



BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

11th July 2019
Hallsannery, Bideford

Members Present:

Mel Austen (Chairperson)
 Mark Wallace (Vice Chairman & Beaford Arts)
 Tony Collyer (Biosphere Foundation)
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Group)
 Andrew Austen (NDC)
 Mark Prior (Forestry Commission)
 Robert Down (Coastwise)
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)
 Kirstie Pritchard (DCC)
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)
 Andrew Butler (NFU)
 Brett Grosvenor (Environment Agency)
 Phil Byers (Vice Chairman & BR Foundation)
 Peter Howard
 Cllr. Ken James
 Pete Jollands (BR Foundation)
 Peter Stapley (Torrige District Council)
 Clare Kemp (West Devon Borough Council)
 Martin Batt (North Devon AONB)
 David Hoare (for Peter Heaton-Jones MP)
 Dr James Szymankiewicz (Health)
 Chris Fuller (Torrige District Council)

BR Team Present:

Andy Bell
 Jane Hart
 Chrissie Ingle
 Phil Metcalfe
 Sophia Craddock
 Gigha Klinkenborg
 Amelia Newman

Guests

Jane Gitau (Kenya Wildlife Service)
 Dadley Kiluhula Tsignyiu (Kenya Wildlife Service)

Item	Notes	Actions agreed
1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions	Mel Austen updated partners with information on her background and she welcomed members and guests.	
2 Apologies	Jenny Carey-Wood, Tim Jones, Emma Richardson	
3 Minutes and matters arising	The minutes were agreed with one amendment.	

Pledge for Nature – Mike Moser – Excellent coverage and sharing through partners and especially on social media. Thanks to Ali Heimann (Grassroots Communications), also to Tony Collyer, Penny Mason and Gigha.

The NLHF Application went in last Thursday and we hope to be running by December.

The campaign has had a huge impact on the awareness of the Biosphere. Followers have increased by 70% and we've over 2300 shares.

AONB Health & Wellbeing – Martin Batt. Nature's Tonic could raise awareness of the AONB & BR. Working jointly with Devon Voluntary Services, green prescribing is proving a connection with nature in three GP areas in North Devon. Focusing on green and blue assets to provide more connections with nature. Bringing different organisations together to reduce barriers to involvement. Health and environment sectors joining together. £30k in total.

Bird disturbance – NE/AONB
Martin Batt.
Report commissioned on disturbance around the estuary. Recommendations – reduction of disturbance to high tide roost areas, particularly by dogs. Use zoning interpretations – dog control mechanism – public space protection order which is a LA method. Yelland power station condition – control the dogs and there will be a warden present. Also use of volunteers, educate the public. AA - the Public Space Protection Order will be out for consultation from

	<p>NDC asking if it's appropriate for dogs to be controlled in key areas.</p> <p>LS – DWT are also looking at their policy for dogs</p> <p>JTT – issues of displacement? AB - will be included in work.</p>	
<p>4. Updates from Working Groups</p>	<p>Nature Improvement Group- LS Pledge for nature, now prioritise our own priorities – need to break down into individual projects as most of the current projects will come to end in 2020/2021.</p> <p>Input to ELM project ongoing and NC strategy. Ash die back project – focussing on trees outside woodlands – NLHF project will focus on a number of parishes across the County. Bid will be submitted in August.</p> <p>Looking at rewilding in North Devon, what and where. KP mentioned ash die back on the DCC website plus responsibility for trees on land project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEG projects going well: Torridge River Restoration Project – training up soils advisors for Devon and Cornwall. • Woods for water, ENP funding for non-native invasive species, thanks to Brett and the EA for their help. • Catchment partnership looking at catchment plan and EA, post EU exit. <p>Trickier priorities, such as CSF – low level of awareness/knowledge of</p>	

farmers of their water responsibilities.
Catchment partnership now moving to be hosted by DWT – was WRT and DWT.

Green Economy – Phil Byers
17th October Viridor event – inviting 30 schools & teaching children about sustainability. 10 kids will be designated as Sustainability Ambassadors.

25 businesses there as well to show good examples. AB will give a talk – call on partners for help with that.

Digital Biosphere – draft paper presented. Petroc has joined the steering group which has a good range of people. How to build the brand of the Biosphere and raise the economic possibilities of the Biosphere – clear focus on green industry and environment, and young people, MSc students, PhD research projects – aiming for academic institutes to have an outpost within BR. BR connecting to the LEP industrial strategy through this mechanism.

Research and Evidence
Apologies from MW

Communities group – Following on from Rosemoor event. Use partnership network to help to identify uncommitted majority. Plastic free ND consortium secured seed funding from NDC BR AONB TDC, which has been topped up. Report from Dominic will go to PFND consortium. Evidence – LNP held a ‘Communities Conference’, was overlooked by Parish Councils–

Digital BR concept Endorsed by BR partnership

120 places, 160 applicants. Two key things came out – 1. how do PCs tap in to unconnected majority, 2 how do we know that they are doing is having an impact? BR partnership can be the link. Next steps are funding bid for staff and progress of PFND and BR umbrella function (Pledge 4 Nature, ash dieback, etc)

Plastic free – driving work and have put together multi-year programme to support PF communities

MW/AB proposed PF becomes a member of Partnership and recognise it as a working group – then they can be the technical voice across international platform of biospheres.

MP -Woodland forum not met recently. 25YEP - woodland planting in Cumbria, could be replicated in North Devon. Woods for water project ongoing – on BR website SW forest planting scheme ended 2010, Now looking through old schemes to learn from past work to inform future work

Remote sensing – for woodland – can identify sites where felling, restocking has taken place. SWEEP is looking at BR how to use it to do habitat mapping particularly around woods, trends in changes. LS – talk to Ed Parr Ferris.

FC have a forestry and climate change plan, involvement of North Devon Biosphere Reserve and Sweden

Ash die back – Devon at forefront DCC working with different orgs. Good start.

Invasive species work –oak processional moth- outbreak

proposal – to contact Claire about time commitment (James can sit in if needed) and Invite PFND to sit on partnership Agreed by partnership

form nursery stock form Netherlands – tracing them but none yet identified in Devon. Possibly a future import ban on oak seedlings might be implemented

FC following devolution is now FC England – it is the centenary year. Killerton House has exhibition due to the Acland report being commissioned from there. 9th December celebration – avenue of tree planting At (Eggesford)

LS - HLF – conservation communities project – working with Devon Biodiversity Records Office, around Torrington parishes.

Peter Howard – reporting of issues from Parish Councils to BR, now have parish clerks list. need to find volunteers but reticence because they are ‘not an expert’. Hope that there will be a spread of expertise in each of the parishes. Not just to report to us but create a network across parishes
Problems with trust – perception that BR will tell them what to do. Present draft advice for PC reporters. Would welcome any comments on draft documents. News will go out on (Devon Assoc. Local Councils) newsletter. Want to progress this in September. PH happy to be centre of ‘Spiders web’, in first instance but need support. Hope that there will be interest in the parish councils wanting to meet up at which PH will come back to Partnership to ask for help with that. PB – difficult to communicate at PC level, what will happen to information? Hopefully it will be

**Action – PH to call a meeting to tease out details of pilot
Endorsed by the partnership**

	<p>basis for project – only list information at the moment, would like Partnership to be involved in their Parishes. AA – what is it you want? PH – baseline first (current projects). We need to get the ‘ask’ right first time. TC – It might be better to pilot this with a cooperative PC. MA – would link to digital biosphere. MW – would fit very well with portfolio of community work.</p>	
<p>5. Update on Landscape Pioneer</p>	<p>Landscape Pioneer - JTT Testing 25YEP in local place- Tim Juniper new NE chair Busy pulling together Natural Capital Strategy in next few week – have taken it back in house. Four investment cases, woodland hub (how to tap into finance on a big scale), Net gain being looked at. Defra agreed ELMs project (not best version but one that is still useful) across 3 landscape areas. LP board meeting looking at lessons – would be good to hear from Partners about how useful pioneers have been. Place based governance – more efficient, more effective – what part will BRP want to play. Will inform joint Marine and Landscape pioneer discussion.</p>	
<p>6. Update on Marine Pioneer</p>	<p>Marine Pioneer - CI Natural Capital Asset and risk register published which forms the basis for Marine Natural Capital Plan with all the other useful bits of the pioneer. This is to help local decision makers to incorporate Nature into their decisions. Fisheries research and management plan application submitted – ecosystem</p>	

	<p>approach to fisheries management factoring not only fishing but other industries that impact fish stocks.</p> <p>Student placement Amelia Newman has been a great help. Marine Working Group looked at things they would like to see in the Marine Natural Capital Plan and whether they would like to be involved – also how they communicate with their groups. Will look at new way of working with Marine Working Group – smaller cross sector information meetings and task and finish expert groups.</p> <p>New Economic Foundation report published on community-based fisheries options for management.</p> <p>Had meeting with Defra Marine and Fisheries policy people - ideas were well received.</p>	
<p>7. Kenya Guest presentation from Malindi Watamu Arabuko Sokoke Forest Biosphere</p>	<p>Presentation from Jane and Dadley of Kenya Wildlife Reserve</p>	<p>MM – Suggest an Annual Webinar rather than travelling to/from Kenya</p> <p>JS – Women and contraception</p> <p>Other suggestions: Detailed agreements and sharing. Value of wildlife tourism. Wildlife tourism is at the heart of Northam Burrows. Foundation – funding strategy Learning from Natural Capital.</p>
<p>8. Mid-term review of strategy</p> <p>a. Progress b. Indicators c. Risk register</p>		
<p>9. Biosphere Reserve and Climate Emergency</p>	<p>BR response to Climate emergency – various groups contributing – resurrect the climate change group? How does what different groups do contribute to Devon plan and also how we fit with Devon Plan.</p>	<p>Agreed to sign declaration and add climate change as an item for WGs to report on.</p> <p>ACTION: aim hold Partnership meetings in areas that are easy to get to using public transport.</p>

	<p>Looking particularly on energy and energy efficiency – Devon consortium for energy assists community energy plans. If we had a climate change group they could look at what energy efficiencies can be done and will then be the technical group to support green economy group.</p> <p>AB proposal: that BR partnership sign up to the climate change declaration.</p> <p>Issues with individual partners and how that fits with their organisations either not yet signed up or not happy with 2050 date. The Devon target of 2050 is absolute, hopefully earlier. AB – individual entities are encouraged to sign up but it's the BR aim to be signed up</p> <p>Must be an item on the partnership agenda – working group reporting for example?</p> <p>MA – what about a cross working group? LS- may reduce the WG appetite to do stuff themselves – keep within groups.</p> <p>LS – Do something on farming – NFU are engaged with Devon climate crisis group.</p> <p>MW – European biospheres conference in Dublin – good network of communities engaging with these questions - develop international profile.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p>	<p>(PH referred to a new European grant through European Social Fund</p> <p>CI – Wave Rangers project targeting hard to reach young</p>	<p>Action: (PH) to send around to partnership</p>

	<p>people – are looking for another partner to deliver a day long activity for a group of 6 to 10 people as the people who they had planned to work with in August had dropped out (detail in paper sent prior to meeting).</p>	<p>Action: all partners to contact Leah at Wave Project if they can help or know anyone who might be interested in helping.</p>
<p>11. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting: TBA</p>	