**CORNWALL & DEVON L.D.W.A.**

**Special Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 AT BOVEY TRACEY METHODIST CHURCH**

This is to consider funding initiative for the new website for the LDWA

PRESENT: Barry & Rose Olver, Terry & Hazel Bound, Norman Evans, Ken Grose, David Holland, Gill Kingwell, Paula Stanislas, Tim Crosby, Dani Licheri, Les & Annette Merchant, Roy Zelionka, Roy Ramsey. (15)

APOLOGIES: Ian Weston, Paul Whittaker, Isobelle Belcher, Bridget & Roger Funnell, Roger Clark, Ali & Kieran Ryan, Ann Evans, Dave Hill. (10).

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The meeting was opened with a general update from David Holland as to the present position regarding funding for the new website (as at NEC meeting 18/01/2020)

10no. Local Groups (LG) have indicated that they will support the NEC Funding initiative. 1no. LG. undecided. Several LG said that had no surplus funds nor thought that there was much likelihood that they would have. 1no. LG indicated that they had surplus funds that they intended giving to NEC.

It was appreciated that funding from LG was unlikely to be forthcoming for at least 18 months due to long lead in times for any revenue from Challenge Walk Levy (2021 Events). Capital sums perhaps quicker after LG AGMs.

The costs for the new website are considered likely to be in the order of £250,000 plus up to £100,000 for a project manager. An APP will be essential and this could be up to £100,000.

Our present website gets 6 million page hits a year about half of which are on Long Distance Paths (LDP) information. Over half are hits are from mobile devices.

It is appreciated that funding assistance from LG will not in itself be sufficient to raise the sums necessary. Many other income streams will have to be generated.

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GENERAL DISCUSSION

The meeting generally discussed funding methods and in particular those identified from the LG weekend last autumn. These had been itemised in the paper generally circulated prior to this meeting. Most of these methods were not directly related to LG but the following did and were discussed at length.

Challenge Walk Levy. Some kind of levy be made on Challenge Walks entries. Possibly by making a £5 levy on all non LDWA entrants. Such money being ring fenced and given to NEC for website funding. Various other possibilities such as more modest levy on all entrants.

Raising Annual LDWA Subscriptions. This received considerable discussion and was generally seen as fairer overall approach that could raise substantial funds not only in the short term for website funding but also longer term to raise LDWA capital reserves.

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PROPOSITIONS

The following propositions were put forward and voted upon.

Proposition 1

That Cornwall and Devon Group LDWA communicates to NEC that at a meeting held discussing website funding members were of the opinion that a fairer and better way to raise short and long term income money would be to raise annual subscription fees. In the order of £4 - £5 p.a. The NEC is asked to urgently consider this with a view to creating this additional income at as early a date as possible.

**UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR**

Proposition 2

Challenge Event organisers will consider increasing entry fees with a view to making a donation to NEC for funding of a new website. Each Autumn Cornwall and Devon LG financial position will be reviewed and a proposal will be made to members as to how much we feel able to donate.

**UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR**

Proposition 3

It is agreed that the surplus funds that Cornwall and Devon LG held as at AGM 2019 are not to be considered available for purposes of donating to NEC for purposes of funding for a new website.

 **13 IN FAVOUR 2 AGAINST**