



Minutes of Cornwall AONB 'Online' Partnership Meeting on TEAMS – Weds 30 June 2021, 2pm

In attendance:

Partnership Members:

Gill Pipkin	Cornwall AONB Partnership Chairperson
Cllr Martyn Alvey	Cornwall Council
Cllr Kate Ewert	Cornwall Council
Cllr Jennifer Cruse	Cornwall Council
Cllr Sharon Daw	Cornwall Council
Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher	National Farmers' Union
Cathy Woolcock	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Helen Rawe	Cornwall Heritage Trust
Lawrie Sampson	FWAG South West & Interim Cornwall AONB FiPL Farm Engagement Officer
Simon Browning	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Corine Dyke	Natural England
Kate Sugar	Natural England (Observer only – working on Nature Recovery)
Lisa Goodall	Environment Agency
Deborah Boden	Cornwall & West Devon World Heritage Site
Ben Phillips	ESI, University of Exeter
Martin Goodall	ERCCIS
Elliot Hutt	CLA

Supporting Officers:

Steve Ford	Cornwall Council, Head of Environmental Growth & Partnerships
Hannah Harris	Cornwall Council Transportation
David Rodda	Cornwall Council Economic Growth
Carl Warom	Cornwall Council Environmental Growth
Rob Lacey	Cornwall Council Planning
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

Mark Holmes, Carbon Neutral Cornwall Manager, Cornwall Council attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the Back the Future crowdfunding campaign

Apologies:

Mark Camp, Visit Cornwall; Ann Reynolds, Cornwall Council, Historic Environment Service; Louise Wood and Davina Pritchard, Cornwall Council Planning; Grace Twiston-Davies, ESI - University of Exeter; Peter Marsh, Cornwall Council Environment Service; Ann Preston-Jones, Historic England; Cheryl Marriott, Cornwall Wildlife Trust; Jacob Parry, Cornwall AONB Monumental Improvements Activities Officer; Rupert Hanbury-Tenison, Bodmin Moor Commons Landowners; Julian Gray, South West Coast Path Association;

		Action(s)
1	Hello and 'Check in' to virtual platform	
2	Welcome to new Partnership members and Introductions. The new Cornwall Councillors (post May local elections) nominated to represent on the Partnership were welcomed. Lawrie Sampson, interim Cornwall AONB Farm Engagement Officer was introduced. Lawrie works for FWAG South West and they have been contracted by the AONB Unit until 31 st October 2021 to undertake farm engagement work for the new Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in the interim whilst recruitment to the Unit team undertaken. Iwona Brooks, a temp, currently working on Monuments Matter Project has increased her hours to work extra 2 days/week on admin for FiPL.	
3	Apologies – see above	
4	Minutes of last meeting (2 March 2021) – minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All actions had been undertaken.	
5	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back the Future crowdfunding by Mark Holmes, Carbon Neutral Cornwall Manager <p>Mark Holmes was invited to attend the meeting to present the new 'Love where you are' campaign – it is aligned to the Climate Emergency Declaration. It is not a way for people to personally off-set their carbon footprint, but is a way local people and visitors can support, pledge and donate their support towards work taking place by communities and individuals. Funding will go towards a Climate Action Fund which will invite funding applications for projects to match fund 50% of the project.</p> <p>QR codes will be placed in various locations, such as on pavements, putting them on posters etc to raise awareness and encourage people to use the QR code to pledge their support.</p> <p>The Cornwall Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the campaign and will share and encourage amongst its member businesses.</p> <p>Further information - a Partner Marketing pack will be circulated with the minutes. Partners welcomed the new campaign and agreed it is a great idea. Proliferation of signs was raised, and Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher asked if there will be guidance provided to ensure this doesn't happen – Mark Holmes confirmed guidance will be issued to help avoid this.</p>	AONB Unit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornwall Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – results of pilot by Carl Warom, Cornwall Council's Environmental Growth team 	

	<p>Carl Warom presented the Strategy which many partners have been involved in during the process of compiling information and drafting to date.</p> <p>The Cornwall Plan includes Climate Emergency, Ecological Emergency and Climate Resilience and the LNRS fits into the Ecological Emergency aspect.</p> <p>There are 10 cross-cutting principles e.g. natural functioning etc. The Strategy provides an overview infographic on what nature in Cornwall looks like, with further breakdown of area specific information.</p> <p>There are 12 opportunities with maps within the Strategy e.g. watercourses & freshwater bodies.</p> <p>Priority measures and outcomes are detailed with short-term and medium-term priorities. The Strategy includes risks and enablers, and a section on how people can use the Strategy with specific information for some user groups e.g. planners and developers; farmers, foresters and land managers.</p> <p>The Strategy also have interactive online maps. There will be a mini-launch event on 20th July and links to this event and the Strategy when it is online in July will be circulated.</p> <p>David Rodda suggested reading evaluation findings reports of the Farming for Nature Test and Trials to include in the LNRS and that also it should be included that some farmers and landowners are already undertaking nature friendly farming to benefit biodiversity and not necessarily being paid extra for doing so.</p> <p>Emma mentioned the MP and Defra Minister, Rebecca Pow, who visited the Cornwall AONB yesterday (29 July) at Rosuick Farm on the Lizard Peninsula to hear about the Farming for the Nation test and trials and it was very welcoming that the Minister has a keen interest in the LNRS and importance of Cornish hedges. This Ministerial visit had been convened at very short notice, otherwise more partners would have been invited.</p> <p>Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher mentioned that the Economic Impact Assessment should be undertaken on the LNRS to help ensure nature friendly farming is viable for farmers.</p>	Carl Warom/ AONB Unit
6	<p>Cornwall AONB Exec Board (28 April 2021) summary update: David Rodda welcomed the reports included in the agenda paper, finding it useful to read before the meeting. The paper summarised the agreed actions for some of the key items discussed at the last AONB Exec Board meeting.</p> <p>There were no questions or discussions from partners for the following items included in the report.</p> <p>6.1 Partnership Agreement</p>	



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	6.2 Refresh Partnership membership	
	6.3 Art in the Landscape Strategy adoption	
	6.4 Art in the Landscape Event	
	6.5 Management Plan public consultation	
7	<p>Local Transport Plan refresh – Hannah Harris, Principal Transport Officer, Cornwall Council provided a quick presentation and held a brief Q&A session at the meeting to feed into initial engagement with stakeholders for the Local Transport Plan refresh.</p> <p>There are 6 goals – climate change; economic prosperity; respecting and enhancing the environment; encouraging healthy active lifestyles; support community safety and individual wellbeing; support equality of opportunity.</p> <p>The Refresh of the Plan is timely as people’s transport use and needs have changed and may well continue to be changed due to the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>Working closely with Planning, Housing and Economy, stakeholders are now being engaged. There will be redraft of the Plan and then statutory consultation in Oct-Dec 21.</p> <p>www.cornwall.gov.uk/connectingcornwall is the link to the Plan and there is also a summary version available via that link. What has changed since 2011; are the goals right?; what are the top 3 transport challenges?; and 3 top key opportunities?</p> <p>Partners were given a chance to ask questions at the meeting, but will also be encouraged to provide further feedback during stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Cllr Jennifer Cruse raised the issue of parking and more new housing and transport – Hannah Harris and her team work with planning and is aware that behaviour change is something that the Strategy needs to address and influence.</p>	
8	<p>AONB Unit Projects and Planning Update:</p> <p>AONB Unit team had provided an update report with the agenda papers to detail the key work and projects being undertaken.</p> <p>8.1 Planning (Jim Wood) – speaking at Planning Committees – the AONB Unit has been permitted to book a slot to speak about a specific planning application if no member of the public wishes to speak (i.e. general public takes priority). However, Jim has just been informed by Cornwall Council Democratic Services that it is not now possible to use this slot. This has also been discussed with Cornwall Council Planning and it is hoped that this can be resolved in time for Jim to speak at 12th July Committee</p>	

	<p>➤ It was AGREED that Steve Ford, Emma Browning and Jim Wood will arrange to meet with Cornwall Council Planning to discuss the reason for the process change and how to resolve it.</p> <p>Wild camping – Jim Wood stated there are some big issues in some parts of the AONB with regards to wild camping which is having detrimental effect on the landscape.</p> <p>Farming in Protected Landscapes – David Rodda mentioned this new Defra programme and that diversification is certain and the AONB will be seen as a barrier, e.g. permitted development rights – Jim agreed that agricultural businesses need to be encouraged but not at detriment to the landscape, so there is a need for mitigation.</p>	AONB Unit
	<p>8.2 ELM, and Cornwall AONB Trust; Art in the Landscape Event (Melodie Manners)</p> <p>Melodie added to her summary report to state that the meeting with Defra Minister Pow provided a great opportunity for the Cornwall AONB Unit to present the findings from the Lizard Farming for the Nation Test and Trial to her.</p>	
	<p>8.3 Penwith Landscape Partnership, Bee Healthy Bee Happy; Monuments Matter (MM); Cornish Hedge Working Group (Coralie Barrow)</p> <p>Bee Healthy Bee Happy - Coralie would welcome partners completing the online survey available via Cornwall AONB - Bee Healthy Bee Happy Let's Talk Cornwall</p> <p>Monuments Matter to People project – Coralie reported that it is heartening to receive positive feedback from a course participant who stated that her attendance at the course is invaluable to her</p> <p>Gill Pipkin informed Partners that she met Councillor Linda Taylor, Cornwall Council Leader recently who favours Cornish hedges</p>	
	<p>8.4 Monumental Improvements Project (Natalie & Jacob) – Helen Rawe asked for any update on the St Piran's Oratory. Natalie Haly confirmed the previous survey work is being gathered and a conservation management plan will be put together for the site.</p>	
	<p>8.5 Farming in Protected Landscapes; AONB Management Plan; State of the AONB Report; Kerdroya; Linking the Lizard; Bodmin Moor Peatlands (Emma)</p> <p>Emma reported that there is now a link on the Cornwall AONB website to the new FiPL programme that the AONB Unit will be managing – Farming in Protected Landscapes — The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (cornwall-aonb.gov.uk) – it is an exciting opportunity for the AONB to work with farmers to provide grants for nature friendly farming.</p>	



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9	<p>Cornwall AONB Champions Project – presentation by Melodie Manners and Coralie Barrow (this was deferred until after Christmas as project proposal is being re-developed following recent feedback).</p>	
	<p>Roadside Verges Project – presentation by Ben Phillips, University of Exeter/ESI</p> <p>Ben Phillips provided a presentation on this 4 year project which the Cornwall AONB contributed funding. It was a research project, led by Ben Phillips, PhD student at the Environment and Sustainability Institute (University of Exeter). The project has now completed, looking at the role of roadside verges and hedges in benefitting nature and the environment and people and how they can be enhanced through better management, looking at road pollution issues etc.</p> <p>Ben presented some key findings. Road pollution is not just an urban issue but affects rural roads as well. Road verges cover 2579 km² across Great Britain and ¼ of all verges are frequently mowed. Supporting pollinators in farmland is beneficial. There are some negative impacts of road pollution and roadkill. Street trees and buffer strips of wildflowers can improve soil and retain rainwater</p> <p>The report includes some key ways to enhance road verges to aid pollinator conservation such as wider verges and less busy roads. The project has been working with highways to look at ways to overcome costs, safety and perception concerns (tidiness/unkept) and looking at case studies on how such issues have been dealt with in other areas.</p> <p>Recommendations of the report include encouraging actions to reduce the extent and impacts of artificial light from roads etc. The project resulted in a number of outputs including academic papers, practical management guidelines, media coverage, presentations to both academics and practitioners, and responses to many requests for guidance on verge management. These are available via Roadside Verges Project – The Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (cornwall-aonb.gov.uk)</p> <p>Cllr Kate Ewert asked about frequency/timescale of when verges are cut. Ben Phillips will send her a link to information on guidance on when the verges etc should be cut at appropriate times of the year. Cormac will have detailed information on which verges have been cut, which will be left, programme of works etc.</p>	
10	<p>Any other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB speaking at Committees – this was discussed in Item 8.1 above. <p>Emma Browning would welcome setting up a meeting with Natural England, possibly Corine Dyke to discuss the CAONB Unit approach to FiPL. Also Emma Browning and Kate Sugar will meet to discuss the Management Plan which is currently being reviewed.</p>	<p>AONB Unit AONB Unit</p>



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11	Date & Time of next meeting – Tuesday 5 th October 2021, 10am – online TEAMS meeting	All
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