



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Board Meeting

Guildhall, Bath // 12 December 2018 // 10:00-12:30

Attendees

Richard Cresswell (Chair) - RC	Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
John Flannigan - JF	North Somerset Council
David Villis - DV	South Gloucestershire Council
Sarah Jackson - SJ	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Becky Belfin - BB	Bristol City Council
David Carter - DC	West of England Combined Authority / LEP
Laura Ambler - LA	West of England Combined Authority / LEP
Claire Lowman - CL	Bristol City Council
Rachel Williams - RW	Natural England
Ian Barrett - IB	Avon Wildlife Trust
Robert Holden - RH	National Trust
Catherine Brabner-Evans - CB	Woodland Trust
Savita Willmott - SW	Natural History Consortium
Ruth Barden - RB	Wessex Water
Heather Elgar - HE	West of England Nature Partnership
Anya Tober - AT	West of England Nature Partnership

Apologies

Selena Gray	West of England Nature Partnership
Richard Kent	North Somerset Council
Mark Minkley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Richard Ennion	Bristol City Council
Tom Boden	National Trust
Ross Kennerley	Woodland Trust
Marion Steiner	Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire CCG

Items

West of England Green Infrastructure Plan

SJ updated on the progress of the Plan. Stakeholder workshop planned for 29 January to present how GI Plan relates to JSP, Local Plans and transport plans and for stakeholders to provide input on mapping opportunities.

Discussed the scope of the HRA brief and the relationship between JSP / GI Plan and Local Plans. We need to know what the biggest needs/opportunities are before we can shape strategic solutions. Importance of GI Plan informing Infrastructure Investment and Delivery Plan (IPD). Final Plans need to have the right safeguards in place for assets that need protection/mitigation. Intention GI Plan working draft by Spring; IPD by May – both are living documents. Strategic Solutions Panel will explore strategic solutions to investing in multiple infrastructure (including GI) needs.



Action: SJ to share ahead of workshop - WoE mapping, some area maps, narratives, overview outcomes of policy workshops and policy assessment matrix

Action: LA to present scope of IDP at next WENP Board

JSP consultation

Action: HE to draft WENP response before end December

Nature Recovery Network

HE updated on ecological network mapping to date. Discussion later that day to agree next steps towards a 'Nature Recovery Network' to ensure clear timings alongside GI Plan. Nature Recovery Network as more aspirational plan.

WENP Annual Forum

Discussed potential themes; agreed needs to be an independent forum for the Partnership – should include GI & planning policy but also other areas of work. Dates and funding TBC.

Action: HE to draft proposal for next WENP Board

Updates

National updates

Defra has announced pilot with Ox-Cam Arc for Natural Capital Plans. Conversations ongoing to pilot 'GI Authority'. Note that Defra Net Gain Consultation is currently live (closing 10 February).

Greener UK Coalition & local campaigns

IB updated on campaigning activity over next 6 months ahead of Environmental Bill going through Government next Summer.

State of Environment: Towards measuring 'double abundance of wildlife'

State of Environment working group reconvened to discuss how to create right local indicator to help measure towards target 'double abundance of nature'. Aim is for the indicator to be ready for the Festival of Nature – can launch alongside 'Nature Recovery Network'.

Nature, Health and Wellbeing

HE and CL updated on work of the Green Care Strategy group. Agreed appropriate to adopt 'Naturally healthy' as a light touch (e.g. additional hashtag) but not as new campaign alongside current activity including 30 Days Wild and Festival of Nature.



Spatial Planning

Joint Local Transport Plan consultation to February. Local Industrial Strategy currently in development. Clean air strategy: Thara Raj to update at future meeting.

Partner Updates

Woodland Trust: Funding campaign for Avoncliff ancient woodland. iTree assessment for Bristol complete and developing communications. Bristol won Woodland Trust's Street Tree award.

Bristol City Council: Successfully shortlisted for Future Parks Accelerator Fund with HLF & National Trust. To submit final bid by mid-January. Looking at doing natural capital assessment of parks and green spaces.

Avon Wildlife Trust: Focus on Nature Recovery Network and Environment Act campaign. New land at Goblin Combe and Hutton Hill. Looking at forward strategy and potential for visitor centres.

South Gloucestershire Council: Avonmouth Flood Defences project ongoing – creation of significant wetland habitat and high tide roosts. Finalised strategy for Great Crested Newts district licensing pilot at Harry Stoke.

National Trust: Picking up Lawton principles of Bigger, Better, More, Joined Up. 'Land outdoors and nature' strategy – significant targets for habitat creation.

North Somerset Council: Developing ideas around GI / Natural Capital Authority.

Natural England: Changes to leadership.

Wessex Water: Currently updating biodiversity strategy. Will bring draft to next WENP Board. Drawing public health project in Twerton to a close; looking at potential new trial in Somer Valley.

Bath & North East Somerset Council: Working on Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail. Working with Sustrans and other Unitary Authorities to develop plans to ensure Bristol to Bath Railway Path is fit for future. To note that Visit Bath has a wellbeing theme for January. New funding for GI to address obesity in children in Midsomer Norton.

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership: Successful first Annual Forum with around 100 attendees. Have worked up strategic projects with Unitary Authorities – e.g. Frome Reconnected project now underway. Working ever closer with Wiltshire Council.