



West of England Nature Partnership
 Joining up the dots for nature

Steering Group Meeting Agenda

Monday 21st March, 1:20 – 3:50pm

South Gloucestershire Council Offices, Badmington Rd, Yate

AGENDA

Chair: Dominic Hogg, Chairman, WENP

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
1.	Apologies		1:20
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	All	1:30
3.	WENP Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future funding ○ UAs commitment ○ Working groups – update ○ H2020 and partner working 	BG BG DH	1:40
4.	Joint Spatial Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next phase and WENP input 	BG	2:00
5.	Natural Capital Trust Proposal	DH, BW & BG	2:10
6.	Bristol Avon Catchment Resilience Plan	RB / SM	2:50
7.	WENP work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2016 setting aims and objectives 	All	3:10
8.	WENP Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agenda ○ State of Environment launch 	SD & LR	3:25
9.	AOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Orchard Street Project ○ Happy City Index survey ○ Other business 	SD SD	3:40
	Close		3.50

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Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
AC	Amy Coulthard	Natural England (NE)
BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucester Council (SGC)
LR	Lucy Rogers	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
CH	Chris Head	West of England Rural Network (WERN) (via phone)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
SJ	Sarah Jackson	Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)

Apologies:

AR	Anna Russell	National Trust (NT)
JF	John Flannigan	North Somerset Council (NSC)
MMc	Mark MacGregor	North Somerset Council (NSC)
BW	Bevis Watts	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
MMi	Mark Minkley	Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)
RE	Richard Ennion	Bristol City Council (BCC)
SC	Savita Custead	Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC)
RB	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water (WW)
SM	Silole Menezes	Wessex Water (WW)

MINUTES:

Item	Notes
1.	<p>Attendees Apologies: AR, JF,</p> <p>The Steering Group would like to minute a big thank you to Bevis Watts for his support of the partnership over the past few years, in particular helping establish it so effectively in the early days. We wish him the best of luck in his new role and look forward to working with Ian.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes and Actions The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p> <p>Further actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DH to share letters he has sent to senior civil servants and ministers on behalf of WENP. <p>Investment priorities – there is still an appetite to identify what our investment priorities are in the West of England and some time has been assigned to looking at this within the NCT proposal.</p> <p>Indicators of natural capital loss and gain – could the WENP develop some indicators to look at the State of Environment and whether it is getting better or worse over time. SD noted that this is one of the key objective of SoE – to establish a baseline to monitor change and suggested that perhaps it could be aligned with 25 year plan or Biodiversity 2020. LR noted it is very challenging to measure change and net biodiversity. SJ shared that she heard a presentation that valued natural capital in Leicester.</p>

	<p>ESIF - DH is no longer going to attend the ESIF meetings.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to share presentations from CaBA work in Leicester • SD & LR to raise indicators with State of Environment working group • All to suggest a suitable sustainability representative to replace DH on the ESIF committee. • DH to write to ESIF to explain why he no longer can attend the ESIF committee, explaining how he has found the process. BG to support writing of letter.
	<p>WENP update: WENP funding is now secured for the next few years, with 3 UAs increasing their support and Natural England now contributing. SD to assume position of WENP Manager on 1st April 16. DH and SD to minute their gratitude to the 4 UAs, Wessex and NE for their continuing support of the partnership.</p> <p>A discussion was had about BRERC, and its financial stability since Natural England’s funding withdrawal. It was noted that it may be worth looking at the current model and how it fits in with WENP, the State of Environment and ambitions to establish a Shared Data Platform, as well as the national push for open data.</p> <p>Communications: It was noted by the WENP Board that we need to communicate more about what we are doing and the projects we are involved with. SD requested that partners also think about opportunities to promote WENP within their own organisations. SJ noted that there are 5 large partnerships in B&NES where WENP could be featured at.</p> <p>Externally funded bids: DH highlighted that WENP had recently engaged in a consortium that submitted a funding bid to Horizon 2020. The process wasn’t that simple and raised a few issues about ways in which WENP could and should get involved with funded projects. DH noted that there is an INTERREG call at the moment, and the second phase of Horizon 2020 will be out in Autumn, so it may be worth considering our role so it is clear from the outset. SD recalled the feedback the Board had given on this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only apply for bids that align with strategic objectives • Decide from the outset which partner is doing what and what they will be delivering (N.B. WENP is not a delivery partner) • WENP to act as a gatekeeper – by bringing partners together, coordinating submissions and generally liaising with stakeholders. <p>Working group updates Health: SD & AK have met with Bruce Laurence to discuss what the group should be focussing. Purpose is twofold</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic influencing – commissioners, H&WBBs, JSNA 2. Networking forum – developing good practice guidance. <p>SD is due to meet with Heathy City Week to decide whether they should run another event in HCW. The working group recently met in Burges Salmon and heard about their corporate volunteering programme.</p> <p>There is a meeting planned with the other Southwest LNPs to work up the content for a regional workshop for Dir of PH and other strategic influencers. LNPs Chairs and Coordinators are meeting in April, with the event scheduled for 15th July. SJ noted that Devon LNP host a Naturally Healthy Week.</p>

	<p>Iconic Wildlife & landscape: Skanska presented to the group about the Highways England biodiversity fund and possible projects that could happen around the motorways. Severnside NIA. SD to recirculate objectives and get feedback. It was suggested that North Somerset could lead on action to drive it forwards.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to send round finance summary to funding partners. • SD and DH to communicate more about the work they are doing • Partners to look for opportunities to promote WENP within their own organisations • SD to speak to Devon LNP about their 'Naturally Healthy Week' – specifically how it was funded and how it was resourced. • SD to email Chris Hussey and ask him to collate how many locally determined NIAs there are in England. • AC to organise meeting with SD and Glen Gillespie from Severn Estuary team to discuss NIA.
	<p>WENP Conference</p> <p>SD is struggling to find a date in May that works, so proposed that we run the conference in June. SD suggested that there is a soft launch in May – where the maps and report is launched and then the conference is a bigger event in June. June was seen as a better month, as purdah will be finished, so mean that political figures can be invited.</p> <p>LR updated what will be launched at the soft launch: reports, maps, GIS, talks. SD suggested that it should be launched at a business breakfast meeting, attracting a different audience. SD is putting together a marketing strategy to help promote the maps: SD reported back that LR & SD are going to Brussels to present at an ecosystem services conference and are also presenting a webinar through the Ecosystems Knowledge Network on 31st March from 1 – 2pm.</p> <p>LR also mentioned that the State of Environment maps will be extended to cover the whole of the Bristol Avon Catchment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to send out Doodle Poll for conference for early June. • SD & LR to organise soft launch in May. • SD to circulate draft agenda for conference. All to feedback on content and ideas on speakers.
	<p>Joint Spatial Plan</p> <p>BG fed back that the consultation on the Issues & Options paper is now closed, with over 1000 responses submitted, which are now being analysed. The analysis will show broad themes and some detailed feedback on how they are being reflected.</p> <p>The next phase will be to develop a new document for September, further identifying locations and housing number targets.</p> <p>BG noted that it is important for WENP to continue to engage with this process and ensuring the partnership response is being considered and included within the emerging preferred options document, rather than commenting on a final document. Ultimately, the aim is to be involved in the development and ensure that WENP has been consulted on and feel like their views have been included within the decision making process.</p>

	<p>BG mentioned that the Heads of Planning are looking to develop some guidance on ‘good place making’ in the West of England.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to continue to try and influence the JSP through their own networks and spheres of influence. • SD & LR to arrange a meet with the environment work stream. • SD & LR to speak to RB & SM about how this ties in with the Resilience Plan. • DH to speak to Laura Ambler about the NCT and how this might fit with the JSP.
	<p>Natural Capital Trust proposal</p> <p>DH fed back that a NCT subgroup had submitted a proposal to BD, who would then share with CEO’s of the 4 UAs. There is still a question about whether the proposal should include elements of a pilot, as BD is keen to see a pilot included. It was suggested that it could be shared with the JSP Board, (via LF?).</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to organise a meeting with 4 UAs, Ian and DH. • SD to arrange meeting with DH, BD & LA to discuss NCT proposal. • DH to meet with NY (BCC) • SD to mention at the Strategic Solutions Panel (Special Resilience meeting 26th April)
	<p>WENP Work Programme</p> <p>SD explained that she has drafted the 2016 – 17 Work Programme and has slightly re-structured the overarching aims from last year.</p> <p>It was raised at the Board that there is a requirement to increase our communications to wider stakeholders, to ensure we keep people up to date on what activities the WENP are undertaking. There is also requirement to (re)engage with NGOs, developers & housebuilders, politics and academics.</p> <p>SD requested that partners consider ways in which they can promote WENP within their own organisations, for example with Councillors and other senior teams. SD offered to come into organisations to present about the WENP if there is a requirement to do so, ideally this would be a co-presentation with the SG member.</p> <p>DH is keen to have a programme of evening events, so that we can attract a wider audience.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD to circulate the updated Work Programme. All to feedback to SD about draft Work Programme, thoughts and ideas about what the partnership should be focusing on over 2016 – 17. • SD to finalise the Work Programme and upload onto the website.
	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchard Street Project: SD to share Orchard Street Project brief. • Happy City Index: have developed a Wellbeing Survey to measure ‘Wellbeing’, which may be of use to projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution: West of England has been given the option to devolve powers, which will involve selecting a Metro Mayor. It was noted there is still a lot of issues to resolve before this happens. • ESIF: CH noted that he had been at an ESIF meeting and will continue inputting into that committee to represent rural. • Tidal Lagoons: RB attended a meeting on Tidal Lagoons and the possible mitigation funds that might be made available from their creation. LR mentioned that the Wildlife Trusts are also in discussion with the company. SD to speak to RB about this. SD to speak to Simon Brenman about Tidal Lagoons and how this relates to the Severn Vision.
	<p>Next meeting: 24th June 2016</p>