

# Devon LNP Board meeting 8th December 2014

## Minutes

Present: Suzanne Goodfellow (Chair), John Holmes, Corinna Woodall, David Weatherly, Dr Virginia Pearson, Nicola Bulbeck

In attendance: Sarah Jennings (Sec)

Apologies: Elaine Cook, Robin Milton, Professor Martin Attrill, Harry Barton

### 1. Funding / LEP

- SG is now environment rep on the LEP's ESIF Committee (European Structural and Investment Funds) with HB as her deputy. SG and SJ met DCLG and Emma Buckman to be briefed on the current situation with ESIF. Note that no speculative applications will be received and that calls for applications from managing Authorities (DCLG and Defra) likely to be made in February / March (although not date yet fixed)
- Agreed that SJ should engage a consultant to being to develop a pipeline of partnership projects for LEP and other funding. Consultant can help to make synergies between projects across the county and help to identify sources of funding.

#### Actions

- **SJ** to circulate a briefing paper on ESIF (and put on web) + ensure that key partners are aware of SG's role and the plan to develop a project pipeline.
- **SJ** to use DCC LNP budget to employ a consultant to start developing a project pipeline

### 2. Communications

Agreed that there is a need to ensure that everyone understands the added value that Natural Devon brings. This can be done in a number of ways including through increased media presence, producing an annual report setting out outcomes / stories, sending out the Board agenda to key partners asking for input. SG reported that the October newsletter was well received. SJ reported that Paul Cottingham has arranged for quarterly farming and nature stories in WMN + that RSPB has an existing State of Nature slot that ends in February and could be turned into a Natural Devon slot for interesting stories relating to our themes.

CW raised H&S issues relating to the promotion of health walks.

#### Actions:

- **NB** to invite SG to speak at a Devon LA CEO meeting
- **SJ** to work with others to develop a *Comms Plan* setting out key events in 2015 and with three themed weeks (Naturally Healthy in the spring, Farming with Nature – linked to the farming and nature conference + Outdoor Learning – linked to the autumn DESWG conference).
- **SJ** to work with theme leads to keep Forum list up to date – ensure newsletter is sent out as widely as possible.
- **SJ** to ask PT to raise Walking for Health leader issues at the next NH T&F group + **VP** to send CW contact details for Tina Henry.
- **All** – to use the new LNP presentation and ensure that sectors are aware of and involved in the LNP. Let SJ know if further resources needed to do this.

### 3. Progress and future work (updated action plan given out – and available on the website)

**Sustainable seas** – Data meeting held and consultant to be employed to develop a marine data register.

**Outdoor Learning** – > £40K funding (from NE, DCC LNP pot and CPRE) achieved for the health and outdoor learning schools project which is being led by DESWG members with input from public health. Will make important links to the school improvement agenda and evidence relating to health benefits of outdoor learning. Communication with the Devon Association of Governors (DAG), Devon Assoc. of Primary Headteachers (DAPH) and Devon Assoc of Secondary Heads (DASH) will be important. Paper given out at meeting and to be on website shortly.

**Wood for Good** – Outline bid for support for the forestry sector produced by Silvanus (following a Wood for Good workshop) and sent from the T&F group to the LEP's rural interest group. Favourable received. Now needs developing into a bid for ESIF funding. Further work on the costs of managing small woodlands to be done in order to feed into a refined bid. Ash die back event to be held in the spring (led by Tamar Valley AONB, FC, Devon hedge Group, DCC).

**Farming with Nature** – Farming and Environment event to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb (for farmers, advisers and rural policy makers). Other events being planned for 2015. JH gave a quick update on Countryside Stewardship and the useful role of the LNP in facilitating comments on data and targeting statements. Facilitation budget will be allocated nationally and so LNP role in facilitating this will be limited.

**Horizon scanning** – brainstorm on the implications of issues such as the general election, future of AONBs, IPCC report on climate change, ash die back, community self-help. **Agreed that climate change and community self-help should be discussed at future meetings. AONBs to be raised with the Minister during visit on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Agreed that the emphasis should be to raise awareness of the value of LNPs and work achieved to date.**

### 4. New Board member

Agreed that Lewis Jones, South West Water should represent Business on the Board.

### Future meetings:

**Action:**

- **SJ to send around a doodle to set quarterly meetings in 2015. First meeting in March.**