

Agenda item 5

Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership Board Management Plan Public Consultation

1. Purpose of the report

To consider the results of public consultation on the Cornish Mining WHS Management Plan and the resulting amendments.

2. Background

The draft Management Plan as signed off by the Partnership Board on 18 June 2020 was released for public consultation on 10 July, with a closing date of 31 August. The resulting comments have been collated and potential amendments are outlined below.

The public consultation included

- Uploading the draft Plan, appendices and the sustainability analysis to the WHS website, with an online survey to capture views on new key policy areas, and inviting written submissions via email response
- Placing a notice in the planning section of local newspapers advertising the consultation, and inviting those without internet access to request hard copies of all the above
- Issuing a press release to local print and broadcast media
- Posting items on social media
- Direct email to all 57 Parish and Town Councils in the WHS areas.
- Technical Panel members circulating to colleagues and elected members in the organisations that they represent
- Email to 87 stakeholder organisations

3. Overview of Findings

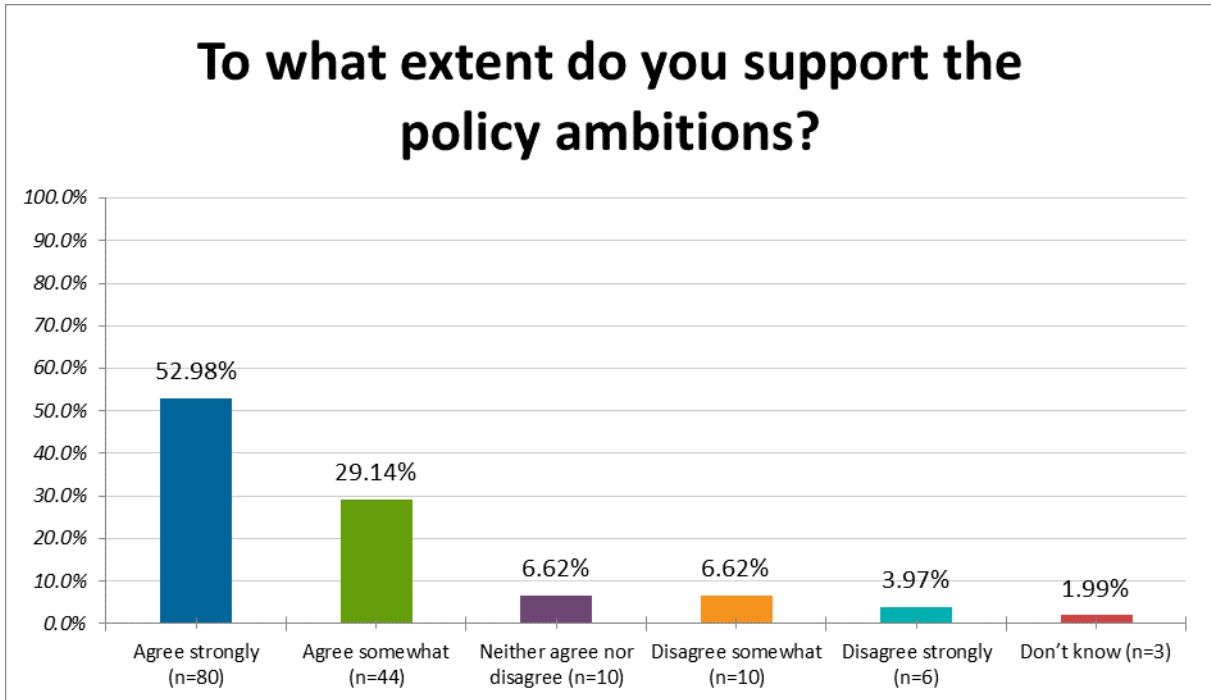
Online questionnaire – we received 171 responses in total (partial and fully completed), providing over 420 comments. The analysis revealed interesting trends which corroborate the findings of other consultation and research. The demographic profile of respondents showed 11% in the 20-29 age range (compared to a baseline of 11% for Cornwall, 9% W Devon), with the largest respondent groups being 60-69 (27%), and 50-59 (20%).

The online survey revealed that social media and the internet were the main sources of information about the WHS (28% of all respondents for each of these), followed by word of mouth (27%). Over 50% of respondents do not live within the WHS, whilst 39% do, with 35 % of these from Camborne/Redruth and the 20% from the Tamar Valley & Tavistock Areas.

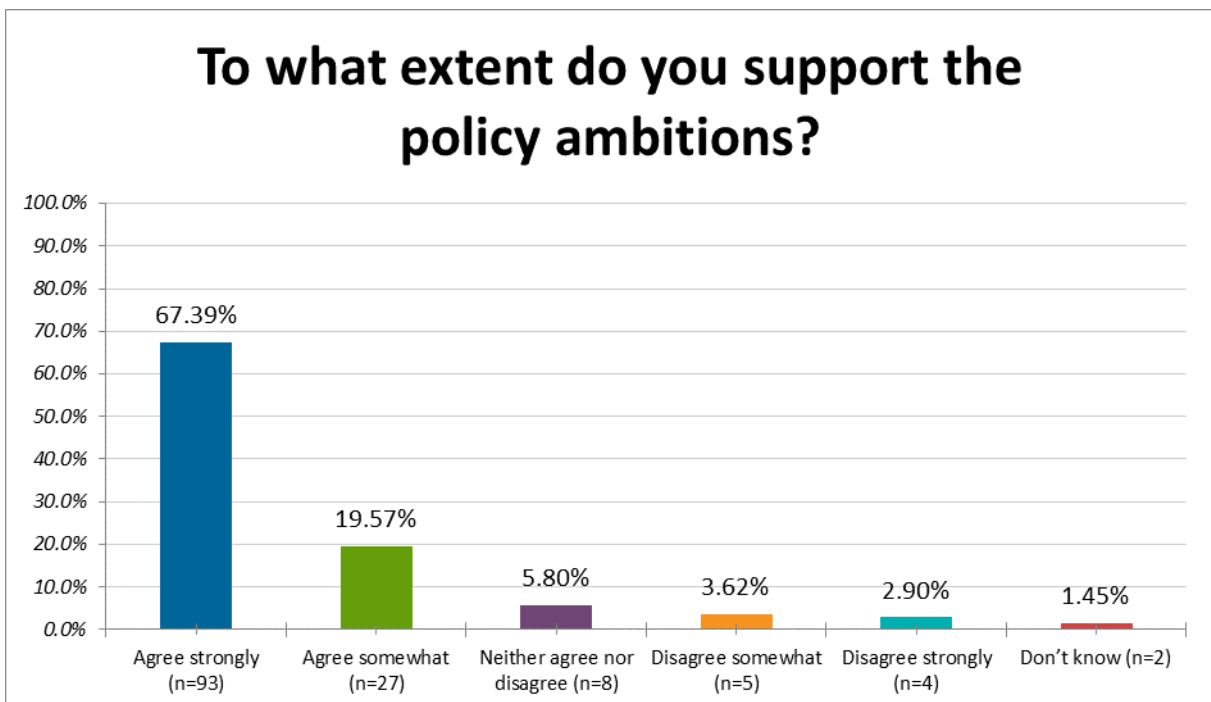
The most often quoted concern of all responses (online survey and e-mails) were with planning issues and the perception that the WHS policies on protection and conservation were not always observed.

In respect of the specific questions asked regarding the proposed new policies, the responses were:

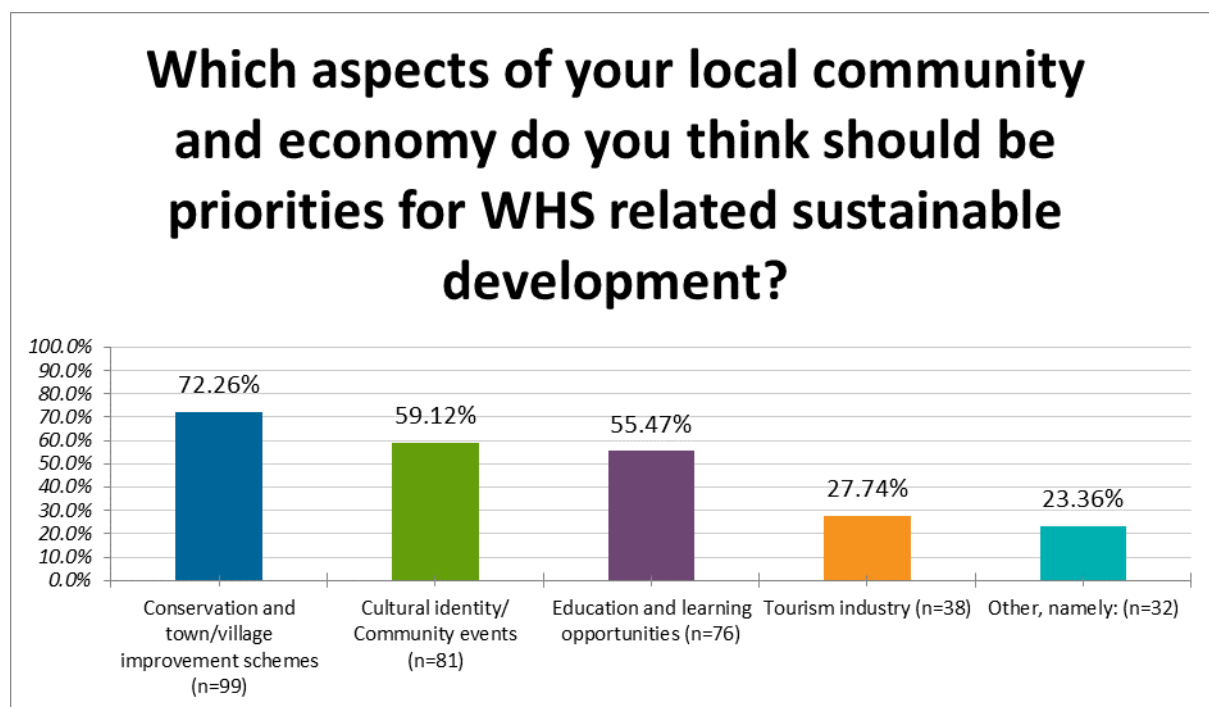
C5 - Proposals for renewable energy installations will be supported where they do not adversely affect the OUV if the Site



C7 Development proposals should ensure that the biodiversity and geodiversity that contributes to the distinctiveness of the C&WD mining landscape is conserved and where appropriate enhanced, having due regard to maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the Site. Developments of a significant nature will be expected to deliver appropriate biodiversity net gain.



In terms of general management priorities, the most frequently listed was conservation and regeneration of settlements in the Site, followed by presentation and learning.



A number of negative comments were received relating to tourism, which may reflect the timing of the consultation and the particularly unusual circumstances this year, with a surge in visitors as soon as lockdown had been relaxed on 4th July.

Email responses – there were 12 detailed written submissions from partner local authorities, Parish and Town Councils and other stakeholder groups. These were all supportive of the direction that the Plan has taken with regard to making the United Nations’ SDG’s the framework for future action, and within that focussing strongly on mitigating climate change and contributing to ecosystem support. A number noted the potential to align with the work of the AONB’s on this.

The principal concerns expressed by these respondents were around continuing resource constraints and ensuring that the partner planning authorities have the capacity to respond appropriately to policies within the Plan. Placing further emphasis on the potential for the WHS management to contribute to Health and Wellbeing agendas was also requested by one of the partner LA’s.

Historic England - as the advisor to Government on World Heritage Site matters, HE have been involved throughout the review process, with staff from the SW Office being members of the Technical Panel that has guided the identification of key issues, new policy and strategic actions.

An early draft of the consultation document was circulated to the SW Team in May 2020, ahead of consideration by the Partnership at its meeting on 16 June. The consultation draft was forwarded to HE’s International Policy Officer in July 2020 for comment. Their comments were received on 7 September. HE raised a

number of technical points which were discussed and the necessary action agreed at the Technical Panel meeting on 16 September. In addition they queried several points related to interpretation of CMWHS policy and resulting strategic actions, which were the subject of a further meeting with the HE SW Office and the International Policy Officer on 22 September. HE were advised that, as these concerned decisions made by the Partnership Board, any changes would need to be referred back to the Partnership for approval. The proposed changes discussed with HE are set out in Appendix 1 for the Partnership's consideration.

4. Additions to the Management Plan content

Additional references were requested in relation to the following topics:

Geothermal energy – several respondents expressed strong support for the potential to use hot brines deep underground as a source of renewable energy. We proposed to insert a reference to this in section 6.3.2 (Contribution to Environmental growth and Ecological resilience), whilst clarifying that any proposals would need to meet relevant Management Plan policies for protecting OUV and biodiversity, including above ground infrastructure.

Hedgerows – a number of respondents requested that the Plan should seek to protect Cornish hedgerows. The draft Plan references these, but specifically in the context of miner's smallholdings, as attributes of OUV, highlighting their importance for supporting biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of climate change. We therefore propose to add clarification about which hedgerows can be protected through WHS designation, whilst emphasising the importance of all hedgerows. (Section 6.3.2)

Health and Wellbeing – whilst action to explore and develop initiatives with H&WB boards is included in the strategic actions, there was a request that the discussion of the potential for this be expanded. We therefore propose to expand the discussion of this in section 6.4.1 – Audiences.

Cornish Distinctiveness – Historic England requested that reference to this be included. The Distinctiveness Study was a product of the Devolution Deal for Cornwall, and it the stated aim was:

"Cornwall Council and Historic England will jointly produce a study of the cultural distinctiveness of Cornwall's historic environment. This will inform the work of the new Cornish Historic Environment Forum and the development of the Framework Convention for National Minorities (FCNM)."

The study was intended to help inform the FCNM in relation to the Historic Environment (although the scope of FCNM is of necessity wider, taking in other tangible material culture e.g. as found in archives and museum collections, language, and intangible cultural traditions, expressions and events). The Distinctiveness study references the WHS in Cornwall. Whilst not relevant to the full extent of the WHS, as it does not apply to Devon, we propose to include a reference to how the DS is envisaged as operating in Cornwall in section 6.2.2 (Local Application of the Planning System).

Summary/leaflet version – several commentators requested that a much shorter summary of the key messages and actions be produced for public reference. We propose to produce a summary document as a priority following adoption of the full Plan.

5. Sustainability Analysis

This focussed on the two new policies, C5 and C7, as the existing policies have been assessed previously. It followed the same format and the same SA framework as the previous SA report published with the Management Plan 2013-2018, for consistency. The previous SA summary report concluded that the policies in that Management Plan were positive and unlikely to have any significant negative effects on the SA objectives. The conclusion in relation to the two new policies was that both would have an overall positive effect.

The summary SA is attached as Appendix 2 for information.

6. Conclusion and recommendations

The Partnership Board are asked to consider and agree the proposed amendments outlined in this report for inclusion in the final Management Plan.