



Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Minutes of Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 'Virtual' Partnership Meeting on Microsoft TEAMS (due to Covid 19) held on Monday 15th June 2020, 11.00-12.00

This virtual online brief 1 hour meeting was convened during the Covid 19 pandemic as the Partnership had not met since Sept 2019 and this was the first meeting held since Emma Browning, new Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager had joined the AONB Unit on 3rd Feb 2020. This meeting included an agenda but no supporting papers, since it was intended to be short and focused.

After each topic on the agenda there was an opportunity for partners to ask any questions. There were several actions where Partners were asked for feedback on specific items. The Unit will issue these specific items as part of these minutes to request feedback in relation to these actions to ensure the virtual meeting was kept short and also to provide partners more time to respond back.

In Attendance (virtual via Microsoft TEAMS)

Members:

Gill Pipkin	Chairperson, Cornwall AONB Partnership
Dominic Fairman	Cornwall Councillor
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Deborah Boden	Cornish Mining World Heritage Site team
Simon Browning	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Becky Hughes	FWAG South West
Will Langer	Country Land & Business Assn (CLA)
Corine Dyke	Natural England
Gemma Finnegan	Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC)

Supporting Officers:

Philippa Hoskin	Cornwall Council, Environment Service, Partnerships & Policy
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service
Grace Twiston-Davies	University of Exeter, Environment & Sustainability Institute
Emma Browning	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Jane Davies	Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer
Chris Coldwell	Cornwall AONB Project Development Officer
Jim Wood	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Charlotte Goodship	Cornwall AONB Wheal Buzzy Project Officer
Karen Johns	Cornwall AONB Office & Finance Manager

Apologies:

Tim Light, Fal River Cornwall Partnership; Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, NFU; Ian Kemp, National Trust; Martyn Alvey, Cornwall Councillor; Manda Brookman, Coast; Mark Camp, Visit Cornwall; Jim Flashman, Cornwall Councillor; Martin Goodall, ERRICIS; Rupert Hanbury-Tenison and Jimmy Scobie, CLA; Ian Jones, Volunteer Cornwall; Catherine Leyshon, University of Exeter; Cheryl Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; David Marshall Defra; Ann Preston-Jones and Nick Russell, Historic England; Rich Loic, Cornwall Councillor; David Rodda, Cornwall Agri-food Council;

Nigel Blackler and Hannah Harris, Cornwall Council Transport; Caroline Court, Public Health
Peter Marsh & Steven Ford, Cornwall Council Environment Service; Ann Reynolds, Historic Environment, Cornwall
Council; Louise Wood & Hayley Jewels, Cornwall Council Planning

		Action(s)
1	<p>Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform</p> <p>Partners were welcomed as they joined the meeting and their attendance noted for the minutes.</p>	
2	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Everyone introduced themselves and the Chairperson welcomed Emma Browning, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager to her first Partnership meeting (virtual) since she started with the AONB Unit on 3rd February 2020.</p>	
3	<p>AONB during Covid 19</p> <p>Emma reported that the AONB Unit team have been working business as usual during Covid 19 lockdown, apart from not undertaking site visits. The team have been really busy via homeworking and continuing progress on projects and activities via virtual online meetings.</p>	
4	<p>Defra Funding</p> <p>Jane Davies reported that we received the Defra core AONB funding settlement letter for 20/21 on 26 February 2020. The AONB Unit submitted the budget forecast and Business Plan to Defra on 3rd April 2020, which sets out how the money will be spent on staff and overheads, office and other running costs, management plan, projects and other activities.</p> <p>The Defra Funding offer for 20/21 is £188,403, but this year, £11,891 of that is being allocated from the Defra Biodiversity Fund, making the total £176,512, so in real terms the Cornwall AONB has less than last year.</p> <p>With regard to the Annual Forecast for Defra, our Annual Total Core costs are £229,727 with a further sum of £20,740 payable for programme/project costs making a total combined spend of £250,467. This total equates to a 75% contribution towards our annual spend but if you remove the £11,891 allocated from the Defra Biodiversity Fund to help fund our activities in relation to biodiversity, then in real terms, Defra only allocates 70% towards the total AONB core and project costs resulting in a shortfall of 5%</p> <p>The Chairperson asked about the 25% contribution from Cornwall Council (CC), and whether this is also reduced. J Davies confirmed that the CC contribution has in effect been reducing year on year as CC has only been contributing £55K each year. In effect we are now getting 22% from CC which has been the case since 2014/15 at least.</p> <p>➤ Dominic Fairman offered to raise the CC funding shortfall with CC although it is appreciated an increase is unlikely to be feasible in the current economic climate.</p>	Dominic Fairman
5	<p>Recruitment:</p> <p>Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer - Jane Davies, Cornwall AONB Business Development Officer, is leaving the AONB Unit on 30 August 2020. The role was advertised in May 2020 and shortlisting has been undertaken, with (virtual online) interviews being held on 18 and 19 June 2020. It is hoped that the new postholder can start in July to ensure a beneficial handover period with Jane Davies before she leaves end August 2020.</p>	

The Chairperson, asked to put on record that it has been an absolute pleasure working with Jane Davies and thanks for all her hard work with the AONB Unit over the past 5 years.

Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Project – 2 posts will be advertised in the next few weeks for a Project Officer and an Activities Officer and it is hoped that the staff will start in October 2020.

6 **AONB Management Plan – 2016-2021:**

The current Management Plan runs until 2021. The AONB Unit will commence the Management Plan Review process now to scope, draft and consult to create the new 5 year Management Plan for 2022-2027.

The Vision for the next 5 years could look quite different to the current Plan's vision to take account of issues affecting the Cornwall AONB such as coastal communities, climate change and decline in species.

Management Plan Review Steering Group – this will be set up and Partners are invited to join the group to help the AONB Unit team steer and engage in the work of the Management Plan Review.

All Partners invited to support and to join Steering Group – E Browning will request for partners to respond emma.browning@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Council Neighbourhoods Committee – Dominic Fairman mentioned that pre Covid 19, the Council's Neighbourhoods Committee was due to discuss the erosion of coastal paths via a task and finish group. Dominic had read the recent South West Coast Path article on the Environment page of the West Briton, Cornish Guardian, Cornishman (the AONB Unit co-ordinates these weekly articles) and Dominic would like to see this task and finish group of Neighbourhoods Cttee convened and would the AONB Unit support this committee. Emma Browning confirmed the AONB Unit would support this and is something that can be discussed in more detail at a Management Plan Review Steering Group meeting to ensure coastal path erosion is addressed in the new Management Plan.

7 **Nature Recovery**

Proposal of collaborative approach to Nature Recovery with the CC Environmental Growth Team and Tamar AONB by co-creating a single Nature Recovery Plan for Cornwall.

Philippa Hoskin reported that she has been discussing with Emma Browning and Tamar Valley AONB regarding a proposal to take a collaborative approach to Nature Recovery with Cornwall Council's Environmental Growth team and Cornwall and Tamar Valley AONBs to co-create a single Nature Recovery Plan for Cornwall.

They are considering a Nature Recovery Plan for the whole of Cornwall, not just the AONBs as it is felt that it is much better for nature to improve habitats across boundaries and not just to stop at administrative boundaries. The Plan is to include not only land, but Cornwall is looking to include sea out to 12 nautical miles as nature does not stop at the cliff edge.

The Chairperson and Emma Browning are hoping to have a meeting with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership chair in the near future to discuss.

Deborah Boden, WHS – expressed her support to the proposed Nature Recovery Plan and would be keen to work and be engaged with discussions. Particularly with their new Management Plan which they will be doing in a different format.

Becky Hughes – mentioned the new LAGAS website and how will the information be used? Philippa Hoskin confirmed that it is a strategic prioritisation tool for the nature recovery network, it will provide on land spatial network recovery and opportunity areas. It will also be used in nature based policies in the new Cornwall Climate Change DPD.

Becky Hughes asked about farmers wanting to improve environmental management on their land - should they use LAGAS and will Defra be happy with this or will Defra require another level of compliance? Becky Hughes added that the LAGAS may link to the North Cornwall test & trials FWAG SW is also involved with and will contact Emma Browning and Jane Davies about this.

- Further to the discussion above, the AONB Unit requested support from the Partnership to pursue this collaboration of co-creating a single Nature Recovery Plan for Cornwall. Partners were asked to respond with their support or any comments which will be requested through an email from E Browning.

All Partners

8 Pre-apps – AONB charges

The Cornwall AONB Unit charges for the pre-planning application advice service it provides. The charges have been at cost-recovery, but the Unit requests the support of the Partnership to increase the charges. The revised costs (highlighted in green below) has been brought in line with other AONB and World Heritage Site charging fees and is scaled dependent on major/ minor developments and a reduced rate is included for Agricultural Buildings

	Current Charges	
	Fee for single site visit/meeting	Further site visit/Site visit and Meeting
Major (residential) (10 or more dwellings or site area of 4ha or more)	£350 £500.00	£75/150
Minor (residential)	£200 (single dwellings £175) £300.00	£75/150
Major (Industrial/ renewable energy scheme) (1,000 m2 floorspace or more or site area of 1ha or more)	£350 £500.00	£75/150
Minor (Industrial/ renewable energy scheme)	£200 £300.00	£75/150
Agricultural Buildings	£175.00	

- Partners were requested to let the AONB Unit know via email if they support the increase in charges and to let the Unit know of any comments regarding the proposed revised costs. Partners were asked to respond with their support or any comments which will be requested through an email from E Browning.

All Partners

9 Cornwall AONB Logo

The AONB Unit suggested the current Cornwall AONB logo could be changed in the future, possibly to be re-designed in time for the launch of the new Management Plan in 2022. It is felt that the current logo only reflects a part of the Cornwall AONB and perhaps a logo with the coast of Cornwall on it including other features would better reflect and portray what the Cornwall AONB stand for and is more recognisable in and out of the county.

The below 'potential new?' image is from the Kerdroya Cornwall AONB Community Cornish Hedge Restoration project plaques, with the labyrinth and coastline of Cornwall image. It is not suggested that the labyrinth design be included in a proposed new logo, but possibly the outline of the Cornwall coastline with other features added.

Partners suggested working with schools and the community to ask them to design a logo which could help keep design costs down. Also need to be mindful of cost of the logo re-design, which could be incorporated as part of the overall design costs for the new Cornwall AONB Management Plan. Re-branding of current colour palette, font etc is not proposed, this will remain as present – just the idea of the logo being re-designed is the proposal being put to the Partnership.

Potential New??	Current
 <p>Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p>	 <p>Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p>

- Partners were asked to comment and/or support the proposal for a new Cornwall AONB logo. Partners were asked to respond with their support or any comments which will be requested through an email from E Browning.

All Partners

10 Any other Business

Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, NFU was unable to attend the meeting but had circulated the SW NFU recovery plan, ***Growing a resilient, strong and profitable SW agricultural sector post Covid 19***. The NFU in the South West has prepared the strategy document to highlight some of the key impacts and resulting challenges, but importantly to also showcase where farming families have adapted and tried to change as we seek to map out what recovery and "building back better" might look like.

It is a lengthy document as NFU wanted to clearly articulate its ambition of what we can achieve, how we can get there, and how, with your help, farming, which underpins our rural economy and the food supply chain, can recover to be stronger than it was before this pandemic. While the report looks closely at the business of farming and growing, it does so in the context of farming's contribution to the environment, the landscape, to

communities, and to the economy. It looks at the role farming has in underpinning rural economic activity and feeding the nation, but also in delivering wider benefits through our Net Zero ambition as well as Government's ambition around public goods and Environmental Land Management (ELM) best practice.

Whilst it is written as a regional document, there is plenty of room to add local context, be that at county, catchment or farm level, as well as for our distinctive Cornish farming sectors; dairy, horticulture and livestock.

So the challenge is, how can we all work together to champion the environment in Cornwall, how do we build and strengthen the local food supply chains to make them more resilient and how do we make farming in Cornwall a resilient, strong and profitable sector?

The document had been circulated to Partners in advance of the meeting and asked for any immediate feedback which would be raised in this item during the meeting or alternatively Partners can contact P Aubrey Fletcher direct.

Dominic Fairman raised the issue of food production and the reason for the fragile state of food production in farming when demand for food has not decreased.

- Partners were asked to look at the NFU Recovery Plan document that was circulated in advance of the meeting and let Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher know of any comments/feedback via Patrick.Aubrey-Fletcher@nfu.org.uk

All Partners

11

Date of Next Meeting

- Partners were asked to feedback to the AONB Unit on how they felt the virtual meeting went – did it go well/what was not so good? Was the meeting too short, or too long? What could be improved? Partners were asked to comment and/or support the proposal for a new Cornwall AONB logo. Partners were asked to respond with their support or any comments which will be requested through an email from E Browning.

All Partners

All Partners

Next Cornwall AONB Partnership meeting suggested to be held on 15th Sept 2020

All Partners