

# WEST CORNWALL DARK SKIES INITIATIVE: Draft report

## Stakeholder and Public Engagement

At the start of the journey towards getting West Cornwall's dark skies recognised and protected, the two Parish Councillors seized informal opportunities to raise awareness and have conversations with local councillors and interested others. The most formal of these was at the West Penwith Community Network Panel, a meeting of Town, Parish and Unitary Authority Councillors, with supporting staff from the area now proposed as the Core, and some in the wider proposed Buffer Zone.

### *Detail meetings to follow*

Since November 2018, as the current partnership and Steering Group began to take shape, a more formal, wider and larger scale engagement and awareness-raising programme has developed. The goal was to make people aware of and seek their views on West Cornwall applying for the International Dark Sky Reserve Designation. This has consisted of:

- Presentations at the West Penwith and the Hayle and St Ives Community Network Panels, thus making information available to all local elected Councillors in the proposed Core and Buffer Zones;
- A public engagement drop-in event primarily aimed at residents but also attended by other interested business and community representatives;
- On-line consultation and feedback opportunities, through a survey and accepting email comments and questions;
- A targeted stakeholder event for those involved in tourism, environmental protection, astronomy and the arts;
- Engagement with the local press, leading to media stories promoting events and raising public awareness.

## Community Network Panels

The Chair of the Steering Group, supported by other Steering Group members, attended the West Penwith Community Network Panel on 16 May 2019 and the Hayle and St Ives Community Network Panel on 3 June 2019 (see tables Z and Z for attendance lists). The presentation, included at appendix ?, set out the proposal for a Dark Sky Reserve and the benefits. At the time of the presentation, the proposed Buffer Zone was slightly smaller, but it was through this engagement that the Steering group took on board comments and expanded it to include the St Erth Parish, part of the Hayle and St Ives Community Network. The Hayle and St Ives Community Network Panel contains parishes beyond the proposed Buffer boundary.

**Table Z: Showing Representation at the West Penwith Community Network Panel on 16 May 2019**

Present	Title/ Representing
Councillor	Cornwall Council – St Just in Penwith Electoral Division
Councillor	Cornwall Council – Marazion and Perranuthnoe Electoral Division
Councillor	Madron Parish Council
Councillor	Marazion Town Council

Councillor	Marazion Town Council
Staff	Clerk to Marazion Town Council and Perranuthnoe Parish Council
Staff	Clerk to Penzance Town Council
Councillor	Sancreed Parish Council
Councillor	Sancreed Parish Council
Councillor	Sennen Parish Council
Staff	Clerk to Paul Parish Council, St Buryan Parish Council, St Levan Parish Council, Sancreed Parish Council and Sennen Parish Council
Councillor	St Just Town Council
Councillor	St Just Town Council
Public	1 x Resident
<b>Cornwall Council Officers &amp; Speakers</b>	
Staff	Cornwall Council, Community Support Assistant
Staff	Cornwall Council, Community Link Officer
Councillor	Cornwall Council – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods
Community Representative	Good Companions
Community Representative	Good Companions

**Table Z: Showing Representation at the Hayle and St Ives Community Network Panel on 3 June 2019**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Title/ Representing</b>
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (Hayle South)
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (St Ives West)
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (Gwinear & Gwithian and St Erth)
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (Hayle North)
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (St Ives East)
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor (Lelant and Carbis Bay)
Councillor	Gwinear Gwithian Parish Council
Councillor	Hayle Town Council
Councillor	Hayle Town Council
Councillor	Hayle Town Council
Councillor	St Erth Parish Council
Councillor	St Erth Parish Council
Councillor	St Ives Town Council
Councillor	Towednack Parish Council
Councillor	Towednack Parish Council
Councillor	Towednack Parish Council
Staff	Hayle Library
Staff	Tate St Ives
Staff	St Ives Workstation CIC
Press	St Ives Times & Echo
Councillor	Towednack Parish council & Dark Skies rep
Staff	Cornwall Council, Head of Adult Care and Support (West)

Public	2 x Residents
<b>Cornwall Council Officers &amp; Speakers</b>	
Staff	Cornwall Council, Community Support Assistant
Staff	Cornwall Council Leadership Team representative for this panel and Neighbourhoods and Public Protection Service Director
Staff	Cornwall Council, Community Link Officer
Councillor	Cornwall Councillor – Chair Dark Skies
Staff	Cornwall Council, Strategic Director, Adult Social Care and Health
GP	Locality Chair, Penwith
Staff	NHS Kernow
Staff	NHS Kernow
Community Representative	Good Companions
Community Representative	Good Companions

## Community Engagement

A leaflet and poster were produced to promote the community engagement event in Penzance on 17 July 2019, and articles appeared in the local press. At the event, people could view displays, watch a slide show based on the presentation given and Community Network Panels, talk to members of the Steering Group and give their views. At the same time an on-line survey was launched and promoted.

The leaflet and poster are at appendix [?](#). 62 people attended the drop-in event and 9 people sent in comments by email, giving a total of 71 respondents. 70 respondents were supportive of the area becoming an International Dark Sky Reserve. The 1 negative comment was from a land owner concerned it might negatively affect his development plans. 67 respondents lived within the proposed Core or Buffer zones, a further 2 came from another part of Cornwall and 2 who live outside Cornwall describing themselves as regular visitors to the area.

Most people had multiple reasons for supporting the idea of designating and protecting the local dark sky landscape, with 44 people generally stating their support of the benefits identified in information provided of:

- Enjoyment and appreciation – quality of life and creativity
- Health – better sleep and less stress
- Wildlife – more natural for nocturnal and diurnal animals
- Tourism – boosting numbers in quieter months
- Educational Outreach – formal and informal education
- Science – enhanced conditions for astronomy
- Energy Efficiency – reducing wastage from excessive lighting

Of those emphasising specific reasons for supporting, 18 identified benefits for wildlife, 20 cited an interest in astronomy, 15 welcomed the benefits to tourism, 11 quoted health benefits and 35 made comments regarding reduced lighting, with many hoping there could be some reduced street lighting arising from any designation.

A further 100 people completed an on-line survey, and although we could not tell where they lived or whether any had already responded at the drop-in event or by email, we include a

summary of their comments here. 98 respondents were positively supportive of the International Dark Sky Reserve proposal.

54 respondents generally supported the stated benefits. Other support can be summarised as 16 welcoming benefits to wildlife, 33 cited astronomy, 8 quoted benefits to tourism, 11 benefits for human health and 12 hopes for reduced lighting.

### **Stakeholder Engagement Event**

On 9 September 2019 the Stakeholder event was hosted and sponsored by Cape Cornwall Club, a business under new ownership wanting to expand their facilities to be more than 'just a Golf Club'. The invite was designed by their media adviser and is shown at figure X. 37 registered to attend although only 17 attended on the night, largely due to poor weather conditions.

### **Figure X: Showing the invite to the Stakeholder Event**



CAPE CORNWALL  
CLUB

SUPPORTING PROPOSAL TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL  
DARK SKY DESIGNATION FOR WEST CORNWALL



Photograph by Chris Colyer, Penwith Photographic Group

## YOU'RE INVITED

### STAKEHOLDER EVENT

For businesses, organisations & significant  
landowners with an interest

**MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 7TILL 9P.M.**

CAPE CORNWALL CLUB, TR19 7NL

[Book here](#) with Eventbrite by 27 August

Bar will be open throughout the event

For more information visit  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk/darksky](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/darksky)



The Stakeholder Event was opened by a local member of the International Dark Sky Association and then the Chair of the Steering Group outlined the proposal using an adapted version of the presentation at appendix [?](#). Other speakers highlighted some of the key benefits; a Consultant Haematologist on health, an Environmental Consultant on wildlife, an Astrophysicist on astronomy and a local Bed and Breakfast owner on tourism. There was an opportunity for questions and answers and several who attended sent in letters of support included in appendix [?](#).

### Local Press Coverage

*To be inserted by Chris Colyer*