

## BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
Hallsannery @ 11.30am

**Members Present:** Mike Moser (Chairman), Pete Jollands (Biosphere Foundation), Lesley Garlick (DCC), Steve Pitcher (North Devon Plus), Peter Howard (Landscape Research Group, Bournemouth University), Brian Frazer-Smith (DAPC), Richard Butler (Vice Chairman), Derrick Spear (Tarka Trust), Baerbel Francis (TDC), Eirene Williams (FWAG).

**Apologies:** Robert Down (Coastwise – joined for afternoon session), , Cllr. Caroline Chugg (DCC), Mark Wallace (Beaford), Steve Mulberry (NT), Miranda Cox (TDC), Pat Barker (NDC), Mark Jones (Natural England), Tom Hynes (NDABS), DWT, NFU, Bideford College, Tony Pratt (TTEF)

**NDABS Present:** Andy Bell, Matt Edworthy, Gigha Klinkenborg, Linda Blanchard.

Item	Issues	Action agreed
1. Chairman's Introduction	The Chairman welcomed members to the Biosphere Partnership meeting, and noted that it would be followed in the afternoon by a short workshop to review progress on the 2008-12 Action Plan	
2. Minutes	The minutes were agreed.	
3. Matters Arising	<p><b>Marine Conservation Zones Update</b></p> <p>Iteration 3 from the Finding Sanctuary working group has been well received with the estuary being the only reservation. Local negotiations for the estuary with Bideford Harbour with some adjustment to the boundaries. A 4km zone around Lundy to protect the seabirds and a possible box area around Hartland Point are being negotiated between local fisherman and the Marine Working Group.</p> <p>All agreed that the work carried out by the Marine Working Group has been excellent. Rose Day and the Chair expressed thanks to Andy Bell and Robert Down. The result is that we now have the best solution for all, including the fishing community.</p> <p>Steve Pitcher reported back on the FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group). The bid for €35k was successful and the first FLAG steering group meeting was very positive. It means a possible share in €600k per area and also a foot in the door for further fisheries funding.</p>	

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	<p><b>Future operational model for the Biosphere Reserve</b>  There has been a significant amount of action. The CFG has met twice and another meeting is planned in 10 days time. Presentations have been made by AB and ME to the Local Authorities. A 2010 annual review has been produced and a Biosphere Reserve Prospectus for 2011 to co-ordinate the work between NGOs, BRs and LAs etc. The Chairman commented that a weakness for the BR is that it is not a statutory designation. The partnership funding model is a strength but also a vulnerability in that no one body owned the Service. The CFG overall view as officers is that the best way to retain the Service would be aggregating with other services within the LAs and move to a co-location. There is a limit to the amount of cut that the NDABS can take and still be a viable support service to the BR. He understood that it was a very difficult time for staff and he urged partners who have contact with Councillors put forward a strong case for keeping the Service.</p> <p>Peter Howard highlighted the value in using volunteers. The Chair agreed, but that to use volunteers effectively, you must have good co-ordinators.</p> <p><b>Business engagement</b>  Response to the invitation to join a Business Task Force had been poor, and a more focussed approach with the Farming and Tourism sectors was being pursued.</p> <p><i>Farming sector:</i> The Chair and AB have met with Mole Valley Farmers, and we have agreed to engage on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Farming Awards (with FWAG)</li> <li>• Climate / environmentally friendly farming / renewables</li> <li>• Identifying a farming representative for the BR Partnership</li> <li>• Article on the BR in the MVF newsletter</li> </ul> <p>Further meetings are planned following a green light from their Board</p> <p>Steve Pitcher noted this was an important strategic relationship with the farming community and it would be valuable to have MVF on the BR Partnership.</p> <p><i>Tourism sector:</i> 3 businesses now signed up to the Visitor Investment Programme (slower rate of take-up than hoped for). Targeted information materials are needed and a new BR leaflet is in development, with advice from tourism businesses (including Wheatland Farm and Brend Hotels). This leaflet is more direct to the visitor that introduces challenging and fun ways to affect visitor behaviour. The new leaflet should encourage visitors to '<i>do something positive</i>'. Visitors will be able to upload photos of their own sustainable behaviour online and this in turn will influence others to do the same.</p>	

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	<p>Marsdens Cottage Holidays has already raised £500 from the Visitor Investment Scheme. The money will be used as match to enhance Tarka Trail interpretation. Peter Howard is on the LAG Green Exemplars Award Scheme.</p> <p>Steve Pitcher reported on the new Tarka Trail leaflet. NDABS is delivering the quality product, and ND+ is marketing it – so this is a joint effort. 25% of visitors gain information about the Tarka Trail from Tourist Information Centres and a further 30% from various visitor attractions. The leaflet is commercially sponsored by local businesses with profits being re-invested into the trail.</p> <p><b>Himalayan Balsam</b> We want to establish the extent of the problem and are planning a web-based ‘<i>Spot It, Map It</i>’ scheme in order to highlight the issue. We would then contact landowners to help them treat the problem. Eirene Williams emphasised the need to co-operate with landowners from the start.</p>	
	<p><b>Royal Visit</b> The Lord-Lieutenant’s office has suggested that best option is to write to Clarence House with a suggested itinerary. We need to have a very good event to get HRH. PH suggested the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Winkleigh Fair.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Chairmanship and Vice Chairmanship</b> MM &amp; RB Left the room. AB outlined that the proposal was to confirm that the current Vice Chairman should be invited to continue in his position until the Autumn 2011 meeting when a successor should be appointed and to confirm that the current Chairman be invited to sit for an additional year until Autumn 2012. This would ensure continuity during this difficult period of funding.</p> <p>This was proposed by Rose Day and seconded by Brian Frazer-Smith. All unanimously agreed.</p> <p>MM and RB returned to the meeting.</p> <p>The Partnership were also asked to comment on the draft profile for successor Chairman and Vice-Chairman; this profile will be used to recruit potential candidates for the Vice Chairman The ideal candidate will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ live or work within the Biosphere Reserve</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ have governance experience</li> <li>▪ be a good communicator</li> <li>▪ be independent</li> <li>▪ be committed to the environment and sustainability</li> <li>▪ have good networks across the Biosphere Reserve</li> <li>▪ have high level contacts in the SW</li> <li>▪ contacts with the farming or tourism sectors would be advantageous</li> </ul> <p>The partnership commented on the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the candidate for Chair should have prior chairing experience</li> <li>▪ candidates from the farming and tourism sectors would be highly advantageous</li> <li>▪ should be enthusiastic</li> </ul> <p>Brian Frazer-Smith and Lesley Garlick both suggested that looking outside the area could bring in beneficial contacts from further a field. Suggested we should get potential candidates to attend the partnership first.</p>	<p><b>Chair to invite potential candidates to attend the Partnership</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Estuary Management Plan</b></p> <p>The Estuary Management Plan review is ready for adoption. Big thanks are due to Chrissie Dukes (now Chrissie Ingle) for the work, much of it voluntary, she has carried out in getting this review completed.</p> <p>AB stressed the importance of ensuring that the EMP, SMP, MCZs and the Bideford Harbour plan were not conflicting. They will all be used to inform the Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The strategic aims have been cross-matched with the BR Plan and with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Plan. Key issues are: navigation, disturbance, water quality, coastal floodplain grazing and fishing, climate change, SMP actions, mooring and houseboats and co-ordination and management of the estuary.</p> <p>The Plan will be approved by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, TTEF and the Biosphere Reserve partnership before being presented to the Local Authorities for adoption.</p> <p>MM suggested that we should publicize for the launch of the EMP</p>	<p><b>AB to write a formal letter of thanks to Chrissie on behalf of the Chairman</b></p> <p><b>AB to email the final version of the EMP to partners for ratification in two weeks time.</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Biodiversity Action Plan consultation has received 42 individual comments, and these are now being addressed by the Working Group who will produce the final version.</p> <p>The Plan will be emailed out to partners for ratification and then sent on to the LAs for</p>	<p><b>TH to email the final version of the BAP to partners for ratification</b></p>

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	<p>adoption.</p> <p>The number of partner organisations involved has been impressive and the Chair offered a vote of thanks for their help.</p> <p>The most important thing is the implementation for the BAP in the years to come and integration into the LDF is important. This will require some further GIS work, to identify key locations for actions. Eirene Williams noted that landowners need to be engaged. Given the current financial climate, finding funds for implementation would be challenging.</p> <p>The formal launch would take place in the Spring at a Petroc event. AB suggested getting Jonathan Porrit or Leo Johnson from Price Waterhouse Cooper to the launch as a draw to get businesses involved in Biodiversity-Credits.</p>	
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Eirene Williams asked about the availability of tithe maps. These are all available from the Devon Records Office. Linda Blanchard has a set on CDs of the AONB parishes that are freely available.</p> <p>There will be a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January to strengthen the principles of the BR in the LDF Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>Further consideration is needed of the needed at Sandy Lane in order to make it 'fit for purpose'?</p> <p>Confluence - The BR Foundation has been granted £35k from the Arts Council for a large and arts project within the BR.</p> <p>Brian Frazer-Smith suggested short presentations should be made to local influential people in the more outlying areas of the BR.</p>	Partners to attend the LDF Core Strategy meeting on 31 January
	<p><b>Dates of next meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011</p> <p><b>Future Meetings</b></p> <p>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011</p> <p>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012</p> <p>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012</p> <p>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012</p>	

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