

Cornwall Wildlife Trust have reviewed the Lanteglos-by-Fowey Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) as part of the pre submission consultation and have provided some comments/considerations for you below.

### **Cornwall Wildlife Trust comments:**

1. Good to see reference to wildlife in the draft policies. References should be made to protected designated habitats which are vital. Further detail for what developments should do and not do for these could be included, such as:

**Non-statutory sites include County Wildlife Sites (CWS), County Geology Sites (CGS), Roadside Verge Audit Biological Sites and Ancient Woodlands:** *These are of at least county importance for wildlife/geology in Cornwall and are all recognised and given weight through the planning process. Developments which would have an adverse impact on County Wildlife Sites will not be supported by Cornwall Council there are no suitable alternative sites, impacts are unavoidable and there is full provision for habitat re-creation and management.*

2. Further information is available via the Wildlife Resource Map supplied from the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. A number of Parish's are using this mapping information to support the Neighbourhood Planning Process. Guidance on what the Wildlife Resource Map provides is attached.
3. It would also be useful to include reference to the Biodiversity Guide and inclusion of wildlife specific development measures, in line with the Biodiversity Guide e.g. one bat or bird box for each new build dwelling.  
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/35367439/biodiversity-spd-v7.pdf>
4. There is no reference in the NDP to Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Environmental Growth Strategy which stresses the need for us to do much more for nature and wildlife than simply minimise losses, we should be providing more opportunities for wildlife and habitats to thrive. We would encourage a reference to be included with specific reference to Target Outcome 9, which states:  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk/environmentalgrowth](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environmentalgrowth)

**Target outcome 9: Nature in Cornwall is abundant, diverse and well connected**  
**For this we need:**

**a) Protection and expansion of the existing, high quality, backbone of Cornwall's designated terrestrial and marine protected areas, landscapes and heritage.**

*The designated landscapes and sites are vital to the success of this Strategy, giving us an ecological and cultural network to grow from and helping us to test ideas and new approaches. The designations of these sites provide them with a high level of protection in terms of Planning, recognising the conservation and enhancement of their special qualities is essential. The potential for these areas to also deliver environmental growth is a crucial opportunity and this Strategy seeks to provide additional strength to the value these areas are ascribed in decision making. It is essential that we view these areas as both outstanding*

*for their special features but also as a guide for our environmental quality in other areas. Ideally we would have more outstanding landscapes, biodiversity sites and heritage features to be recognised as nationally and internationally important in future.*

5. The recently published St Agnes NDP is a good example of how neighbourhood plans can promote environmentally friendly developments. An extract from the plan's guidance is provided below. It would be beneficial to replicate some of these measures to join up the policies and recommendations across Cornwall's Parishes.  
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-cornwall/tab-placeholder/s/st-agnes-parish-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

### **Additional Guidance**

*The following list of requirements from the Cornwall Council Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document are of particular relevance to St Agnes Parish and we strongly encourage developers to address these and demonstrate best practice in how wildlife is protected and enhanced through development.*

- *Developments of over 10 dwellings should provide a balance sheet or table setting out quantitatively the habitats to be lost and gained.*
- *New developments should have lighting plans informed by site ecological surveys and seek to retain dark corridors.*
- *Landscape planting should be sympathetic to local native species and habitats and avoid species known to be invasive in Cornwall.*
- *Public Open Spaces should be designed to encourage biodiversity, particularly habitats that are not well-represented locally such as woodland and wetland.*
- *At least one integrated bat box should be included in each new dwelling in a suitable position.*
- *Habitat linkage should be provided for hedgehogs including 13cm x 13cm holes in the bottom edge of new fencing to allow them access to large areas.*
- *At least one bird box for swifts, swallows or house martins should be integrated into each new dwelling in a suitable position.*
- *A barn owl box should be provided on appropriate developments where they are situated 1km from main roads.*
- *Bee bricks should be provided, one per 2 residential dwellings.*
- *Cornish hedges should be retained in the first instance. Where they will be affected by development suitable mitigation is required and any loss should be compensated elsewhere resulting in a net gain in Cornish hedge length.*
- *Cornish hedges retained in developments should have undeveloped buffer strips alongside them. These should be a minimum of 2m wide for residential development and a minimum of 5m for industrial developments.*
- *Ideally Cornish hedges will be retained in the public realm where sympathetic management can be guaranteed. Where Cornish hedges are retained but 'sandwiched' between back-to-back gardens this should be counted as 50% loss of hedge and be compensated for.*

Thank you for consulting with Cornwall Wildlife Trust for this NDP.

Kind regards,

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Cornwall Wildlife Trust