



Minutes of Cornwall AONB 'Online' Partnership Meeting on TEAMS – Tues 2nd March 2021, 9.30am

In attendance:

Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Dominic Fairman	Cornwall Councillor
Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Councillor
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher	National Farmers' Union
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
David Marshall	Natural England
Grace Twiston-Davies	Environment Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter
Mike Ingram	FWAG South West
Rupert Hanbury-Tenison	CLA/Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners

Supporting Officers:

Peter Marsh	Cornwall Council, Environment Service Director
Steve Ford	Cornwall Council, Head of Environmental Growth & Partnerships
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council Transportation
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Melodie Manners	Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer
Coralie Barrow	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager
Natalie Haly	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Project Manager
Jacob Parry	Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Activities Officer
Katherine Hampton	Cornwall AONB ELM Advocacy Intern

Guest: Julie Dowton Bodmin Moor Livestock Welfare Officer (attended during Rupert Hanbury Tenison's presentation only)

Apologies:

Kate Leyshon, University of Exeter; Gemma Finnegan, CRCC; Loic Rich, Cornwall Councillor; Cheryl Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Deborah Boden, Cornish Mining World Heritage Site; Davina Pritchard, Cornwall Council Planning; Ann Preston-Jones, Historic England; Ian Kemp, National Trust; Ann Reynolds, Cornwall Council Historic Environment; David Rodda, Cornwall Council, Economic Growth; Sophie Johnson, Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)

		Action(s)
1	Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform – attendees joined the meeting via Microsoft TEAMS.	
2	Welcome and Introductions including welcome to Coralie Barrow, new Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer	

	Everyone introduced themselves and the new Project Development Officer, Coralie Barrow, was welcomed to her first meeting, having joined the Cornwall AONB Unit yesterday (1 st March 2021).	
3	Apologies – see above	
4	<p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>Rupert Hanbury-Tenison, CLA/Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners – gave a presentation about ongoing management pressures on Bodmin Moor. A summary of the presentation is as follows:</p> <p>Bodmin Moor looks and appears wild but it is a well managed, farmed landscape. It is also very harsh and only hardy cattle is farmed there with livestock grazing carefully managed to ensure the Moor is not over-grazed. All of Bodmin Moor is privately owned and much of it is Common land. The Bodmin Moor Commons Council is a statutory organisation and consists of commoners and landowners and deals with all agricultural matters. There is also the Association of Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners.</p> <p>Bodmin Moor is home to many invertebrates and important for biodiversity and the reservoirs on the Moor provide around 95% of drinking water in the area.</p> <p>People have always enjoyed Bodmin Moor and are always welcome, particularly the Open Access rights and part of the CROW Act 2000 reaffirmed this.</p> <p>In 2007, the Bodmin Moor Development and Communications Project was put together in liaison with the Cornwall AONB Unit. The document is even more relevant today as managing sustainable access is key, with more and more visitors to the Moor. The Objectives of the Development and Communications Project is to encourage better communication between landowners, commoners and agencies; to consider all aspects of use including public access; to enable access management techniques to be implemented to protect the landowners, commoners, nature and historic environment.</p> <p>Dogs not on leads causes problems, separating young livestock and horses from their mothers. New warning signs have recently been put up and a new ‘take the lead’ campaign is being launched in partnership with the police for responsible dog owners to carry a spare lead that can be given to other dog owners who don’t have a lead, to help spread the message.</p> <p>Fly-tipping has increased, which is dangerous and expensive to clear up. More off-roading on motorbikes, camping including campervans. Car parking pressure with increased visitors parking at small car parks. Wild fire lighting causes damage on a landscape scale to wildlife and peatland. Drone usage also causes disturbance.</p> <p>Discussions are important to be held with Bodmin Moor landowners with the introduction of the new ELM schemes to ensure continued viable farm businesses. Tree planting also mentioned.</p>	

	<p>Dominic Fairman said it was an excellent presentation. Dominic farms on commons on Bodmin Moor and is secretary to a commoners group. Climate Change is also going to have an impact on Bodmin Moor with longer drier spells etc.</p> <p>Hannah Harris raised the question on how to try and manage visitor pressures of car parking at Roughtor for example, and ways to educate and provide information to people to say the car park is full with live updates to announce this somehow to help deter some visitors from arriving at already busy locations and car parking.</p> <p>Mark Camp added that the Best of Bodmin Moor tourism marketing group tried a few years ago to manage visitors and issues such as this – we need to educate people not to park on verges and to drive off elsewhere.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership needs to raise awareness of the pressure points, there are similar problems throughout the AONB with small coves and beaches becoming too busy and congested with parking and visitors.</p>	
5	<p>Minutes of last meeting (2 Dec 2020)</p> <p>Item 6, Planning Update - Jim Wood and Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher have yet to meet regarding the concerns Patrick raised about permitted development on agricultural buildings.</p> <p>All other actions had been undertaken.</p>	Jim Wood/ Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher
6	AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update	
	<p>Planning update: Jim Wood provided an update on planning casework and policy work.</p> <p>Changes to the NPPF – Jim shared comments to this consultation, referring to para 175 e.g. ‘sensitively located and designed’ but within the AONB this specific wording is not included. Para 176 – doesn’t make reference to allocations and plan making, the NAAONB is going to make representation on this, and Jim asked if the Partnership felt the Cornwall AONB should also make a response.</p> <p>Martyn Alvey suggested the Cornwall AONB does make comments on para 175 and 176 as Jim sets out. AONB Unit AGREED to circulate the proposals to the Partnership, asking Partners to provide comments back and AONB Unit will submit a response by the 27th March consultation deadline.</p> <p>Weekly planning application consultations within the AONB continue unabated. Jim mentioned one case where Enforcement action was taken against a caravan in Perranuthnoe – owners were asked to remove the caravan for leisure purposes but the owner is permitted to then re-site the caravan back there with garden tools etc and it will then be classed as agricultural use. Appeal decisions such as this are worrying as will set a precedent for others in future.</p>	AONB Unit

	<p>Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) – Jim raised the reluctance of Cornwall Council to implement TPOs or challenge the individual case of the removal of a tree which can have significant impact on the landscape, and whether there is anything that can be done to improve or mitigate the current approach of importance of TPOs.</p> <p>Pendower Hotel application has been withdrawn by the applicant, which is good news for the Cornwall AONB as proposals were far from appropriate for the AONB landscape setting.</p> <p>Martyn Alvey mentioned the Planning Advisory Service review that was being undertaken between Cornwall Council Planning and the AONB Unit. Martyn said it is Louise Wood's understanding (Director for Planning & Sustainable Development, Cornwall Council) that due to staff changes at the AONB Unit, the need for the review is no longer necessary. The AONB Unit did not feel this is the case and would like to see the Planning Advisory Service review continue its work that commenced back in 2019 to look to try to improve the outcome of planning decisions being made within the Cornwall AONB at the detriment of the AONB landscape.</p>	
	<p>Melodie Manners provided an update on the following projects:</p> <p>ELM Lizard Test & Trials – work is progressing well with the 3 consultants undertaking their work. The project will continue until June 2021.</p> <p>ELM Advocacy Funding – successful virtual 'Growing Greener' Conference held on 25th February and Melodie thanked partners who were involved in making this ELM and Nature Recovery event happen. Another event is due to take place on 4th March which is an online workshop and is a Q&A session. Partners should let Melodie know if they have any questions to put forward or anyone who would like to attend the event. Final Report is starting to be compiled and will be sent to Defra in April as the Advocacy project is due to end 31st March 2021.</p>	
	<p>Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) project – Nick Taylor from the PLP team, who has been producing some excellent videos during Covid 19 Pandemic to continue online engagement on the project, posted a video on social media https://youtu.be/dp3CoOahDnY to raise awareness of the importance of Cornish hedges, following an incident of stones being deliberately taken from a hedge at Rosemergy in West Penwith. A more detailed update will be provided at the next Partnership meeting as further volunteering takes place on the ground again post National Lockdown (many of the 13 projects of the PLP involve volunteering activities).</p>	
	<p>Cornwall AONB Trust - has been grant funded £7000 from the AONB Core Budget which is much appreciated by the Trustees and will help move work forward in seeking fundraising and continuing the work of the Trust, once it has been un-mothballed from meetings and activity since the start of the Pandemic.</p>	
	<p>Monumental Improvement (MI) Project – Natalie Haly, Project Manager, provided an update. Due to Lockdown the physical activities have been put on hold, but creative ideas and agile working has enabled lots of planning and preparatory work to take</p>	

	<p>place, which includes a Webinar being held this afternoon (2nd March) if anyone would like to attend to learn more about the project https://youtu.be/MZnGZDeftuU. During the Webinar, an expert panel will discuss how heritage projects can benefit communities and help people to connect to their local landscapes and how people can get involved in the project.</p> <p>The Lockdown restrictions has enabled the team time to fully understand the audiences to the project, barriers to access, looking at different activities for school groups and other groups to remove these barriers – which included an online survey to help obtain feedback from locals, visitors and potential user groups.</p> <p>However, the Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU) survey work has been able to continue on site.</p> <p>The project team are starting to look at ecological benefits and biodiversity work of the MI project and looking into engaging an ecologist to provide an ecology methodology to give information on what can and cannot be done on site.</p> <p>St Pirans Oratory will be added to the MI project as one of the original sites on Bodmin Moor is no longer feasible so an alternative additional site was considered to bring the project back to the 40 scheduled monuments sites. Pleased to report that the MI project will work alongside the St Pirans Trust and CAU to deliver this.</p> <p>Matt Davidson has a Student placement with the project and is working on a desk based research project on Perranporth Airfield which provides experience for the student and added information to the MI Project.</p>	
	Other projects including upcoming and pipeline projects – update by Emma Browning	
	<p>Bee Healthy Bee Happy - Emma updated that this project submission (which is a follow on from the Wheal Buzzy project) has reached another level and the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) has requested putting a more detailed application to them. Chris Coldwell who has just left the AONB Unit, Grace Twiston-Davies at the ESI and other partners including Buglife, have worked hard developing the project submission to date.</p>	
	<p>Kerdroya – there was to be a celebratory event as part of the project but due to Covid this has been delayed and won't happen this year. Golden Tree Productions who are leading on the project, will be arranging activities with school groups and will be offering skilled Cornish hedging training sessions.</p>	
7	<p>Management Plan Review – Emma Browning provided an update on the progress to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Management Plan 2016-2021 Actions Monitoring – copy of the actions progress summary was circulated with the minutes of the last meeting. 18 actions have been completed, 5 are in progress and 3 others have had to change for various reasons. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Partner/Stakeholder Themed Topic Discussion Group meetings and Public Consultation Online Survey – nearly 100 public consultation survey responses received from the initial consultation undertaken during October to December 2020. During that same time period, 16 themed topic discussion group meetings were held with partners and detailed stakeholder surveys received. Emma Browning is working through the responses to begin drafting the new Plan. • State of AONB Report – Land Use Consultants have been contracted to undertake this report and they commenced work in February 2021. LUC will report on trends and analysis on condition monitoring looking back to 2008 when the previous monitoring report was compiled. Landscape, settlement pattern, state of nature etc are some of the themes that will be included in the new report. A digital mapping resource will also be produced as part of LUC's work which will be an interactive online mapping tool to show results in mapping form. 	
8	<p>Cornwall AONB Monuments Matter to People – Project update by Jacob Parry, Activities Officer for the MI project. Part of the wider goals of the overall MI project, the additional Monuments Matters to People (MMTP) project has received ESF funding (via CLLD) to engage with people that haven't engaged with the landscape previously, and to break down barriers of access to the landscape and scheduled monuments. MMTP is a blended learning course providing skills and training opportunities for people from Liskeard, Saltash and Torpoint who are currently unemployed or inactive to help people take those first steps back into work, employment and training. It is a 2 year course and participants can join the course for anywhere between 24 to 48 weeks. Course will hopefully start end March once Covid restrictions are lifted and will be based at Maker Heights at Rame Head. There will be regular in-takes onto the course during the year.</p> <p>It is a partnership project with Cornwall Council Adult Education, Rame Conservation Trust, CAU and Samaritans and participants will gain a qualification from attending the course, will have the opportunity to volunteer with Rame Conservation Trust by undertaking a varied range of conservation activities. Also learning about the AONB and the environment with the AONB Unit by taking part in guided walks, meeting new people, learning about the history of the sites and the AONB landscape etc.</p> <p>Partners were asked to let Jacob Parry know Jacob.Parry@cornwall.gov.uk if they know of anyone who would benefit from joining the course and to please forward details to anyone who may be interested.</p> <p>Peter Marsh suggested providing link/info to him to put on his own LinkedIn for example and suggested that Jacob should promote to the Cornwall Councillors for that area.</p>	<p>All Partners</p> <p>Jacob Parry</p>
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Partnership Agreement – the 2016-2021 Agreement that partners signed up to needs updating as the current one ends 31st March 2021. This will be discussed at the next</p>	AONB Unit



**Cornwall
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	Exec Board meeting with a view to amending and asking partners to sign up to the new Agreement.	
10	Date & Time of next meeting – Tuesday 25 th May 2021, 9.30am-11.30am, online TEAMS meeting.	All