

Link2Nature: Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership (WSLNP)Board Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 1-4pm**  
**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Office, Devizes**

**1. Present:**

**Hugo Brooke (HB)** – Trustee, Butterfly Conservation  
**Gerry Hamersley (GH)** – Area Manager, Natural England  
**David Whelan (DW)** – Wiltshire Manager, Natural England  
**Gary Mantle (GM)** – Director, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (Chair, WSLNP)  
**James Sheppard (JS)** – Chair of Wiltshire NFU  
**Steven Waygood (SW)** – Head of Environment & Chemistry, RWE Npower  
**Frances Chinemana (FC)** – Consultant in Public Health, Wiltshire Council  
**Fleur de Rhe-Philippe (RdeP)** – Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Strategic Planning, Wiltshire Council  
**Sue Harper (SH)** – SO1 MCI/CE  
**Bill Blumsom (BB)** – WSLNP Coordinator  
**Alaistair Shankland-(AS)** – Biomass Supply Chain Officer, Wiltshire Council

<b>Abbreviations used within this document:</b>	
<b>CIL</b>	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy</b>
<b>LAG</b>	<b>Local Action Group</b>
<b>LNP</b>	<b>Local Nature Partnership</b>
<b>WSLNP</b>	<b>Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Local Nature Partnership</b>
<b>SWLEP</b>	<b>Swindon &amp; Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership</b>
<b>DEFRA</b>	<b>Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b>
<b>GI</b>	<b>Green Infrastructure</b>
<b>MOD</b>	<b>Ministry Of Defence</b>
<b>NE</b>	<b>Natural England</b>
<b>WWT</b>	<b>Wiltshire Wildlife Trust</b>
<b>CAP</b>	<b>Common Agricultural Policy</b>
<b>NIA</b>	<b>Nature Improvement Area</b>
<b>JSA</b>	<b>Joint Strategic Assessment</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>WC</b>	<b>Wiltshire Council</b>
<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b>  GM welcomed those present and introductions were made by each individual.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Hayley Bamborough (Voice and Influence Team, Wiltshire Council), Toby Sturgis (Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services, Wiltshire Council), Stephen Davis (Head of Conservation Policy, WWT) Maggie Rae (Director of Public Health &amp; Public Protection), Dale Heenan (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning &amp; Sustainability, Swindon Borough Council), Phillipa Read, (Chief Executive, Community First)</p> <p>Sue Harper, attending her first meeting as a Board member introduced herself. David Whelan who is replacing Gerry Hamersley on the Board also introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the recent NE re-structure. They are now organised into 14 Areas. The new structure is bedding in and David will be the new manager for Wiltshire. GM formally thanked Gerry Hamersley for all his support of the LNP, especially during the start-up and formation stages.</p>	

<p><b>2. Minutes</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 were approved with no amendments.</p>	
<p><b>3. Actions from Previous Board Meeting</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b> GM had requested thoughts regarding potential additional Board members. No suggestions have been received since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> JS confirmed that he will remain as a member of the WSLNP Board.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> BB &amp; HB will be meeting shortly to discuss the Communications Strategy and will update the Board.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Funding – there is a national discussion underway about the funding of LNPs</p> <p><b>ACTION: All to consider additional members for Board.</b></p>	<b>ALL</b>
<p><b>4. Strategic Economic Plan Update and EU Strategic Investment Fund Strategy (ESIF)</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b> FdeRP gave a brief update on the SW LEP Strategic Economic Plan which has now been submitted (31<sup>st</sup> March). The SEP proposes key areas for further investment from 2015-2021 to secure future growth in the local economy. The SEP is available in full at the SWLEP website. The essential requirement is to convince and prove to Government that the SEP can provide value for money. The Economic Plan is ambitious and the LEP is waiting to hear how much will be made available by Central Government once they have considered the SEP along with the other 39 LEP Plans submitted.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> BB updated the Board on the latest round of meetings with the LEP regarding the ESIF. Chapter 13 “Landscape and Environment – Investing in Nature” has been retained in the final version of the ESIF which has now been submitted to central government for final approval. Government’s response is anticipated at the end of July. The full ESIF is available at the SWLEP website.</p> <p><b>ACTION: BB to monitor and report on progress of ESIF &amp; SEP.</b></p>	<b>BB</b>
<p><b>5. Wiltshire Timber Study</b></p> <p><b>5.1</b> Alastair Shankland (AS) the Biomass Supply Chain Project Officer for Wiltshire Council, presented the key findings of the study to board members. AS highlighted the opportunities presented for Wiltshire and discussed possible next steps. Some of the key issues highlighted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 FTE’s in the sector in Wiltshire at present</li> <li>• 88 are direct woodland management roles so “rural jobs”</li> <li>• There is 50,000m3 of timber that could be extracted</li> <li>• More local material is needed for the firewood market</li> <li>• There is a desire to encourage community based woodland management</li> <li>• Some County Wildlife Sites have undermanaged woodlands</li> <li>• LEADER will have forestry and woodland as one of their priorities for future funding</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiltshire has one of the highest BIOMASS installation rates in the UK</li> </ul> <p>AS is keen to explore with the LNP opportunities to create partnerships that may be able to increase the utilisation of timber commercially within the county and also promote and improve woodland management for the benefit of nature as well as the economy. He also wants links made to a Buy Wiltshire Campaign in relation to wood products.</p> <p>Board Members asked a number of questions and raised points regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How landowners get support to avoid environmental damage to woodlands whilst gaining economic benefit from them</li> <li>Opportunity to have “demonstration woodlands” to show others what can be achieved</li> <li>Air Pollution and role of woodlands in mitigating the impacts of pollution</li> <li>Information available on the overall status and condition of woodlands on SSSI and county nature sites</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: BB to follow up with Alastair and discuss potential opportunities. Alastair to provide slides to BB</b></p>	<b>BB/AS</b>
<p><b>6. Annual Link2Nature Forum</b></p> <p><b>6.1 BB</b> presented a proposed schedule to the Board. The schedule was discussed and a final format agreed. It was agreed that BB would finalise a date and venue and update board members. BB will also liaise with partners and others who will be participating in the event.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> A sponsor to fund the event would be welcome otherwise we are likely to have to charge for refreshments. FdrP will explore whether the Council may be able to support the event financially. GM asked all Board Members to consider whether any support might be available.</p> <p><b>6.3</b> A venue was discussed and SH indicated that the Garrison Theatre at Tidworth might be suitable. BB to discuss further with SH.</p> <p><b>ACTION: BB to proceed with organising the Annual Forum which is now scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014</b></p> <p><b>FdrP to look at possible sponsorship of the event by Wiltshire Council.</b></p> <p><b>BB to finalise venue and discuss with SH.</b></p> <p><b>ALL to consider sponsoring / contributing financially to the costs of the event.</b></p>	<b>BB</b>  <b>FdrP</b>  <b>BB</b>  <b>ALL</b>
<p><b>7. Joint LNP/NFU Event</b></p> <p><b>7.1 JS</b> confirmed that the NFU local board had approved a joint event and potential themes and timings were discussed. It was agreed that a NELMs linked event would be organised with input from the NFU / LNP and Defra family perhaps highlighting priority species /habitats. We would also want to highlight the LNP and its role and explore the importance of landscape scale interventions and farmers working together on a bigger scale perhaps through the NIA model. BB to liaise with James Sheppard and David</p>	

<p>Whelan to agree a format and content for an event in November 2014. <b>BB to liaise with JS and DW.</b></p>	<p><b>BB/JS/DW</b></p>
<p><b>8. Brief Updates</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Co-ordinator Report</b> – it was agreed that the LNP Coordinator would submit a report summarising main activities and achievements in advance of future board meetings to all board members.</p> <p><b>8.2 LNP Funding &amp; Small Grant Fund</b> – A further £15000 has been provided by Wiltshire Public Health for further LNP support. Frances Chinemana on behalf of Wiltshire Public Health was formally thanked for agreeing to provide the additional funding provided for the LNP. Of the total of £15k, a sum of £5000 will be used to provide Small Grants for community projects and BB is to organise the next round of grants and publicise availability. The balance of £10k will be used to support the general work of the LNP.</p> <p><b>ACTION: BB to also provide SH with a list of Small Grant recipients</b></p> <p><b>8.3 Wiltshire Council Green Infrastructure Strategy</b> – this is currently still being reviewed internally within the council. But is nearly ready for ECO-BOARD consultation. The Council also need to agree governance and determine who will implement the strategy. BB to follow up with Wiltshire Council and ascertain next steps and when the GI Strategy will be available for wider consultation.</p> <p><b>8.4 Visit Wiltshire and Destination Wiltshire</b> – BB has attended meetings with both Visit Wiltshire and the project group Destination Wiltshire to promote the interests of the natural environment. BB will follow up on discussions and seek to get wider recognition of the value of Wiltshire’s natural assets to the tourism economy in the county.</p> <p><b>8.5 Catchment Partnership Update.</b> - An initial meeting was held by the catchment partnership for Bristol and Avon recently which SD attended. The Hampshire and Avon CP held its first meeting and have recently appointed Catchment Officer Jacob Dew whom BB has been in contact with to discuss potential future opportunities to work together. BB will follow up with both the BACG and the other three catchment Partnerships that operate within Wiltshire.</p> <p><b>8.6 Executive Group Update</b> – the Executive had received the Timber Study for Wiltshire which it had considered and referred to the Board for further discussion.</p> <p><b>8.7 Board Member Sector Updates</b> – it was proposed and agreed that for future Board meetings all board members will provide a brief written update on any major developments in their sector or field of expertise in advance of each meeting. BB to coordinate and collate updates and circulate in advance.</p> <p><b>8.8 Intelligence Update</b> – it was proposed and agreed that any major studies or environmental intelligence reports or studies will be summarised and provided to the board in advance of future meetings for discussion. BB to organise.</p>	<p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p> <p><b>BB</b></p>

<p><b>9. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>9.1 Frances Chinemana reported on the success of the JSA/Area Boards and the environmental priorities identified by the community events.</p> <p><b>ACTION: FC will provide summary of the environmental priorities identified.</b></p>	<p><b>FC</b></p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> – next meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 9-12 am at Poulton Grange Farm. Marlborough SN8 2LN courtesy of James Sheppard.</p>	