



## BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
Winkleigh Community Centre @ 13.30.**

**Members Present:**

Michael Winter (Chairman)  
 Lesley Garlick (Devon County Council)  
 Andrew Austen (NDC)  
 Phil Byers (Vice-Chairman & Chamber of Commerce)  
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Area)  
 Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB)  
 Steve Pitcher (AONB Chairman)  
 Eirene Williams (PETROC)  
 Nick Kirsop-Taylor (University of Exeter)  
 Mark Wallace (Vice-Chairman & Beaford Arts)  
 John Holmes (Natural England)  
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)  
 Adrian Dowding (WRT)  
 Andrew Butler (NFU)  
 Lewis Andrews (TDC)

Brett Grosvenor (EA)  
 Emma Richardson (DWT)  
 Richard Butler (BR Ambassador)

**BR Team Present:**

Andy Bell  
 Tom Hynes  
 Matt Edworthy  
 Phil Metcalfe

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<p><b>1.</b>  <b>Introduction and comments from the Chairman</b></p>	<p>The Chairman made introductions and welcomed Partners.</p> <p><b>Brexit</b> = Uncertainty now. Universities are really affected.            Agri-Environment schemes – future uncertain            Defra – George Eustace in place (farming). Two new ministers, Andrea Leadsom – Secretary of State and Therese Coffey as Minister for biodiversity..</p> <p><b>North Devon</b> – part of a bid to NERC for impact bid led by Ian Bateman and Plymouth University. If successful, lots of work for Biosphere and North Devon. Ideal place to host Impact Fellows who will take our ideas/research to stakeholders.            Detailed plan to follow for 2 years, after that, following three more – flexible. We need to define what we would like from the programme.</p> <p>The research income is a testament to the pulling power if the BR designation/Partnership.</p>	
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p>Gigha Klinkenborg, Cllr Chugg, Peter Howard, Cllr</p>	

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<b>Apologies</b>	Rodney Cann,	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	Minutes were agreed.	
<b>4. Core Management Group</b>	<p>Very important role re finances/externalisation – critical role for assessing and improving management in September this year. 18<sup>th</sup> September DCC aired current thinking - increasing convergence with the members of the CMG.</p> <p>MWallace – share BR thinking Externalisation of the core team remains as a desired outcome Some kind of secondment is being looked at which provide no financial risk to the hosting body and avoids risk to the core team members.</p> <p>Finances – We are grateful to County &amp; Districts for maintaining funding - Will increasingly decline but the pace is not defined - Moving towards a new settlement – likely to be agreed in September - More effort needed on management and governance through a “director of operations” to support the Working groups and report progress. - Communication between sub-groups etc. Needs to be strengthened</p>	<b>CMG: to report back at next partnership.</b>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Updates</b> Verges Project has been submitted to HLF awaiting decisions. Define Verges Trees on verges DCC are becoming more sympathetic to trees</p> <p>Interreg – Bio-cultural Heritage Tourism Partners include Brighton, AudoMarois and Iroise Biosphere reserves– bid re-formatted – still allowed to apply for Interreg despite vote to leave EU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliverable – ecotourism master plan – managing visitors – spreading impact managing the honey pots better and developing in areas of opportunity</li> <li>• Development of business networks and training</li> <li>• Will have a plants focus – horticulture – Rosemoor as included themes, but others will emerge</li> <li>• Profit Net from Brighton University providing business advice – try to train people</li> <li>• Marketing element led by Pas de Calais tourism with local agency inclusion.</li> </ul> <p>Tourism visitor payback for BRs ~ 4 million Euros, ~ 800k in each site</p>	

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	<p>Limited to 20% capital. Short of match funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can be in kind or real funds</li> <li>- Private sector very important</li> <li>- Need about 70-80k overall (match from BR team = 2 x 0.5fte)</li> </ul> <p>Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> October  <b>Action: Consultation is now so feed ideas in to Andy now</b></p> <p>NIA - Paper tabled  MMoser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More funding now than core from Defra in phase 1</li> <li>- Community and ecology side needs work – falling short</li> <li>- Therefore NIA looking at its governance/extent etc.</li> </ul> <p>EmmaR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Culm grassland bid (Interreg) has been successful</li> <li>- ~ 8 million over lots of places, ~900k over 4/5 years</li> <li>- Covers culm NCA</li> <li>- Flood defence focus – natural capital – culm recreation, restoration on flooding mitigation.</li> </ul> <p>BrettG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlights good work going on in Somerset – natural flood risk management could be a future focus in the BR.</li> </ul> <p>Letter to Rory Stewart a few months ago – reply today. Didn't over commit but did say landscape scale would be strong in Defra's 25-year plan.</p> <p>Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impasse with DCC over signs on major roads</li> <li>- Hatoc meeting (NDC &amp; DCC) – officer responded without too much enthusiasm but districts stepped in as County wouldn't</li> <li>- NDC to do this on the A361 – AB showed some designs to show principle</li> <li>- Still awaiting final DCC approval.</li> <li>- Could be referred to private sector to show their support for the BR</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion: Position statement will be published within 2 weeks.</p>	<p><b>ALL: Consultation is now so feed ideas in to Andy now</b></p> <p><b>AB: will progress signage with DCC and districts on A39 and A361</b></p> <p><b>AB Publish the position statement on the website and inform partnership</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Periodic Review/Zoning</b></p> <p><b>UNESCO</b> Man &amp; Biosphere International Coordinating Council feedback.</p> <p>The NDBR is a model BR for others to follow; the partnership is encouraged to:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- twin on catchment issues</li> <li>- Share practices re catchment participatory planning</li> <li>- Enlarge core components using SACs</li> <li>- Have marine core</li> </ul> <p>AB showed map that was published in the Periodic Review Report as sample of potential ideas for zoning.</p> <p>1% Core, 3-4% Buffer and the rest % Transition which is disproportionate.</p> <p>Therefore the option to include other SACs/MCZs (representing a variety of habitats) as core areas – which would then be buffered with appropriate designations.</p> <p>The benefit is that the number of cores should increase relevance to people so that they see the benefits coming from moors, wetlands ad forest and therefore their link to them.</p> <p>Support and advice re SACs/Cores – management continues through normal structures/processes and organisations so that there is no extra burden on the managing bodies.</p> <p>NT &amp; Lundy are keen ENP – say it could coincide with a review of their management structures.</p> <p>Take place over 2-3 years</p> <p>AAusten</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core area include Dartmoor could encourage West Devon Council to take part</li> <li>Each core need a buffer depending on the nature of the site, how big and where it is.</li> <li>- Could be a SSSI</li> <li>- Other sites have used agri- environment agreements but not viable due to uncertainty</li> <li>- AONB (all or part) could be a buffer around the SACs Some with ENP.</li> <li>- Lundy no-take zone/MCZ = buffer</li> </ul> <p>JCW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why are you doing? – increases complexity</li> <li>- What advantages? – Could this cut resources</li> </ul> <p>AB responds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It helps to strengthen connection between people and the relevant important biodiversity areas especially for those who live a long way from Braunton. It's the special sites near them</li> <li>- Lots of types of habitat/very special – work together as a matrix linked by water and catchments. Catchment approach</li> </ul> <p>E Williams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be aware of designation overload!</li> </ul> <p>AB</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Core areas are protected for the BR anyway. This brings the added value of linking special areas with each other and with people.</li> </ul> <p>JCW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why not areas of threat/problems?</li> </ul> <p>AB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The statutory framework is built around protected sites and extending from them. The framework states that the core areas need to be managed for the long term.</li> </ul> <p>SPitcher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The core areas exemplars of good practice to which the rest of the area should aspire – Good message.</li> </ul> <p>BrettG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are applying guidance from MAB. It helps explain and highlight the message of high quality/exemplars/linkage</li> <li>- It won't affect how they are managed. <b>Approved</b></li> </ul> <p>The next steps is to consult with partners to say it's okay and then put in a nomination amendment.</p> <p>MarkW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We should involve the committee forum from the start – re-grounding the message</li> </ul> <p>Need to arrange well with landowners/MOD/Farmers etc.</p>	<p><b>AB to develop consultations with partners on way forward. Then produce a road map for altering the configuration.</b></p> <p><b>AB/ME to involve the Community Group in the process.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Jo Trail-Thompson – Defra 25-year plan</b></p> <p>Pioneer context is important as what it will do John Holmes to introduce context – paper circulated</p> <p>Consultation is being encouraged on the Defra website.</p> <p>Pillars – Nat Capital and accounting into decision making</p> <p>Imp delivering into local ownership</p> <p>-operational boundaries align better</p> <p>Joint plans – for NE Defra - Devon &amp; Cornwall</p> <p>Financing and regulating smartly</p> <p>Connecting people and environment across the country.</p> <p>Defra want 4 Pioneers to test this –</p> <p>2 in the North – Manchester/Cumbria</p> <p>1 in North Devon</p> <p>1 Marine one – location to be decided</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>RDown</p> <p>Picks up how difficult it is to persuade companies to invest in the environment.</p> <p>SPitcher</p> <p>Definitions of value – are we talking about market value or wellbeing value? Wellbeing value.</p> <p>Michael Winter supports this – by taking</p>	

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	<p>economic/market value to wellbeing outcomes.</p> <p>AAusten What are the opportunities to get involved?</p> <p>JTT Reason that ND has one, is largely because of the BR Partnership/lots going on, lots of designation and innovation. 2 big opportunities:     (1) Natural Capital Framework     (2) Improving Defra families' way of working The end of the Pioneer (in 3 years' time) would look like –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shared evidence base of Natural Capital</li> <li>- Shared/ integrated delivery plan with some innovative projects</li> <li>- Governance structure with working groups – in the BR</li> <li>- Design principles – underpin how pioneer is put together plus how it will implement</li> </ul> <p>JTT wants to hear from us about how the pioneer goes forward – eg. Community forum.</p> <p>Defra wants to look at where the money comes into the area from and explore how it supports natural capital. Therefore a set of natural capital accounts – will help drive investment/innovation over the next 25 years.</p> <p>MWinter Views this as a massive injection of intellectual capital if not funds. It will allow us to take forward our thinking/new funds/ It's a big accolade to have a Defra Pioneer. MW would like an agreement to support this.</p> <p>Any thoughts?</p> <p>RDown What is the deliverable? – Undecided, but it is likely to include an integrated delivery plan and begin to accounts – it's up to us to influence.</p> <p>SPitcher Natural Capital and Health – cross-cutting – shouldn't lose this. It should be a priority.</p> <p>EWilliams Area? Most of the BR Area, eg. Devon part of the Culm NCA. Data availability will help define the area. Defra want non-pioneer areas to take up good practice where it exists.</p> <p>MMoser Important to fix a baseline/define it so that we can see how we've improved. It's an opportunity to look at the BRs ways of working as well as Defra family.</p>	<p><b>Agreed:</b> BR Partnership welcomes and approves and will play its part.</p> <p><b>JTT:</b> Governance</p>

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	<p>AButler Pioneer should integrate into other government departments not just Defra. Nat. Cap. Committee represents other departments so that should help us. Link to the farming 25 year plan also</p>	<p>structure and link to the BR partnership to be established and clarified.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Strategic Actions and Prioritisation – Brett &amp; Emma –</p> <p>have been asked to start groundwork for funding strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at what's going on</li> <li>- What's needed to achieve policies</li> <li>- Who needs to be there</li> <li>- Funding</li> </ul> <p>Brett didn't feel this journey was well understood amongst the groups – hence the workshops.</p> <p>Feedback given from exercise – post-its collected/analysed</p> <p>NIA – thinking the NIA group might better morph to Biodiversity policies.</p> <p>NIA/BR branding Comms need not be just the community group – need a cross-cutting task force to deal with this across groups.</p> <p>Emma - 4 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor tweaks to group</li> <li>- Refinement of targets/policies</li> <li>- Review strategy part way through – could be look at changing the wording – link to pioneer process</li> <li>- Comms point</li> </ul> <p>MW – worried about agriculture – where does that fit? Are we capturing it properly? Probably, not quite. MMoser facilitation funds can help with this.</p> <p>SPitcher – suggests we tip energy groups into green economy as market dictates progress.</p>	<p><b>BG and ER will analyse the outcomes of the workshop and make recommendations for CMG to bring to the partnership.</b></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>UKMAB update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IoM have signs everywhere</li> <li>- ¾ of people seemed to know that the BR is something to cherish</li> <li>- What are we going to do about this here?</li> <li>- Ministers etc. are backing the BR hard with their time</li> <li>- Isle of Wight working to be a BR – following Manx example – pro-forma</li> <li>- Lots of good thing said about wester Ross</li> <li>- Galloway &amp; South Ayrshire having UK BR networking conference in October – hosted by Dumfries &amp; Galloway (3-4 places per BR)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Anyone wishing to attend EuroMAB in France to contact AB for info, AB to circulate</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Devon going to share experience</li> <li>- Will need some resources to make this happen</li> </ul> <p>Euro MAB meeting in April in Dordogne: Any volunteers to go – please contact Andy</p>	<p><b>EuroMAB announcements as they appear.</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p>Invasive Weed Problem analysis.</p> <p>Phil Metcalf volunteered with the BR team to explore the scope, scale and issues of invasive weeds, especially Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam is now everywhere in the BR Costs – Academic papers/EA Etc. 1 million to 3 million in England BR (on area cut from above) 20,000 to 6 million</p> <p>Future management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catchment top down approach</li> <li>- Sub-catchment scale – target interventions</li> <li>- Maintain volunteer effort after the end of the project even when it appears the Himalayan Balsam has gone – Note access to water bodies.</li> <li>- Integrate management into larger projects</li> <li>- Add invasive control into cross compliance</li> <li>- Allow time restrictive grazing on riparian zones/buffer strips</li> </ul> <p>Feedback WRT Upper Tauw catchment has been comprehensively mapped. Data already used in Phil's analysis.</p> <p>An exemplar sub-catchment as part of a bigger project, where the committee is willing to get on board.</p> <p>Leave in BR team to resolve.(!?)</p>	<p><b>Agreed: Problem is too large to tackle as a single funded project.</b></p> <p><b>Large area programmes for other landscape scale work should consider including Invasive non-natives as a strand of work or at least include a sub catchment exemplar project.</b></p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p>AOB Brett G: Estuary project update – now funded with engagement and advisory work being done on the farms. Targeting the Caen Catchment</p> <p>MWallace: Beaford 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – take images inspired by Ravillious.</p> <p>JCW Cat Oliver has been appointed for AONB Coastal Creatures project. AONB “Wildlife shorts” films project. Everyone welcome to be involved and please promote.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p>Date of next meeting: To be advised.</p>	<p><b>AB to set dates and circulate them</b></p>