

# North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty PARTNERSHIP

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Hartland Abbey

## MINUTES

### Meeting Attendees

Steve Pitcher (Chairman)  
Rose Day (Community Rep.)  
Cllr Rodney Cann (NDC)  
Terry Green (Community Rep.)  
Lesley Garlick (DCC)  
Richard Prowse (Tarka Country Trust)  
Hon. John Rous (CBLA)  
Rob Joules (NT)  
Sean Kearney (TDC)  
Pete Burgess (DWT)  
Andy Bell (ND Biosphere Reserve)  
Cllr. Ken James (TDC)  
Alison Slade (NE)

### Guests

Cllr. Anna Dart (TDC)  
Cllr. Jane Leaper (TDC)  
James Morley (Hartland PC)

### Apologies

Richard Butler (Community Rep.)  
Caroline Leaver (Community Rep.)  
Barbara Fryer (Community Rep.)  
Steve Mulberry (Vice Chairman)  
Paula Ferris (Coastwise)  
Linda Hellyer (DCC)  
Alasdair Barclay (TTEF)  
Alison Boyle (Community Rep)

### Officers

Gigha Klinkenborg (Administrator)  
Jenny Carey-Wood (Manager)  
Dave Edgcombe (Projects Officer)  
Cat Oliver (Education Officer)

### Speakers

Clare Manning (TCT)  
Claire Mucklow (RSPB)

### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all partners including new members of the Partnership – Cllr Ken James and officer Sean Kearney from Torridge District Council; guests Cllr Anna Dart, Cllr Jane Leaper and vice-chairman of Hartland Parish Council James Morley, and speakers, and received apologies.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising. Minutes agreed.

Matters arising:-

- Cllr Linda Hellyer is the new DCC representative
- Tractor tour of Braunton Marshes was postponed and will be rescheduled
- Clovelly Dykes visit was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions – this will be rescheduled in spring 2018.

### 3. Election of Chairman

Nomination: Steve Mulberry

Partners voted unanimously to elect Steve as the new Chairman of the AONB Partnership. As he was unable to attend, Steve Pitcher offered to continue in the chair. The election for Vice-Chairman will be at the February Partnership meeting. In the

interim Steve Pitcher has offered to be an 'acting interim' Vice-Chairman. **ALL AGREED**

#### 4. Election of Panel Members

##### Planning Panel

Barbara Fryer	Re-elected
Rose Day	Stepping Down
Steve Pitcher	Re-elected
Paul Green	Re-elected
Steve Mulberry	Re-elected (Chairman)

The chairman expressed thanks to Rose Day for her work on the Panel, and invited any Partnership members interested in joining the Panel for this very important and interesting role, to contact the Chairman.

##### SDF Panel – all members of the panel agreed to stand again

Alison Boyle	Re-elected
Barbara Fryer	Re-elected
Caroline Leaver	Re-elected (Chair)
Rose Day	Re-elected (Vice-chair)
Richard Butler	Re-elected
Terry Green	Re-elected
Cllr. Pat Barker	Re-elected
Steve Pitcher	Re-elected

##### External Appointments

Biosphere Partnership	Steve Mulberry
Taw Torridge Estuary Forum	<b>Action: SM</b> to review
Leader 5 LAG	Steve Pitcher - to provide continuity for the LAG
Exmoor Landscape Advisor	<b>Action: SM</b> to review with ENPA

#### 5. AONB Manager's Report

##### Management Plan 2017/18 Delivery – additional Points

- Slight delay in submission of Heritage Lottery Fund bid due to JCW personal circumstances
- SDF - Launch of Braunton Burrows booklet on 13th October with Rose Day
- 2 small SDF projects funded to get people into the AONB – Junior Beach Lifeguard courses at Putsborough and TorrAGE's Amble & Art project on Northam Burrows with isolated older people

##### Management Plan Review

- A minimal review is recommended by Defra; an SEA will only be required if there are changes to objectives and policies. Uncertainty of new policies in relation to environment and agriculture suggest a shorter Delivery Plan of 1 or 2 years would be appropriate. Time and funds are tight so consultation during 2018 and ready for early 2019. The NAAONB has commissioned background work for the Management Plan and a Ministerial Foreword.

### **Coastal Creatures Update from Cat Oliver**

- Successful 24 hour Bioblitz at Lee Bay to record all species within the time period – had reached 502 species by midday Saturday. 20 organisations, 3 schools and 150 children involved in the event. Thanks to all partners (particularly the MBA and Coastwise North Devon) and participants, a full report will be produced by the Marine Biological Association on the records and events.

### **‘Naturally Healthy Activities’ in the AONB Report**

- Report completed following research and community consultation to get baseline information on barriers and opportunities for people to use the AONB.
- Some of the identified constraints are: Lack of volunteers, Physical access, Overgrown routes, Disabled access, Cost of parking, limited Public transport, Permissions – public access land, Information sharing/promotion, Time and cost, Signage & local information, Lack of facilities –public toilets, seating etc.
- **Proposed Actions:** Set up a task group to help deliver ‘Naturally Healthy Actions’ in the AONB; to explore information production, sharing and signposting; to pilot initiatives in remote rural/coastal areas not just urban areas; to engage with businesses to deliver more opportunities, particularly to reach disadvantaged people; to engage with the ‘Connecting Actively to Nature’ project for inactive over-55s (Devon LNP and Active Devon) to help deliver priorities. **Action: JCW** to upload report to AONB website and engage with CAN project.

### **Sustainable Development Fund**

- Report from Gigha Klinkenborg on projects this year and reflecting back over previous years. 190 projects funded since 2005 but the amount of grant available has decreased from £100,000 per year to just £25,000. Leverage so far in 2017/18 has shown £6.62 drawn down to the area for every £1 of SDF grant offered.

### **Communications and Events**

- Reports noted. Website referrals show greater linkage to local tourism sites; events have engaged with over 600 people (additional to the 750 attending the marathon); 2 more events before the end of the year; Open Forum postponed to get the right speaker.

## **6. Chough Nest site survey – Claire Mucklow**

Presentation – **Action: CM** to contact Coastguard for assistance with any installations; **JCW** – to circulate final report to Partnership on completion. Thanks were extended to Claire for her presentation and work.

## **7. Landscape Report**

### **Planning Update**

- Very busy with 50 planning applications, appeals, comments and pre-application advice
- Planning advisor is only 1.5 days per month so may need more assistance

- Increase in requests for pre-application advice, but no charging yet as all requests coming through local planning authorities
- Planning contractor is increasingly working for developers and cannot comment on these applications for the AONB as a conflict of interest
- Planning application for Beckland slurry lagoon still unresolved – the scoping opinion was in May. Sean Kearney reported that TDC are awaiting an ecology report. Unsure if the decision is to be delegated or not, but we should have a decision in the next two months.
- Grateful thanks were expressed for the contribution Rose Day has made whilst on the Planning Panel

#### **Update on Line Removal Works – Woolacombe**

- Road closures will be in place from October to December whilst heavy drilling occurring. Anticipate existing power lines will be removed by Easter 2018.

### **8. Life on the Verge – Biosphere**

Presentation by Clare Manning. Current activity in the AONB includes Hartland, Meddon and Berryarbor.

### **9. National Association of AONBs update – by Rose Day**

Rose presented a summary of her report including the NAAONB Family update.

### **10. News from Partners:**

#### **National Trust - Rob Joules**

- Improved and increased grazing for wildlife at Woolacombe and Baggy Point
- New wildlife monitoring project with intern
- Works continue at East Titchberry Malthouse
- Now reached 5 million members nationally
- Improving facilities at Baggy Point
- New barn conversion near Woolacombe will provide volunteer accommodation
- Thanks to AONB team for planning comments

#### **Torridge District Council - Sean Kearney**

- Thanks to Cat/AONB team for helping to get Northam Burrows Visitor Centre up and running again following the fire

#### **Biosphere Reserve - Andy Bell**

- Marine & Landscape Pioneers – good feedback from partners
- Funding obtained to extend the Estuary Project addressing diffuse pollution
- A new 4 year contract of £240k per year – for Ancient Woodlands (PAWS)
- Final adjustments to the Bio Cultural Heritage Tourism (BCHT) INTERREG bid
- ‘Woods for Water’ bid to cover Devon and Cornwall in progress

#### **Devon Wildlife Trust - Pete Burgess**

- Devon GHB Project – the Devon Bat Survey now have high tech bat detectors which offer amazing survey coverage. All the information is now online
- Success for the associated Facilitation Fund work in Braunton with 7 farms bidding for countryside stewardship

#### **Clovelly Estate - John Rous**

- Thanks to the AONB for attending Clovelly events with Coastal Creatures and developing the Historic Environment bid
- Marathon along the Coast Path and swim to Lundy – high profile successful events
- Working with the Biosphere on artisan fishing in the area as a possible way forward after Brexit through Marine Pioneer

#### **North Devon Council – Cllr Rodney Cann**

- Looking forward to the adoption of the Joint Local Plan
- Concerns re the power station site and Chivenor developments on estuary
- New water sports centre at Ilfracombe Harbour in progress

#### **North Devon Archaeological Society - Terry Green**

- NDAS are offering assistance, expertise, volunteers and equipment to visitors/locals/schools

#### **Tarka Country Trust - Richard Prowse**

- Tarka Country Trust small grants scheme still open

#### **Natural England - Alison Slade**

- Natural England are running a workshop on awareness of protected sites and how to find information on them – there are still spaces (for this Tuesday at Westward Ho!) and includes ‘Magic’ map demonstration.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

- Plastic Free North Devon - Cat Oliver reported that Surfers against Sewage (SAS) are looking for AONB support for ‘Plastic Free Coastlines’ – offering alternatives for single-use plastic items. NDC wants to help. Partnership agreed to support subject to details and acknowledgement.
- Steve Pitcher - Jenny expressed enormous thanks to Steve as outgoing Chairman for all his hard work and dedication and presented him with a gift from the staff team. A gift from the Partnership will be forthcoming soon.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

**Friday 2 February 2018 at 10.00am**  
**At Caddsdawn Business Support Centre, Bideford**  
**Focus – Management Plan Review**