



BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

**19th December 2019
Umberleigh village Hall**

Members Present:

Mel Austen (Chairperson)
 Michael Winter
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Group)
 Cllr. Derrick Speer (NDDC)
 Andrew Austen (NDC)
 Peter Stapley (Torrige District Council)
 Tim Jones
 Emma Richardson (DWT)
 Paula Ferris (Coastwise)
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)
 Oliver ? (for Peter Heaton-Jones MP)
 David Hoare (for Peter Heaton-Jones MP)
 Jenny Carey-Wood (NDAONB)
 Tony Collyer (BR Foundation)
 Phil Byers (Vice Chairman & BR Foundation)
 Pete Jollands (BR Foundation)
 David Hoare (for Peter Heaton-Jones MP)
 Andrew Butler (NFU)

BR Team Present:

Andy Bell
 Jane Hart
 Gigha Klinkenborg
 Bryony Paul

Item	Notes	Actions agreed
1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions	Mel Austen welcomed partners.	
2 Apologies & minutes of the last meeting	Clare Moody, Cllr. Ken James, Andrew Woollacott, Steve Mulberry, Phil Metcalfe, Brett Grosvenor, Clare Kamp, Peter Howard, Tony Pratt, Chris Fuller. The minutes were agreed.	

<p>3 Matters arising</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Update</p>	
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	<p>PFND have been invited to sit on the Partnership – Clare Moody unable to come this time.</p> <p>Climate declaration will be signed and announced EAFRD in about a week.</p> <p>PH sent the grant call information the partners.</p> <p>Wave Rangers project volunteers – contact now</p> <p>Parish reporters – attended PC meetings. Very positive response. PCs are in mixed stages and help needed</p> <p>BRF Prospectus: TJ- The 3rd version is being edited now into a good manageable document. Next meeting on 16th January then it will be shared for comments.</p> <p>The Kenyan visit at the previous Partnership meeting – Andy will report at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Consultation hopefully March / April 2020, adoption July / Aug 2020.</p> <p>Refer to PH</p>
<p>4. Updates from Working Groups</p>	<p>Marine Pioneer - AB</p> <p>Sustainable finance workshop held to manage MPA and investment in N Devon Testing fisheries policies – more local governance – effort based rather the quota based. Number of pots not boats.</p> <p>Journey to the sea films now due late January – 24th at the Plough. Estuary issues – a meeting on bird disturbance soon to progress this. District Council is setting up an area which will be protected from dogs as part of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).</p>	

Landscape Pioneer - JTT

Lots of lessons learned on the strategy and the Net gain work.. There is supplementary guidance, but we are still waiting for the Land Management trials. £25k for 15 months – working on the recruitment now.

The next board meeting is on the 15th January to agree the four landscape areas. Will be working to the end of March. Live testing in the environment has been very valuable. The MP will feed into the NE handbook.

Catchment Group: Latest meeting was the 17th December. Refresh of the Partnership and Catchment Plan is on the CP & BR websites. Details of projects needed in North Devon to reach good eco status. Flood Risk & sediment – further requirement for consultation on the river basin management plan closed in April. Meeting in Merton on 4th February to cover issues such as climate and extreme conditions, biodiversity, chemical and plastics for the entire catchment.

Tom Dordon from the Environment Agency will be giving a presentation and Partners are welcome. There have been demonstrations of Natural Flood Management at Boode and recent workshops at North Wyke. The TRRP is going very well – although there is a very high number of breaches and no EA enforcement due to the funding cuts.

Culm grassland project going well.

The clock is ticking on the last population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the river Torridge. It is

likely to go extinct in the next ten years.
Enforcement data is available. The number of enforcement officers has been cut. Point source pollution is being prosecuted.
Forest Group – Mark sends apologies. A meeting of the Woodland Forum will be in early January.
Woods for Water – Major planting in Devon and Cornwall to reduce diffuse pollution. Cornwall Council is encouraging tenants. Jane is doing a really great job.
Ash dieback is well into Cornwall. A new advisor has been recruited. Chestnut blight is being monitored and the disease is coming from the continent. Woodland creation is in the manifesto.
Woodland carbon guarantee has been launched and the reverse auction is expected in February. Pipeline extension service network for improved forest management.
Horizon 2020 bid in February – A big EU research and innovation programme will be for £6 million and include 20 partners, and 10 Biosphere Reserves.

Locally, PAWS, Challenge Fund with the Woodland Trust, etc. There is an issue with tree supplies. Trees from abroad carry disease. Smaller fragments of ancient woodland have been surveyed and will be added to the PAWS register which could change our planting policy.

Nature Improvement Group
Met in September at Baggy point and will be carrying out a review of progress.

Pledge for Nature – Lottery bid was successful. Bryony Paul has been appointed as the project coordinator. The launch event will be at the end of February. Hoping to have a mass tree planting day and to thanks the Crowdfunders and contributors. We are looking for support from Partners –

- What you want from it?
- What can you contribute?

Engaging with the farming community will be very important.

The steering group still need a youth representative – YFCs may be a possibility.

Horse Island has just been bought by DWT. The land was reclaimed in the 1850s but the banks have become more porous and there have been breaches. Led by CEO Harry Barton, DWT are hoping to create a more dynamic habitat with potential for realignment. They will recruit a development officer to look into the feasibility of what could be done there. Interviews on 20th December.

Green Economy

BCHT reprofile to spend more money. North Devon Marketing Bureau running a project at Braunton Countryside Centre. Exmoor National Park are carrying out a similar project. Rosemoor interpretation is to focus on more ancient woodlands.

The next Digital Biosphere meeting is on 7th January. Successful Talking Rubbish event on October about sustainability and recycling. 200 + businesses attended the event and 120 Schools participated and took information back to their school.

Community Group
PFND
Cana Project ??
Devon Grant £200k ?
Beaford Con energy and ? ?
submission yesterday? Waiting
to hear.
Make Parishes carbon resilient –
plastics – energy consumption –
USP is rural. Should hear back in
January No parishes have been
identified yet. BR wide including
East and West Devon – tie in with
PCs reporters.
Nature’s Tonic- the new officer is
Suki Coe who is forest school
trained. The project is looking at
training to get people outside as
therapy. Working with Headway
charity. Bidding for extra money
to extend to 2021.

Research Group

Additional funding from TDC for
further survey work.
‘Land between the moors’ hope
to publish for £20 in May or June.
Won a project – Ruby Country
(see Michael’s notes)
Formal projects research can
report once a year/conference to
the research group. Could offer a
presence on the BR website.

Students are desperate for
worthwhile topics – we can
facilitate here in North Devon.
JCW – Offer a small bursary for
fieldwork in North Devon and
Torridge – a condition could be a
presentation at an annual
conference?
BR is a living laboratory
Future Morse?
Ring 2020
Light Pollution
North Wyke

Climate Group

	<p>Trying to tie in with DCC – now can do a project putting evidence into a Development Strategy.</p> <p>The next LNP will have a climate theme. There are a lot of PCs on the LNP. Online call for evidence – how we can decarbonise Devon?</p> <p>BR Chartermark – community Pledge for the Planet – benefits Public facing website in progress. The existing one will retain all the technical information and reports. Need input from partners.</p> <p>Bryony – the PfN main page will have details on how to pledge and there will be a blog, volunteer opportunities and an interactive map with pins showing pledges.</p> <p>Social media is crucial. We will be launching an Instagram site. Community groups will be on Facebook.</p> <p>WWF driven traffic will go to the PfN site. The last Attenborough had around 3 billion viewers. There will be links to Coastwise etc. and Visit Devon reciprocal links. Beach cleaning links and one landing page.</p> <p>Natural Capital Strategy – presentation. Significant polity document</p>	
7.		
<p>8. Mid-term review of strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Progress b. Indicators c. Risk register 		
9. Biosphere Reserve and Climate Emergency	BR response to Climate emergency – various groups contributing – resurrect the	Agreed to sign declaration and add climate change as an item for WGs to report on.

	<p>climate change group? How does what different groups do contribute to Devon plan and also how we fit with Devon Plan. 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. 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 Must be an item on the partnership agenda – working group reporting for example? MA – what about a cross working group? LS- may reduce the WG appetite to do stuff themselves – keep within groups. LS – Do something on farming – NFU are engaged with Devon climate crisis group. MW – European biospheres conference in Dublin – good network of communities engaging with these questions - develop international profile.</p>	<p>ACTION: aim hold Partnership meetings in areas that are easy to get to using public transport.</p>
<p>10. AOB</p>	<p>(PH referred to a new European grant through European Social Fund</p>	<p>Action: (PH) to send around to partnership</p>

	<p>CI – Wave Rangers project targeting hard to reach young 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>	