

Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	13 January 2023
Time:	09:30 – 12:00
Location:	via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Ruth for Cherilyn Mackrory’s office (observer), Wesley Smyth (WS), Cllr John Bastin (Cllr JB) for Cllr Martyn Alvey, Vicky Fraser (VF), Mark Rice (MR), Julian Branscombe (JB), Matt Walpole (MW), Rebecca Williams (RW), Sarah Houghton (SH), Nick Lawrence (NL), Clare Parnell (CP), Cllr Harry Legg (Cllr HL), Martin Howlett (MHow)
In attendance:	Philippa Hoskin (PH), Mark Holmes (MHol), Emily Keverne (note taker)
Guest:	none

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair’s report
1.1	<p>Welcome, thank you, apologies & items for AOB</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Martin Alvey – Cllr John Bastin is attending in his stead • Cherilyn Mackrory MP – Ruth is standing in on her stead • Sian Rees • Ilya Maclean <p>New Board Member Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Houghton – Vice Principal for Cornwall College, looking after land-based sites. • Nick Lawrence – Assistant Regional Director for the National Trust, South West – primarily Cornwall.
1.2	<p>Minutes of previous Board Meeting</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>
1.3	<p>Matters Arising and Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government decision making policies and an action point around ensuring the Board’s position is clear – a letter to the Secretary of State has been uploaded to the website and these issues can be pursued with other Members of Parliament. ACTION: RT will raise this with MPs in the next few weeks and will write to say how successful the FiPL scheme has been as well. RT • The retained EU law bill – the Wildlife Trust national have been calling on MPs to recognise the ongoing implications of the retained EU law bill and that concerns are reflected.

1.4	<p>Chair's report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. The highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford Real Farming Conference – motivational in terms of the agricultural sector and agroecology. Lord Teverson attended the LNP meeting yesterday focusing on a farming sub committee which Vicky will chair. Thanks to Claire Parnell, Martin Howlett, Nick Lawrence, Pip Hoskin and Vicky Fraser. • Environmental enforcement – thank you to everyone who has agreed to be on the steering group (Mark Rice, Cllr Alvey, Matt Walpole and Martin Howlett.) • Avian flu – there is still very severe threat to the industry and the fear of it being endemic does raise questions on free range production in the future. In Cornwall and the IoS we don't have large populations of migratory waterfowl which can be badly affected, so the impact on gannet colonies was marked. We've seen fewer corpses washing ashore or coming ashore and dying. In Scilly we are watching for any signs of an uptick in cases when seabird colonies start reforming for their breeding season, starting with gulls coming in in February. <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p>
2	<p>Executive Report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. The highlights were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Nature Recovery Strategy rollout from April 2023 – government is still firmly committed. The team have been working with Natural England and CloS to develop a plan of action to hit the ground running. • Ecological Emergency Summit - 24 March 2023, at Heartlands. In the process of securing key speakers and shaping the agenda and input is welcome from the Board. • Pledge for Nature Online form – has been improved and is now live. Pip's team will be rolling out a communication campaign encouraging new pledges for nature. ACTION: Please engage through your networks as many people as possible. ALL • Enforcement – since the report was written we've selected the preferred consultant at University of Exeter and have an inception meeting with them next week. Thanks to the Board members who have agreed to join the Steering group. • Centre for Environmental Law – this is a new section within the Penryn campus of University of Exeter focusing on law, policy and governance. They secured some internal funding to top up the funding we provided. <p>MHow enquired if there would be a chance for the audience to interact with the Board at COP2? RT agreed this was a good idea and would be taken on board.</p> <p>Recommendation: to note the report and confirm in principle approval for the 2nd Ecological Emergency Summit – NOTED and APPROVED</p>
3	<p>Investment</p> <p>VF lead the item and the highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPF Funding application made for 22/23 call – both the wetland development for Bude Canal and the Green Ribs project are signed and accepted for SPF. We anticipate further calls and the team are available to shape the scope of the new £5.5million RPF allocated by DEFRA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional DEFRA funding – DEFRA have identified lead authorities/areas to invite to submit EOIs by 6 February for 2023/25 funding. It's for £650k of revenue and £350k of capital, specifically designed for looking at how to enable and accelerate investment (particularly private sector investment) in nature recovery. We are meeting with DEFRA and the EA next week to discuss. Action: MHol to report back on progress at the next Board.
4	<p>Isles of Scilly update</p> <p>RW gave an update and the highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNRS work is still progressing and trying to identify priorities locally with the Wildlife Trust and IFCA ahead of the LNP evidence deep dive work The AONB management plan is due for review soon - awaiting the new guidance to come through for that. Farming in Protected Landscapes is working well. Nine projects are funded this year and all the funds have been fully allocated. The Council is going to be reviewing its biodiversity policy to improve management of open spaces for nature. Working hard in planning to ensure that local planning policy is fit for purpose. Hoping to seek an ecologist for the authority.
5	<p>Appointment of Deputy Chair</p> <p>The Board were invited to nominate a Deputy Chair. Julian Branscombe nominated Matt Walpole.</p> <p>Recommendation: to appoint Matt Walpole as Deputy Chair – APPROVED</p>
6	<p>Sub Committee Updates</p> <p>Taken as read. The highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Partnership – Carolyn Cadman has been voted in as Chair of the Catchment Partnership and PH is the Vice Chair. If any Board members wish to join the Catchment Partnership this would be welcome. LNRS - we've got the draft target of 30 by 30 (30% land, rivers and seas to be well managed for nature by 2030). We are currently reviewing the KPI for this to make it fit for purpose and robust for the future. 3Cs Funding - the Wildlife Trust with support from Cornwall Council and EA has secured funding for a coastal-based approach to improve coastal coordination and resourcing. Marine - a meeting is planned with University of Exeter in a couple of weeks to explore collaboration on marine particularly. We are also in discussions with Natural England nationally for Cornwall to be a Marine Natural Capital pilot. ACTION: PH to share further information from the MMO with the group ahead of any decision as to whether the MMO will be invited to present at the LNP Board. PH Beavers – a licensing regime is being developed re enclosed and unenclosed releases. A lot of the discussion is around how to manage wild beavers now if they are causing a problem, considering their protected status. There is still work to do but the general direction of travel is set. LAGAS Mapping and Programme – LAGAS is a University of Exeter web-based platform which includes our draft Cornwall Nature Recovery Network mapping. It's partly funded through the

	<p>Tevi project. We will need to do another iteration of this map. It may or may not be hosted by or linked to LAGAS. The preferred approach would be to host it on the LNP website.</p> <p>Cllr JB highlighted that many developers have left sites to become bustling in biodiversity. Yet we are then destroying vibrant rewilding areas to get a notional 10%.</p> <p>PH: it would be good to have a discussion outside the meeting with Cllr JB, with our Planning colleagues as well.</p> <p>Recommendation: to note the report – NOTED</p>
7	<p>Proposed Cornwall Devolution Deal</p> <p>The key ask for the Board is that there is a response to the consultation, which closes on the 17th of February, and that the consultation links be shared by Board members with their networks too. Consultations will occur at venues across Cornwall.</p> <p>MHol and VF shared a powerpoint presentation on the proposed deal. The commitments are in paragraphs 57 to 59. Due to the timescales involved, we were not able to discuss with DEFRA ahead of including our text but the DEFRA officials we met were keen to go further than this.</p> <p>The highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Capital – the Government and DEFRA are looking to Cornwall to pilot initiatives as we’ve done with Forest for Cornwall around targeting revenue where we would develop business cases to unlock further funding. We’ve requested a single pot of funding that could be allocated to Cornwall and Scilly. So that’s on the table if the deal progresses, but at the moment we have a commitment to work with DEFRA to develop further funding by creating business cases around local opportunity and need. • Protection of the Cornish hedge – at the moment this falls between legislation but we request a stronger acknowledgment of the Cornish hedge. <p><i>Board member questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NL: how do we approach responding as a Board – do we focus on what is currently written or do we focus on what we want to see included? Re working with the Council and DEFRA, what is meant with reference to business cases and projects? • WS: there is nothing included about marine? Are any of the devolution discussions about marine responsibilities? • MHow: the green financial initiative is very much the way forward. Re Cornish Hedges, less than 12 months ago the then Minister George Eustice was to look at hedgerows across the country and he pledged to include the Cornish hedge. So this was already on the agenda. What if we don’t sign off the deal – are we still going to be able to take advantage of these initiatives? Also, are we any different from any other county? We are already at Level 2. • MW: re funding opportunities, do we have an idea of which pot may be used and do we see how we may be able to tailor asks to specific pots re marine? • CP: how do we ensure we don’t become too insular with this and ensure we keep linking with the greater South West region? <p><i>Responses provided:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had the wording far more explicit around the creation of a single pot for Cornwall, which would bring together elements of the funding from each of those arms length bodies. Unfortunately, because of the time limit, the wording was softened.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just to reiterate that in the first instance it would be about supporting existing LNP project pipeline schemes to be investment ready. What's missing at the moment is projects that are from for example farm clusters. • One of the key questions we want to ask is do DEFRA see this devolution extending into marine because we are a maritime county and there are opportunities around floating offshore wind. • As we already have the 2015 Cornwall deal we already have a lot of the Level 2 powers so the Level 3 was felt to unlock a wider potential. Re uniqueness of the Deal, this is something we did push back on in a number of areas but there are some items that are more unique to Cornwall (i.e. culture and heritage). However the time we had available to feed into the first draft of the deal meant we weren't able to include everything. • The £360 million will be at the discretion of the Mayor when they come in with their own campaign priorities. This draft deal is the start of a conversation. • RT acknowledged comment. <p>ACTION: for the Board to respond to the proposed Cornwall Devolution Deal. The Board are encouraged to list out the items which we would expect to be working with Government on in a Level 3 deal. ALL</p> <p>RT expressed disappointment on where the proposed deal has ended up considering the team's incredibly hard work. Perhaps what we could do is welcome the aspirations that there are – we like the path that's painted to go forward – but we're disappointed in the narrowness and the commitment so far.</p> <p>ACTION: VF's team will provide the updated information materials by mid-week next week to the Board. VF/MHoI</p>
7	Roundtable - Board members gave verbal updates
8	AOB