



West of England Nature Partnership
 Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Board Meeting

Friday 11th November 2016

Lunch available from 1:30pm

AGENDA

Chair: Dominic Hogg, Chairman, Eunomia Research and Consulting

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
	Lunch and board photograph outside (weather permitting)		1:30
1.	Apologies	All	2:00
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	DH	2:05
3.	Summary of WENP activities since last meeting	SD	2:20
4.	Board objectives and tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed discussion on board role and remit. 	DH	2:30
5.	Natural Capital Trust – update on project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding, objectives and deliverables. Project plan and next steps. 	DH	2:50
6.	Green Infrastructure Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial concept and ideas WENP's input Progress and next steps Sign off Adaptation and Resilience Framework for the Bristol Avon Catchment project sheet. 	SD	3:20
7.	Joint Spatial Plan – Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WENP response Environment, health, and place roundtable 	LB / LR	3:40
8.	AOB	All	3:55
	Close Next meeting, agenda items, venue (Bath)		4.00



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WENP Board Meeting Minutes

11th November 2016, 2pm - 4pm

Folly Farm, Pensford, Bristol

Attendees;

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership	WENP
BL	Bruce Laurence	Bath and North East Somerset	B&NES
IB	Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust	AWT
LB	Lisa Bartlett	Bath & North East Somerset	B&NES
LR	Cllr Liz Richardson	Bath & North East Somerset	B&NES
MH	Matthew Heard	Natural England	NE
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership	WENP

Apologies

PG	Patricia Greer	WoE Local Enterprise Partnership	LEP
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MINUTES

Item	Notes
1.	<p>Minutes and actions from previous meetings.</p> <p>Actions carried over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD to follow up with BG about place placing contacts with UWE. <p>Updates from previous actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Water meeting on 30th November – Defra are speaking at this and linking to the Pioneer projects. DH noted that WENP will be linking with the pioneer projects as part of the NCT development. MH noted that the next phase of the 25 Year Environment Plan consultation will be taking place shortly. <p>New actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD to circulate ThinkNature project plan with minutes. DH & SD to respond to Louise Fradd about the Duty to Cooperate and WENP.
2.	<p>Summary of activities since last meeting</p> <p>LNPs and Health – WENP have run a few events really around health & wellbeing and there is a real appetite to further develop this work.</p> <p>Bathscapes – B&NES have been awarded funding to run a Landscape Partnership project in and around Bath.</p>



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<p>3.</p>	<p>Board Objectives and Tasks – The Board’s Role and Remit</p> <p>DH explained that WENP is a strategic partnership and the objectives are outcome focused to help further the objectives as a partnership. DH asked that Board Members are happy with the objectives. SD noted that the final column now says ‘evidence’ and requested that Board Members email SD if they have done anything that contributes to an outcome.</p> <p>DH noted that his tenure is coming to an end in spring 2017. He is currently concentrating on delivering the NCT and would like to see this work delivered in the West of England. It was suggested that DH should continue his role as Chair whilst a replacement is sought and the NCT is being delivered. All agreed that Board should start to think about the Chair role and what skills are required to replace DH.</p> <p>MH noted that as the WENP is growing and becoming more successful, further work is required to ensure the governance structure, financial accountability and sign-off procedures are tightened. SD suggested all to review the ToR and amend accordingly.</p> <p>A discussion was had about whether WENP should become a legal entity, all felt that the current organisational structure was favourable but it would be valuable to regularly review, especially if WENP receive further funding. DH also suggested that it might be helpful to have a process when bringing opportunities to the Board, citing the Horizon 2020 example.</p> <p>BL also explained that he has approached the DPH in North Somerset to replace him on the board, as there are currently 3 Board Members from B&NES. Natalie would nominally be the member on the Board, but would be supported by a Public Health Consultant Dominic Mellon, who currently works with all 4 DPHs and is working on the JSP.</p> <p>The Board wanted to minute a special thank you to Bruce for his attendance and contribution to the WENP Board over the past few years, in particular helping to get the nature, health & wellbeing group established.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to implement clearer final sign off processes for any responses and outputs from WENP Board. • All to review board objectives and confirm they are happy with them. • All to think about the role of the Chair and what this role entails. • SD & LB to look at ToR to tighten up governance structures and processes, in particular around accepting funding and the Chairs role. • SD to update the ToR to include a rolling agenda for each of the DPHs.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Natural Capital Trust</p> <p>DH explained the background and concept behind the NCT, and what had been achieved so far in developing the proposal and concept, including the proposal that was submitted to the LEP, and interest from Defra.</p>



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	<p>Defra would like to support the development of the NCT, particularly exploring how it could be replicated across the country, specifically working with the 3 pioneer projects (Devon, Cumbria and Manchester). DH explained there are 3 main phases of this project;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and development of mechanism 2. Test (locally and with the pioneer projects) 3. Decide on institutional form and governance structures. <p>A bid was submitted to Defra and a number of organisations have been named project partners to help deliver the project, each partner has been allocated resources to deliver certain elements of the project.</p> <p>MH felt that the resource allocation process could have been delivered in a more collaborative manner, and suggested that in future funded projects have better governance processes in place to ensure transparency.</p> <p>DH suggested that he would like to have round-table in each Unitary Authority to explain the concept and each commit a couple of officers to support the design and development of the Trust.</p>
6.	<p>Joint Spatial Plan & Joint Transport Study</p> <p>LB reported back that the JSP and JTS emerging spatial strategy consultation period is now taking place. The aim of the consultation is to look at the emerging strategic locations, how they fair and whether they can deliver the housing requirements sustainably across the region. The JTS is a vision for transport improvements across the region.</p> <p>The environment piece of work is being led by B&NES and is looking to bring the place shaping and GI work together to create a strategic document that can be implemented through the planning process. The plan would be delivered from the strategic level to help formulate the policies around the strategic locations. The aim is to have policy hooks to ensure this gets delivered and will be ok with planning inspectorate. NCT is mentioned as a delivery mechanism in the GI plan and is keen to try and get a hook into the JSP.</p> <p>WENP response to the JSP – should focus on the WENP maps, green infrastructure, ecological networks and NCT. A question was raised about how WENP should respond about Greenbelt loss, as currently 1% being lost and whether this should be replaced with high quality land.</p> <p>MH queried that there might be a role for WENP to endorse the process and environmental credentials contained within the plan, and if so, what assurances could the JSP Board give in response. All agreed that WENP should provide a positive commentary and encourage best practice around decisions that are made about the environment.</p> <p>IB noted that Bristol Green Capital Partnership are running an event in Bristol on the consultation and SD has been asked to speak.</p> <p>Adaptation and Resilience Framework for the Bristol Avon Catchment – signing off the project sheet. The board support the initiative to look at adaptation to climate change, but there was a query about the scope of the framework and whether it was duplicating other work. It was noted that many part of the West of England are at risk due to seal level rise and this should be considered either as part of this work or the emerging GI plan to future-proof the low lying areas.</p>



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	Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">DH to meet with Dave Elliot to discuss how they all fit together.
7	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is a Strategic Leaders meeting taking place at Wessex Water to discuss projects that address sustainable water management. WENP and Wiltshire LNP are supporting it.NE would like LNPs to help shape how agri-environment schemes should be spent – would LNPs have a voice on this.
	Close: next meeting 9 th March 2017.