



**BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Taw Room, Barnstaple Civic centre @ 13.30.**

**Members Present:**

Michael Winter (Chairman)  
 Mark Wallace (Vice-Chairman and Beaford Arts)  
 Richard Butler (BR Ambassador)  
 Lesley Garlick (Devon County Council)  
 Peter Howard  
 Tony Collier (BR Foundation)  
 Rodney Cann (NDC)  
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)  
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Area)  
 Laurence Couldrick (WRT)  
 David Appleton (Natural England)  
 Pete Jollands (BR Foundation)  
 Emma Richardson (Devon Wildlife Trust)  
 Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB)  
 Fiona Fraser-Smith (BR Foundation)

Hannah Harington (NDC)  
 Andrew Austen (NDC)  
 Phil Byers (Chamber of Commerce)

**BR Team Present:**

Andy Bell  
 Tom Hynes  
 Matt Edworthy  
 Kate Weld  
 Gigha Klinkenborg

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<b>1. Welcome from Chairman</b>	The Chairman made introductions and welcomed Partners.	
<b>2. Apologies &amp; Minutes</b>	Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman) Jenny Wallace (TDC) Alison Boyle Robert Down (Coastwise)  Minutes were agreed.	
<b>3. Matters arising</b>	<b>a )</b>  <b>i NIA Report – short report from Mike Moser</b>  The Annual Report is on the BR website.  Interreg project – on Blue Infrastructure around the Estuary.	

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	<p>Just under £1 million – 6 million euros for the entire programme. We have a good chance compared to other bids and we are cautiously optimistic.</p> <p><b>BR Externalisation Update</b>            LG - Whilst there has been no formal decision taken to abandon the proposed externalisation, the lack of agreement between the three local authorities has precluded the possibility of continuing with this at the present time. It has been the intention that the Biosphere Executive will now be considering other options, to secure a viable future.</p> <p>Rather than maintain the existing status quo, in the face of inevitable reductions in local authority funding in future years, consideration is being given to two, inter-related strategies:</p> <p>To secure external funding to offset the reduction in local authority contributions, so helping to maintain the contracts of existing Team members, in addition to supporting relevant project activity to deliver the Biosphere Strategy.</p> <p>To look at changes to the broader governance of the Biosphere Reserve (i.e. as highlighted through the earlier Review discussions) in the hope that this might provide a stronger basis for its future operation.</p> <p>Both of these issues are the subject of separate reports to this meeting of the Partnership.</p> <p>Following this meeting, the Executive, or its successor body, will consider in more detail the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the Partnership discussion, pursue any relevant options, and report further on progress at the next meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>ii. Marine Working Group</b>            Working with FLAG on skates and rays project – on a fisheries improvement plan monitoring rays.</p> <p><b>iii. CaBA</b>            LS said that There will be a 20th October event for sharing and ground-truthing the projects and what is appropriate to develop.</p> <p><b>iv. Strategy Consultation</b>            Strategy consultation – no critical comments</p> <p>Within 8 weeks – strategy will be adopted</p> <p><b>v. Periodic review and zonation (verbal update AB)</b>            Periodic Review &amp; Zonation – Lundy – an extra core area</p> <p>It was suggested that the next meeting should be on</p>	<p><b>AB to circulate the periodic review as the draft continues and to continue dialogue with</b></p>

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	<p>Lundy?</p> <p><b>vi. Engaging Business (verbal update PB)</b> PB Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September for key larger businesses in the area</p> <p>AB - Gateway signage – what is possible?</p> <p>LG - Need to adapt existing signage rather than adding new signage as Highways don't want additional signs</p> <p>PB – Development of a smart phone app linked to the BR</p> <p>MM – suggested a letter to the Leader of the County Council</p>	<p><b>Lundy.</b></p> <p><b>AB to draft letter to Chief Exec of DCC to request that the signage project can go ahead.</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Governance Structure: a discussion document of the broader governance of the Biosphere Reserve (to follow from Mark Wallace)</b> M Wallace explained the paper which assesses the short- and medium- term risks to designation management following DCC's ultimately inconclusive review.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Partnership should establish a core management group, with members drawn from those partners currently active on designation-related projects, to oversee medium-term strategic planning and delivery.</li> <li>• the new core management group should consider seeking independent legal advice, and advice from UK MAB, on the range of possible structures through which the designation could be coordinated locally.</li> <li>• the Partnership should reaffirm the essential role of ongoing support from DCC, NDDC, and TDC in coordinating the designation.</li> </ul> <p>Thank were expressed to Mark Wallace for the paper.</p> <p><b>Core Management Group –</b> DWT keen to be part of the group – delivery and shaping strategy LC – WRT seconded, the need to play to all strengths is key. LG – more partners, sharing expertise is supported by DCC RC – District funding is there MM- consider the spectrum of a hybrid LA/NGO approach PH – More democratic legitimacy is required so we are not viewed as a group of scientific busybodies! Also geographical membership needed – Dartmoor and West</p>	<p><b>Agreed: to set up a Core Management Group to subsume the role of the Executive Funding Group</b> Initial Core Group Membership: to include the executive group members plus (DCC, North Devon District Council, Torridge District Council) Emma Richardson (to represent DWT and WRT) David Appleton (representing Defra family) Chairman and or Vice Chairs.</p>

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	<p>Devon</p> <p>The group should be drawn from Partnership members and we must keep in mind how the group will be refreshed.</p> <p>Suggested membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGO</li> <li>• Statutory</li> <li>• Foundation</li> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Chairs</li> </ul> <p>Pete Jollands, Phil Byers, Mark Wallace, Michael Winter, David Appleton – we will ask the District to put forward names.</p>	
	<b>Coffee break</b>	
4B	<p><b>Governance Structure and Working Groups</b></p> <p>The Partnership considered the paper about rationalising the working groups and how they would report/work with the Biosphere Reserve partnership to extend their work and stakeholder engagement but still be rationalised. There was concern that farming was at risk of slipping through the net. Therefore it was recommended to be part of the Green Economy Working Group.</p> <p>ME presented a draft ToR for the community working group. The terms were broadly accepted but it was stressed that the group needs to eventually have contact with the community and be representative and democratic. This group in the interim would investigate it can add value to the existing community groups around the Biosphere Reserve.</p>	<p><b>Agreed Groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment Management.</li> <li>• Community Group</li> <li>• Forestry WEZ board</li> <li>• Green Economy</li> <li>• Marine Working group</li> <li>• NIA SG</li> <li>• Research and Evidence Group</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy group</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed;</b> Gaye labor to be chair of the Community Forum and to join the partnership as an independent person chairing the Community Forum.</p>
6.	<p><b>Strategic Funding Paper and Action Plan (3 papers circulated)</b></p> <p>This subject was deferred to next meeting due to lack of time</p>	
7.	<p><b>Branding and Guidelines (ME/KW) to run a workshop session how we can apply the new guidelines and toolkit for Biosphere Branding from UNESCO.</b></p> <p>Workshop on the branding and communication using the toolkit.</p>	

<b>Item</b>	Issues	Action agreed
	<b>Date of next meetings – Doodle for the next three meetings</b>	<b>GK</b>