

Penwith Landscape Partnership

*Kynsa ha Diwettha –
Agan Tirwedh Bewa ha Gonis'*

**First and Last –
Our Living Working Landscape**



October 2016

Ow lavurya gans tiogow

Working with local farmers

In July, about fifty farmers gathered at Landithy Hall in Madron to hear about some of the ways in which the Penwith Landscape Partnership scheme might be able to help support farming in Penwith. Many thanks to all who came along and to the farmers and landowners who have given their time since then to help develop ideas.



There is a clear need for practical help with the management and use of rough ground. Most Penwith farms have areas of wetland and heathland, but

many of these no longer play an active role in farm business. The Partnership will be able to help farmers access income from Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier where this is possible.

However, our local moors and downland do not always meet the requirements of these national schemes. On farms where this is the case, we would like to focus on getting on with practical work that may be required: helping with the cost of bracken spraying to open up areas ahead of grazing or of mechanical scrub control to improve access; and

providing volunteer help to clear around historic settlements and monuments by hand.

Continued overleaf

Events and meetings coming up

Do you know about some of the historic features in your Parish?
Would you like to get involved in surveying wildlife and heritage in your locality?
Are you interested in hands-on practical work to help manage the environment? Or in helping to record and restore Cornish hedges?

Please come along to a **Parish meeting** in your area:

Tuesday 8th November at St Just Old Town Council (for those living in the Parishes of Sennen, St Levan, St Buryan, Sancreed, Paul and St Just); or

Thursday 24th November at Landithy Hall, Madron (Towednack, Zennor, Madron, Morvah and Ludgvan)

Both meetings from 6 - 8pm with refreshments

This is your opportunity to chat to people involved in this exciting work and give us your ideas and suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Working with local farmers cont.

Many farmers have told us that managing common land is especially difficult. We would like to help with negotiations between commoners, to begin to make our commons work for local farmers again.

Efficient, technically excellent, resilient family-farm businesses are the real backbone to our living working landscape in Penwith. The Partnership would like to support local farm businesses by setting up a series of Monitor Farms. These would be local farms that facilitate research projects across a range of subjects in the production of beef, dairy or horticulture. They will not necessarily be the same farms throughout the period of the scheme. Results will be shared with the local farming community through new discussion groups or via existing groups. So far, the most popular topics put forward by farmers for these 'Monitor Farms' include:

- improving suckler beef margins
- strengthening the market value of stock used for conservation grazing
- field trials of novel forage seed mixes
- mapping herd immunity to red-water fever
- raising the importance of break crops, grass and livestock within a horticultural rotation

If you farm locally and you have views on any of these ideas, please do get in touch.

Spending a little time now will help ensure that this Lottery funding is put to best use for the farming community of West Penwith.



Who is on the Partnership ?

Members of the Penwith Landscape Partnership Board are:

Cornwall Councillors representing four Penwith wards
Zennor and Towednack Parish Council
Farming representatives
A Penwith based micro-business
Cornwall Archaeological Society
Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN)
National Trust
St Aubyn Estates
Farm Cornwall
Bolitho Estates
Penwith Access and Rights of Way (PAROW)

Penwith Community Development Trust
Save Penwith Moors
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Cornwall AONB

The Board is chaired by **Cllr Jim McKenna**

Advisors to the Board include:

Natural England, Cornwall Council Historic Environment Section and Cornwall Rural Community Charity

If you want to keep in touch with the Landscape Partnership's progress, please contact your local Parish or Cornwall Councillor to find out what is going on in your area or contact us to sign up to this newsletter.

Penwith Landscape Partnership

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