



West of England Nature Partnership
 Joining up the dots for nature

Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 15th March 10:30 – 12:30

Bristol City Council, Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9JN

AGENDA

Chair: Shelly Dewhurst, WENP

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
1.	Apologies		10:30
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	All	10:35
3.	WENP Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair recruitment • Feedback from South West LNP meeting • Defra development grant 	IB SD	10:45
4.	Working group updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water – catchment partnership 	RB	11:00
5.	Project updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Capital Trust (interim report and next steps) • Green Infrastructure Plan for West of England • Bathscapes 	SD SD MMi	11:10
6.	Reflections on 2016 – 17 (work programme, highlights, challenges) and setting priorities for 2017 – 18 (feedback from board)	All	11:45
7.	Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival of Nature / Viewpoints • WENP conference • Others? 	SC SD	12:15
8.	AOB	All	12:25
	Close		12:30

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Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15th March, 13:30 – 16:00

Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9JN

Attendees:

AC	Amy Coulthard	Natural England (NE)
BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucester Council (SGC)
CH	Chris Head	West of England Rural Network (WERN)
LR	Lucy Rogers	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) (on behalf of IB)
MMc	Mark MacGregor	North Somerset Council (NSC)
MMi	Mark Minkley	Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)
RB	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water (WW)
RE	Richard Ennion	Bristol City Council (BCC)
SC	Savita Custead	Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)

Apologies:

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
AR	Anna Russell	National Trust (NT)
IB	Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)

MINUTES:

Item	Notes
1.	Attendees Apologies: DH, AR
2.	Minutes and Actions The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Carry over <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to make links with health and green space at each of the UAs. • RE to circulate parks trust example from Newcastle • MMi to look at HLF resilience fund and feasibility of applying for funding to fund SoE phase II.
3.	WENP update: 3.1 Chair recruitment update: JD is now on the website and it has been advertised as a non-political role. Deadline is 14 th April. SD requested that all SG members promote the opportunity within their own networks. Promotion ideas – Environment Job, UA websites, through the LEP monthly bulletin, Thatchers, Yeo Valley.



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	<p>Vice chair – the SG discussed the idea of recruiting a vice chair. SD suggested it would be nice to have someone from the SG. All agreed this would be good idea. MMi asked whether it was for the Board or SG to decide.</p> <p>3.2 Feedback from South West LNP meeting – SD fed back that the south west LNPs had met in February to discuss the collaborative work on health. There is some funding to develop how to resources around commissioning and ‘green health’. During the meeting, it was suggested that the LNPs should initiate a national campaign to promote this agenda, led by LNP Chairs who are active in this area (Pam Warhurst, Caroline Jessal)</p> <p>CH mentioned that WESports currently have funding to fund local projects that get people outdoors and it might be worth speaking to them. SD noted that they have already attended the nature, health and wellbeing group.</p> <p>SD also mentioned that she has put together a proposal to map the whole of the South West and the LNPs expressed an initial interest. It has been costed at ~£20k per county. RE suggested looking to see whether the HLF Resilience Fund may be able to fund this.</p> <p>3.3 Defra Development Grant – SD explained that the Board recommended that WENP should write a bid to map ‘green health’. SD to write bid and circulate to relevant partners.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to promote the Chair opportunity to their own contacts. • MMc to send to Stephen Bashford for circulation with business contacts. • SD to make a recommendation to WENP Board about the selection of a vice-chair. • LR to circulate Board opportunity to AWT Trustees. • SD to circulate WeSports powerpoint. • SD to invite health working group chairs to next SG meeting.
	<p>Working group updates</p> <p>Water RB updated on Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership. They are currently administering a catchment fund to deliver 5 projects on the ground and 2 just about to start in Wiltshire. EA have commissioned Indepen to map expenditure and spending across the catchment to assess whether there could be better joined up.</p> <p>Defra have funding for Natural Flood Management project (~£15k per catchment), Emilie is currently working up a proposal for BAC. CH is looking to put in a project near Chew Valley sub-catchment.</p> <p>Adaptation and Resilience work – SM is developing policy hooks for the JSP and has been working with the LEP to ensure these are included.</p> <p>National Infrastructure call for evidence – RB has provided evidence to this via B&NES, suggesting that partners could work together better to deliver more integrated outcomes.</p>



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	<p>Wessex Water – are currently writing their business plan 2020 – 2025. They want to extend the public health work to the whole of the catchment. Colin Skellet is also meeting with MPs and would like to look more strategically at how Wessex infrastructure can proactively support growth.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RB to circulate information on catchment projects funded through the catchment fund.
	<p>Project updates</p> <p>Natural Capital trust SD explained that the Interim report has been written and Interim Steering Group meeting has taken place. LR and SD are presenting a workshop to look at ‘Natural Capital Investment Priorities’, by looking at the WENP maps and local knowledge to look at where investment might happen across the West of England. MMi noted that the language in the Interim Report is quite inaccessible, SD responded that they are hoping to do an Executive Summary. MMi also raised concerns about the sign-off procedure of the final report. SD noted that she has requested a slot in the HoP meeting for her and DH to present findings from the NCT report.</p> <p>Bathscapes – MMi fed back about Bathscapes. They are working with Festival of Nature. B&NES are also working on the Waterspace Study which has been shortlisted for the RTPi award (both national and regionally). This is looking at the river corridor around Bath, but there are opportunities to look further to South Glos and Bath.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Plan for the West of England: SD presented some draft maps on how they are looking at GI across the SDLs. She explained the environment group had used the 8 cross-cutting themes from 2011 GI framework (strategic GI, landscape, biodiversity, health, climate change, flood, heritage, and economic development) and developed objectives against each one. For each cross-cutting theme a map has been created at each SDL (so 8 maps per SDL = 80 maps in total).</p>
	<p>Reflections on the work programme 2017 - 18</p> <p>SD reflected on some of the successes from last year and provided feedback from the Board for priorities over 2017-18. They wanted WENP to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorating the IW&L • To continue positively influencing the planning agenda. • Explore how ecological networks can be delivered on a landscape scale. <p>Suggestions from the SG – IW&L should be project focussed rather than being too specific, LR explained that nationally the NGOs are looking at ecological networks and there is an appetite to start something locally (eg WoE Lawton Group). Start a comms group to support comms.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to think about what WENP should be delivering over 2017-18. • SD to circulate WENP work programme. • SD to start a communications sub-group to support WENPs comms.



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	<p>Events</p> <p>Festival of Nature: SC explained that there are over 120 organisations taking part this year and plans are ramping up for the conference. There is a business launch on the 5th April. They are also including a sector facing programme, including the WENP conference and training sessions for practitioners. SC to support SD in promotion and running the event.</p> <p>WENP Conference: SD to find a date for conference. The Board suggested they would like it around place shaping and the natural environment.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC to invite SG to FoN Business launch.
	<p>AOB</p> <p>ESIF committee – CH noted that DH represents the environmental sector on the ESIF committee but that he has been unable to attend the last few meetings. CH noted that following the elections the committee becomes an intermediate body, which will have greater decision making powers and that we may want to look at whether there is someone else who might attend in his place.</p> <p>Cotwolds AONB – are currently looking at to gain National Park status. WENP may be asked what our opinion is on this and the implications it might have on ecology and management, planning, funding etc.</p>
	<p>Next meeting: June 13th 2017 (venue tbc)</p>