



## Community engagement: barriers & opportunities v1

### Summary of Barriers & Opportunities from Your Shore workshop

Output 4.2 of the Cornwall 3Cs Project V1  
**FINAL**

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## PREFACE

**This report is one of several outputs for the project entitled “Coordinating Cornwall’s Coastal Recovery: coast and marine nature recovery action plans to achieve 30 by 30” project which ran from January – April 2023.**

This is the second phase of the project exploring the feasibility and options for establishing a Coastal Partnership in Cornwall.

The partnership taking this phase of the work forward is hosted by Cornwall Wildlife Trust and includes Cornwall Council, Cornwall Catchment Partnership, Environment Agency and Natural England. The project is funded through the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund under the banner of ‘Championing Coastal Collaboration’ (3Cs).

The work has been carried out through Kaja Curry Consulting and Services for Cornwall Wildlife Trust.



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All reports are available at:

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/at-sea/coastal-partnerships>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction ..... 3
- 2 “Your Shore” network & conference ..... 3
- 3 Session objectives ..... 3
- 4 Results..... 5
- 5 Next steps..... 8
- Appendix A: Your Shore Conference Programme ..... 9

## 1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the “Coastal Partnership for Cornwall” Project, work was undertaken to understand how community groups can help towards coast and marine nature recovery. This was done by working with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust’s “Your Shore” network of community groups at their annual conference held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023. As part of this conference, there was a session to explore barriers and opportunities for community engagement to support the delivery of marine and coastal nature recovery.

## 2 “YOUR SHORE” NETWORK & CONFERENCE

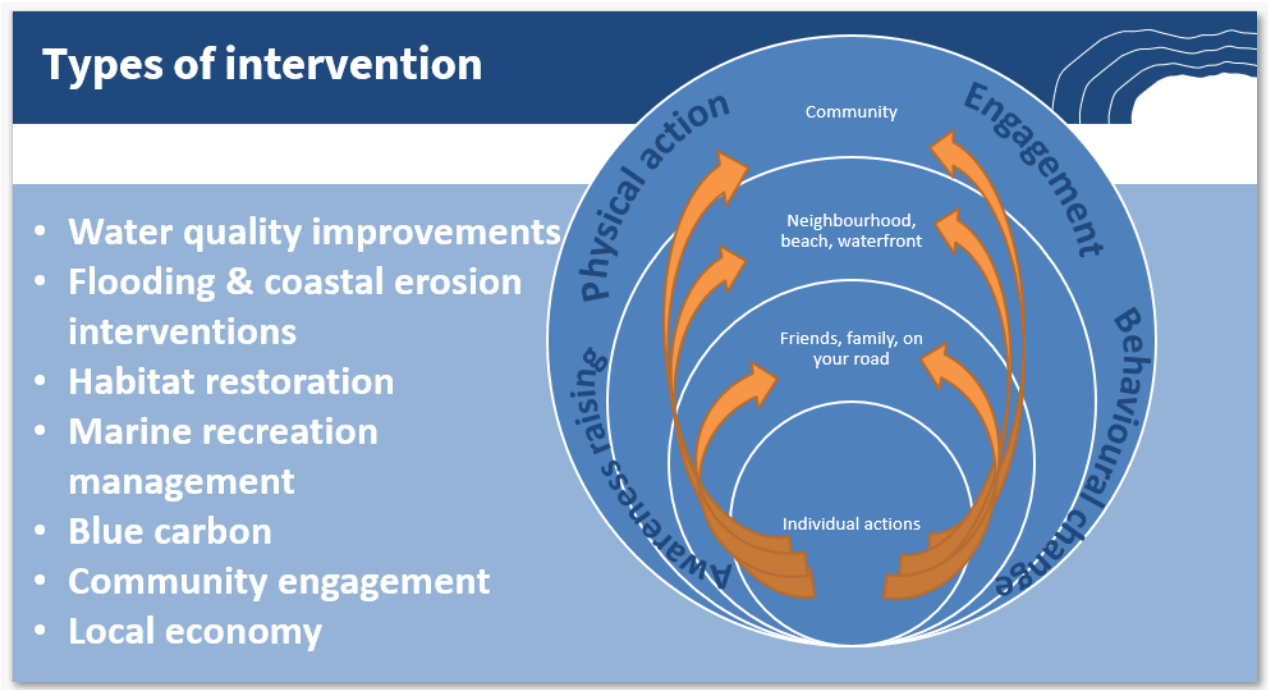
Established in Cornwall by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the “Your Shore” network is an innovative and thriving network of dedicated and skilled local marine volunteer groups all around the county’s coastline. Altogether there are 18 separate community-led marine conservation groups who work together sharing data, ideas, and resources to present a united voice advocating for better protection for the coast. They undertake a range of activities depending on their local issues and the interests and skills of their members. Activities can include surveys, beach cleans and events and training for their own Beach Rangers and young volunteers to take part in wider citizen science projects such as Shoresearch, Seasearch and Seaquest. The groups provide valuable data to help monitor the health of Cornish waters and to highlight where further management is required.

The Your Shore Annual Conference took place on Saturday 4 February 2023, and attracted an estimated 120 attendees, most of whom were in-person. The “Coastal Partnership for Cornwall” project was allocated half an hour to bring delegates up to date on the project progress and to run a workshop session. The conference programme is provided in Appendix A.

## 3 SESSION OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the session were to explore with the delegates the barriers and opportunities for community groups to support the delivery of a marine and coastal nature recovery. In particular to explore with the delegates the type of intervention that they preferred. In order to effect change, it is broadly recognised that behavioural change needs to take place on all levels from the individual, right up through friends and family to the neighbourhood and up to the community level (see Figure 1: Types of intervention / activity).

Figure 1: Types of intervention / activity



This was done by asking the delegates to work together in their tables to answer specific questions which were as follows:

1. What would an effective partnership look like that would enable the delivery of the Charter of the Sea?
2. Delegates were asked to rank in order the type of activities that they personally prefer to take part in?
  - i. Personal action (e.g., buying less plastic, reducing personal carbon footprint).
  - ii. Physical action (e.g., picking up litter & practical conservation work, surveying).
  - iii. Awareness raising (e.g., talking to people face to face, handing out leaflets).
  - iv. Driving behavioural change (working to install nudges such as yellow fish markers on drains, water fountains, beach toys recycling points).
3. They were asked to identify the five top current barriers that prevent them from doing more?
4. They were then asked to identify the five top things that would need to be in place to enable further delivery (opportunities)?
5. Finally, delegates were asked whether they would be willing to be further involved with the project.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 An effective partnership

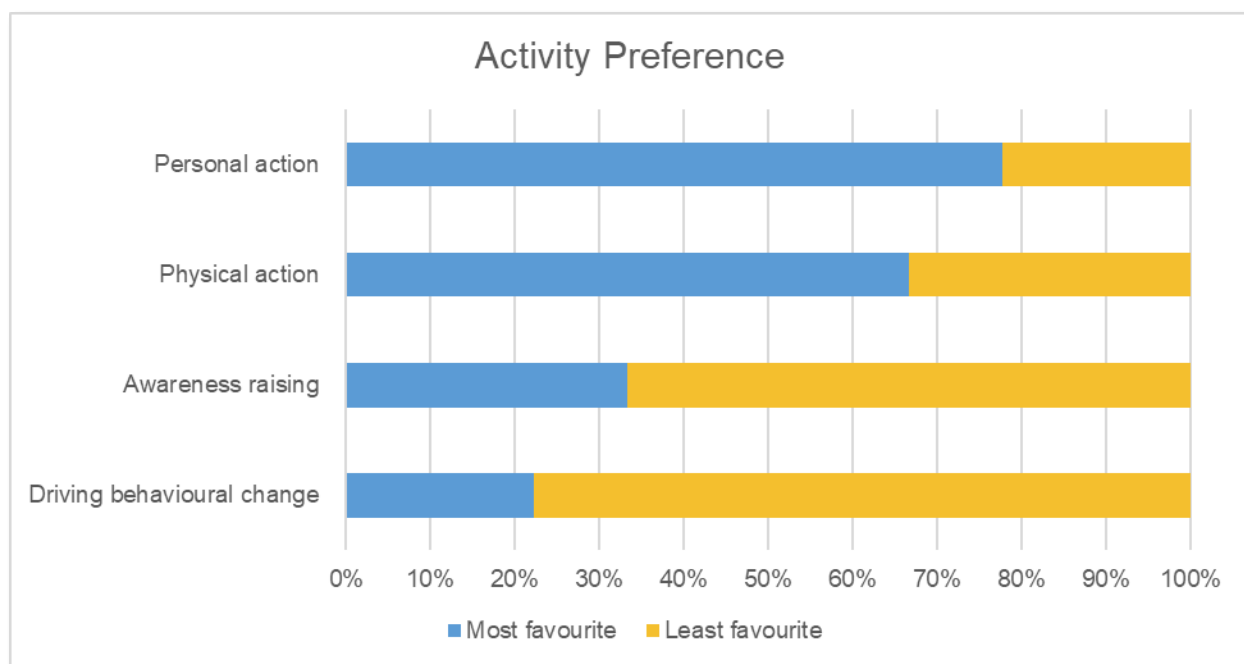
When asked what an effective partnership would look like, 14 comments were received from the nine tables and these have been divided into the following categories:

1. **Properly resourced with clear aims and delivery:** five comments were received about the need to a partnership to be “*well-funded*” and “*properly resourced*” in order to be able to focus on delivery, whilst also being clear on what it was doing, i.e., “*concise*” and “*active*”.
2. **Governance and accountability:** seen as important and mentioned twice: “it would be held accountable for any actions...” and “it would have an independent body to review pressures...”
3. **Collaboration and partnership working at different geographical scales:** The need for collaborative working, in partnership with organisations and the communities was mentioned in four of the comments. A need to work face to face with key organisations was identified as well as “*reaching out to harder to reach groups i.e., fisheries/ regional/ county levels.*” Other groups were also identified that could potentially be worked with, such as local sustainable tourism groups that work to link businesses, voluntary groups, faith group and local councils and the need to work with existing groups rather than create new ones was stressed.
4. **Wider engagement:** Several identified the importance of wider engagement and particularly with young people to inspire engagement and lead action in the youth communities.
5. **Information and data sharing:** The need to share information and data was seen as an important component of an effective partnership and was mentioned twice, for example “*have a two-way open access information stream to share issues and find solutions.*”

### 4.2 Activity Preferences

Each of the nine tables, ranked the four different activity-types by preference and the results are shown in “Figure 2: Activity preference” below.

Figure 2: Activity preference



In the comments, some delegates said that they preferred personal action because this was the easiest, they had a sense of control over it, and they could see the results. Others spoke of the difficulties of effecting behavioural change as volunteers rather than in an employed role and with no immediate result they said that they feel that they are not doing enough.

Other delegates said that of course all four types of activity were important, and that a spectrum of activities was preferred.

### 4.3 Barriers preventing them from doing more

On their tables, respondents were asked what five barriers were preventing them from achieving more in terms of supporting marine nature recovery. The results were as follows:

1. **Time:** this came out as the top barrier, with many citing lack of time, or too many other pressures on their time, as a key barrier to achieving more. They also said that many volunteers undertake other voluntary actions in their community, so again are spread very thinly across a number of causes.
2. **Funding:** some felt that lack of funding to help with their expenses such as fuel and travel prevented them from doing more, particularly with the current squeeze on domestic spending. This meant travel to voluntary activities was difficult for some.
3. **Understanding / clarity of expectations and actions:** Some said that the lack of clarity was a barrier to undertaking more activities with others saying they did not know where they could best direct their actions to make a difference.

4. **Government red-tape and difficulties in getting the right consents:** The complexity of the marine consents process was seen as a critical barrier with some not knowing where or how to get the right consents to undertake work with sometimes multiple consents required from numerous authorities for a single activity, and many volunteers would baulk at this. Others also spoke of frustrations from “push-backs” on discovery that what at first glance would be a simple activity, would actually require multiple agencies to give their permissions.
5. **Mental and physical health:** Respondents spoke of both mental and physical health being a barrier to them being able to do more; this was sometimes linked to lack of physical access to some sites

A sixth barrier was also identified as being weather and seasonality,

#### 4.4 Measures to help them achieve more (opportunities)

Respondents were then asked to identify the five key measures that could be put in place that would help them to achieve more relating to marine nature recovery. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to explore these in depth.

1. **Time, and volunteers:** these two items were clearly in short supply and so a number of respondents identified these as critical.
2. **Funding and resources:** these two issues were linked, as respondents identified the need to be able to efficiently access both funding for projects as well as resources such as facilities, equipment, staffing and business support in order to help them achieve their goals.
3. **Clearer steer:** there was a sense that they wanted to be part of a bigger single vision, with stronger *“motivation from inspiring leaders for the planet”* and with clearer *“buy-in from all.”*
4. **Training:** this was seen as important, with respondents asking for access to skills and ideas as well as education on more successful actions to generate hope and optimism.
5. **Shared resources and online presence:** there was a suggestion for a list of resources and proven actions along with an online community or platform to enable the easy sharing of ideas and thoughts between like-minded environmental people thereby giving people the confidence to act.

#### 4.5 Willingness to support further work

Delegates were asked to put their names forward if they wanted to be involved in further discussions to hone the next steps and to be further involved with this initiative. In total eight names and emails were received and these people, who are willing to give further to the project, can be contacted in the next phase, subject to funding.



## **5 NEXT STEPS**

Involvement of local communities is critical to developing and delivering marine nature recovery in Cornwall and the Your Shore network of community groups provide an invaluable means for community engagement focused on several locations around Cornwall. The findings of this piece of work will therefore be reflected within the proposed workplan for the emerging coastal partnership for Cornwall.

End.



# Your Shore Conference 2023 – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February



Time	Subject	Speaker	Format
9:00	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>		
	<b>Session 1 – Your Shore Project</b>		
9:30	1 Introduction and Welcome	Matt Walpole, CEO CWT	T
9:40	2 Your Shore Network 2022 review	Katie Bellman, CWT	Video
9:50	3 Community Work: Mounts Bay & Beyond	Katie Bellman, CWT	T
10:00	4 Your Shore Education Work	Claire Dickinson-Knight, CWT	T
10:10	5 Your Shore Award Launch	Claire Dickinson-Knight / Lucy Luck, CWT	T
10:25	6 The Your Shore Network's vision and purpose	ALL	W
10:40	<b>BREAK</b>		
	<b>Session 2 – Practical Conservation Workshops</b>		
11:10	7 Plastic Pollution in 2023 – Looking at the Bigger Picture?	Delia Webb, GPPC	T
11:20	8 Intro talks (5-10mins each)	Supporting Cornwall Good Seafood Guide	T
11:25		Tackling Disturbance in our Communities	Abbey Crosby, CWT
11:30		Marine Planning	Alicia Shephard, MMO
11:40	9 How can you group contribute to conservation?	Workshop 1	W
		Cornwall Good Seafood Guide	W
12:10	Workshop 2	Disturbance	W
		Marine Planning	W
12:40	<b>LUNCH – CWT Staff available for questions</b>		
	<b>Session 3 – Connecting for campaigning</b>		
13:40	11 Cornwall's Climate Stories	Claire Wallerstein, Cornwall Climate Care	T
13:50	12 The Power of the Parish	Mark Nason, St Agnes Parish Council	T
14:00	13 Our Only World Community Projects	Tina Robinson, Our Only World	T
14:10	14 Cornwall Charter of the Sea	Katie Bellman, CWT	T
14:15	15 Charter of the Sea Survey	ALL	W
14:30	Coordinating Cornwall's Coastal Recovery	Kaja Curry, 3Cs & Simon Jeffery, Environment Agency	T
14:40	Coordinating Cornwall's Coastal Recovery	ALL	W
15:00	<b>BREAK</b>		
	<b>Session 4 – Amazing Marine life</b>		
15:25	16 Underwater Cornwall Through the Seasons	Martin Stevens Pre-recorded	T (video)
15:55	17 Connecting the Restoration Dots: what are the missing blue-green gaps?	Ian Hendy	T
16:25	18 Wrap up and Summary (feedback forms)	Katie Bellman, CWT	T
16:30	<b>END</b>		

