



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

# WENP Board Meeting

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

Light lunch available from 1:30pm

## 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.	Board objectives and tasks: progress update	All	2:15
4.	Summary of WENP activities since last meeting	SD	2:20
5.	Discussion: What next after Brexit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25 Year Environment Plan – considerations for WENP (MH)</li></ul>	All	2:25
6.	Joint Spatial Plan & Joint Transport Study – next steps (BG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural Capital Trust – next steps and strategic direction</li><li>• Duty to Cooperate (and what this means for WENP)</li></ul>	DH	3:25
7.	Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Review</li><li>• EKN review of LNPs</li><li>• AOB</li></ul>	All	3:50
	<b>Close</b>		<b>4.00</b>



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**WENP Board Meeting Minutes**

21st July 2016, 1.30pm - 4pm

Eunomia Office, Queens Square, Bristol

**Attendees:**

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
BS	CLlr Ben Stokes	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
LA	Laura Amber	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
BL	Bruce Laurence	Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)
IB	Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
MH	Matthew Heard	Natural England (NE)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)

**MINUTES**

Item	Notes
1.	<p><b>Minutes and actions from previous meetings.</b>            Minutes have been approved from the meeting in March, subject to following amendments.</p> <p>The Resilience Framework is being developed through a partnership consortium supported by Wessex Water.</p> <p><b>Actions carried over:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WENP to engage with the LEP sector groups, specifically the construction &amp; place group in further developing the NCT. DH to meet with John Baker and discuss ways to progress engagement.</li> <li>• BG to share contacts from UWE who are leading on good place making work.</li> <li>• SD to create a short overview of what the NCT is and provide to LEP for inclusion on the LEP website, mentioning that the original concept was included in the SEP. SD to check with WENP Board they are happy with document.</li> <li>• SD to create a diagram which shows the WENP objectives visually – now to be added to the Annual Review due to be published in September 16.</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates from previous actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network Rail offsetting project – NR have been exploring options for how they procure the successful projects, which has taken more time than they anticipated. The project is still very much live with further information to come shortly.</li> <li>• JSP environment group – SD has been working with Philip Anderson (LEP) to update ecosystems report for the JSP. LA explained that the environment workstream was a specific Task &amp; Finish group and much of this work is now being undertaken through the resilience working group.</li> <li>• Funding opportunities for WENP – the SG expressed that they though WENP should only go for funding if it fits with the strategic ambitions of the partnership.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwest LNP Event for Strategic Health Practitioners – this is now scheduled to take place in November.</li> <li>• BAC strategic meeting – now scheduled for October or November. MH noted that he already attends a strategic meeting at Wessex. SD to follow up with ZH about catchment panel.</li> <li>• Resilience Framework – next scheduled for September to scope out who owns the plan, what it will cover and next steps.</li> </ul> <p><b>New actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD and BL to discuss content and invites for Southwest LNP Health Event.</li> <li>• SD to create a schematic of all of the initiatives, partnerships and meetings, to understand what is going on where. DH to speak to RC about what meetings about the strategic direction of all the groups to ensure they are aligned.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Board objectives and tasks: progress update</b></p> <p>DH explained that the tasks and objectives were developed to help guide individual Board members. Most of the objectives are an ongoing checklist, rather than being time-bound.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to change ‘status’ to ‘evidence’ and all to provide and evidence to SD on activities they have been undertaking to achieve objectives and tasks.</li> <li>• SD &amp; IB to discuss IB’s role on the Board and representation of NGOs.</li> <li>• SD to add a more detailed discussion about ‘Board Objectives’ to next meeting agenda.</li> <li>• LA to speak PG her role on the WENP Board and the objectives.</li> <li>• All to review Board actions, suggest new ones and remove any obsolete ones. DH to ensure there are no ‘gaps’ in the objectives following amendments.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Summary of activities since last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WENP Annual Conference was a success with over 100 attendees and positive feedback.</li> <li>• The SoE maps have been well received nationally and SD continues to promote them.</li> <li>• BG &amp; SD presented to the PHCB about NCT and ambitions to further develop it. It was well received and PHBC supportive of development, but are unable to provide any funding.</li> <li>• Horizon 2020 – WENP have been actively engaged in 2 projects that involve developing Nature Based Solutions.</li> <li>• BG recently presented at the CPRE conference about the JSP and environmental evidence work.</li> <li>• The LEP and LNP have met to discuss how they work together more effectively.</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming next 4 months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform and respond to the JSP consultation paper.</li> <li>• Further develop the ecosystems report to help inform the next phase of the JSP.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to create summary document for the ThinkNature project, including milestones and budget.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Opportunities for WENP following the EU Referendum</b></p>



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	<p>The Board had a discussion about the implications for WENP following the EU referendum. All felt there may be opportunities for WENP, particularly to progress the NCT in light of the Devolution Deal. WENP have a role to play to ensure that the environment is high on the agenda in the new political agenda. IB queried whether there are any threats to the integrity of the European designations and the necessity to ensure they are upheld. It was noted that some local senior people have moved roles, so it may be necessary for WENP to re-engage at a senior level to ensure WENP is known and understood with any new personnel.</p> <p><b>25 year plan</b></p> <p>MH noted that the 25 Year Environment Plan fits well with WENP’s strategic ambitions – in particular the natural capital approach, local decision making, valuing nature etc.</p> <p>SD noted that the Environmental Audit Committee have just released a consultation on the future for the natural environment following the EU Referendum (<a href="#">link</a>).</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH to circulate list/map of European designations in the West of England and any possible threats to the integrity of the designations at particular locations.</li> <li>• MH to send LA information about 25 Year Environment Plan workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> August.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Joint Spatial Plan &amp; Joint Transport Study</b></p> <p><b>Joint Spatial Plan</b> - BG updated on how both pieces of work are progressing. A timetable is being developed for formal sign-off of the JSP in the autumn. Work is currently being undertaken to ensure WENPs key messages are being included.</p> <p>There is still decisions to be made with regard to development in the greenbelt, and whether this can be avoided. This is still being consulted on and more evidence may be needed (environmental and otherwise). DH suggested greenbelt considerations could be included within the mechanism of the NCT.</p> <p><b>Joint transport Study</b> - Alongside the JSP, the transport study is identifying the level of investment required to support current and projected growth. LA explained the linkages between the JSP and JTS - currently the JTS is a study, and will be further developed when the JSP is finalised. The document will then supersede the Joint Local Transport Plan. DH suggested there may be opportunities to use green bonds to fund transport investment.</p> <p><b>Natural Capital Trust</b> - WENP are still keen to work up the mechanisms associated with developing the NCT, working within the timeframes of the JSP. LA fed back what might be expected if the next phase was funded through public money and how this funding would need to be accounted for. Funding would also need to be matched with UA funding and additional in kind support from other partners.</p> <p><b>Duty to Cooperate</b></p> <p>The duty to cooperate was discussed during a meeting between DH, SD, BG &amp; LA and whether WENP had been sufficiently consulted on strategic planning matters (which includes all cross boundary matters). The DtC is described as ongoing, active engagement that helps inform the decisions but it is not a duty to agree. LA is working with the SRO to ensure that all groups feel fully engaged with the process.</p>



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	<p>DH noted that WENP should be involved with all aspects of the JSP, not just the environment workstream, as they all have an impact upon the environment. LA explained there is the Duty to Co-operate schedule – which is a formal evidence base (<a href="#">link</a>) and includes items such as WENP joining the Strategic Solutions Panel. The schedule is reported to the PHCB on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to circulate the Duty to Cooperate – all to review and suggest any updates.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD explained that the Annual Review was currently being compiled and that she would send a draft through over the next few weeks.</li> <li>• Ecosystem Knowledge Network – are currently undertaking a review of LNP ecosystem work.</li> <li>• There was a recent ADEPT meeting focusing on the environment. Gloucestershire and Devon LNP presented, as well as the BAC Resilience work. Steve Evans presented the WENP work. There may be a follow-up event following this.</li> <li>• Surrey LNP have invited WENP to discuss Natural Capital Investment (DH to circulate information).</li> <li>• WENP are working with BRERC to review the current requirements for biodiversity data collection and storage and ways in which they could deliver an improved service.</li> <li>• Cllr Ben Stokes will finish his one year tenure with WENP to ensure an annual rotation for each PHCB member. It was agreed that a B&amp;NES member would now join the WENP Board. The Board would like to minute gratitude to Cllr Stokes for attending the meetings and contributing to WENP more generally.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Close:</b> Next meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> November</p>