



West of England Nature Partnership
 Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 8th March, Bordeaux Quay, Bristol

AGENDA

Chair: Dominic Hogg, Chairman, Eunomia Research and Consulting

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
1.	Apologies		2:00
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	DH	2:05
3.	Summary of WENP activities since last meeting (inc JSP)	DH, SD & BD	2:10
4.	Board objectives and tasks: progress update	All	2:20
5.	2016 Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Aims • Setting new objectives • Nature & Health work 	SD DH BL	2:25
6.	WENP Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary 2015 - 16 finances • WENP funding 2016 onwards • H2020 bids • Legal status • Other sources? 	BW BW DH DH	2:50
7.	Natural Capital Trust proposal	MH, BG, BW & DH	3:20
8.	Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Plan and the links to WENP • WENP Conference • AOB 	SD	3:30
	Close		4.00

WENP Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
BS	Cllr Ben Stokes	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
BD	Barbara Davies	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
BL	Bruce Laurence	Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)
BW	Bevis Watts	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
MH	Matthew Heard	Natural England (NE)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)

MINUTES

Item	Notes
1.	<p>Minutes and actions from previous meetings. Minutes have been approved from the meeting in Oct.</p> <p>Actions carried over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW & MH to arrange trip to showcase two successful AWT projects in Bath where flood alleviation projects that have resulted in positive wildlife gains. • DH to share letters that have been sent to senior civil servants and ministers about WENP and our activities. • SD to add site visits to the work programme – to arrange site visits for councillors and executives to exemplar sites and good practice projects. <p>New actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to send NCT concept paper to BS.
2.	<p>Summary of activities since last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP Board were very positive following DH's presentation to them about the NCT in Jan. They recognised it was an important issue and supported further development. • Roundtable event: we need to consider how we can better engage the developer community. BD suggested communicating via the Construction Development Sector Group and Housing Market Reference group. • GI Benchmark – Avon and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust are collaborating to develop a GI Benchmark tool, looking at quality of GI. This could be rolled out nationally when developed. • BD fed back about the response to the Issues & Options paper as part of the JSP – they received 1177 responses in total, which will be analysed in due course. Upcoming timeframes to be aware of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft plan Sep 2016 ○ Consultation ○ Final plan Autumn 2017 ○ Formal adoption 2018 <p>BG noted that WENP should continue to input into the 5 spatial scenarios and locational options over the coming months, to support further development and expertise into the environmental strategy and to ensure the suggestions WENP made are being duly considered. He also noted the</p>

	<p>UAs are developing a 'Strategic Place Making Framework', which there may be opportunities for WENP to input into.</p> <p>BG also noted that UWE have been commissioned by Public Health England to summarise research on the public health benefits of good place making, with the aim to creating a good practice toolkit for planners, referencing academic research.</p> <p>BD encouraged partners that they should continue promoting the NCT, to test the ideas with different sectors and ensure lots of people have heard about it, from officers to politicians.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to think about how we get developers more engaged, SD to follow up with BD about contacting the developers through the LEP working groups. • DH to share list of relevant personnel that we should be contacting about WENP work (from Chris Hussey). • SD to follow up with Network Rail and feedback to board about next steps in biodiversity offsetting scheme. • BG to share contacts from UWE who are leading on good place making work. • SD to contact JSP environment working group and ensure WENP responses is considered for the next stages. • SD to create a short overview of what the NCT is and provide to LEP for inclusion on their website, mentioning that the original concept was included in the SEP. • DH & SD to brief the Steering Group on the NCT, so that they are well informed and can respond to any queries within their own organisations.
3.	<p>Board objectives and tasks: progress update</p> <p>DH explained that this will be a rolling agenda item for review at every meeting.</p> <p>BW noted that the wider engagement of the NGOs has slipped. MH warned that it would be wise to communicate with NGOs better to ensure NCT concepts aren't misinterpreted.</p> <p>It was noted that WENP doesn't communicate enough about the work that they are undertaking.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to send out Board actions with next meeting agenda. • SD to send Board objectives to BS. • BW to hand over to new CEO, and explain role to his Board role included briefing other NGOs. • All to review and let SD know if they would like them amended.
4.	<p>2016 Work Programme</p> <p>SD suggested that we restructure the work programme around 5 themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening nature 2. Spatial Planning 3. Economic development 4. Health & Wellbeing 5. Delivering outcomes (Investment Strategy) <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections do overlap, this is likely inevitable. • Do not lose the boldness and ambitions by oversimplifying things. • Keep it very specific on what WENP are going to do.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid doing an activity list. • Be clear – what is it doing, what is it delivering • Follow old format – Aim – Outcome - Measurable Targets • Include targets, its ok to say you haven't delivered on things, and include the steps you are taking to deliver them. • Could we look back over 2 years and see what we said two years ago and how we've progressed – what have we done. Create an audit trail of what has been achieved – progress review / stock take. • Quite conceptual, must be clearer. <p>Nature, Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>BL fed back about the meeting with Alan Kellas (WENP H&WB Chair), BL suggested that the group focus on connecting projects and organisations. BL has offered to host a meeting with mental health commissioners.</p> <p>Southwest LNP Chairs are meeting in April with the view to hosting a regional meeting for commissioners and Public Health Directors about the value of nature. SD mentioned that Dan Bloomfield (Dose of Nature) is producing guidance for commissioners on the value of natural environment. MH felt that the ask needs to be clear – what are we asking for to be done differently (more green prescriptions, better green spaces etc...).</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to create a diagram which shows the objectives visually. • BL to provide feedback about event, eg, who should be invited, times of years to avoid. SD to follow up. • BL to discuss with SD & AK about organising a meeting with mental health commissioners. • SD to circulate H&WB summary paper.
5.	<p>WENP funding</p> <p>BW explained that all of the partners have increased their financial contributions to the WENP, and committed funding for the future. Funding has also been drawn in through projects, which is working well as a funding model.</p> <p>Horizon 2020</p> <p>DH explained that WENP have been part of a consortium that have submitted a bid to Horizon 2020. The project idea was originally a project submitted by WENP as part of the SEP, which looks at managing peoples gardens to attenuate water and reduce flooding. WENP have also contributed to a second bid 'Think Nature', which aims to create an online portal of case studies and examples of Nature Based Solutions. Engaging with this process raised some issues about WENP's involvement in externally funded projects. As WENP isn't a legal entity, it cannot accept funds and requires a partner organisation to accept on its behalf. Though it was noted that funded projects may buy in additional funding to deliver objectives.</p> <p>For future funded projects, the following should be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only bid for projects that align with strategic objective of the partnership. Avoid going after bids that could take attention away from key mission. • WENP should play to its strengths – ie providing a regional and strategic overview, engaging and liaising with partners to initiate multi-disciplinary objectives. • SD to act as gatekeeper, to ensure partnership is represented and to encourage cohesive partner responses. Board to have final signoff about participation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly outline which partners are doing what at the start of the process – eg overseeing finances, delivering certain aspects, taking responsibility for bid writing etc. <p>Action DH to speak to the SG about funding options for WENP</p>
6.	<p>Natural Capital Trust DH recapped that following the LEP Board meeting he was asked to put together a proposal for the establishment of the Natural Capital Trust. The proposal has been developed by members of WENP and outlines the design processes required to establish the NCT, namely designing the mitigation mechanism, testing with developers and past applications, exploring governance options, ensuring legal compliance and dealing with protected species and habitats.</p> <p>BD suggested that before the paper goes back to the LEP Board, it should be shared with relevant LEP sector groups to test with different sectors and to add in any additional supporting information.</p> <p>On 27th May, BD would be happy to share with the LEP exec (4 UA chief executives). Though it was noted that this may be a little late, as work needs to start asap to ensure it fits with the timeframes of the JSP.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD to share proposal with relevant sector groups.
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Resilience plan: This is being developed by Wessex Water and looking at resilience at a catchment scale. The ideas are being presented at the Strategic Solutions Panel in April. SD highlighted that the resilience working group will report to the WENP Board and aligns very closely with State of Environment. BW noted that it should be a joint LNP / LEP / Wessex initiative. All noted that Wiltshire needs to be engaged, as they play an important role in supporting the West of England's resilience.</p> <p>WENP Conference: since the Board meeting, the date has changed. SD to update.</p> <p>Bevis Watts: The Board wanted to minute a special thank you to BW for his support of the partnership over the years, in particular helping it establish so effectively and become one of the leading LNPs in the country, and wish him the very best of luck in his new role at Triodos bank – Good luck Bevis!</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BD to write to Wiltshire LEP chief executive to encourage attendance to Strategic Solutions Panel. SD to invite Ben Stokes to conference (when date confirmed).
	<p>Close: Next meeting: 21st July.</p>