

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

Friday 14th May 2010

Fox & Hounds, Eggesford @ 9.30am

Members Present: Mike Moser (Chairman), Rose Day (AONB Chairman), Robert Down (Coastwise), Lesley Garlick (DCC), Emma Herrera (EA), Steve Pitcher (North Devon Plus), Peter Howard (Landscape Research Group, Bournemouth University), Cllr. Caroline Chugg (DCC), Pete Jollands (Biosphere Foundation), Mark Wallace (Beaford Arts), Brian Frazer-Smith (DAPC), Emma Richardson (DWT), Miranda Cox (TDC), Jerry Lee (NDC), Andrew Butler (NFU), Mark Elliott (DWT), Mark Jones (Natural England), Baerbel Francis (TDC), Stan Pyle (Bideford College), Mark Durk (Forestry Commission)

Observers/invitees: Leigh Rix (Clinton Devon Estates); Eirene Williams (FWAG)

Apologies: Steve Mulberry (NT), Richard Butler, Tim Robbins (Devon Sea Fisheries), John Butterwith (North Devon Fisherman's Association), Rob Fish (University of Exeter)

NDCCS Present: Andy Bell, Tom Hynes, Matt Edworthy, Gigha Klinkenborg, Linda Blanchard.

Item	Issues	Action agreed
1. Chairman's Introduction	The Chairman welcomed members to the 11 th Biosphere Partnership meeting	
2. Minutes	Minutes agreed	
3. Matters Arising	<p>Partnership attendance. Andrew Butler from the NFU and Mark Durk from the Forestry Commission represented their respective organisations that have re-engaged with the Partnership. FWAG and Clinton Devon Estates attend as observers and will be invited to join after the meeting. Devon Sea Fisheries are now approved partners.</p> <p>Peter Howard has succeeded in recruiting a representative from Exeter University (Dr Robert Fish) and a possible candidate from Plymouth University who will be invited to attend.</p>	DSFC accepted as full members.

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	<p>Parish Update: Matt Edworthy reported that 12 parishes are interested following the original letter and we have written support from 8 others parishes. Four parishes would like a presentation and he has already met with 4 and one other is planned. Six out of the twelve are AONB parishes. These are already well served by contact with the AONB. All the parishes will get a flag on the Biosphere map, this will be able to be clicked on to show what the parishes are doing. Rose Day suggested making personal phone calls to the clerks of the parishes to explain how they could participate. The need to reduce jargon and use plain English was emphasised. County and District councillors could be asked if part or all of the small pot of money they have could be used for a biodiversity project during this International Year of Biodiversity. This would be a tangible way for parishes to get on board. Mark Jones suggested that common land is something that is always in need of land management grants and is frequently overseen by parish councils.</p> <p>MCZ Update: The Marine and Estuarine working group was set up at the last meeting and Robert Down (Chair) reported that it will be assisting Finding Sanctuary to define the marine conservation zones though the Devon MCZ group. The process used at the recent meeting of the Devon MCZ group yielded polarised results and so the Biosphere Reserve set up its own programmes through the working group to carry out a more factual assessment of the data and feed that to the Devon MCZ group. This is off to a very good start with assistance from Rose Day and Andy Bell. A letter will be sent to DMCZ to say the Biosphere Reserve has a strong representation and we will be putting in a submission towards the end of this year. Areas being explored where it is known that reasonable data exists are: Lundy, Morte Platform, Combe Martin Bay, Rocky foreshore, SoBel Sands and the Taw/Torrige Estuary.</p> <p>Atlantic Array Update: The current draft of the position statement was discussed. This covered the issues of the need for renewable energy but also the need to provide energy in a sensitive means that did the best for the economy and the environment as well as good examples in participatory planning. Matt Edworthy suggested more educational content. Mike Moser commented on the need to harmonise style for position statements. Eirene Williams proposed a more friendly style to the writing. Steve Pitcher said the statement was very balanced and reported that North Devon Plus was supportive and were in communications with the developers. Rose Day abstained from the vote on behalf of the AONB.</p> <p>Hawthorn A2N Bid The bid was submitted at the end of 2009 and some minor amendments were made during</p>	<p>AB will contact councillors and invite them to allocate their individual community grant towards biodiversity projects.</p> <p>RMD to ensure the proposals reflect the partnership's views.</p> <p>Position statement adopted subject to conformity in presentation style with other statements produced by the Partnership. AB to edit accordingly.</p>

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	<p>We should get a decision in July. There are links to Ilfracombe Healthy Town initiative which was supported by the AONB Sustainable Development Fund. The Museum service also has a range of cultural activities which we can learn from. There is a lot of evidence-based research that proves the health benefits.</p> <p>NDCCS Update: The Core Funding Group are working on getting a framework agreement for the Service. It comprises a covering statement and two agreements: one for the AONB and one for the Biosphere Team (BR, Tarka Trail, and SWCP). The initial Agreement will be for one year only, but it is hoped to extend for 3 years from 2011 to provide for greater stability for the Service. The agreement proposes that the name of the service will be changed to the North Devon AONB and Biosphere Service (NDABS), which will be helpful in streamlining branding.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Land Management and the Biosphere Reserve</p> <p>AB presentation: How should the Biosphere engage with integrated land management? The presentation highlighted the issues and processes around integrated land management based on some catchment modelling to adapt to climate change. It suggested that there was a need to build on previous initiatives, and simultaneous launch actions on the ground as well as pursuing further focused consultations. Activities could be implemented through the proposed 4 rivers project, and advised through the Environmental Quality Group</p> <p>FWAG presentation by Eirene Williams. Highlighted the work of FWAG for supporting biodiversity on farms and the types of integrated issues they tackled such as farm run-off and biodiversity.</p> <p>Forestry Commission presentation by Mark Durk: Highlighted the public benefit gained from woodlands, and the benefits of a major planting programme in terms of carbon sequestration, timber use and recreation/ non-timber products – http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infod-7v4gn9</p> <p>Briefing by Andrew Butler of the NFU; highlighted the challenges facing farmers and the role of the NFU. Currently 80% of farm turnover is from the CAP. The fact that livestock farming (main type in the Biosphere Reserve) is very marginal in terms of profit. 66% of the area is under Entry Level Stewardship and would welcome greater uptake to support the farmers. For the industry generally, Andrew quoted the government Chief Scientific Officer of the “perfect storm” of population growth and climate change putting increased stress on food production, water resource management and energy demands, and how the latter 2 increase as poverty decreases. NFU would like to see ecosystem services (or life support</p>	

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	<p>services) as being an added income stream for farmers.</p> <p>Presentations can be found on the Biosphere Reserve website.</p> <p>Coffee Break followed by viewing of the Biosphere Beach Clean video. – The chairman thanked all those involved, particularly Alison Heimann.</p> <p>Discussion Session comments: Key points: The position statement should provide a common view on what the Partnership is trying to achieve.</p> <p>Working Wetlands, looking at three areas across the Culm: Torridge and Tamar, Knowstone and Witheridge and Cookworthy: focussed on biodiversity and water management, phosphates and nitrates.</p> <p>Steve Pitcher commented on the change from funding incentives being shifted from setting up infrastructure to output (e.g. grants for renewable energy systems now funded by Feed in tariffs) and therefore it is easier to focus the funding on achieving the outcome required. He also reflected on the Exmoor Hill Farming project with South West Water's financial support and the benefits to tourism as well as the water industry.</p> <p>SWERDA are seeking larger projects for the RDPE and therefore this might fit.</p> <p>Focus on the implementation side; use early adopters and carry out some focussed work for demonstration sites through the 4 Rivers Project.</p> <p>Emma Herrera urged that recognition was made of what has already been done and what is being done and make sure the Partnership was filling a gap.</p> <p>Emma Richardson commented that the gap is future proofing, developing a common view on how things might change over the next fifty years. It was agreed that the Partnership should be proactive and avoid being reactive. Biosphere Reserves are perfectly placed to take up the challenge.</p> <p>It was agreed that participatory planning was important to the success of the programme but it needs to be carefully designed, and can build on what has already been done.</p> <p>Important to make a significant impact.</p>	<p>Agreed: Comments on Position Statement to TH within 3 weeks: ALL</p> <p>Strengthen the Environmental Quality Group to be the main project group for the 4 Rivers Project seeking to address the integrated land management issues and report back at the next meeting (07/09/10). TH</p>

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	<p>Recommendations: To task the Environmental Quality group to take forward the programme with added members as necessary. Mole Valley Farmers to be approached as a possible extra avenue to reach the farming community along with NFU.</p> <p>Strategic approach to be advanced by working with Environment Agency, Natural England and Forestry Commission to ensure research/strategic approach is up to date, taking a lead from the Foresight report mentioned in the papers. This work will inform the EQG on the approach and land-use mix.</p> <p>Barb Frances suggested that the work to date by the Biosphere Reserve Team will be very useful for the Local Development Framework for the 2 districts.</p> <p>The chairman asked that comments from partners be sent to Tom within two weeks. The EQG will report back at the next meeting when the partnership will sign off the position statement.</p>	<p>Investigate RDPE as a funding source. TH</p> <p>Gather evidence and current strategic work to inform the implementation: AB</p> <p>Forward information to LDF teams in the District Councils to support the LDF work. AB</p>
5.	<p>Report from North Devon Biosphere Foundation</p> <p>Presentation by Pete Jollands:</p> <p>Pete reported on the activities of the Foundation and updated the Partnership on the Visitor Investment Scheme.</p> <p>Key points were that the Foundation has only 3 directors. The Foundation has been supporting various activities such as “Seas for Life” and the Marine and Coastal Education Day at Croyde, events in the North Devon Festival and the Flying Fish exhibition due in September 2010. Currently the Foundation is developing the Visitor Investment Scheme for the Biosphere Reserve. They have been discussing with businesses the practicalities of such as scheme. The message from the tourism industry is “isn’t it cared for already?” He mentioned the information that they intend to produce for the scheme but it needs to be supported by a fresh Biosphere Reserve information leaflet. He called again for additional directors to assist the Foundation to develop. Linda Blanchard suggested that the work of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be incorporated into the Biosphere Reserve visitor investment proposal. It was stressed that the Coast path visitor payback should not compete with the Biosphere Reserve scheme and that collaboration was vital.</p> <p>Education Statement</p> <p>The chairman thanked and congratulated those involved, particularly David Weatherly, on a very important piece of work. Matt Edworthy outlined the document and put it into context. Comments are to be sent directly to Matt with 3 weeks. It was broadly welcomed; the “feel” of the document is very much “primary education” but the scope is more. It was suggested that tertiary education should be reflected in the document.</p> <p>The document will be promoted through the Devon Learning Partnership and the North Devon Academic Board and put on the website, once proofed.</p> <p>ME announced 2 Events are to be held on 21st and 25th May. One, a teacher training event</p>	<p>Nominations for Directors of the Foundation requested from all members. ALL</p>
6		<p>Forward Comments to Matt Edworthy within 3 weeks for the Education statement. ALL</p>

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7	<p>on Biosphere Reserves and the other is focussed on raising awareness. The latter may be cancelled as the take up has been minimal.</p> <p>Arts Strategy and Projects Mark Wallace outlined the strategy that was relatively light touch compared to that for the Jurassic Coast, but still provided a cogent direction for the arts and their relation to the Biosphere Reserve. It was suggested that the Museum Service might commission a cultural strategy. A sub group of the Outreach group will progress the strategy. Mark Wallace updated the partnership on the Confluence Project, which had been given approval to go to the next stage of application with LEADER4 and with Arts Council funding. Andy Bell announced the call for a possible Biosphere Reserve film to raise the profile as part of the international Biosphere Film and Photography festival being launched in Noosa, Australia in September 2010. Appledore Arts, Beaford arts, Petroc and Andy would canvass for films to review and send to Australia.</p>	<p>The partnership endorsed the strategy. Establish a sub group of the Outreach group for arts. ME/MW</p>
8	<p>AOB <i>Future Agendas:</i> – Biome approach has been used successfully, having covered a) Marine and b) Integrated Land Management. Suggest that next meeting addresses Urban environments including household responses to sustainability. Natural England would encourage green infrastructure as part of the discussion. Barb Frances suggest that the current TDC planning policy is not strong enough to protect green infrastructure. A meeting will be held in June to discuss the Green Infrastructure strategy. Peter Howard also suggested a meeting about Landscape generally. In 2011 we would return to agendas covering the BR strategic aims to ensure good delivery by end of the strategy period.</p> <p><i>Format of position statements</i> The styles are not very divergent and meet the needs according to the subject, language styles should be consistent. Bullet-style text is an effective way of presenting our position.</p> <p>Dates of next meetings 07/09/10, 18/01/11</p>	<p>Next meeting to cover “Urban” issues. 07/09/10</p>
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