

Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	18 November 2021
Time:	10:00 – 12:30
Location:	via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Carolyn Cadman (CC) Deputy Chair, Wesley Smyth (WS), Oliver Baines (OB), Karen Burrows (KB), Cllr John Bastin (Cllr JB) for Cllr Martyn Alvey, Stephen Marks (SM), Paul Masters (PMas), Ilya Maclean (IM), Julian Branscombe (JB), Martin Howlett (MH), Peter Marsh CEO (PMar), Nick Bruce-White (NB-W), Cherilyn Mackrory (CM)
In attendance:	Philippa Hoskin (PH), Lorna Gaunt (Minutes)

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair's report
1.1	Apologies, items for AOB <i>Apologies:</i> Steve Ford (SF), Sophie Hosking (SH), Cllr Steve Watt (Cllr SW) <i>Welcome:</i> RT welcomed Cherilyn Mackrory (CM) to the board and CM gave a brief introduction. <i>AOB:</i> Civil Aviation correspondence re Spaceport (CC) & the future of AONBS (MH)
1.2	Minutes of previous Board Meeting Minutes approved.
1.3	Matters Arising and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP Website updates either in progress or completed • IM to come back with report on Evidence Needs (see Sub Committee updates) • OB to come back with a motion to declare an Ecological Emergency (item 6) • LG to set up Board meeting dates for 2022 - done
1.4	Chair's report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. Recommendation: to note – NOTED
2	Executive Report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read.

	<p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p> <p>A concern was raised by RT/CC that in preparing for the Shared Prosperity and Levelling Up funds that there wasn't a combined economic and environment input. PM said that through conversations with the CEO of LEP, and the LNP's Joint Committee Meetings with the LEP that the environment is being considered as well as the economy.</p>
3	<p>Isles of Scilly</p> <p>An update was given, the headline was that the IoS Council has been successful in securing £48.4m towards the cost of replacing the IoS vessels and improving harbours.</p>
4	<p>Sub Committee Update</p> <p>The Sub Committee Update report was circulated with papers ahead of the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>RT asked IM to go through the main points of the Evidence Needs paper which was circulated with the board papers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a critical gap in biodiversity knowledge in Cornwall. • Data exists but is collected in an ad-hoc way by citizen scientists which makes it challenging to see trends. There are three approaches that could be applied: 1) standardised surveys, 2) better statistical techniques for handling the data, or 3) measure how much effort is being used to obtain the data. • Through CWT and the University of Exeter a research fellow will address this issue; the resource will be provided through a national research bid worth £12m. • There is a renewed focus on farmed landscape due to the bid (Defra are partners) and IM hopes they can engage with the farming community and have an agri-environment scheme route. • Although there are limitations around citizen scientists their contributions were recognised as being important. • Natural England have previously looked at local recorders and some simple changes that can help to make data more useable. • IM raised one other important factor around botanical recorders who choose where they want to record, which is not systematic. • The University of Exeter would be running a workshop in January for various organisations who run recording schemes. • A habitat condition project will help to get the detail required on habitat quality.
5	<p>LNP Strategy (full report circulated with board papers)</p> <p>RT introduced this item. Since becoming the single Chair of the partnership the aim has been to improve the LNP operationally and to improve its overall effectiveness. Some successes were noted, such as the refresh of the Environmental Growth Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Pilot. RT was keen for the partnership to clarify what it would do over the next 12 months in an effort to move from strategising to delivery.</p>

	<p>PM presented the second board paper and delivered the presentation contained in the full set of board papers. Board members were asked for their views on the proposed focus areas as well as any other feedback. The main points were:-</p> <p>Relationships/links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local engagement - a stronger role with parish and town councils and community groups would be helpful to empower them in their work on nature recovery, possibly to include young people/children? • Political links with Cllrs on IoS and CC Cllrs and Cabinet Members are important. • It would be useful to strengthen links with the Duchy, who are currently reviewing their strategy, and also the Crown Estate. • It was felt the LNP could have a stronger lobbying voice. • The LNP were keen to see what the role of the OEP would be. <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to celebrate success, especially through the annual conference/event. • Suggested that it would be helpful to communicate that nature recovery can have an economic impact and improve the wellbeing of people. • That the LNP are seen as “champions”. <p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board generally agreed the 5 proposed focus areas of marine, investment, skills, farming and enforcement. • Some board members suggested that the focus could be on 2 or 3 areas. • It was noted that LNP has a shared focus with EA on soils, land and agriculture & coast. • IoS - emphasis needs to be made on the different issues affecting IoS such as flooding, drinking water (wells and bore holes). • Biodiversity Net Gain was suggested as another area of potential interest to the LNP. There is currently an Inquiry on Sustainability of the Built Environment and there has been a halt on the planning White Paper so now would be a good time to have influence. The LNP could look at ensuring developers have done what they’re meant to do and are accountable for their responsibilities into the future. • There was a query re private sector investment – there are 3 projects in Cornwall, including Cornwall Habitat Bank, are exploring mechanisms to enable private investment in nature https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovative-nature-projects-awarded-funding-to-drive-private-investment. <p>PM would take away the above comments and produce a revised offer to be presented at January’s board meeting.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RT to take away points on developers. 2. PM to bring back a revised offer to the January board meeting.
6	Ecological Emergency (paper circulated with board papers)

	<p>OB introduced this item. Board members were asked to consider if there was an ecological crisis and if so, is now the right time for the LNP to declare an ecological emergency? In addition to OB's board paper he outlined the following points for consideration: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The width of evidence justifies it. 2. The LNP would join an increasing number of governments, and the UN, who have already declared an emergency. 3. It's timely with the Agriculture and Environment Bill going through Parliament and the 15th biodiversity conference coming up. 4. Alignment with the Environmental Growth strategy. 5. It gives power to climate action groups. 6. Brings focus and urgency to the LNP's work. <p>The board agreed with the recommendation and had the following points to make with regards to declaring the crisis/emergency.</p> <p>It was important that the wording was right in order to: engage with the farming community; be clear that the crisis/emergency was different to the Carbon Neutral Challenge; ensure the message reaches decision makers, and make a point as to why we are doing it now?</p> <p>Recommendation: That the CloS LNP declares an ecological emergency and calls for immediate action to address the crisis by partners and colleagues in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – AGREED</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH would speak to CC Communications team to organise getting the messaging out. OB would put together a draft to share with PM within 24 hours. • Partners to share messaging via social media, etc.
7	<p>Environmental Enforcement (verbal update)</p> <p>NB-W gave an update to board members. To fit in with the cycle of environmental enforcement sub group meetings a substantive item, supported by a board report with recommendations, would be scheduled for the January board meeting.</p> <p>The group has identified four areas of focus:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and planning (biodiversity net gain) 2. Agriculture (impact on biodiversity) 3. Waste (sewage, sludge, septic tanks) 4. Water and water resources <p>The group is looking at: where can the LNP add most value; what's working well and what isn't; and what isn't in place/where there are gaps in regulation/law. They are gathering case studies to show what's good and bad.</p> <p>NB-W remarked that the work of the LNP's sub groups needed clear focus so board members' investment of time was best utilised and if it were possible to access resources</p>

	<p>from outside of the LNP it would be helpful. RT agreed and suggested it may be possible to find research resource from academia to support the piece of work?</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board members to share appropriate case studies with NB-W. 2. Consideration to be given to research resource from academia - RT
8	<p>Roundtable/Board Member Updates</p> <p>Board Members gave individual updates.</p>
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>Spaceport - CC gave an update on the recent communication she's had with the Civil Aviation Authority. They are still looking at initial screening assessment of the spaceport licence application and they plan to launch a formal consultation for the Assessment of Environmental Effects at which point CC will let the board know.</p> <p>Future of AONBs – MH raised a letter (which had been circulated prior to the meeting) from the NAAONB to Lord Benyon. There are concerns that there will be a smaller amount of funding with more delivery requirements. NAAONB share these concerns. Any help that the LNP can give to Tamar Valley, and Cornwall & IoS AONBs collectively to influence the direction of travel would be appreciated.</p> <p>ACTION: RT to liaise with MH re the future of AONBs</p>
	<p>Dates of next meetings –</p> <p>14 January 2022 10 March 2022 6 May 2022 16 June 2022 16 September 2022 10 November 2022</p>