



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Board Meeting Minutes

5th July 2017, 2pm - 4pm

Hall & Woodhouse, Bath

Attendees:

IB	Ian Barrett (Interim Chair)	Avon Wildlife Trust
DM	Dominic Mellon	West of England Health Partnership / South Gloucestershire Council
LA	Laura Ambler	West of England Combined Authority / LEP
LR	Cllr Liz Richardson	Bath & North East Somerset Council
LB	Lisa Bartlett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
MH	Matthew Heard	Natural England
SG	Selena Grey	University of the West of England
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership

MINUTES

Item	Notes
i.	Arrival
ii.	Welcomes introductions and apologies IB to stand in as Interim Chair, welcome to new WENP Chair, Selena Grey who officially starts on 1 st August.
iii.	Minutes and actions from previous meetings. Minutes have been approved from the meeting in March. No apologies
1.	Restoring Nature – Ian Barrett and Matthew Heard 1.1 Data and Evidence The State of Environment working group has not met since October 16, but work is progressing well towards clear outcomes. Phase 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping whole SW, costed by Environment Systems at around 20k per county. To be taken forward and funded through SW LNPs. • Mapping BAC area – hopefully to proceed as part of SW LNP work. • Further map types – where opportunity arises e.g. WoE Green Health mapping (funded through Defra) • Change over time (of habitat extent, connectivity etc) – planned that WoE remapped as part of SW LNP Work. Aspiration to see if can look at change over time since publication of first WoE maps, but aware that may not be possible to compare as different quality of data (eg remote sensing data has improved since 2015, with more satellites creating higher quality data). As a minimum, a rerun of the mapping with the new data will help improve a better baseline.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common digital platform: The working group are still keen to investigate how this could be achieved but due to lack of time, this has been parked. There is currently a tender out for a consultant to undertake an review of environmental evidence. Work on this will resume soon. <p>1.2 Landscape Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Iconic Wildlife & Landscape Group has not met for some time. • There has not been any progress in the WENP work programme objective of developing and funding an NIA strategy, but Natural England and Avon Wildlife Trust are both now looking at this and Natural England may lead on developing a strategy for the wider Severn coast (including in Gloucestershire and Somerset). • Mirroring the national group, WENP supported a meeting of a “Lawton Group” of landowning NGOs + Natural England on 26 May. This looked at how we could create a “Lawton network” of more, bigger, better and joined wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, based on landholdings, project collaboration and influencing planning. <p>MH noted that he felt the NIA designation wasn’t that helpful and that there are too many Severn groups competing and that NE is looking to lead in the development of a plan for the Severn Estuary.</p> <p>1.2 Water</p> <p>Adaptation and Resilience work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning WENP work with the Adaptation and Resilience Framework is ongoing through the Environment workstream and the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan <p>Bristol Avon Catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACP is developing an Action Plan following the same 7 themes in Catchment Plan, inc water and flood risk management, land management and sustainable agriculture, river management, public understanding etc. Each theme will comprise: list of actions and desired outcomes; map of current activities/projects and diagram showing collaborations, projects. • BACP has also been successful in securing £15k funding from Defra. This funding will be open to project bids through the Catchment Partnership website throughout June. This funding could be used to support a number of smaller projects, in a similar way to the current catchment fund, or to support the preparation of a scoping bid for a much larger scale project, e.g. HLF, Interreg, ESIF, research council etc. https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/bristolavoncatchment/catchmentfund/ (please note this is now closed) <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD, IB, AC and LR to bring together the Lawton Group and IW&L and review membership. • SD & IB to update ToR to reflect changes in group composition. • SD to circulate ppts from Severn speakers ppt. • MH to review all of the existing Severn strategies and look to streamline them.
2.	<p>Spatial Planning – Lisa Bartlett and Liz Richardson</p> <p> Informal Briefing update June 2017 v0.5</p> <p>2.1 JSP</p> <p>LB provided an update around the JSP and how this was progressing. In particular she discussed the formation of policies and what relevance these may bear upon the natural environment. She noted</p>

	<p>that in particular policy 4 (place-making) is being reviewed to ensure it contains sufficient policy hooks.</p> <p>MH queried what certainty there would be in the JSP for deliverability of environmental objectives, stating that NE need to see that the GI plan will be supported and delivered, and whether there were any strategic solutions for the HRA.</p> <p>2.2 Environment workstream: SD noted that a topic paper had recently gone to HoPP which outlined what work had been done so far on GI and the evidence collected. It also stated the group’s ambition for the environment plan (working title <i>Green Infrastructure: Investing in our Environment in the West of England</i>), outlining what the plan would include and how it would be delivered.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to circulate the GI topic paper.
3.	<p>Economic Development – Shelly Dewhurst</p> <p>3.1 Natural Capital Trust</p> <p>SD fed back that the first draft of the final report is now available and that the project team are currently reviewing and feeding back for a final edit. The end of project meeting with Defra is being scheduled for end of August / early Sept, so all comments and thoughts need to be fed back to Eunomia before the 17th August.</p> <p>SD suggested that following the final report, a short executive summary should be developed, which can be shared with other LNPs and senior decision makers.</p> <p>A discussion was had about the next steps for the NCT development, as there isn’t a clear person to lead the NCT work going forwards. LA suggested SD look to the LEP and any possible people from there.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to circulate final report (deadline for feedback to David Baxter by end of jul / early Aug if they would like changes made). • SD to invite LA to meeting with Defra • All to review report • SD to arrange meeting (Sep) to look at next steps for the NCT.
4.	<p>Nature, Health & Wellbeing</p> <p></p> <p>WENP Board - Nature Health and We</p> <p>DM talked through the work streams and the progress that has been made through the work programme.</p> <p>4.1 Strategy and Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues to look to develop a guide of local projects • SD is starting work on the SW health collaboration in August – very important to ensure this aligns with the work of other partnerships. • South Glos now included built and natural environment in JSNAs – the other UAs not yet. There could be an opportunity to promote via H&WBBs. <p>4.2 Practice and profession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group looking to develop a ‘kite mark’ to demonstrate good quality projects that adheres to all of the relevant standards and qualifications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an opportunity for WENP to link up with SHINE to do an event as part of HCW <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH, SD, AK & RW to look at structure of group and potentially split between strategy and practice.
5.	<p>Delivering Outcomes</p> <p>5.1 Events</p> <p>SD fed back from conference, noting that feedback had been very positive and that speakers were well received. She thanked the Board for their support, either behind the scenes or on stage. It was noted that the audience could be more senior and not working in environment, and next year more effort should be put into attracting more members, planners etc.</p> <p>5.2 Comms</p> <p>SD mentioned that work will be happening over the summer to update the website and all of the literature.</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board would like to minute their thanks to Lisa Bartlett and Cllr Liz Richardson for their term on the Board and support of WENP’s work more generally. • SD noted she is away for 5 weeks – but don’t panic, all is in hand.