



**BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
Umberleigh Village Hall @ 13.30.**

**Members Present:**

Michael Winter (Chairman)  
 Lesley Garlick (Devon County Council)  
 Andrew Austen (NDC)  
 Phil Byers (Vice-Chair & Chamber of Commerce)  
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Area)  
 Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB)  
 Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman)  
 Eirene Williams (PETROC)  
 Mark Wallace (Vice-Chairman & Beaford Arts)  
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)  
 Adrian Dowding (WRT)  
 Andrew Butler (NFU)  
 Pete Jollands (Biosphere Foundation)  
 Cllr. Rodney Cann  
 Peter Howard(Landscape Research Group)

Tony Collyer (Biosphere Foundation)  
 Robert Down (Coastwise)  
 Emma Richardson (DWT)  
 Richard Butler (BR Ambassador)

**BR Team Present:**

Andy Bell  
 Matt Edworthy  
 Gigha Klinkenberg

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<b>1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions</b>	The Chairman made introductions, welcomed Partners and apologised for the long gap since the last Partnership meeting. The date was put off while waiting for definitive news on the Biosphere restructure, although there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes. The chairman thanked Brett, Emma, Mark, Phil, and Lesley as well as Andy and the Team. It's been a tough time and this is likely to be the last meeting of this structure. In future it will be the working groups.	
<b>2. Apologies</b>	Christine Goodall, Gaye Tabor, John Balls, Tony Pratt, Tom Hynes, Lewis Andrews, Brett Grosvenor, Mark Prior. Parking: Cllr. Rodney Cann couldn't find a parking space at the last meeting.	<b>GK to check parking arrangements and directions</b>
<b>3. Minutes</b>	Minutes were agreed.	

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<p><b>4. Matters arising</b></p> <p>#</p>	<p>Consultation on visitor payback – partners were asked to feedback o Andy.</p> <p>Highways Signs: Designs for new signs will be ready early on in the new financial year.</p> <p>Anaerobic digestion position now on the website.</p> <p>Meeting with Exmoor National Park next month</p> <p>Workshop outcome – there will be an update later in the meeting</p> <p>Invasive species – invasive weed analysis was discussed at the catchment group and they will be taking it forward.</p>	<p><b>CMG: to report back at next partnership.</b></p> <p><b>LG will feedback to Sarah and Tom</b></p>
<p><b>5. Feedback from working groups</b></p>	<p>The working groups have been looking at BR targets and will be completing a report based on the achievement on the targets. A spreadsheet streamlining those targets has necessitated fewer groups and fewer targets. It was noted that the catchment group is covering agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A separate marketing group is a possibility</li> <li>• The marine group is being shaped by the Marine Pioneer</li> <li>• Green economy and Energy will be combined</li> <li>• NIA group have expanded to include the TAW as well</li> <li>• Wider groups will be taking the agenda forward not just the core team.</li> <li>• Groups need a standard reporting structure</li> </ul> <p>Some agriculture is dealt with through the Catchment group who are looking for additional people for agriculture and local land owners too.</p> <p>Community group – marketing needs strengthening as well as public health.</p> <p>Peter H was in agreement that more marketing is needed – he mentioned considerable research has been carried out on Health and Nature.</p> <p>Eirene W also reported research being carried out at Petroc on a smaller scale called 'Arts on Prescription'.</p> <p>Marketing and communication for the BR is very important – we need to identify a lead for KML2</p> <p>Green economy/energy – we have lost a member from 361 energy – we need new energy expertise</p>	<p><b>Emma, Andy &amp; Brett will produce a template</b></p> <p><b>Peter H will follow-up</b></p>

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6.	<p>The green group can look at evidence – it should be incorporated in future planning - make is a target to implement in local plan. There is plenty of time as it is a 20 year strategy.</p> <p>It is intended to broaden the NIA geography and expand the remit of the steering group to become the working group. They will be meeting in April and will talk to other disunited areas. Defra will need to be formally contacted.</p> <p>Invasive species – the NIA group and catchment group as well. This puts the onus on the working groups who will need more support/coordination from the BR team.</p> <p>We will carry out an assessment of what each group needs. Some will need more resources and some more strategic help.</p> <p>Resources are declining so it will be tough. Once the Marine Pioneer project coordinator is in place this will ease slightly.</p> <p>Development and planning work will be done largely by Andy and the team. Planning activities should be delivering no net loss. The working group can't scrutinize individual developments – just have a strategic stance.</p> <p>Make sure Plymouth and West Down are in the local plan.</p> <p>ENV3 – Land has been trashed before biodiversity offsets but is now being damaged before application. We need a condition assessment of land involved in the development plan. Enforcement has lost its way – we need to be more bold.</p> <p>Biosphere will make representations to Leaders Team</p> <p>Core Funding Update: Following several years of deliberation and a need for significant action the Core management group have been working with DCC to explore options. A report of requirements has been produced. DCC is committed to the survival of the Biosphere. DCC will continue to support with core funding and we are very grateful for their support.</p> <p>A formal consultation will be taking place over the next few weeks and should be concluded by August. Phil Norrey recognises the value of the Biosphere. Andy and the team have been very successful in bringing in funding.</p>	<p><b>Who ?</b></p> <p><b>M Winter</b></p>

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	<p>The issue of externalisation has not been abandoned – some secondment with the BR Foundation is under review.</p> <p>T Collyer: There is an opportunity to take over more direct management of the team, with Local Authority funding through the BR Foundation. Talks are needed with DWT – we need to strengthen the board of the Foundation.</p> <p>L Garlick: The DDC secondment policy is being looked into. It's an incremental journey and the end point is not clear. What the BR does is most important. Working group strength is very important.</p> <p>Matt asked if partners were clear about the level of staff for 2017-18. The role of working groups was to deliver outputs.. Need to recognise how little staff resource they will be.</p> <p>The Community group needs looking at in more detail.</p> <p>MMoser: It may be better to have task groups – see how it works. We need to get better at using volunteers, but volunteers need management. Marketing and PR will be central.</p> <p>North Devon Catchment Partnerships – proposal of a landscape partnership bid – the area identified is not meeting the criteria – only 200ha. This is now on hold. CP has agreed to look at the Estuary.</p> <p>Link Road mitigation meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April – The Biosphere Partnership should attend the meeting. SP – Diffuse Pollution and Sails – Biosphere wide with concentration on Hartland.</p> <p>Potential HLF project for the Estuary basin. Phase 1 bid by end of May – more managed realignment – creating salt marshes to replace freshwater grazing marsh elsewhere. Potentially £50k, then £150k per year.</p> <p>There are potentially 11 projects in development and a new list from last week's meeting.</p> <p>The TTEF has no resources.</p> <p>RCann – the Estuary is under significant threat and this will impact on the core of the Biosphere. He is in favour of anything we can do to strengthen the landscape of the Estuary.</p> <p>Marine Pioneer This includes 1km inland. SPitcher is in agreement in principle but we need to get the content right and only make the bid when we are happy. Realistically, it may not be until May 2018.</p> <p>Presentation by JT-Thompson – Defra Pioneers</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree a Natural Capital approach</li> <li>• Water and carbon – easy to measure</li> <li>• Set of indices – will aid decision making</li> <li>• Need to make sure there is good alignment with the Facilitation Fund groups within the Biosphere area.</li> </ul> <p>Extension of Chairmanship: RCann – very happy with the current chairman. He has been doing an excellent job and happy to continue. At the end of 2 years, we will need a new chairman of a very similar stature.</p> <p>Marine Pioneer Management Plan</p> <p>Working with fishermen out to 20 miles, including MCZ, plus 1 km inland. Slight overlap with the Terrestrial Pioneer.</p> <p>Marine Environment Research Project (MARP) Stakeholder meeting in Instow on 27<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>We need more marine representation on the Partnership – next meeting on the coast to see something marine – plus optional field trip.</p> <p>Any other business MEdwothy – May is Naturally Healthy Month – there will be activities that demonstrate positive health improvements. The aim is to get inactive people in the natural environment. April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.</p> <p>RButler – more plain English is needed in documentation etc.</p> <p>NHS fund would be passed onto community group. Working together with Andrea. National Park and Public Health, Marine and Freshwater environments linked.</p> <p>LGarlick – LNP Annual Lecture is on April 6<sup>th</sup> on Natural Capital at the University of Exeter.</p>	