



**Minutes of Cornwall AONB Partnership meeting held on
Thursday 8 July 2010, 1.30pm in the Georgian Hall at Caerhays Castle**

In attendance

Members:

Peter Mansfield	Chairman, Cornwall AONB Partnership
Julian German	Cornwall Councillor
Jim Flashman	Cornwall Councillor
David Hughes	Cornwall Councillor
Richard Glasson	Natural England
Paul Walton	National Trust
Cheryl Marriott	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Mary Combe	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
Ron Daniel	Cornwall Assn of Local Councils
Jimmy Scobie	Country Land and Business Assn
Rupert Hanbury-Tenison	Country Land and Business Assn
Nick Russell	English Heritage
Bill Holliday	Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership
Peter Burton	Cornwall Rural Community Council

Supporting Officers:

Steve Crummay	Cornwall Council, Living Environment Service
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service
David Edmondson	Cornwall Council, Planning
Kath Statham	Cornwall Council, Landscape & Urban Design Unit
June Crossland	Cornwall AONB Unit, Planning Officer
Pete Maxted	Cornwall AONB Unit, Communications Officer
Nigel Sumpter	Cornwall AONB Unit, AONB Officer
Helen Gay	Cornwall AONB Unit, SDF Admin Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Unit, Office Manager

1. Apologies

Neil Hatton, Cornwall Councillor; Bert Biscoe, RCP; Malcolm Bell and Teresa Timms, VisitCornwall; Andrew England and Terry Grove-White Cornwall Council Planning; Colette Holden, Cornwall AONB Unit; Manda Brookman, CoaST; Victoria Whitehouse, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Paul Cottingham, NFU; Phil McMahon, English Heritage; Mike East, Cornwall Council Environment Service; Deborah Boden, World Heritage Site Team; David Rodda, Cornwall Agri-Food Dev Team; Sonia Thurley, Environment Agency.

Rupert Hanbury Tenison was welcomed to his first meeting as an additional and East Cornwall representative for the CLBA with special knowledge of Bodmin Moor.

Partnership members wished to formally express their best wishes to Colette Holden who was away on compassionate leave due to a family bereavement.

Morning tour of Caerhays Castle Gardens

The Partnership meeting was preceded with a morning tour of the Gardens at Caerhays Castle. The Head Gardener provided a guided tour to explain more about the Gardens and the work that takes place, including the record keeping of the plants etc.

Minutes of last meeting (11 Feb 2010) and matters arising

Action(s)

Page 2, item 2, Green Cornwall Programme for future agenda item – Mike East to give a presentation at the next Partnership meeting to provide an update on the Programme.

- AGREED that Mike East be asked to provide a presentation at the November Partnership meeting.

AONB Unit

Page 2, item 2, Environment Kernow (EK) – S Crummay provided an update on the work of EK. Steve had previously chaired EK, but Julie Proctor, EA is now the Chair. EK is one of the 8 thematic partnerships of the Cornwall Strategic Partnership – set up to deliver LAA and the Community Strategies in Cornwall. EK is currently producing a strategic framework based on an ecosystems goods and services approach. EK is meeting with key partners to feed into the new framework.

Page 2, item 2, Planning Protocol – J Crossland has had one meeting with A England and another meeting is scheduled in August to take the planning protocol forward. It is a protocol for both Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONBs to agree their involvement in planning matters.

Page 2, item 2, Planning matters – J Crossland provided an update on planning matters. Higher Newham appeal decision – is still awaited. Davidstow windfarm – decision is still awaited. The AONB Unit has been involved in commenting on several Affordable Housing schemes and pre-application discussions. Relocation of Land's End aerodrome: this is at pre-application stage – AONB Unit has responded to several concerned residents/community groups letters.

Solar photo-voltaic (PV) farms proposals – AONB Unit has met an agent regarding these proposals. Some solar pv panels have been trialled on the roof of New County Hall, Truro (small scheme) – the structure is only 1 ft off the ground. For larger schemes the structures can be 4ft off the ground so will have a greater landscape impact.

J Crossland has been informed that PV cells cannot be located nearer than 2 miles of the coast due to the salt – possibly due to erosion and the extra need for cleaning as the cells need to be kept clean for maximum efficiency

J Flashman informed partners that there are grants available for farmers to have renewable energy rooves on their farm buildings.

B Holliday stressed the importance of local energy schemes – ensuring the energy is kept within the County - this will help offset the landscape impact of renewable energy schemes if at least the energy achieved is kept within the County.

There is a Landscape Sensitivity Study being commissioned by Cornwall Council's Natural Resource Team for windfarm and photovoltaic power development in Cornwall. This study will consider a range of developments both small community and the larger scale. It is hoped the Study will provide a basis for the determination of where these development can be appropriately sited. In the future

Page 5, item 7, (i) Planning - J German confirmed he had sought advice from Cornwall Council on the legality of Cornwall Councillors involvement with Planning

Committee decisions on behalf of the AONB. Information to confirm the procedure had been received from Cornwall Council Legal Services and was circulated to the AONB Unit and Cornwall Councillors on the Partnership.

3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Cornwall AONB Memorandum of Understanding is a legal agreement between lead partners – Natural England and Cornwall Council. The Draft MoU is currently with Cornwall Council's Legal Section regarding issues of vulnerability and risk, particularly due to the present public sector financial situation. S Crummay has had discussions with Natural England officers. Natural England had hoped to have a standard MoU between all AONBs and NE, but as Cornwall AONB and other AONBs have explained, a standard MoU is not possible. Cathy Fitzory from Natural England's regional team is also looking into this further.

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

P Mansfield, J Flashman, D Hughes, N Sumpter and P Maxted will be attending the 2010 NAAONB Annual Conference in Kent next week on behalf of the Cornwall AONB. The Conference Programme of Events had been circulated with the agenda for partners' awareness.

It has been agreed that the 2011 NAAONB Annual Conference will be hosted by the Cornwall AONB, in conjunction with Tamar Valley and Isles of Scilly AONBs. 2011 NAAONB Conference will be held from 11 – 14 July 2011 and will be held at Combined Universities Cornwall, Tremough campus, Penryn. Itinerary will also include field trips at various locations in the Cornwall and Tamar AONBs.

'Survival of the fittest' will possibly be the theme of the 2011 Conference, which is felt appropriate in the current economic climate we are faced with.

PV farms and miscanthus crops in North Cornwall were suggested as visits for delegates.

5. Review of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan – response from partners

Congratulations were expressed to Colette Holden and the AONB team for their tremendous effort in drafting the revised Management Plan.

The AONB Unit also thanked all partners who have provided their comments on the preliminary draft Plan to date. Comments from partners will be incorporated into the draft Plan before it goes for public consultation on 2 August 2010.

J Crossland presented this item and asked partners to give more detail on some of the points they had raised in their comments on the Plan.

- P Walton provided further detail on the National Trust's comments regarding seascapes and further information that is felt should be included in the Plan regarding seascapes.
- J Scobie - coastal landowners/occupiers – how can the Cornwall AONB try and get them involved regarding seascape issues?
- J Flashman mentioned that the parish newsletters could be a means of distributing a questionnaire to include all residents, landowners/occupiers to obtain their views.

- S Crummay mentioned that part of the Marine Planning process is to set up a network to act as a mechanism for engagement.
- Communities and Economy – omitted from the agenda paper (page 14) and the Parish Plans comment that P Burton, CRCC had raised. The AONB Unit want to try and ensure there is a greater input regarding landscape issues in Parish Plans. Future finance for the facilitation of Parish Plans is also an issue.
- Rame Head - J German - Council owned harbours in Cornwall – dredging and subsequent disposal of silt is an activity that is essential for working harbours.
- Sustainability of villages – J German stressed the importance of this – communities don't want them to become “any town, any county” settlements. Design within rural settlement patterns need to be thought about more. D Edmondson said supporting and funding this is the issue. It was pointed out that Cornwall already has a number of useful Design Guides. However, design guides for the 12 separate areas of the AONB would be very welcome.
- J Scobie - sea changes over next few years will be very evident – not sure this is given great enough weight and consideration in the Plan.
- P Burton – mentioned the example of car parking issues at Perranuthnoe. Draft Cornwall Local Transport Plan – version 3 – ‘Connecting Cornwall’ this new document looks at the public transport system in Cornwall and ways to encourage car sharing, pool cars and electric cars.
- R Daniel - Affordable Housing – the definition of what is meant by affordable housing should be included in the Plan.
- Bodmin Moor Vision (page 48 of draft Plan) – R Hanbury Tenison – mentioned be careful where the visions go and check people are happy with them. CLA have brought up the Bodmin Moor Vision with House of Commons and would also like to bring up with the House of Lords. R Glasson and R Hanbury Tenison will discuss further. Agreed R Hanbury-Tenison has a valid point and the wording of the Bodmin Moor vision in the Plan will be re-considered to clarify that it has not yet been agreed with landowners and community members.
- The 3 South Coast Western, Eastern and Central Local Chapters are given their formal AONB designated titles – J German requested that these include detail of their local name next to them to give clarity to which geographical area they relate e.g. South Coast Eastern (Fowey ria and Polperro coast).
- D Hughes – mentioned the Partnership visit to St Just – the balance of farmers and resident population who are for the heathland project versus the second home owners who object to it. D Hughes found this a very informative visit – is this both a strategic and local chapter issue?
- B Holliday – mentioned second homes – and location decision making – percentage of votes mentioned – could the AONB suggest a percentage of say if 75% of local people vote for something then it should be approved
- P Walton – South Coast Central – Paul is not aware that existing ferry

services are under threat – need to be careful on wording. N Sumpter clarified this was an introduction to a guiding principle regarding expanding ferry services by expanding on those already in service.

- R Hanbury-Tenison – pg 159 - conifer plantations on Bodmin Moor – comes across as negative – blocks of conifer plantation are often not attractive but forestry is important and is on the increase in the south west so conifer plantation should not be considered necessarily detrimental, but rather look at their design and shape.
- P Walton – local chapters – could be an opportunity to identify local land ownership e.g. NT land, CWT land etc – although he is aware that maps have not been included in this preliminary draft of the Plan.
- N Sumpter thanked R Hanbury-Tenison for his comments on the Bodmin Moor local chapter, and asked that all partners let the AONB Unit know of any further comments they have on each of the local chapters. Comments would be very welcome.

Delivery Plan – J Crossland presented this part of the item. A Delivery Plan for the Cornwall AONB will accompany the revised Management Plan. A copy of Isles of Scilly AONB Delivery Plan 2010-2014 was circulated at the meeting for partners' information as a good example of an AONB delivery plan. Partners were not expected to have time to consider it at the meeting, but were asked to consider further and let the AONB Unit have any comments on the format, style and content for a Cornwall AONB Delivery Plan. This will also be discussed further at the next Technical Group meeting which will be arranged in October, following the end of the Draft Management Plan public consultation period.

6. Draft Management Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

In addition to being a statutory document, the SA will also give the revised Cornwall AONB Management Plan greater status. Partners should let the AONB Unit know if they would like further information on the SA and/or have any comments to make on the report that has been produced by LUC on the work of the SA to date. Further work on the strategic alternatives that were considered in the Draft Plan is currently being undertaken. Accordingly, the consultation on the SA is in two stages, the draft SA will also be available for public consultation from 2 August to 30 September 2010 and further information will be available on the approach to strategic alternatives on the 23rd August. Statutory consultees will be informed. It will be available to view or download as a PDF on the Cornwall AONB website <http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/management-plan/index.html#SA>

Two further statutory documents – an Appropriate Assessment and an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment will also be carried out for the revised Management Plan.

7. Any Other Business

- **Cornwall Council's Draft Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 'Connecting Cornwall'** - is currently out for public consultation. The AONB Unit will liaise with Cornwall Council Transport Officers to ensure linkages between the LTP3 and the Cornwall AONB Management Plan.
- **West Briton series of articles** – the AONB Unit is currently co-ordinating with several AONB Partners to produce a series of articles each week in the

Environment page of the West Briton. The article in today's West Briton (8 July) includes a mention that the AONB Partnership is holding it's meeting at Caerhays.

- **Public consultation of the Management Plan** – partners were asked to let the AONB Unit know if there are any groups/individuals etc that they think should be consulted on the Draft Management Plan that the AONB Unit may not already have on their consultees list.
- **NAAONB briefing paper** – a recent paper by the incoming CEO regarding the importance of AONBs at the national level was mentioned. It is a briefing paper for AONB Partnerships and Joint Advisory Committees about what NAAONB are doing to inform and influence the new Coalition Government and local MPs. Copies of the paper are available from the AONB Unit.
- **Cornwall AONB Photo competition** – the photo competition will be an opportunity to update the AONB image library and new images for the Management Plan and for other publications etc are required. A photo competition was launched at the Cornwall AONB stand at the Royal Cornwall Show and will also be mentioned in the My Cornwall (previously Cornish World) magazine.

Photos should depict appropriate behaviour/messages – e.g. R Hanbury Tenison has noticed several photos of Bodmin Moor show images of dogs off leads which is not a message that should be promoted

- **Hearing loop** – R Daniel gave thanks for the AONB team's efforts, but the hearing loop did not prove very successful. Input is still an issue – a roving microphone is required to make it work better. Hearing loop kit had been hired from Cornwall Deaf Assn – R Daniel will raise the matter with them.
- **Largest wind turbines in Cornwall** are being erected at Bonython windfarm on the Lizard Peninsula. These new turbines (largest in Cornwall), replace the existing turbines - so worth seeing to judge the impact of this latest generation of turbines which are being proposed for locations throughout Cornwall.
- **Partnership meeting agenda items** – R Glasson commented that it was good to see other items on the Partnership agenda for partners' awareness. The Management Plan had been a big part of the agenda for discussion at the meeting today but would like to see and hear more detail on other projects and activities being delivered and taking place by partner organisations.
- **Cornwall AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) projects 2010-11** – summary of projects approved funding for this year was circulated around the meeting for partners awareness and interest.
- **Waymarking on footpaths** - J Scobie mentioned a possible future project for the AONB to pilot, to replace old waymarks along footpaths, which Cornwall Council and parishes would fund. J Scobie would like the AONB Partnership to consider putting some funding to this.
- **Undergrounding overhead wires** – P Walton reported that a successful meeting has been held with Western Power to take forward the AONB priority under grounding scheme on the Roseland, funded by Western Power and the

National Trust.

- **National Trust re-organisation** – the Trust's Devon/Cornwall and Wessex regions are to be amalgamated from 1st September with Mark Harold (Devon and Cornwall Director) as the Director for the new region.

8. Date of Next Meeting – 25 November 2010 – venue to be confirmed.