parish Council Design Guides and that it would be useful for the AONB Unit to liaise with parish councils. The AONB Unit mentioned the Cornwall AONB Community Planning project and the landscape and design toolkit which is already being developed and will be used to help to train planners, councillors etc.

Page 6, item 7, AONB photo competition – over 100 photos were submitted to the competition which the AONB Unit ran in conjunction with MyCornwall magazine, to gain a new set of photos for the Management Plan and new images for the Cornwall AONB photo library. There were 4 winners. Winning photos were printed in My Cornwall magazine and will be put on the AONB website.

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Page 6, item 7, Undergrounding overhead wires – Western Power Distribution looks more favourably on schemes with a willing landowner such as the National Trust who is able to contribute to the work.

3. Draft Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2011–2016; Delivery Plan 2011–2016 and Draft Partnership Action Plan 2011-2013

Following the last Partnership meeting in July 2010, the Draft Plan went out for public consultation from 2nd August to 30 September 2010. 132 responses were received on the various chapters of the Plan. The main changes required in response to comments received was that the Plan was too long. Information will be retained but put into supporting web based appendices as additional information on the Cornwall AONB website.

The AONB Unit has produced a Delivery Plan to support the main Management Plan document. C Holden presented the Delivery Plan providing further information about it.

Partners made the following comments on the Management Plan and Delivery Plan:

- Affordable/Social housing and responsibilities to have regard to the AONB was raised – particularly awareness of the balance of local need and the importance of the AONB by Cornwall Council local members. The Cornwall AONB/Penwith affordable housing exception sites document was mentioned. T Grove-White

felt that local members are aware of this.

N Hatton added that several Cornwall Cllrs were re-elected as Cornwall Cllrs after already having been a District or Cornwall County Cllr and some already had knowledge and experience of AONB and planning so this helps. All Cornwall Cllrs have been asked to identify land in rural areas that could be considered for affordable housing.

C Holden referred partners to the relevant policy (PD4) in the Management Plan (page 25).

- D Hughes congratulated the AONB Unit on producing an excellent and concise Management Plan.
 - Partners **AGREED** the Management Plan and Delivery Plan final draft documents included with the agenda papers
 - Partners further **AGREED** that it should be reported to the 16 February 2011 Cornwall Council Cabinet.

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C Holden presented the Cornwall AONB Partnership Action Plan – it is a 2 year Plan (2011 – 2013). The main delivery themes are:

- Community Planning– localism, parish planning
- Value, benefits and green infrastructure – management of the land, ecosystems, goods and services
- Cornwall character – design of infrastructure, furniture and signage; local vernacular, rural roads and rights of way protocol
- Protected landscapes planning – planning protocol, input into LDF/core strategy

Costs detailed in the Action Plan are only indicative at present, as the Cornwall AONB Unit are still finalising the budget for 2011/12. Partners engaging and ensuring the Partnership is active – needs to be given consideration, which will also help ensure partners report on work they are doing towards the actions contained in the Plan.

Partners made the following comments on the Partnership Action Plan:

- Measure 3.4.1 of the RDP – B Holliday mentioned this re community planning. John Knowles also a possible contact about this.
- B Holliday requested that RCP be added to the list of partners to the Community Planning section.
- CRCC parish planning activity was mentioned – Local Area Agreement has funded parish planning activity for the past 3 years. Steve Besford-Foster leads a team at Cornwall Council (CC) trying to make community planning mainstream – and there is a lot of support for this work from within CC. P Burton asked J German to promote this at CC wherever possible. J German agreed to do this.
- The term GI (Green Infrastructure) was raised and whether it would have any meaning to the general public. This was agreed and there is discussion with Cornwall Council GI working group regarding this. However, it was felt that majority of general public will not read the GI Strategy but it will be important to communicate it properly and appropriately when engaging with the general

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J German

public and by using examples that people will understand and relate to.

- Cornwall Character project – J German stated that the project does not need resurrecting, it still exists - the funding to support the capital for the project has yet to be agreed. This was good news for the Cornwall AONB, as the AONB Unit does not therefore need to resurrect it but can work with others on the project group to get further work underway.
- AONB and WHS will be included on footpath signs where appropriate, which will be a means of signposting the fact that people are within the AONB or WHS without having an additional plethora of signs.
- Protected Landscapes Planning – N Hatton asked what ‘teeth’ the AONB Unit has on behalf of the AONB Partnership when commenting on planning applications. The AONB Unit confirmed it is an advisory consultee, not a statutory consultee. The AONB Unit works with partner organisations who are statutory consultees to help provide comments on behalf of the AONB.
 - **Partners AGREED the draft Partnership Action Plan as set out in Appendix 3 of the agenda papers, and agreed that the AONB Unit should do further work on it to include it with the funding bid to Natural England for 2011/12.**

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4. Cornwall AONB Funding and Governance arrangements

Defra will have direct responsibility for AONBs from 2012/13, and the AONB Unit will continue to work to Natural England for the interim change over period during 2011/12.

Defra have formally confirmed their funding settlement for the next 4 years to 2014/15. The total available funding for AONBs has been reduced by 5.4%. Cornwall Council match funding is very likely, although formal confirmation has yet to be received.

Contrary to para 3.2 in the agenda papers (page 9), the AONB Unit confirmed that the National Trust will contribute £1000 for 2011/12.

Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) – current draft MoA is with Natural England’s legal team at present. Once Natural England has agreed the MoA, Natural England feel that the MoA should be able to be used as a template for the MoA between Defra and CC.

SDF – funds from Natural England has reduced considerably year on year since it’s outset from an initial £100,000 to around £45,000 for 2010/11. The cost of administering the SDF is high due to working with community groups etc that are awarded the grant. The AONB Unit feels that funds would be better spent on delivering the actions in the Partnership Action Plan rather than run SDF for 2011/12, but this is not to say that SDF could not be run in future years if funding levels allow.

Partners AGREED the following recommendations as set out in the agenda papers, namely:

- **that the AONB Unit should submit a funding bid to Natural England based on the Delivery Plan and Partnership Action Plan set out in agenda item 3**
- **that the AONB Unit continues to liaise with Natural England, Cornwall Council and Defra to agree and sign the new Partnership**

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- Agreement/MOAs by 1st April 2011**
- **that the Cornwall AONB Unit finalise a working budget for 2011/2012, upon the agreement of Cornwall Council match funding and will not operate the Sustainable Development Funding 2011/2012.**

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5. Planning Protocol

J Crossland presented this item. In addition to commenting on individual planning applications, it is felt that now we have the revised AONB Management Plan, there will be more opportunity for the AONB Unit to advise and comment on emerging planning policy.

- **Partners AGREED the Planning Protocol and that it be taken forward as the mechanism for engagement with Cornwall Council on planning matters.**

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Items for Information:

6. National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) Annual Conference 2011

P Maxted provided an update on the National Conference. Cornwall AONB has been chosen by the NAAONB to host its 2011 Annual Conference, with support from Tamar Valley and Isles of Scilly AONBs. It will be held from 5th to 7th July 2011 at Combined Universities Cornwall, Tremough campus, Penryn.

The theme of the conference is 'National Issues – Local Solutions'. 'Unlocking the value of localism – volunteering and the Third Sector in AONBs'.

Day one: national speakers and evening formal dinner

Day two: field trips around the Cornwall, Tamar and Isles of Scilly AONBs

Day three: workshops and local speakers

One person from the AONB Unit will lead in the organising of each of the field trips. P Maxted gave an example of a typical itinerary.

If any partners would like to contribute to the field trips, they were asked to please get in touch with the AONB Unit.

All

7. Draft Management Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

J Crossland provided an update on the work of the SA. Thorough work on the SA will help with any future adoption of the AONB Management Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

8. Any Other Business

- R Hanbury-Tenison mentioned that **Richard Benyon** had visited Bodmin Moor recently and is very interested – worth bearing this in mind when organising the NAAONB Annual Conference field trip on Bodmin Moor. R Hanbury-Tenison will speak to J Crossland further about this as she is organising the Bodmin Moor site visit.
- **Cornwall AONB Partnership Annual Review 2009/10** – the AONB Unit has produced this document and copies were circulated at the meeting.
- C Holden attended a **Clean Cornwall** conference last year, and pledged

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that the AONB Partnership would part-take in a beach clean for 1 of its 3 meetings of the year.

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9. Date of Next meeting

To be agreed once Cornwall Council committee dates have been set beyond April 2011.

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