



**West of England Nature Partnership**  
Joining up the dots for nature

# WENP Board Meeting

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Floating Harbour Studios, Bristol**

Lunch available from 1:30pm

## AGENDA

Chair: Dominic Hogg, Chairman, Eunomia Research and Consulting

| Item | Topic  | Lead    | Timing      |
|------|--|---------|-------------|
|      | Arrival and Lunch  |         | 1:30        |
| 1.   | Welcomes, introduction and apologies   | All     | 2:00        |
| 2.   | Minutes and actions from previous meeting, including Board tasks and objectives.   | DH      | 2:05        |
| 3.   | Chair recruitment – update and next steps  | IB      | 2:20        |
| 4.   | Project updates since last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural Capital Trust (DH 10 mins)</li><li>• Nature and health collaboration (SD &amp; DH 10 mins)</li><li>• JSP and Green Infrastructure Plan (LA &amp; SD 10 mins)</li></ul> | All     | 2:30        |
| 5.   | Reflections on 2016 – 17 (work programme, highlights, challenges) and priorities for upcoming year.  | DH / SD | 3:00        |
| 6.   | Defra funding opportunity – project ideas and vote   | All     | 3:30        |
| 7.   | Annual Conference – update and plans   | SD      | 3:45        |
|      | <b>AOB</b>   | All     | 3:50        |
|      | <b>Close</b><br>Next meeting, agenda items, venue  |         | <b>4.00</b> |



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**WENP Board Meeting Minutes**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 2pm - 4pm

Bordeaux Quay, Bristol

**Attendees:**

|    |                      |  |
|----|----------------------|--|
| DH | Dominic Hogg (Chair) | West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)                          |
| DM | Dominic Mellon       | West of England Health Partnership / South Gloucestershire Council |
| LR | Cllr Liz Richardson  | Bath & North East Somerset Council                                 |
| LB | Lisa Bartlett        | Bath & North East Somerset Council                                 |
| IB | Ian Barrett          | Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)  |
| MH | Matthew Heard        | Natural England (NE)   |
| SD | Shelly Dewhurst      | West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)                          |

**Apologies:**

|    |                |  |
|----|----------------|--|
| PG | Patricia Greer | West of England Local Enterprise Partnership |
|----|----------------|--|

**MINUTES**

| Item | Notes  |
|------|--|
| 1.   | <p><b>Minutes and actions from previous meetings.</b><br/>           Minutes have been approved from the meeting in November.</p> <p><b>Carried over:</b><br/>           SD &amp; LB have reviewed and amended the ToR and updated to reflect recent changes in the constitution of WENP. The intention is to wait until after the new Chair starts before publishing.</p>   |
| 2.   | <p><b>Board objectives and tasks: progress update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DH enquired whether he should continue looking to update there. SD suggested that they look through his tasks and update before he finishes.</li> <li>• LB reported that she and LR could update on a few of these.</li> <li>• DM to look at his objectives and amend as necessary.</li> </ul> <p>DM suggested that they should be tied into the operational objectives of the working groups (eg Health).</p> <p>MH felt that the Board were quite separate from the working groups and that they could be linked better, especially how the Board monitor / track progress. SD updated on the Iconic Wildlife &amp; Landscape working group and that it had been disbanded for the time due to so many other initiatives currently going on. MH noted that the partners should take on more responsibility.</p> <p>IB enquired what the role of the Board is, DH responded by saying that they are tasked to provide the strategic direction and represent the work of the partnership in the communities that they engage with, thus raising profile of the partnership and what we do. IB noted that there is not enough information coming through and a lack of visibility on what is happening / being progressed. LB suggested using highlight reports using a rag rating, including risks and tasks to focus on.</p> |



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|    | <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to try to link the strategic documents together better – including the board objectives, the work plan and working group objectives.</li> <li>• LB and LR to update Board Objectives and tasks</li> <li>• In future the SG should report working group activities to the Board.</li> <li>• SD to add standing item on working groups to Board agenda.</li> </ul>   |
| 3. | <p><b>Chair recruitment</b></p> <p>IB noted that the ad has now been advertised, closing date is 14<sup>th</sup> April. It has been circulated to key people and there has been some initial interest. There was a discussion around whether the post should be open to political applications – all agreed that the person should not be political.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All to circulate within their own networks.</li> <li>• SD to amend JD to say ‘non-political post’.</li> </ul>   |
| 4. | <p><b>Project updates: Natural Capital Trust</b></p> <p>DH explained that the project team have had the interim meeting with Defra and written an interim report. Work is now being progressed following this. The LEP have offered to co-host a workshop with developers in June.</p> <p>LB requested that DH and SD attend Heads of Planning meeting to discuss the mechanism and how it relates to planning. DH explained they are in the process of undertaking some ‘desk-based’ planning to explore how the mechanism might have been done differently if the NCT had been up and running.</p> <p>DM enquired whether a policy hook for the NCT will be included in the JSP. MH noted that there has been interest from CLG and National Trust, MH is trying to arrange a meeting to discuss it with them. MH also noted NE’s concerns about mitigation certainty, with respect to the proposed JSP sites that are close to European protected areas and would like clarity about how this is being addressed.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DH to circulate interim report.</li> <li>• SD to speak to LA to arrange meeting with HoP.</li> <li>• MH to arrange meeting with CLG and National Trust</li> </ul> |
| 5. | <p><b>Nature, Health &amp; Wellbeing</b></p> <p>SD updated that the N,H &amp; WB group had met in February in PHE Offices, WENP had been part of the conference in Nov in collaboration with PHE and NHSE, as well as Healthy City Week. There seems to be a lot of interest in this area and the initiative is going.</p> <p>The South West LNPs recently met to discuss next steps for the health work, as we have some funding to develop some joint resources. The LNP Chairs felt that we should aim high, delivering a national campaign. DH also noted that the South West LNPs work well together and could deliver joint messages more effectively than as a national unit.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All to watch video of conference <a href="http://www.wenp.org.uk/2016/south-west-lnps-join-forces-with-public-health-england-and-nhs/">http://www.wenp.org.uk/2016/south-west-lnps-join-forces-with-public-health-england-and-nhs/</a></li> </ul>   |



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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SD to share next steps for the campaign with DM.</li> </ul>   |
| 6. | <p><b>Green Infrastructure Plan</b></p> <p>SD fed back about the emerging GI plan. She explained that they had use the 2011 Green Infrastructure Framework (<a href="#">link</a>) as a basis and were adapting the cross cutting themes from this.</p> <p>SD talked the Board through an example and how they were looking at the GI in different locations by creating maps around the 8 objectives, noting that it was essentially a data exercise, not a design exercise. She explained they had met with all of the planners and that work was still in development. The board provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does this show where you can and can't develop?</li> <li>It is useful for the GI group to work with the place-shaping to help design good quality places</li> <li>SD to add surface water flooding data.</li> <li>Amend the health objective to include a mental health / nature-connection aspect.</li> <li>Often in rural areas, people look over fields rather than access them. It would be great to increase the accessible green space areas.</li> <li>The objectives should include targets and indicators.</li> <li>How can we be assured that we will deliver high quality environments?</li> <li>Can we make sure the GI strategy and NCT work together?</li> </ul> |
| 7. | <p><b>Reflections on 2016 – 17</b></p> <p>SD presented the highlights from 2016 – 17 and explained she was in the process of updating the workplan. She explained that many of the measurable tasks were either complete and in progress and that she would update and circulate after the new Chair had started. SD asked for the priorities that the Board felt WENP should be focussing on over the next year, they suggested the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking at coherent and resilience ecological networks</li> <li>Completing the NCT work</li> <li>Contributing to the campaign on nature and health</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SD to circulate updated workplan in April</li> </ul>  |
| 8. | <p><b>Defra funding opportunity</b></p> <p>SD asked the Board to vote on which idea they wanted the WENP to apply for the Defra Development Grant – they unanimously voted to apply for funding to create 'green health' maps.</p>   |
| 9. | <p><b>Annual Conference</b></p> <p>The board fed back about the ideas for the Annual Conference, they felt that it shouldn't focus on 'Natural Capital', but instead look at the environment and place shaping.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SD to update plan and circulate</li> <li>SD to secure venue and date</li> </ul>   |