

Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2005
at 2.00 pm at Chacewater Village Hall, Chacewater, near Truro

Present:

Peter Mansfield Chairman, Cornwall AONB Partnership

Members:

Cllr Jim Flashman Caradon District Council (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr Val Newman North Cornwall District Council
Cllr Neil Hatton Cornwall County Council
Sarah Manning Countryside Agency
Peter Bowden DEFRA Rural Development Service
Ron Daniel Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)
Robert Sloman NFU/CLBA

Supporting Officers:

Mike Hawkey Cornwall County Council
Katherine Uren Penwith District Council
Al Collings Caradon District Council
Charlie David North Cornwall District Council
Rodger Dewhurst Kerrier District Council
Malcolm Pinch Restormel Borough Council
Robert Lacey Carrick District Council
Paul Walton Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Colette Holden Cornwall AONB Assistant Officer
Ed Thompson Cornwall AONB Community Officer
Karen Johns Cornwall AONB Office Manager

1. Apologies

Members:

Cllr Fred Greenslade, Carrick District Council; Cllr Rob Lello, Penwith District Council; Cllr Annette Egerton, Restormel Borough Council; Cllr Graeme Hicks, Kerrier District Council; Heather McBeth, GOSW; John Holmes, English Nature; John James, Cornwall Commercial Tourism Federation; Mike Robins, Environment Agency; Nick Lawrence, The National Trust; Sue Wearing, SW RDA.

Supporting Officers:

Marcus Healan, Kerrier District Council; Phil Dyke, The National Trust.

Partners were informed that Cllr Rob Lello has been nominated to represent Penwith District Council on the Cornwall AONB Partnership, but he had sent his apologies for this meeting.

2. Discussion on issues arising from the Partners' Presentation

Prior to the meeting, Partners gave a presentation on work, activities and projects they are undertaking in relation to the policies and actions in the AONB Management Plan. The presentation covered the parts of the Cornwall AONB in North Cornwall, Caradon and Restormel. Presentations were given by the following Partner representatives:

Charlie David; Becky Hughes (Development Officer, Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project); David Hazlehurst (Conservation Officer, English Nature) and Peter Bowden. Copies of the slides from their presentations and additional notes are attached as Appendix 1.

3. Minutes of last meetings and matters arising

3.1 Partnership meeting (29th September 2005) - these were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record.

Page 2, 4th para, Fal River Links – in addition to helping to promote this at Royal Cornwall Show and National Outdoors Show in 2006, the AONB Unit is assisting Cornwall County Council and the National Trust in discussions with landowners with a view to extending access links in this area.

Page 4, item 3.2, new Countryside Agency guidance regarding change of AONB boundaries – this will be delayed due to a High Court judgement regarding National Parks, requiring the draft guidance to be re-visited.

Page 6, item 5.2 - Management of Rural Roads – an information sheet on CPRE's Clutter Challenge to highway authorities, mentioned at the last meeting was circulated to Partners (Appendix 2 attached). It is understood that Cornwall County Council has decided not to respond to this initiative.

Cornwall County Council confirmed that the AONB Partnership will be invited to give evidence and a presentation to the Single Issue Panel. All District/Borough Councils will also be contacted to be made aware of the Panel and invited to submit their comments.

Cornwall County Council will provide interim reports on the Panel's progress at future Partnership meetings.

The AONB Unit have received comments from Partners on management of rural roads issues, but if others have comments to make they should forward them to the AONB Unit.

3.2 Officer meeting (16th November 2005) - the minutes were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record.

Page 1, item 2, Cornish hedges – DEFRA RDS **AGREED** to send a briefing paper to the AONB Unit which for circulation to Partners to explain the current situation.

Page 1, item 2, under-grounding of electricity wires in the AONB – following an encouraging site visit with Western Power representatives, this seems to have lost momentum as there appears to be a lack of conviction from Western Power to get on with the scheme. It was suggested that the Partnership should attempt to ensure that Western Power makes a firm commitment to implementing the Ofgem proposals. Partners suggested contacting Ofgem in addition to the electricity companies as the initiative of encouraging under-grounding came from them. The AONB Unit will keep the Partnership informed of developments on this.

Countryside Agency mentioned a Protected Landscapes Steering Group has been set up in the South East to coordinate activity in that region. The SWPLF has not taken similar interest which the Unit will pursue. It will also be raised at the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) South West meeting in March 2006. There may be lessons to be learnt

Actions

All

P Bowden

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

from these approaches and the AONB Unit will keep informed of their progress.

AONB Unit

Page 3, item 3, Coastal and Marine meetings – a briefing paper was circulated to Partners summarising issues arising at recent national and regional Coastal and Marine meetings that the AONB Unit had attended (copy attached as Appendix 3).

There is a EUROPARC training event on 22nd and 23rd March 2006 on 'Protected landscapes and the coastal and marine environment'. Partners who wish to attend should let the AONB Unit know.

All

A Marine Bill is scheduled for 2007 with public consultation due to start in February 2006. Cornwall County Council has been heavily involved in discussions on this and it has set up a Single Issue Panel to consider the draft consultations. Cornwall County Council noted that the District/Borough Councils wish to be consulted on the draft Marine Bill and will feed this back to the Single Issue Panel.

M Hawkey

The Marine Bill consultation draft should also be included on a future District Planning Officers meeting.

M Hawkey/
R Dewhurst

4. Reports for decision

4.1 Cornwall AONB Partnership Budget 2006/07

The bid for grant aid from the Countryside Agency is due to be submitted by 31st December 2005. This is for core purposes of the AONB Partnership and a bid for SDF funds for the period 2006 to 2008, and strategic project funds for 2006/07. The AONB Unit is preparing the bid and seeks agreement from the Partnership to submit the bid.

- Partners **AGREED** the AONB Unit should submit the bids to the Countryside Agency for core funding grant aid and SDF for 2006-08 and Project grants for 2006/07 as outlined in the agenda paper.
- Partners **AGREED** that a proportion of the core budget for 2006/07 be used to support work by the Partnership in the areas of sustainable tourism and land use planning as identified in Appendix 2 of the agenda paper. However, in addition to the AONB Unit working with the Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Working Group (CSTWG), they should also liaise with Steve Kessell, North Cornwall District Council Tourism as it is not part of the CSTWG.
- Partners were informed that the Cornwall Planning Forum at its recent meeting discussed sustainable tourism. The AONB Unit **AGREED** to contact Tim Horwood at Cornwall County Council who organises the meetings, to discuss.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

4.2 Ship to Ship transfer of crude oil in Falmouth Bay

The agenda paper set out the likely impact upon this area of the Cornwall AONB if the proposed ship to ship transfers of crude oil were permitted.

Cornwall County Council has 3 separate committees discussing the proposal and has agreed that the views of the Cornwall AONB Partnership can be submitted to the appropriate Committee.

Neil Hatton CC informed Partners that he is also involved in discussions on the proposal in

his role as Chair of the Fal and Helford SAC Advisory Group, and highlighted the associated increased activity that would take place on the estuary in addition to the actual ship to ship transfers.

- Partners **AGREED** the Cornwall AONB Partnership should express its concerns through the 4 statutory consultees – Cornwall County Council, DEFRA, English Nature and the Environment Agency – and not to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- In addition, it was **AGREED** the 4 statutory consultees should be reminded of their duties to have regard to the Cornwall AONB under Section 85 of the CRoW Act. The Falmouth Harbour Commissioners and Maritime and Coastguard Agency should also be reminded of their duties under Section 85.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

4.3 Proposed Partnership meeting dates 2006

- The schedule of proposed dates were **AGREED**. However, it was noted that in Spring 2006, the AONB Unit will check that the June, September and December dates do not clash with local authority committees.

AONB Unit

4.4 Review of the AONB Partnership Statement of Intent

The Partnership Statement of Intent, signed by all the Partners in March 2003; includes provision for a review in March 2006. This provides an opportunity to assess progress to date and to look ahead and agree how the Partnership should continue into the future.

- Partners **AGREED** to the proposal, namely that a Partnership Sub-Group is set up, drawn from existing partners and officers, to review progress and current arrangements to report back to the next Partnership meeting on 23rd March 2006.
- The following Partners **AGREED** to form the Sub Group: Chairman, Deputy Chairman; C David; M Hawkey and S Manning. The National Trust will also be invited to join the Sub Group as they are a funding partner and were not present at the meeting. The AONB Unit will arrange a date for the Sub Group to meet.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

Restormel Borough Council raised monitoring of the indicators in the AONB Management Plan and whether these should be reviewed alongside the review of the Partnership. The AONB Unit confirmed that these are a draft set of indicators, based on preliminary regional research, and that through the SWPLF, an officer based at the SW Regional Observatory has been jointly funded by the AONBs and National Parks to work on gathering data for the indicators.

5. Reports for information and discussion

5.1 Penwith Affordable Housing in Protected Landscapes Study

The Partnership jointly funded a pilot project in partnership with Penwith District Council, to develop a landscape based approach to identifying sites in St Just and Pendeen that would be suitable for affordable housing. Consultants were appointed to undertake the study and produce a methodology that could be applied to site assessments throughout the Cornwall AONB. A Seminar was held on 6 December 2005 at Pendeen to present the findings of the Study. Delegates at the Seminar included planners and housing officers from all the local authorities in Cornwall, representatives from housing associations in Cornwall, GOSW and

Dartmoor National Park Authority.

Copies of the report produced as a result of the Study are available from the AONB Unit. Penwith District Council confirmed that the next stage is for the outcome of the Study to go out for public consultation which will help gather comments on the design of the houses etc.

5.2 2005/05 Budget Monitoring Statement

Partners noted the contents of the budget monitoring statement. The variable overheads in the original budget was £36,200 and in the latest forecast is now £173,750. This is due to the SDF and strategic projects funds being included under this heading.

6. NAAONB/SWPLF

6.1 Update on SWPLF and NAAONB marine and coastal meetings attended

A briefing paper which provided this update was circulated to Partners under item 3.2 above.

SWPLF Calendar 2006 – copies of the calendar produced through the SWPLF featuring all the AONBs and National Parks in the South West were available for Partners to take at the meeting. The Cornwall AONB is featured in the month of April. The AONB Unit will mail out copies to all Cornwall AONB stakeholders, community organisations etc before Christmas, together with an information sheet on the work of the Partnership in 2005.

7. Any Other Business

CLBA Publication – “Public Goods from Private Land – why Nature needs Farming 2005” – an extract from this publication was made available to Partners.

Closure of Discovery Centre in Looe – Partners were informed that the Discovery Centre owned and managed by Caradon District Council is due to close in December 2005 due to the need for efficiency savings.

Concern was expressed over the demise of the rural and countryside service element that has also happened in Caradon District. However, Partners **AGREED** that whilst it was disappointing, it was inappropriate for the Partnership to formally express their concerns. Unfortunately all local authorities are facing budget cuts and non-statutory services will be affected. However, it is a timely reminder of the need for the AONB Partnership to continue to be effective and demonstrate good value for money to the local authorities in Cornwall.

8. Date of Next Meetings

Thursday 23rd March 2006 from 12.30 pm (venue to be confirmed). The AONB Unit have checked that there are no local authority committees scheduled to be held on this date, but partners are asked to let the AONB Unit know if they are aware if this date will clash with other scheduled meetings.

All



Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting

8 December 2005

Presentations by Partners:

**Notes of Presentations, including
copies of slides and handouts**

Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting 8 December 2005

Presentations by Partners

Prior to the Partnership meeting, Partners gave a presentation on projects and activities taking place in the Cornwall AONB in North Cornwall, Caradon and Restormel. This information would help monitor what is being undertaken in relation to the policies and actions in the Cornwall AONB Management Plan. Copies of the slides from each of the presentations are attached.

Charlie David, North Cornwall Coast and Countryside Service

(contact: charlie.david@ncdc.gov.uk or 01208 265644), gave a presentation on:

- **Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project** and circulated a Fact Sheet on the project to Partners. The current project is a pilot and if successful in bidding for full HLF funding, may be extended to Marsland Mouth and into North Devon.
- **North Cornwall Geology Guide** (Fact Sheet and sample of the guide is attached)
- **Boscastle Visitor Centre** which is being re-developed after the floods.

Becky Hughes, Development Officer, Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP),

(contact: RHughes@caradon.gov.uk or 01579 341045), presented this project in which both Caradon District and Cornwall County Councils are involved. The Project covers an area around Caradon Hill of approximately 50 sq km. The project is in its planning stage at present and is looking for a total of £2 million over 3 years. The attached slides provide details on the project aim etc.

Partners were reminded of the relationship between this project and the World Heritage Site (WHS) and that HLF funding for the project would come as a result of the WHS.

Community support for the project has been excellent. Other community participation exercises might benefit from knowing how the CHAHP has undertaken their community involvement.

A cycleway from West Devon and the Copper Trail both provide an opportunity for cyclists and walkers to access the CHAHP area.

David Hazlehurst, Conservation Officer, English Nature and Peter Bowden, DEFRA Rural Development Service provided a joint presentation.

(contact: peter.c.bowden@defra.gsi.gov.uk or 01872 326276 and David Hazlehurst (david.hazlehurst@english-nature.org.uk or 01872 265720)

P Bowden circulated 'Agri-Environment Scheme Statistics for Cornwall' to partners. The ESA scheme has been running in West Penwith since 1987 and the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in Cornwall since 1991. The new Environmental Stewardship scheme was launched in 2005. It was felt to be a good time to review the effects of the present schemes in the county and a number of statistics have been drawn together to illustrate the accomplishments of the Countryside Stewardship and ESA schemes in Cornwall.

David Hazlehurst provided information on the work of English Nature in the east of the County.