

CORNWALL COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT KERNOW

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Environment Kernow held at Environment Agency Offices, Sir John Moore House, Bodmin on Friday 12 February 2010 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present: - Steve Crummay (Chairman)
Ian Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Paul Bright- CSBT
Manda Brookman - COAST
Mike East -Cornwall Council
Councillor Julian German
Tim German - CDC (Low Carbon Cornwall)
Lucy Harris - Economic Forum
Bill Holliday - Rural Communities and Isles of Scilly Partnership
Alex Huke - SWRDA
Ian Jones - Volunteer Cornwall
Mark Marriott - Cornwall Business Partnership
Peter McGregor- Cornwall College
Dave Owens - Cornwall Council (Waste)
David Rodda - Cornwall Agri-Food Council
Jon Rolls - REZOLVE
Ben Simpson – CDC (Low Carbon Cornwall)

Also in attendance: - Steve Havers

Apologies for absence: - Rachel Bromley, Tom Flanagan, Councillor Greenslade, Dave Lewis, Judy Proctor, Councillor Rule, Wesley Smyth, Alison Ward and Victoria Whitehouse.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2009

(Agenda No. 2)

EK/39 The Minutes of the meeting of Environment Kernow held on 11 December 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

Green Cornwall

The Chairman reported that the Green Cornwall document had been strongly supported and unanimously approved by the Cabinet. He had been advised by Stephen Cirell that EK would be involved in the Green Cornwall Programme as a large proportion of EK's work was already contained within the Programme. The Programme would be a single document that would be updated on a regular basis. The full Green Programme and associated background documents could be made available to members of EK for information.

A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN FOR CORNWALL'S ENVIRONMENT

(Agenda No. 3)

EK/40 The Chairman presented the draft document entitled "Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Cornwall's Environment", which had been drafted following two workshop sessions together with input from Dave Lewis (Natural Environment Service Manager), Rachel Bromley (Chief Executive's Department) and the Communications Team. He outlined the structure of the document and referred to the 5 Strategic Priorities as follows: -

1. conservation and protection of the environment;
2. sustainable use of resources;
3. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
4. increased resilience to pressures on the environment; and
5. making strong links between the environment, people and place.

At this stage, the delivery actions had not been completed as it was for the relevant bodies/organisations to advise on what was required and EK would provide the required support.

During the discussion, various points were raised, including the following: -

(i) views were expressed that consideration should be given to the risks and opportunities in respect of some of the themes and that there should be an increased number of environmental strategies. The Chairman advised that the document was regarded as a starting point and that further work was required to develop it. Lucy Harris (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum Manager) stated that she would be asking EK for their input prior to consulting external stakeholders, and that any previous relevant work would be incorporated;

(ii) the Food 2030 document was a key issue and should be referred to in the draft strategic context document;

(iii) there should be a reference(s) to the relationship between personal development and economic growth, and that it was necessary to decouple "economic growth" from environmental degradation. The Chairman agreed that changes would be made to the relevant parts of the agenda;

(iv) a reference should be made in the draft strategic context to the Green Economy Paper which was a key document;

(v) in response to the view that the draft Framework should be the main driver regarding carbon reduction, the Chairman agreed that that the document should contain appropriate imagery, case studies and specific examples, whilst it should be proof-read to ensure that the language was clear and accountable. Mike East (Head of Environment) suggested that

two versions of the draft document should be produced: a policy version and a more accessible version for wider circulation; and

(vi) there was a discussion regarding the way in which the document and the consultation process should be developed.

RESOLVED that (a) the consultation process in respect of the draft Framework and the Action Plan should include the following: -

- (i) consult EK members for their comments (2 week consultation period);
- (ii) a special meeting of Steering Group be held to consider the comments received and produce an amended draft;
- (iii) the amended draft be circulated to outside organisations/ stakeholders for comments (2 weeks prior to workshop);
- (iv) a stakeholder workshop be held to consider action points;
- (v) a further amended draft be produced;
- (vi) a public consultation be held to consider amended draft (2 weeks consultation period);
- (vii) document to be finalised; and

(b) the membership of the Steering Group be increased to include Mike East and Manda Brookman (COAST) and opened up to other members of EK who would like to take part.

CORNWALL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CSP) - REPORT OF THE PRIORITIES TASK GROUP (FOR DISCUSSION)
(Agenda No. 4)

EK/41 Ian Jones (Volunteer Cornwall) reported that the CSP Priorities Task Group had been established to consider priorities and that a final paper would be sent to Democratic Services for circulation to Members of EK for comment by 17 February.

During the discussion, various points were raised, including the following: -

(i) the Chairman advised that it was considered that EK should be driving the development of priorities and proposals;

(ii) Lucy Harris confirmed that she would collect comments from the Group on the priorities and forward them to Ian Jones prior to the meeting on 17 February; and

(iii) the timetable for the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy was queried. It was also suggested that EK delivers a Sustainability Assessment on the next version of the SCS. Lucy Harris responded that this refresh was not going to be a full review, but only an upgrade of parts of the document that were felt to be lacking in the current version; for example, prioritisation and spatial targeting. Lucy Harris agreed to speak with the Partnership Support Team as to whether EK could undertake a

sustainability exercise as the Strategy was being refreshed and for a timetable for this process.

CSP: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR CORNWALL - WASTE LAA OUTCOMES

(Agenda No. 5)

EK/42 Dave Owens (Head of Waste Management) presented the Waste LAA Outcomes for CSP: Sustainable Community Strategy for Council which included bids for LAA finance for: a Clean Cornwall Officer; Third Sector Officer; Commercial and Tourism Waste Reduction Officer; Commercial and Industrial Waste Compositional Analysis; and CO2 Insulation Contribution. He added that work was also being done outside of the Waste PID with SOFA and others.

During the discussion, various points were raised, including the following: -

(i) Mike East advised that dealing with litter was a key priority and that over £1m had been spent on it;

(ii) the new Commercial and Tourism Waste Reduction Officer would be based in the Communities Directorate;

(iii) Dave Owens advised that construction waste was not included in the PID because it was outside the definition of the domestic waste stream; and

(iv) it was noted that, at present, decisions were still awaited in respect of the bids for funding as set out in the PID.

PLANNING FOR THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF SMALLER SETTLEMENTS IN CORNWALL

(Agenda No. 6)

EK/43 Steve Havers (Strategic Development and Policy Manager) gave a presentation in respect of the report entitled "Planning for the Role and Future of Smaller Settlements in Cornwall", prepared by the consultants, Roger Tym and Partners. A more detailed paper would be sent to Members and published for public consultation during the spring of 2010. The consultant's report would form the basis of the consultation on the Core Strategy which would be considered by Members during early-mid summer 2010 and published for public consultation in autumn/winter 2010.

It was anticipated, however, that a new Conservative Government, if elected, would not proceed with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and would permit councils to determine housing allocations for their own particular areas.

The Cabinet: Planning Procedures Advisory Group had expressed support for the Strategy and had agreed to hold a series of local workshops to which representatives of other organisations would be invited, e.g. the CSP.

Steve Havers added that although Members had wished for local housing areas to be based on Community Network areas, there was an alternative view that they should be functional areas. Such local areas should have powers of self-determination and, therefore, more Parish Plans would need to be produced. In respect of any resulting resource allocations, it would be for the CRCC and Community Networks to coordinate Parish Plans within existing resources.

During the discussion, various points were raised, including the following: -

(i) several questions were asked regarding the delivery of priorities in the various areas. In response, Mike East advised that a considerable amount of work was being done to ensure that environment, planning, transport and housing policies were appropriately "joined up", and that such work should include appropriate levels of engagement with partners. The Strategy should also be linked to the CAMCO report; and

(ii) in response to a question regarding the need to ensure that adequate provision was made in the Strategy for the allocation of green open spaces between settlements, Steve Havers confirmed that a paper would be submitted to the Cabinet: Planning Policy Advisory Group.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3)

(Agenda No. 7)

EK/44 The Chairman reported that discussions were currently being held with Adrian Welsh (Transportation Policy Manager) and Lucy Harris regarding EK's input into LTP3.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF URGENCY

(Agenda No. 8)

EK/45 Several issues were raised under this item, including the following: -

(i) it was suggested that Malcolm Bell from Visit Cornwall (Cornwall Development Company) should attend a future meeting to discuss whether EK could help him achieve his objectives;

(ii) arrangements were being made for Low Carbon Cornwall and DOTT to have a joint stand at this year's Royal Cornwall Show;

Environment Kernow
12 February 2010

(iii) Mike East advised that David Atwell had produced an approach to Beach Management Plans which was considered to be best practice and would be rolled out across Cornwall;

(iv) Alex Huke reported that EK should use Convergence EDRF Funding to pursue the low carbon agenda. £10m was available for businesses. The current priorities were likely to be the Eco-Town (St Austell China Clay Area) and Goonhilly. He would also be advising the Chairman of the relevant governance issues.

(v) Mike East commented that CCAF would be reviewing public rights of way in the County. At present, the Council was unlikely to fulfil its statutory commitments in relation to the maintenance of public rights of way and, therefore, it should work in partnership with other organisations/ Councils to remedy this situation. The Chairman advised that he would be discussing this matter with Len Smith, Bill Holliday and Rob Poole as it could lead to creation of jobs. The possibility of obtaining grant aid from tourism-related work would also be discussed with Malcolm Bell;

(vi) the Chairman advised that Sandra Rothwell and Steve Ford should be invited to a future meeting;

(vii) Jon Rolls (REZOLVE) reported that the Environmental Skills Plan, which had been co-written by Ben Simpson/ Low Carbon Cornwall, had been well received;

(viii) Tim German (Low Carbon Cornwall) reported that Steve Cirell (Programme Director – Green Cornwall) was developing a project for a solar farm and that the application for a scheme for a Council fleet of low emission vehicles had been short-listed by OLEV;

(ix) Ian Jones reported that joint bids had been made, in conjunction with Exeter University, for projects that would include volunteers undertaking environmental work. Consideration was also being given to liaising with schools with a view to involving 14-15 year olds in environmental work projects;

(x) Paul Bright (CSBT) advised that the CSBT had been given notice to quit their current office accommodation. The Chairman asked for details so that he could pursue this matter after the meeting;

(xi) LAA: Low Carbon Economic Indicator - Ben Simpson (Low Carbon Cornwall) reported that an officer, Lisa Goodall (Low Carbon Project officer) had been appointed and was now in post. In due course, EK would be requested to sit on the relevant steering group dealing with this work.

Work was currently being undertaken with Lucy Harris and a progress report would be submitted to the Economic Forum as the responsible thematic partnership. Reports would also be submitted to EK as and when required.

Discussions were currently being held with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) regarding the best way for taking this matter forward. The LAA outcome should be aligned with the NEF Happy Planet Index work to ensure that the 'low carbon economy indicator' sets aligned with any other work being taken forward by EK and/or the CSP on wider sustainability measurement;

(xii) Regions for Sustainable Change (RSC) – Lisa Goodall would be carrying forward both the RSC and LAA. In conjunction with transnational partners, consultants were being appointed to carry forward the 'low carbon economic assessment' as a core element of this project. This assessment, often called 'Cornwall's Mini-Stern', would, in fact, assess the economic impact of climate change and related policies, through an analysis of the effects of climate-energy policies and trends in job creation, the value added/subtracted from GDP (relative to a baseline scenario), the effect on local companies, as well as the effect on Cornwall's competitiveness. In addition, building on the CDC/ Camco GHG Inventory for Cornwall, the consultants would be carrying out an assessment of the abatement potential, and the cost effectiveness, of carbon reduction options for Cornwall in order to inform policy development and delivery in response to targets. Thus, this study would, in fact, be close to the approach taken by the Committee on Climate Change in its 2008 release, entitled "Building a Low Carbon Economy".

This project built on the 3CAP process/evidence base, two elements of which - the "Cornwall Climate Change Risk Scope" and "Cornwall Vision" - had now been completed by Climate Change Risk Management (Risk Scope), and CSEP/ CSD and CCC/ CC (Rachel Bromley) respectively. There is no specific funding to package and release these outputs, but every effort would be made to do so under RSC. Ben Simpson would continue to oversee this work, and would advise CDC low carbon project delivery.

(xiii) the Chairman advised that EK was regarded as one of the best examples of thematic partnership working. He agreed that Jo Trail Thompson (SWEN) should be invited to attend future meetings; and

(xiv) the Chairman reported that EK had been asked by the Corporate Director, Environment, Planning and the Economy, to support an expression of interest in taking part in work to be undertaken by the University of Bath on the relationship between change and knowledge transfer within an organisation. He added that he would arrange for relevant information to be circulated on Low Carbon Works Partnership working.

RESOLVED that EK's best wishes be sent to Dave Lewis for a swift recovery.

Environment Kernow
12 February 2010

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm.

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