



## **Minutes of Cornwall AONB 'Virtual' Partnership Meeting – Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, 10am til 12noon**

### **In attendance:**

#### **Partnership Members:**

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Dominic Fairman	Cornwall Councillor
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher	National Farmers' Union
Mark Camp	Visit Cornwall
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Jimmy Scobie	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Will Langer	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Ian Kemp	National Trust
Grace Twiston-Davies	Environment Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter
Sophie Johnson	Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC)
Simon Browning	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Ann Preston-Jones	Historic England
Mike Ingram	FWAG South West

#### **Supporting Officers:**

Davina Pritchard	Cornwall Council, Planning
Peter Marsh	Cornwall Council, Environment Service Director
Steve Ford	Cornwall Council, Head of Environmental Growth & Partnerships
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Historic Environment
David Rodda	Cornwall Council, Economic Growth
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Chris Coldwell	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Melodie Manners	Cornwall AONB Business 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

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Carl Warom	Cornwall Council, Senior Environment Officer
Mark Holmes	Cornwall Council, Carbon Neutral Cornwall Manager
Mark Beard	Natural England

#### **Apologies:**

Corine Dyke and Nik Ward, Natural England; Kate Leyshon, University of Exeter; Gemma Finnegan, CRCC; Martyn Alvey and Loic Rich, Cornwall Councillors; Cheryl Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Deborah Boden, Cornish Mining World Heritage Site; Nigel Blackler and Hannah Harris, Cornwall Council Transportation; Nick Russell, Historic England

		Action(s)
1	<b>Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform</b> – all attendees joined the meeting via TEAMS.	
2	<b>Introductions including welcome to Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Projects team and Guest Speakers</b> Everyone introduced themselves and the new Monumental Improvements team, Natalie Haly and Jacob Parry, were welcomed along with the Guest Speakers. The Chairperson, Gill Pipkin, expressed her thanks on behalf of the AONB Unit and Partnership to Chris Coldwell for all his hard work during past 3 years – he's leaving at Christmas to take up a job in Scotland. The Project Development Officer post was advertised but not successfully recruited following interviews, so will be re-advertised.	
3	<b>Actions from last meeting (15 Sept 20)</b>  <b>Item 6, Planning Update</b> - Jim Wood and Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher have yet to meet regarding the concerns Patrick raised about permitted development on agricultural buildings.  <b>Item 7, Update on 7 outstanding Management Plan actions</b> - Emma Browning has spoken to some partners since the last meeting and will circulate a refreshed version of the outstanding Management Plan actions to Partners.  All other actions were complete and there were no matters arising.	Jim Wood/ Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher  Emma Browning
4	<b>Guest Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carl Warom, Cornwall Council's Senior Environment Officer – Local Nature Recovery Network</b></li> <li>• <b>Mark Holmes, Cornwall Council's Carbon Neutral Cornwall Manager</b></li> <li>• <b>Mark Beard, Natural England, new SSSI West Penwith</b></li> </ul>	
	Carl Warom provided a presentation on the Local Nature Recovery (LNR) Pilot and attended the meeting to gain input from Partners. Carl explained that the LNR Pilot is running in parallel with the refresh of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Environmental Growth Strategy (EGS) which was created in 2015. 3 main plans are tripartite strands of the EGS: the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board (Climate Change Action Plan); Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (Nature Recovery Plan); and Strategic Resilience Board (Local Flood Risk Management Strategy).	
	Local Authorities have to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Cornwall has been selected as one of 5 pilots, partly as it has been ground-breaking with the EGS. The LNRS covers the whole of Cornwall including Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONBs. There will be a marine focus in the LNRS to include intertidal, estuaries and inshore waters. Cross border nature recovery opportunities with Devon but not with Isles of Scilly, although they will be included in the EGS.	

	<p>2 main outputs: – a local habitat map – Lagas is the prototype which will depict nature recovery mapping of opportunities and the second element is nature recovery priorities: spatial, thematic, place-based.</p> <p>Carl explained the workstream, key outputs and stakeholder engagement that will take place to develop the LNRS.</p>	
	<p>Carl asked for Partnership input at this meeting to help with the Longlist nature recovery priorities (for biodiversity and wider benefits) for the first 5 Year Nature Recovery Plan. Partners were asked to consider biodiversity and wider benefits, strategic and specific objectives, priorities which would achieve multiple outcomes etc.</p>	
	<p>Partners were asked to Internet browse to Menti.com and undertook a brief question and answer session, providing answers anonymously to 4 questions regarding biodiversity and nature recovery. Partners provided some really useful comments which could also be seen live on screen as the comments came in and Partners were thanked for their input it is really appreciated. The results of the Menti session will also be useful to feed into the Cornwall AONB Management Plan Review.</p> <p>Results of the Menti.com exercise will be circulated with the minutes and Partners can contact Carl Warom <a href="mailto:carl.warom@cornwall.gov.uk">carl.warom@cornwall.gov.uk</a> if they have any questions or further comments to add. A LNRS Public Consultation survey is also due to be made available and Partners are welcome to forward this to their networks.</p>	<p>AONB Unit</p> <p>All Partners</p>
	<p><b>Presentation by Mark Holmes, Carbon Neutral Cornwall Manager, Cornwall Council</b></p> <p>Cornwall Council declared a Climate Change emergency in January 2019 to strive to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. This declaration of emergency was on behalf of the whole of Cornwall and Cornwall Council's aim is to lead by example to produce an Action Plan to acknowledge its role and what can be addressed.</p>	
	<p>The Council is focussing on how to reduce carbon emission from commercial, industrial and public sector organisations and promote a circular economy; how households can reduce their carbon footprint, expansion of renewable energy; reduced emissions from transportation including people and goods; and climate resilient communities, landscapes and infrastructure etc.</p> <p>Mark Holmes explained how the Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action Plan will align to the recovery and renewal plans.</p>	
	<p>Mark highlighted some of the early activity that has been undertaken since July 2019, such as Whole House Retrofit Pilot, Forest for Cornwall, Climate Change Development Planning Document; Local Industrial Strategy clean growth focus and meeting with Treasury regarding £9billion grid investment fund.</p>	
	<p>Community Engagement is taking place on ways residents and the communities of Cornwall can take part and make a difference. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall 2030 Hive</p>	

	<p>was launched via <a href="https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall">https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/carbon-neutral-cornwall</a> so people can get involved, learn and share ideas.</p> <p>Mark Holmes said the Leadership Board and others will now start to develop a co-ordinated approach and how we can also work together, to ensure ideas can be created and developed to future the initial Action Plan that was compiled at pace.</p> <p>Copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes.</p>	AONB Unit
	<b>Presentation by Mark Beard, Natural England – Mark works within the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly team.</b>	
	<p>Mark provided a presentation on the proposed West Penwith Moors SSSI. Copy of Mark's presentation will be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>Objectives of SSSIs is to protect them from damage and to promote the appropriate management e.g. targeting of agri-environment schemes. Benefits of SSSIs was outlined such as contributing to landscape conservation, protect and conserving biodiversity and contributing to air and water quality (eco-system services).</p> <p>The proposed area is a fragmented landscape. All SSSIs are noted for specific features. Lowland heath, mires and acid grassland are some of the features specific to this proposed West Penwith Moors SSSI.</p> <p>Mark outlined the timeline which is due to be formally notified for intention to designate in Summer 2021 when there will be a period of consultations and representations, with formal confirmation of SSSI notification hopefully within the required 9 months which will be Spring 2022.</p>	AONB Unit
5	<b>LNP and AONB Chair's meeting update</b> – Gill Pipkin provided an update on her meeting with Robin Teverson, LNP Chair on 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. Gill had requested a meeting some time ago to discuss how the LNP and AONB could better interact and pleased to report that the meeting had been convened. Items discussed were Single Nature Recovery, National Pilot for Local Nature Recovery, Colchester Declaration and its implications, Glover Review and how the current Covid situation could impact and the AONB Management Plan. It was a really good in-depth discussion, and the LNP is keen to interact more going forward and Emma Browning has been invited to the LNP Steering Group meeting for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	
6	<b>AONB Unit Project and Planning Update including Wavehub</b>	
	<b>Monumental Improvements (MI) Project</b> – Emma Browning introduced and welcomed the MI Projects team – Natalie Haly and Jacob Parry. Natalie provided an update on the project so far since they both started in post in October/November. Currently prioritising the booking up of clearance work and site surveys which has been delayed due to November Covid National Lockdown 2. Also preparing an Activities Plan which	

	<p>will help ensure the MI Project will reach out and engage with local communities and getting people involved as much as possible.</p> <p>Jacob provided a lecture to Truro College via an online virtual event – it was well attended and good that this aspect of the work can still take place during lockdown.</p> <p>Chris Coldwell provide an update on the following projects:</p> <p>Funding has been secured from European Social Fund (ESF) which will enable the <b>Monuments Matter project</b> to hopefully commence in January 2021. This is a sub project of MI, focussing on the Rame Head section. ESF funding is through the SE Cornwall Community Led Local Development programme and the Cornwall AONB will be working with some new partners which includes Adult Education, Samaritans, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Rame Conservation Trust, Pigshill &amp; Clarrick Woodlands CIC. It will be delivering a training programme for 2 years, based at Maker Heights where people will be able to undertake conservation stabilisation works, skills training including recording of sites, Samaritans will also be involved to run health and wellbeing support and activities. The Funder has indicated if the project works well, the AONB could bid for a similar project for the Lizard area.</p> <p><b>Wheal Buzzy project</b> - completed at end of November 2020 and Charlotte Goodship, WB Project Officer has now left the AONB Unit. The Project Final Evaluation Report is on the website <a href="https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/wheal-buzzy">https://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk/wheal-buzzy</a> and an article will be in the Environment page of the forthcoming Cornwall weekly press. Most outcomes exceeded the original targets e.g. land improved for pollinators, volunteer engagement days and guided walks.</p> <p><b>2 new funding bids submitted</b> – awaiting to hear outcome. Project is for a circular walk, linked to MI Project – connecting Mount Edgcumbe, Maker Heights and Maker Woodlands. Bids submitted to Community Infrastructure Levy and to Rural Development Programme and partners were thanked for writing letters of support for those 2 funding bids.</p>	
	<p><b>Bee Happy Bee Healthy</b> – a successor pollinator project to Wheal Buzzy – encouraged by the National Lottery Community Fund to submit an expression of interest. Partners are CC, ESI, Buglife and Active Cornwall in a £440,000 project over 4 years to improve condition of pollinators and also to improve people's health and wellbeing by working with people referred by doctors surgeries etc.</p>	
	<p>Melodie Manners provided an update on the following projects:</p> <p><b>ELM Lizard Test &amp; Trials</b> – final reports on the evaluation of the case study are being compiled. Cornwall AONB received a small amount of additional funding which has been provided by Defra and NAAONB to undertake additional ELM Advocacy work with farmers – this work has to be undertaken and funding spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A new online digital Farmer's Engagement Information Forum is one initiative that is being developed as part of this advocacy work, a membership space online where the CAONB and farmers can share information about nature recovery and ELM and hopefully form</p>	

	farm clusters etc. There will also be a virtual conference in liaison with the LNP and other partners to engage the community farming landowners and stakeholders to talk about how they would like to receive information regarding ELM and linking up with the Nature Recovery team and possibly with their Land Hub and how this could perhaps be all brought together.	
	<b>Penwith Landscape Partnership project</b> – this is doing well considering many of the projects are volunteer based and involve outdoor activities all being affected by Covid restrictions. An extension is likely to be mitigated to extend the lifetime of the project due to Covid delays. The PLP team have been working really hard, especially the Digital and Communications Officer who has kept up momentum to engage online with the local community and interested people, also the team have produced some excellent YouTube videos depicting the Penwith Landscape during the pandemic.	
	<b>Cornwall AONB Trust</b> is still currently mothballed. The Trust will be looking at ways of increasing fundraising without relying too much on the business membership model previously planned. Many businesses such as hospitality based were to be involved and engaged so this is not likely to be a possible way forward due to Covid 19 and businesses being so badly affected.	
	<b>Project Pipeline Expression of Interest</b> - the AONB Unit has been working up projects and also shared ideas with colleagues in Cornwall Council's Environmental Growth team, in response to a call for projects from the LEP. Hopefully some of these projects will be successful in the future. The Project Pipeline live spreadsheet will be shared with the minutes for Partners awareness and the AONB Unit will contact Partners to develop project ideas further following any feedback and encouragement from the LEP to do so.	AONB Unit
	<b>Planning Update</b> – Jim Wood provided an update on recent planning activities. Jim was away from the office for 6 weeks and gave his thanks to Chris Coldwell for co-ordinating and managing planning casework in his absence. The pressure of planning continues unabated with typically between 30 and 60 applications per week.	
	<b>Pendower Hotel, Roseland</b> – this planning application remains un-determined and the AONB Unit has re-affirmed its original comments of objection to the proposal.	
	<b>Single agricultural dwelling at Rame</b> – CC East Planning Committee approved it. The local Rame Protection Group have taken this decision forward to Judicial Review so it will be interesting to see how this develops.	
	<b>26 dwellings on edge of Mullion</b> – this proposal was refused, taken to appeal and appeal was dismissed and AONB was given as part of reason for refusal.	
	<b>Trevoze and St Agnes undergrounding</b> – these schemes are now complete and CAONB is grateful for the assistance of both National Trust and Western Power Distribution in the delivery of these schemes.	

	<p><b>Climate change – Wavehub</b> – the MMO informed Jim Wood that Section 36 consent has been granted for the Wavehub proposal to accommodate up to 4 floating off-shore wind turbines. Jim read out the email from Steve Jermy of Wave Hub Ltd who provided thanks to the AONB Partnership for its open-minded response to the development, which aligns with the climate change emergency and need for greater amounts of renewable energy in response to this and assisted in unlocking other objections.</p>	
7	<p><b>Management Plan Review</b> – Emma Browning provided an update on the progress to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on Partner/Stakeholder Themed Topic Discussion Group meetings and Public Consultation Online Survey</b> <a href="https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/aonb-management-plan-review">https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/aonb-management-plan-review</a>. Emma thanked Partners for their attendance and input at the various Topic Discussion Group meetings, about 13 have been held and 5 more planned. Useful to have these discussions in smaller groups to allow initial intelligence gathering of information.</li> <li>• <b>Management Plan extension request granted</b> – Emma Browning discussed this with Defra and Cornwall Council and is pleased to confirm that the extension request has now been granted, to enable the new Plan to be published in March 2022. An official letter has been sent to Natural England to initiate the Review process.</li> <li>• <b>State of AONB Report</b> – Consultants to be contracted once their brief and costings have been agreed. An AONB monitoring report has not been undertaken since 2013 and the new report will provide trends back to 2008 through to 2020. This work will be commissioned soon and it is hoped a digital map will be produced as part of this work in addition to the Report.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Partnership Chairperson Re-election due March 2021</b> – Emma Browning was pleased to announce that Gill Pipkin has agreed to stand as Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson for another term of 3 years and Gill was thanked for her all her work with the Partnership to date. The Exec Board at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 welcomed and agreed Gill's offer to stand for the next 3 years. The Exec Board is tasked with agreeing this appointment, and should any Partners have any reservations with Gill continuing for a further 3 year term, they can email Emma Browning.</p>	All Partners
9	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Melodie Manners mentioned a new online events platform that the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) is developing. It is called Aventri and they will be sharing national ELM updates with free online workshops etc and Partners might find this useful as a free resource. The AONB Unit will provide a link to the website once it is available (still being developed).</p>	AONB Unit



**Cornwall  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty**

10	<p><b>Date &amp; Time of next meeting</b> – to be arranged in March 2021 (date to be confirmed) as 10<sup>th</sup> Feb suggested as tentative date clashes with Cornwall Council Cabinet meeting. (10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021, 11am will be an CAONB Exec Board instead)</p> <p>Partners asked to let the AONB Unit know <a href="mailto:Emma.Browning@cornwall.gov.uk">Emma.Browning@cornwall.gov.uk</a> if there is something partner organisations would like to share at next Partnership meeting for the agenda, any presentations from their organisation etc.</p>	All Partners
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