

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



Town Clerk's
Department
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11 October 2024

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

Dear Members of the **NATURE RECOVERY FORUM (NRF)**.

The **FIRST** meeting of the Nature Recovery Forum will take place on **THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024 starting at 6.00 pm in the Training Room, First Floor Library Building, Truro Community Library, Union Place, Truro**

MEETING PROGRAMME

1. **ELECT A CHAIRMAN**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE (Appendix 1)**
5. **ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN**
6. **BIODIVERSITY POLICY/STATEMENT (Appendix 2)**
7. **IDENTIFY THE WAY FORWARD**
 - a. Identification of aims
 - b. Carrying out specialist surveys/technical studies
 - c. Partnership working
 - d. Devise Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Truro and implementation plan
 - e. Decide on external representation
 - f. Decide on number of meetings
8. **NEXT MEETING**

Truro Nature Recovery Forum

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Forum is to support the Council in developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Truro and a subsequent implementation plan.

2. Aims and Responsibilities:

The aims of the sub-committee are:

- 2.1. Consider and make recommendations to the Parks and Amenities Committee regarding the state of the natural environment in Truro.
- 2.2. To carry out such surveys and technical studies as appropriate, subject to agreement of the Parks and Amenities Committee in respect of any funding requirements.
- 2.3. To liaise with local community groups, specialist nature and conservation charities, local businesses, and other stakeholders that share Truro City Council's commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 2.4. To support the council in developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Truro and a subsequent implementation plan. In undertaking this work it must also differentiate between the ability of Truro City Council to implement change on land within its ownership/control and land outside its ownership/control.

3. Authority:

- 3.1. This is a sub-committee of the Parks and Amenities Committee set up in accordance with Standing Order 5.
- 3.2. The sub-committee will report back to the Parks and Amenities Committee with recommendations, and update reports at regular intervals.
- 3.3. The sub-committee will include and work with the Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer, who will be the lead officer.

4. Membership:

- 4.1. The membership of the group will draw on Councillors and the local community of Truro. It will include representatives from stakeholders that share Truro City Council's commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 4.2. At a minimum, membership of the group will include a minimum of 3 members of the Parks and Amenities Committee and an equal number of external representatives.
- 4.3. The group will be supported as appropriate by council staff and will include but not limited to:
 - (i). Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer, as Lead Officer,
 - (ii). Community Development Officer,
 - (iii). Parks and Amenities Administrator,
 - (iv). Countryside Ranger Team,

(v). Zero Carbon Officer.

4.4. A Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be appointed at the initial meeting of the Group.

5. Meeting schedule and ways of working:

- 5.1. The group is an ongoing forum. It will hold at least one meeting every six months (unless the Chairman decides that the agenda does not warrant a meeting), and report at the following Parks and Amenities Committee meeting.
- 5.2. The Group will decide how best to meet. Digital platforms are permitted.
- 5.3. The mandate of the forum must be reviewed once per year.

TRURO CITY COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY/STATEMENT

In accordance with the Duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 including amendments in the Environment Act 2021, Truro City Council will in exercising its function, commit to conserve, increase and enhance biodiversity throughout the City of Truro and its environs.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of animal and plant life on the planetⁱ, including life within soils and water. Biodiversity is essential **for the processes that support all life on Earth, including humans**. Without a wide range of animals, plants and microorganisms, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.ⁱⁱ

Truro City Council will:

1. Consider the impact on biodiversity in all decisions it makes through its committees and working groups, by seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity.
2. Seek opportunities within all its activities and services to increase and enhance biodiversity.
3. When commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. Support protection of sensitive and important habitats for wildlife and biodiversity from development.
4. Establish a Truro City Council working group to facilitate a Truro nature recovery forum including communities and groups. This forum will be open to all stakeholders that share Truro City Council's commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity and will support the council in developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Truro and an implementation plan.
5. Encourage projects and practices to increase and enhance biodiversity through grants.
6. Support and influence Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Strategy by informing and consulting residents and advising on biodiversity priorities for Truro City.

Truro City Council, as a land manager, will, where practical:

- 7 Proactively remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation to prevent harm to native species.
- 8 Proactively manage green spaces for wildlife and biodiversity including planting native perennial plants and trees in its parks and green spaces.
- 9 Avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides at all times except in the need to remove invasive species.
- 10 Properly scale and time the removal of vegetation such that biodiversity is NOT impacted.

- 11 Protect Truro's land and waterways from pollution and enable a clear pathway for residents to report pollution and flood risk.

This policy is consistent with Truro City Council's existing Neighbourhood Plan and Truro City Council Plans 2021-2025.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are linear strips which provide safe passage for wildlife. They benefit small mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and birds. There is also benefit for people, as they provide outdoor classrooms, meeting places and recreational space. Examples are tree and hedge lined streets, river banks, hedged paths, old railway lines. In Truro the rivers Allen and Kenwyn provide excellent habitat where the banks are unmodified.

There several small, relatively untouched areas that provide habitat - on Furniss Island, Cathedral Green, Rosewin Green, Victoria Gardens, Epiphany House, St Mary's Churchyard, Kenwyn Churchyard, John Tann Land that are dotted through the town and, along with private gardens and street planters, provide 'bee lines' from the woodlands to the east side, such as Glasteinen, to Daubuz Moor, Hendra woodland area and Coosebean Woods to the west. Even stone can provide a niche for some species.

Unmowed grass areas on the estates, such as Uplands, Beechwood Park, Treffry Road and Kenwyn allow wild flowers, insects and mammals to find a home.

ⁱ As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' by DEFRA

ⁱⁱ <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/biodiversity/why-is-biodiversity-important/>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Role of Green Corridors in Wildlife Conservation in Urban Landscapes. A literature review. A IZ AND Rasidi IOP