

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



Town Clerk's
Department
Municipal Buildings
Boscawen Street
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4 March 2025

To: Truro City Councillors Councillors Swain (Mayor), Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Biscoe, La Borde and Southcombe.

Also to: External Representatives Mr John Faragher (Friend of Daubuz Moor), Ms Jade Neville (Friends of Coosebean and Cornwall Wildlife Trust)

Dear Members of the **TRURO NATURE RECOVERY FORUM (TNRF)**

The next meeting of the Nature Recovery Forum will take place on **TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025 starting at 7.00 pm in the Large Community Room, Second Floor, Library Building, Truro Community Library, Union Place, Truro**

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025 (Appendix 1)**
To **resolve** to approve as a correct record.
4. **BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE TRURO CITY COUNCIL RANGER TEAM**
5. **REPORT BACK**
 - a. Dr Spalding & Exeter University external input update.
 - b. Feedback from Nature in Towns and Cities webinar
6. **VOLUNTEER/ NATURE DAY SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2025**
To consider the aims/objectives for the 'nature element' of Truro Volunteer Day and plan accordingly.
7. **NEXT STEPS**
8. **NEXT MEETING**

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DAVID RODDA MBE TOWN CLERK

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



CITY OF TRURO
Town Clerk

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MEETING OF TRURO NATURE RECOVERY FORUM (TNRF) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025 at 7.00 pm

in the Large Community Room, First Floor, Truro Public Library, Union Place, Truro

PRESENT: Councillors: Southcombe (Chairman), Biscoe, Rabey and the Mayor (Councillor Mrs Swain), Mr John Faragher (Friends of Daubuz Moor).

ALSO PRESENT: Forum Advisors Mr Richard Argall (volunteer tree warden) and Mr Paul Caruana (volunteers, badgers & foxes)

APOLOGIES: Councillor La Borde and Ms Jade Neville (Friends of Coosebean and Cornwall Wildlife Trust).

ABSENT: None.

Also in Attendance: Richard Budge, Parks and Amenities Officer (PAO) and Cheryl Simpson, Committee Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Noted.

NRF/24/1210

2. DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND ANY DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest.

NRF/24/1211

3. BRIEF INTRODUCTION FROM MEMBERS OF OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves to the meeting. The Forum agreed that members of the public (external organisations etc) be allowed to speak during the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2025

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum Meeting held on 15 January 2025 were signed as a correct record. **NRF/24/1212**

5. REPORT BACK

a. Submission of expression of interest to the National Lottery Nature in Towns and Cities Fund

It was **noted** that the Council had been unsuccessful in its submission of expression of interest to the National Lottery Nature in Towns and Cities Fund. The Parks and Amenities Officer reported that Members could sign up to receive email notifications from the Towns and Cities Fund and join a webinar taking place on 26 February.

Action: Administrator to circulate email to Forum. [Done.] NRF/24/1213

b. External representative update

- i. It was **noted** that the Westcountry Rivers Trust could not provide a representative for the Forum but could attend a meeting if the River Fal and its tributaries were being discussed.
- ii. It was **noted** that Hannah Hughs, Associate Professor in Geology and Jens Anderson, Associate Professor of Economic Geology both from Camborne School of Mines, had both offered to assist in the Forum's future work from the perspective of geology.
- iii. It was **noted** that Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Exeter University Environmental Sustainability Institute had both been asked if they were interested in nominating a representative to the Forum. No response had been received from the Institute to date. The Administrator had also contacted Spaldings Associates regarding a geology input and had not received a response so far. It was agreed to contact Dr. Spalding to seek his interest in joining or advising the Forum.

The future involvement of the Council's Ranger Team was raised, and it was agreed to invite the Head Ranger to the next meeting.

Actions:

- i. Administrator to contact Dr Spalding. [Done.]
- ii. Administrator to invite Head Ranger to attend the next meeting. [Done.]
NRF/24/1214

6. WELCOME TO EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and

RESOLVED to appoint (a) Mr John Faragher as a representative of the Friends of Daubuz Moor and (b) Ms Jade Neville as a representative of Friends of Coosebean and Cornwall Wildlife Trust to become external representatives of the Forum.
NRF/24/1215

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by the Chairman, and

RESOLVED that Mr Richard Argall (volunteer tree warden) and Mr Paul Caruana (badgers, foxes and volunteers) be welcomed to attend Forum meetings as necessary as advisors with no voting rights and they be sent copies of meeting papers.
NRF/24/1216

7. DISCUSSION ON URBAN NATURE AND WHAT THE FORUM IS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE

The Chairman shared some photographs regarding examples of what might be achieved by the Forum as a starting point of a discussion. During a wide-ranging debate a number of points were made including:

- i. In relation to building a strategy, a holistic approach to Truro was advocated. This could involve balancing economic and nature activities in different parts of the Parish and acknowledging relevant risks in the process. Further, balancing a formal urban environment with an informal environment approach might lead to different investment in different areas. It was suggested that part of this process could be the formulation of overarching ambitious objectives/ principles as well as setting out specific aims or objectives under this. This included maximising the City's assets.

- ii. The link of such a strategy to the Council's Neighbourhood Plan and Planning and Licensing Committee's considerations was also raised. It was suggested that a nature recovery strategy could become a material factor in the forthcoming review of the Neighbourhood Plan. Central Government's commitment to increasing the number of houses was also relevant.
- iii. The importance of the European Eel was raised.
- iv. The link between a healthy environment and a healthy economy was touched upon.
- v. The importance of taking nature to people who lived in urban areas who were unable to access open spaces for all sorts of reasons was highlighted.
- vi. An aim of increasing native biodiversity with native species in urban areas where possible was also underlined. The question of how to encourage more biodiversity was key.
- vii. It was acknowledged that taking small steps to start with was important to increasing biodiversity in urban areas and the views of relevant experts was relevant, particularly in relation to potential impacts.
- viii. The impact of education, and it's link with culture and human behaviour was emphasised generally. Raising public awareness including the use of social media was considered important in encouraging people to change their behaviour. The Parks and Amenities Officer flagged up the Truro Britain in Bloom promotional video, which showed the huge amount of work already undertaken increasing biodiversity and working with the local community. It was suggested that the City Council could film some short information films of the work it already did promoting biodiversity and sustainability for social media use.
- ix. It was felt the City Council had an important role as strategic leader in terms of its potential ability to influence people and eg build on the success of the hedgehog sculptures on the Trafalgar roundabout.
- x. The Parks and Amenities Officer reported the Council currently managed about 100 acres of wild open space including land at Coosebean, Daubuz Moor, Beechwood Parc and also managed Truro Public Cemetery and Kenwyn Churchyard with wildlife in mind. Over the last 25 years or so practices had changed significantly. The Parks Department was producing more sustainable planting which could be re-used from year to year; direct sowing of wildflower mix was also used; it produced its own compost and leaf mould; some grassed areas were left unmown to increase biodiversity; the use of peat compost had reduced and the use of leaf mould, mulch and wood chip had increased; and there would also be a trial to use biochar in tree planting medium. These changes in approach had also reduced the Council's carbon footprint. The Council took part in the recent Forest for Cornwall initiative and also installed a range of bird, bat and insect boxes and brush piles to increase biodiversity. A much smaller amount of chemicals was now used. In the past alternative weed treatments including steaming, burning and hand hoeing had been trialled with limited effect on weeds and their regrowth.
- xi. Reference was made to the Butterfly Conservation Trust's recent work to create 'Moon Meadows' which were areas, both big and small which could be planted with nighttime pollinator-friendly plants.

[Could your team moonlight as moth conservationists? | Butterfly Conservation](#)

8. CITIZEN SCIENCE IN TRURO

The Chairman noted that there were a lot of projects people could get involved in and referred to the British Trust for Ornithology's annual Garden BirdWatch . [Garden BirdWatch and our garden and urban bird research | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

It was also suggested that Cornwall Wildlife Trust might be able to facilitate student assistance for Citizen Science work. NRF/24/1218

9. NEXT STEPS

The Chairman suggested that Citizen Science would form part of the next steps. It was suggested that an event to gauge people's interest could be arranged in the future. Mr Caruana advised that he was arranging a volunteer day on 1 June 2025 and perhaps this could be arranged as a dual event alongside a nature event. NRF/24/1219

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 March 2025 starting at 7 pm. The Parks and Amenities Officer reported his apologies for this meeting. NRF/24/1220

The meeting closed at 20:32

----- CHAIRMAN