

## CORNWALL COUNCIL

# ENVIRONMENT KERNOW

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Environment Kernow held at CEP Offices, Tolvaddon Energy Park, Tolvaddon, Redruth, Cornwall on Friday 1 May 2009 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present: - Steve Crummay (Cornwall Council) (Chairman)  
Ian Smith (Community Energy Plus) (Vice-Chairman)

Manda Brookman (CoAST), Mike East (Cornwall Council), Lucy Harris (Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Economic Forum), Ian Jones (Cornwall Centre for Volunteers), Dave Lewis (Cornwall Council), Peter McGregor (Cornwall College), Judy Proctor (Environment Agency), David Rodda (Cornwall Agri-food Council) and Jon Rolls (Rezolve).

Apologies for absence: - Bill Holiday (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Rural Partnership), Alex Huke (SWRDA) and Adam Paynter (Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder).

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2009

(Agenda No. 2)

EK/143 The minutes and action notes of the meeting held on 13 March 2009 were agreed as a correct record subject to the request that references to Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP), when in reference to Ian Smith, should be amended to Community Energy Plus (CEP) or Low Carbon Cornwall in relation to the work of Tim German's team following the changes in organisational structure.

#### Matters Arising

Ref: EK/135 – It was advised that a letter had been sent to the Learning Skills Council (LSC) from the Economic Forum regarding the CLP but no response had been received to date.

Ref: EK/137 – Kevin Lavery was now the Chair of the Low Carbon Leadership Group and pushing the agenda dramatically. A Climate Change Action Plan (3CAP) update was circulated and it was hoped that the interim report would be approved at the meeting in June. There was more work to be completed and the interim/structure changes had made an impact on resources that had been dedicated to the work. This needed to be addressed, although a huge increase in awareness and progress was evident. The environment strand was excellent and an N2O emission study had been completed. The next stage would be to calculate what Cornwall's emissions were. At UK level 18% emissions were from agriculture; however this was likely to be considerably higher in Cornwall.

## Environment Kernow

1 May 2009

The 3CAP update would be circulated electronically following the meeting.

Ref: EK/139 – It was noted that 222 businesses had not yet been certified, however the full stretch target was on track to meet the 6% minimum threshold.

Ref: EK/141 – Feedback was given from the CSP meeting attended by Ian Jones with discussion on the potential for the Chief Executive, Cornwall Council to revisit the CSP thematic partnerships structure. Presentations given at the meeting would be circulated to members.

The Group was informed that a recent meeting had been held with the RDA regarding south west agricultural resource management to commission 2 schemes in June. 69 expressions of interest had been received from the Innovation Fund regarding farms. It was noted that the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) had a lot of money in land management schemes, with a need to measure the environmental impacts. The LAA had aided progression and it was thought that agriculture reduction targets could be set by the DEFRA Director.

Bids had been invited from English Heritage and the TRACK project. The funding for this was under review and it was noted there were difficulties for many projects which would need to be assessed. There had been a delay on the LAGs redeveloping expressions of interest forms and resubmitting which had a knock on effect. There were 3 main bids that would be contributing to REAP Tourism to measure the impact on the environment. It was asked that greater integration between projects on land around Bodmin Moor be looked at. Manda Brookman agreed to speak with Rob Hatt (SWRDA), Annette Cole (SW Tourism), Ian Hague (LAG/SWRDA) and David Rodda about implementation in Cornwall. The issue would be raised at the Cornwall Implementation Group on 1 June which the Chairman would attend.

The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme was an issue for Natural England (NE) due to capacity in Cornwall, however 19 extra staff were being taken on to assist landowners/managers. Discussions were ongoing with NE to seek to maximise source protection i.e. bathing beaches and shellfish waters and criteria would need to be set for this. The Council and EK could play a role in bringing forward land management at a landscape scale. The recent tragedy in West Cornwall due to flooding was mentioned and funding should be discussed to mitigate the impact on the local community which could affect the tourist industry in the area.

It was noted that there had been no representation from Natural England for a while.

Hillary Benn announced 100% funding (RDPE plus match) for farmers. This would need to be approved by the European Commission in Brussels; however this had not been mentioned in the announcement. This created

a lot of interest and David Rodda was not convinced that providing a 100% funding for businesses for this activity was especially a good thing.

There would be two SWARM initiatives to be launched in June.

The Chairman urged the group to do what it could to co-operate on Tourism and the Bodmin Moor work. There would be an opportunity, given the scale of the work, to co-ordinate it.

It was advised that the Chairman and Manda Brookman would discuss the replacement of the SDW Coastal Path and the funding required as large scale support was needed. This was having a significant impact on rural communities and the economy.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SKILLS NETWORK (ESN) PROJECT UPDATE REPORT - TO NOTE**

(Agenda No. 3)

EK/144 Although there had been funding issues, it was advised that ESN was the second best performing sector behind the exemplar marine sector. This was a testament to organisations working together and showed potential for moving forward quickly in the future. The ESN website was now live for members to use and would be updated daily. It was stated that at a meeting with the RDPE yesterday, there had been proposals to develop an academic programme on biomass.

It was suggested that Jon Rolls liaise with Stephen Caen, Cornwall Development Company (CDC) regarding the Sector's Transition Project evaluation and future sectors support to ensure that ESN was included.

### **UPDATES ON EXISTING SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)**

(Agenda No. 4)

EK/145 It was advised that the following two outcomes had been refreshed for the new LAA but updates were given on the old LAA outcomes because monitoring information was not yet available on the refreshed outcomes. The old LAA outcomes were no longer on the CSP website as this was being restructured. It was requested that clarification be sought on the time period and targets delivered in relation to the Waste outcome. Currently the published LAA did not match with what was being developed and flexibility was needed to refresh and amend outcomes to ensure up to date delivery of themes.

It was suggested that a meeting be held with outcome leads and EK and Partnership Team representatives to achieve a thorough monitoring process. There could be a sub group set up to look at how to update through EK, and joint work with Alison Ward linking the Sustain outcomes. It was important to point out that the Sustainable Community Strategy must not restrict delivery of LAA outcomes, and it should be fed back that

the process was so bureaucratic and driven by paperwork that it distracted from real delivery.

There was discussion on the new and proposed anaerobic digestion plants in Cornwall. Cornwall currently had the only plant in the South West (in Fraddon) and six others were being discussed. The possibility of a standard permit to be developed to aid applicants for this type of plant was suggested so that all understood the conditions needed to operate.

CoAST advised that all their work had been completed (and exceeded work with businesses and the milestones) by the end of March and targets in relation to business engagement had been met. The LAA would be deferred for 3 months to ensure certification of businesses by the end of June. There was joint working with staff at CoAST and CEP.

In relation to the Cleaner, Greener Open Spaces LAA outcome, all targets had been met. There was a confusing trend in regard to litter and it was noted that there were no litter initiatives regarding car litter bags in the private sector. There was an issue with how the LAA would add value to this. It was envisaged to raise the profile on public space management as part of EK and how to develop the Clean Cornwall initiative. Mike East and the Chairman would liaise about how to join staff working within the environment service in the Council, especially the invitation given to members of the Protective Landscape Team to attend these meetings.

Cornwall had previously agreed an outcome for the LAA for 'Cornwall as a centre of excellence for the natural environment' which had encouraged real progress in terms of providing accredited training, advice and support to farms and surveying and encouraging positive management on many of Cornwall's best wildlife sites.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- i) Lucy Harris seek clarification about which outcomes in the Sustain Block Environment Kernow were responsible for, and what/whether there was now a role for Champions;
- ii) Lucy Harris, Dave Lewis and Alison Ward liaise about setting up a specific LAA monitoring sub group for Environment Kernow;
- iii) Dave Owens be requested to attend the next meeting by Mike East to give a waste update; and
- iv) Mike East and Steve Crummay to liaise within their department about how to link services and encourage joint working.

**REFRESHED LAA OUTCOME: REDUCE CORNWALL'S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Agenda No. 5)

EK/146 Ian Smith provided an update and there was a lengthy discussion about Outcome 10 of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). This outcome was around "Cornwall's contribution to climate

change' which had a designated national indicator 186, per capita Co2 emissions in the local authority area, which was a demand reduction target. GOSW wanted a good workplan with stretching milestones, but it was recognised that monitoring the information was difficult. CEP were resourced to some extent through £20k performance reward grant to manage the work. This included the Sustainable Tourism work for future delivery and had clear links to the 3CAP. It was following PRINCE 2 methodology to some extent and would establish a project board to remove blockages and address risks. A draft Terms of Reference attached to the report was proposed and set out the responsibility for the overall direction and delivery.

A report would be going to the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) shortly recommending that 4% of convergence funding be redirected to support energy efficiency industries. Business Link would report back on resource efficiency targets.

It was noted that it would be difficult to retro-fit energy efficiency in Cornwall due to the old housing stock and it was felt that the 50% target was unrealistic.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- i) Ian Smith would provide a brief to Peter Hardaker, RDPE via David Rodda to take to the PMC detailing the difficulty in achieving the unrealistic 50% target on 'hard to treat' homes in Cornwall;
- ii) a meeting with Dave Lewis to facilitate, to be held to map out appropriate cross cutting relationships and resources which could go forward to the partnership support team; and
- iii) the proposal for the new Board be supported to ensure co-development and eliminate duplication but the membership to be reviewed to take into account wider representatives

## **REFRESHED LAA OUTCOME: IMPROVING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Agenda No. 6)

EK/147 Members were referred to the report and the three key priorities the outcome would focus on were:

- Reducing the most damaging greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture to contribute to reducing Cornwall's overall emissions;
- Strengthening the function of natural and farmland ecosystems to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity; and
- Increase community engagement in developing resilience to climate change

It was important to form the key links with spatial planning regarding the core strategy and its evidence base/sustainability appraisal.

It was felt that the proposed Project Board for the previous NI187 outcome was a good idea and similar proposals for this outcome were being considered. Possible membership may include the Environment Agency (EA), NE, the RDA, Cornwall Agri-food Council and Voluntary Cornwall. It was important to explain and clarify the three strands of climate change as it was such a large issue.

It was **RESOLVED** that Bill Holliday and Dave Lewis (lead) liaise to discuss how the Rural Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Partnership (RCP) could contribute to work around community engagement in terms of improving resilience to climate change.

### **DRAFT CONSTITUTION**

(Agenda No. 7)

EK/148 Work was still ongoing on the constitution and it was important to progress this inclusively to ensure it met the Group's needs and to ensure all outcomes would be achieved. It was noted that the draft constitution would be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion, however it was envisaged that the final would be approved in October/November which would allow it to fit into the CSP framework.

### **WORKPLAN**

(Agenda No. 8)

EK/149 The work plan was tabled at the meeting [copy attached to the file copy of the minutes] and members were encouraged to make suggestions/ amendments. Work stream facilitation was discussed and it was suggested that the low carbon unit, English Heritage and Homes and Communities Partnership be added to the list of organisations involved. There was a role to drive a behavioural and cultural shift about how to develop and deliver work in these work streams. A higher profile was needed on the Cornwall Agri-food Council's seminar in October to provide a better understanding and education to people to maximise opportunities.

Additions to the work plan also included the inclusion of strategy and priorities under facilitation and the potential to populate the plan with names and organisations involved. However it was important that the plan did not become too detailed and unmanageable.

Lucy Harris made reference to an 'improvements database' that she had been working with on the economy LAA leads, which was about forming the cross-outcome, cross-block, cross-programme linkages to encourage more efficient delivery.

It was **RESOLVED** that

## Environment Kernow

1 May 2009

- i) a small group (consisting of Tim German, Mike East, Lucy Harris and Dave Lewis (facilitating)) meet to map out cross working relationships and necessary resources to be submitted to the Partnership Support Team;
- ii) officer support for EK to be discussed with the partnership support team with the potential for the Environment Service to contribute resources; and
- iii) any further suggestions on the work plan to be submitted to Lucy Harris by 13 May so that the revised document could be taken to the meeting on 14 May. This would also come back to the next meeting.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

(Agenda No. 9)

EK/150 Friday 12 June 2009 at 10.00 a.m. Environment Agency Offices, Sir John Moore House, Bodmin

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(Agenda No. 10)

EK/151 A meeting would be held with Paul Masters and Ian Smith to decide how to interact with other sectors to link and improve joint working.

EK/152 The EK website needed to be updated and it was advised that the newly formed Partnership Support Team should support EK with this work.

EK/153 International Biodiversity Day would be held on 22 May 2009 where Cornwall College Newquay would be hosting a lecture by national expert Trevor Renals, from the Environment Agency. Details of this event would be circulated electronically via the clerk. Cornwall Council was encouraged to have a presence on the day.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm.

[The agenda and reports relating to the items referred to above are attached to the signed copy of the Minutes].