

ST BURYAN LAMORNA & PAUL PARISH COUNCIL DECLARATION OF A BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY

St Buryan Lamorna & Paul Parish Council notes with concern the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on global species and habitat loss. The State of Nature in Cornwall 2020 report tells us that 74.4% of our land in Cornwall is farmland, and 7.9% is built environment and transport. Only 9.9% is woodland or scrub, 5.7% is moorland & heath, 1.8% is wetlands, and 0.3% is rivers. Much of this semi-natural environment is poorly managed which leaves **only 3.5% of land well-managed for nature recovery in Cornwall**. Parish and Town Councils must act together now to meet the 30% target set by Cornwall Council.

We recognise the importance of a healthy and biodiverse environment that ensures our Parish's future prosperity and ensures the well-being of all who live, work and study here. We, therefore, pledge to provide leadership and to ensure that we work with all areas, with partners and with our communities to reverse the decline in biodiversity and deliver measurable biodiversity net gain within our Parish which feeds into the wider region.

Further to this, St Buryan Lamorna & Paul Parish Council:

1. Declares its recognition of the global biodiversity emergency and the local impact this could have on the communities and businesses we serve.
2. Pledges to act during the first year of the motion being accepted, to secure future measurable biodiversity net gain for St Buryan Lamorna & Paul.
3. Pledges to develop plans for further action in the second year of the motion being accepted and beyond to secure further biodiversity net gain.

In recognition of this Biodiversity Emergency, during the first year of the motion being adopted St Buryan Lamorna & Paul Parish Council will:

- Encourage our Parish to become more hospitable to a wide range of plants and animals.
- Publish an online 'Biodiversity Toolkit' to encourage community engagement with habitat creation such as flowering meadows, planting of locally grown indigenous tree species, and the creation of 'wild' garden areas for pollinating insects.
- Work with Cornwall Council to identify how the Parish's land and open spaces function as part of Cornwall's coherent ecological network and prioritise areas for protection and enhancement.
- Work with other organisations to set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, seeking to increase community engagement with habitat creation such as restored Cornish Hedges, bee banks and ponds.
- To ban the use of herbicides and pesticides by St Buryan Lamorna & Paul Parish Council operatives, and request the same from Cornwall Council within the Parish.
- Work to develop and implement the Parish's Pledge for Nature, building on habitat creation and good land management year after year.
- Acknowledge our position within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, heritage coast, Area of Great Landscape Value, dark skies, and areas designated as SSSI's and will engage with the various agencies concerned to continue to safeguard these vital assets.

- Build links with local schools, businesses and community groups, to raise awareness and encourage wider biodiversity action across the Parish by:
 - I. Providing a range of public engagement and awareness campaigns to provide advice to residents and businesses on how to protect and enhance habitats within the Parish.
 - II. Safeguard and enhance our established trees and replant locally grown, indigenous species whenever we are strongly advised to remove mature specimens. Heavily pollard, rather than fell trees wherever possible.
 - III. Encouraging and supporting community growing schemes, allotments, or community orchards in the Parish.
 - IV. Building links with Cornwall Wildlife Trust to identify Local Wildlife Sites, and work to help them reach and retain favourable conservation status.
 - V. Building links with the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall to establish the capture of up-to-date biodiversity data, and make it available to decision-makers when considering the implications of development, land management and projects.
 - VI. Continuing to support Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership (LNP), to deliver this shared vision.

We further aspire to:

- Ensure the delivery of biodiversity enhancements through awareness and advocacy of environmental protection in Planning policies when commenting on local applications.
- Work with Cornwall Council to promote local sustainable transport and maintenance of Public Rights of Way.
- Review progress at least every two years, in order to set new targets and build on work done so far.

Supporting Information:

Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

<https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>

Cornwall State of Nature Report 2020

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/state-nature-cornwall-2020-report>

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership

<https://naturecios.org.uk/pledge/>

Cornish Hedge Biodiversity

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/trees-hedges-and-woodlands/hedges/cornish-hedge-biodiversity/>

Environmental records Centre for Cornwall

<https://ercis.org.uk>

Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-plans/cornwall-planning-for-biodiversity-guide/>

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