

Devon LNP Executive Group meeting 16th June 2014

Draft Minutes (actions)

Attendees: Peter Chamberlain (DCC, Chair), Cathy Fitzroy (NE), Sarah Jennings (DCC, sec), Mark Robins (RSPB), Tracy Brooks (Torbay Council), Jonny Miller (TDC), Richard White (DWT)

Apologies: Robin Toogood (South Devon AONB), Susan Warren (DWT), Paul Cottington (NFU), Steven Edmonds (EDDC), Patsy Temple (DCC), Mark Rice (EA), Orlando Rutter (DNPA), Orlando Venn (NE), Mark Prior (FC)

1. Updates on priority themes

Naturally Healthy

- Final behaviour change scoping review about to be published along with the final research report. Both to be emailed to group when finished. Public Health have done a huge amount of work to produce the scoping report and will not be able to (and shouldn't need to) put so much time into the group in the future. Agreed that PT will continue to lead this work for Exec with SW as support (alho noted that PT may look for someone else to Chair the T&F Group).
- Noted that Andrew Gunther at Torbay Council now has a joint strategic planning / public health role.
- SWEN considering organising an LNP event on health. All supported this idea.

Actions:

SJ to meet PT to discuss next steps re the group (disseminating the research findings and taking forward interventions) + ensure final docs placed on website and all aware.

MR to let SWEN know that we support a SWEN LNP event on health.

Green connections

- Agreed that JM would lead for Exec with support from TB (and other Devon GI officers). JM pulling together priority actions coming out of the conference seminar (in discussion with the seminar panel members) and organising a meeting of Devon GI officers in late July / August to discuss priorities. Agreed that Devon case studies needed.
- Funding remains a key issue. Grey infrastructure bids take priority over green – and infrastructure funding streams don't always have necessary hooks needed for GI to be incorporated.
- GI officers not currently linked with DCC's Sustainable Schools Travel team. Links need to be made.

Actions:

JM to take forward as set out above.

SJ to talk to Joe Keech at DCC to get an overview of infrastructure funding streams and then share with others (TDC currently bidding for infrastructure funding).

SJ to talk to DCC Sustainable Schools Travel team to find out how best to link them in.

Outdoor Learning

- Agreed that Orlando Rutter would lead for Exec as rep. of DESWG (Devon Education Sustainability Working Group). No support yet identified (poss Steve Edmonds?).
- Need to ensure that we link into national work on the NGO's Nature Bill (includes proposals relating to outdoor education as well as other LNP themes).
- Potential to give a presentation to a Devon Head Teachers Group?
- Noted that the rules on outdoor space required for schools has been relaxed.....doesn't help....

Actions:

MR to send a briefing for David Weatherly / OR on Nature Bill + weblink to info.

SJ to ask DW whether there is a head teacher's group and how best to make links.

Farming with nature

- Defra has asked LNPs to organise **NELMS targeting / data validation workshops** (invite only as small events). David Appleton (NE) organising for Devon and Cornwall. LNPs have been involved in invite lists etc. Dates already set for 15th and 17th July. DA to send out invites on ~ 18th June. NE also organising a NELM webinar on 1st July. Details to be in LNP newsletter.
- SJ reported back from a meeting with Robin Milton, Paul Cottingham and John Waldon:
 - JW unable to lead for Exec but happy to be involved. PC can continue to take a lead on this theme but needs help. Agreed that a possible way forward could be to find funding to pay someone to take things forward.... specifics could include an annual celebration of farming day and research workshop at Rothamsted, Devon / Exeter Uni.
 - Agreed that tricky to take some areas of work forward until NELMS details are finalised.
- Exec agreed that we may need to find some funding to get someone to lead this – but that this may also be needed for other themes. See agreed actions below.
- Discussed the need to focus on a few priorities (based on issues coming out of the LNP conference). ideas:
 - (1) celebration (via an annual farming week ideally linked to the Devon, Farming, Food and Nature conference – 2015 will be its third year).
 - (2) Research – an annual celebration week could also include a research workshop (as above). Potential for Jerry Tallwin to help?
 - (3) Grazing / High Nature Value Farming – key issue in State of Nature was lack of grazing of lowland sites. Potential to support / build on projects such as the new Blackdown Hills Rough Grazing Assoc / Working Wetlands etc.
 - (4) NELMS (although seems that very little to influence)

Actions:

MR to ask Matt Lobley whether LNP work could be tied into Exeter Uni / DCC project – any funding left to help employ some capacity? Then discuss with SJ – incl talking to Jerry.

SJ to raise issue with AONBs at meeting on 18th June – to see if anyone wants to lead.

SJ to use the NELMS July workshops as an op to agree priorities (if time / sensible to do so)

Wood for Good

- SJ met Corinna Woodall and Mark Prior to discuss next steps. Mark happy to help but can't act as sole Exec lead. SJ organising a wood fuel meeting on 3rd July to ensure links between projects across Devon / all aware of funding bids / consider whether we need one large funding bid.....
- Potential to link other issues in this theme to a FC workshop in the autumn – SJ to discuss with MP.

Actions:

SJ to continue discussion with CW / MP. Share actions from wood fuel meeting.

Resilient wetlands

- John Holmes (Board lead) has asked Orlando Venn to help take this theme forward and discuss with Mark Rice (Exec lead). MR has just asked Dylan Bright if he could help lead this theme.

Actions:

SJ to discuss with OV / MR.

Sustainable Seas

- RW gave update on Devon Marine Strategy. About to have 1 to 1 meetings with key players. Key areas of work for the LNP:
 - Marine Planning
 - MCZ consultation in Jan 2015
 - Marine data / indicators – feeding into Devon State of Nature reporting.
 - Linking with Devon FLAGS (ensuring funding hooks built into any funding strategies)

Actions:

RW to ask MA whether he can attend and rep the LNP at the MMO event in July. RW to liaise with SJ re an LNP response to the consultation

RW to advise as to how the LNP should respond to the MCZ consultation in January 2015

RW to keep Exec posted on ops to influence the FLAGS (funding hooks)

General

- Important to ensure we capture outcomes / how we make a difference. As there will be soft outcomes we could ask theme leads to provide a qualitative overview of outcomes (as well as incl hard targets).

Evidence base

- **State of Environment** now live on the website (see docs page)
- **Explore Devon** website now live www.exploredevon.info

Unlocking resources

- MR gave quick update on LEP – although little change since last meeting. LEP waiting for Gov to agree funding / processes etc. All (?) of Growth Bid funding already allocated. Update will go in the LNP newsletter. Agreed that we need to come up with specific funding bids to take to the LEP / discuss with Chris Garcia at next joint LEP / LNP meeting.
- SJ has sent Devon LAGs our prospects to feed into their funding strategies which have to be finalised by Sep 2014.

Actions:

- **MR** to attend LEP Place meeting on 3rd Jul and discuss with Kat Deeney (LEP have asked for a presentation on the LEED toolkit findings). Opportunity to start being more specific reg funding requirements. MR, SJ, KD to attend meeting with Paul Hickson (Somerset CC lead for Place group) on 24th June to discuss.
- **SG** to attend LEP Rural meeting in July.
- **SJ** to pull out LEP priorities (diagram in SIF) and ask all theme leads to come up with specific funding projects asap (ideally headlines to feed into presentation at 3rd July meeting).
- **SJ** to get MR a slot at next LAG meeting.
- **MR** to attend LAG meeting!

Comms

- Newsletter about to be sent out on 18th June – any thoughts to SJ.
- Website to be improved - comments again to SJ. Theme leads to be given the password in order that they can add info directly (already done for DESWG). Consider RSS feed / regular theme lead blogs.
- RSPB / DWT have slot in WMN for State of Nature updates.

Action:

SJ to meet DWT / RSPB (Tony Whitehead) to discuss next steps reg media as follow up to State of Nature – discuss links to national State of Nature Sep conference / other national events.....Discuss whether they can lead media comms for the LNP.

All theme leads – consider what needed reg. comms / media etc

Next meeting 2pm, Wed 16th July. IS THIS TOO SOON???? Sec to doodle for future meetings.