

## CORNWALL COUNCIL

# ENVIRONMENT KERNOW

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Environment Kernow held at CEP Offices, Tolvaddon, Pool on Friday 10 July 2009 commencing at 10.10 am.

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

Andy Brelsford (for Ian Jones) (Volunteer Cornwall), Paul Bright (Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust), Mike East (Cornwall Council), Lucy Harris (Economic Forum), Bill Holiday (Rural Community Partnership), Dave Lewis (Cornwall Council), Catherine Martin (for Alex Huke) (SWRDA), Peter McGregor (Cornwall College), Judy Proctor (Environment Agency), David Rodda (Cornwall Agri-food Council), Jon Rolls (Rezolve) and Ben Simpson (for Tim German) (Cornwall Development Company - Low Carbon Cornwall).

Also in attendance: - Alison Ward (Cornwall Council)

Apologies for absence: -

Manda Brookman (Coast), Tamsyn Butler (National Trust), Tim German (Cornwall Development Company - Low Carbon Cornwall), Colette Holden (Cornwall AONB Partnership), Alex Huke (SWRDA), Ian Jones (Volunteer Cornwall), Ash Pearson (BTCV) and Wesley Smyth (Natural England).

## ENVIRONMENT KERNOW TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Agenda No. EK/2)

EK/178 Following discussion at the last meeting, revisions to the Terms of Reference for Environment Kernow were still being made and views of members welcomed. The Chairman had recently met with the new CC Portfolio Holder for environment and sustainability, Julian German who had previous experience of environment issues through sitting on two Single Issue Panels and as a member of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

There was discussion on how Environment Kernow had evolved and improved and was influencing and impacting issues in the county. There were however some negative perceptions of the partnership which need countering. Many people did not understand what EK does and it was perceived as a lobbying and campaigning group by some. It would be very important that the democratic accountability of the partnership was increased and that its profile was raised as part of the restructuring of the partnership and ongoing development.

It was felt that the scrutiny element provided by the partnership should be emphasised. It was felt that representatives from the private sector should be listed within the membership and that the paragraph giving a summary of what the Partnership Board would do should be re-written. There was a suggestion to include task and finish groups when needed, to look at specific projects/work in detail. Some small amendments were made to the Terms of Reference and it was agreed that this document should be circulated electronically after the meeting for amendment before the next meeting.

It was suggested that Thelma Sorensen, Chair of the Economic Forum be invited to attend an EK meeting in the future.

It was suggested that a mission statement be included. The remit of the group should relate to the work plan and much more detail was needed with regard to membership of all 3 tiers. It was felt that a biodiversity representative should be invited as well as Natural England, although this was complicated due to current governance arrangements.

A Cornwall Strategic Partnership event was due to be held on 17 July and promotional material from thematic partnerships was requested. It was suggested that the appendix attached to the Terms of Reference be used as a summary of functions. The section relating to the remit of the group should also be included and various promotional material would be supplied to Lucy Harris to take to the event.

It was **RESOLVED**

- (i) That amendments and comments made at the meeting be incorporated in to the Terms of Reference;
- (ii) that the Terms of Reference be circulated electronically to enable members to comment using track changes and respond to Dave Lewis before the next meeting; and
- (iii) this item be added as a standing item on all agendas for the time being.

**ENDORSEMENT OF PID - IMPROVING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Agenda No. 3)

EK/179 Following discussion on this item at a recent meeting, this document had been brought back to the Group for endorsement. It was advised that more engagement was needed with the voluntary sector. Ian Jones had sent an email regarding Schumacher College who were developing a multi-level programme of behavioural change for senior people. Peter McGregor had visited the College and was keen to build this into the Project Initiation Document (PID).

It was advised that the PIDs covered the current 2009/10 year due to the overlap of the three year LAA. The PIDs had been delayed and the

template was currently being aligned to Cornwall Council regarding risk management, performance management, and finance. More concise information within the PID could be gathered in the future and the group would be updated.

Work had been done on allotment activity from the National Trust in April and May but at the time, the National Trust were not able to define their milestones. There was a commitment and target which included allotments but no timeline at present. There was a possibility that milestones could be added into the performance management framework on a quarterly basis. The Council may want to input in the future.

There were currently excellent links between Dave Key from Footprint Consulting who had produced The Natural Change Project, developed by WWF Scotland as a new and innovative response to the challenge of sustainability and to the growing evidence that current environmental campaigns were not resulting in the depth of behaviour change necessary to address this challenge. The project drew together seven diverse individuals from the business, charitable, arts, public, health and education sectors in Scotland. All were selected on the basis of being excellent communicators who were influential in their sector, but not particularly environmentally aware.

Dave Key had been asked to submit some words which would go into the PID.

It was moved by David Rodda, seconded by Lucy Harris and

**RESOLVED** that the document be approved.

#### **ENDORSEMENT OF NI 186 PID**

(Agenda No. 4)

EK/180 Following discussion on this item at a recent meeting, this document had been brought back to the Group for endorsement. It was advised that NI186 was significantly under-funded and although Community Energy Plus were not necessarily the correct organisation to lead on this indicator in the long term, at present they would provide the lead role.

It was moved by Peter McGregor, seconded by Andy Brelsford and

**RESOLVED** that the document be approved.

#### **PRESENTATION OF "EASY TO TREAT" PROPOSAL**

(Agenda No. 5)

EK/181 Ian Smith, Community Energy Plus (CEP) gave a presentation on Easy to Treat homes proposals, which was a large piece of work for the domestic sector.

There had been progress although there is a large amount of old housing stock in Cornwall. There will be serious challenges with regard to insulating these homes and scenarios were being assessed to look at how to fund and treat homes. It was noted that most social housing had been completed. There were specific issues for historic buildings of which there were very many in Cornwall. Following the last EK meeting, officers had met to look at how such buildings could be retro-fitted to provide better performance without undermining their historic integrity.

It was advised that a member, in a previous role, had been responsible for frontline delivery and had received a much greater uptake when work was free rather than including a £99 contribution (from the householder towards the costs of insulating homes). CEP recommended that to minimise costs and maximise efficiency, a street-by-street scheme management approach be adopted, starting in the West and East of Cornwall and moving inwards towards mid Cornwall. It also strongly recommended that community outreach was included as part of the programme to enable greater uptake and wider engagement with households and communities on behavioural change. A guarantee of government backing would encourage more people to sign up to the scheme.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF URGENCY**

(Agenda No. 6)

#### EK/182 Environment Agency Draft Corporate Strategy

It was advised that the Environment Agency had drafted a corporate strategy for 2010-2015 which was currently out for consultation. The deadline for comments was 17 July 2009. This strategy would replace the 'Creating a better place' Corporate strategy 2006-2011. The strategy was a very short document with 5 main themes and it was stated that views from members would be welcomed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft strategy be circulated electronically for comments

#### Low Carbon Cornwall

EK/183 It was stated that the report give at the last meeting on 3CAP was still relevant. The first draft of the socio economic scoping work had been completed and this would be circulated electronically and brought back to the next meeting. Partnership co-ordination would start on 17 August.

Economic Forum

EK/8 A consultation was due to be released shortly on the Business and the Low Carbon Economy strand of the 3CAP, which has been led in partnership with the private sector, by Lucy Harris and Stuart Farmer (low Carbon Cornwall). This consultation will also be circulated to Environment Kernow for comment and has a deadline of 21 August for comment.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm.

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