

## DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday 12 December 2018 - 2pm-4.30pm**

**Upton County House, Poole Rd, Upton, Poole BH17 7BJ**

**Present:**

### Board Members

WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA
PB	Paul Buckley	RSPB
SC	Simon Cripps	Dorset Wildlife Trust (Chairman)
BH	Bob Huggins	Dorset Coast Forum
PM	Peter Moore	Butterfly Conservation (Co-opted member)
JM	Jenny Myers	Independent representative
AP	Angela Pooley	SUSTAIN & Bournemouth 2026 Trust
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College
SR	Same Rose	Jurassic Coast Trust (Co-opted member)
DS	Cllr David Smith	Bournemouth Borough Council
DT	Cllr Daryl Turner	Dorset County Council
JW	Jim White	Dorset AONB Partnership
SW	Simon Williams	Planning Consultant

### Officer Working Group Members

MC	Maria Clarke	LNP (LNP Manager)
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
MH	Martina Hanulova	Dorset LEP
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
MR	Michael Rowland	Bournemouth Borough Council
MW	Martin Whitchurch	Borough of Poole

### In attendance

NW	Neil Watson	Environment Agency
LS	Louise Stratton	NFU
MS	Martin Sutcliffe	Dorset Coast Forum

### Apologies for absence:

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
AC	Angela Cott	National Trust
KB	Ken Buchan	Dorset County Council
DH	David Haines	Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board & Swanage GP
AM	Alison Moore	Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership
TM	Tom Munro	Dorset AONB Partnership
MP	Matthew Piles	Dorset County Council
JR	Cllr John Rampton	Borough of Poole

### ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

SC welcomed the Board, new member Sam Rose and guests.

There were no declarations of interest.

## ITEM 2: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

### Actions from Sept 2018 Board meeting

#### ITEM 2: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (was item 4 on the agenda)

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Continue engaging with council officers and members	MC/SC	Ongoing	Discussions ongoing. SC met with MW for BoP.
Develop policy position statement / advocacy materials for post-election members	MC/SC	May 2019	The Dorset 25 Year Environment Plan and Natural Value Report update are in progress and will support this action.

#### ITEM 5: DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES: LNP INPUT INTO GLOVER REVIEW

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Submit an LNP response to the Glover Review Call for Evidence when open.	MC	December	Submission to be finalised at December LNP Board meeting.

#### ITEM 6: LOW CARBON ECONOMY PROGRAMME – LNP INPUT

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Set up a Low Carbon DORSET grants panel.	MC	December	In discussion with Antony Littlechild at DCC. MC to arrange a training session for the panel for January. Meetings will then be via teleconferencing.

#### ITEM 7: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST TO SUPPORT THE LEP

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Additional comments on the draft checklist from Board members to be sent to MC.	All	End October	This is currently on hold.
Draft to be revised and discussed with LEP.	ID/MC/MH	December	

### ITEM 3: CHAIR'S REPORT

SC noted his report and highlighted the following (full report within appendix 1):

- There is a lot of change at the moment nationally - passage of Fisheries and Agriculture Bills, future Environment Bill, 25 Year Environment Plan, and Net gain consultation.
- The Horizon 2038 vision document from Dorset LEP has some welcome references to natural environment. The introduction contains "Dorset's natural capital will be a key consideration in all decision making". The issue is whether there is a mechanism to deliver that.
- SC spoke with Michael Tomlinson MP regarding the LNP and natural capital.
- It still seems a valuable exercise to produce a 25 Year vision for Dorset's natural environment.
- Nature-based Health & Wellbeing agenda is going well.
- A Stour Valley Park was meeting held and progressing well but are now waiting on Local Government Reorganisation. All relevant local authorities have signed up bar Christchurch who are waiting for LGR.
- Several responses to consultations have been submitted including Purbeck Local Plan and both AONB Management Plans.

### ITEM 4: ARNE MOORS RESTORATION PROGRAMME

NW gave an update to the Board. When presented to the June Board meeting the Environment Agency was looking at two options, involving breaches to the sea wall and creation of lagoons. The preferred option is now two lagoons to the west of the site, three breach points and eastern and western embankments (designed to minimise lorry imports of material). EA will be undertaking some grassland enhancement work on land they own at East Stoke to provide compensation.

There has been considerable liaison with local residents. Technical investigations have explored some of the residents' concerns including groundwater, surface drainage, and tidal flows. Recreational access to the site on completion is still an issue to be considered – there is currently no access but there is an aim for this to improve this as part of the investment (but some residents are concerned about additional traffic from visitors). The project has stated that there will not a big car park or visitor centre.

Next steps: planning permission in 2020 with construction due to start in 2021.

#### Discussion

It was noted that there are links to the morning session around access to greenspace within the restoration project. The site is big enough for zoning, so it makes sense to locate the most accessible areas close to Ridge and the local community.

A query was raised about the resources for the project. NW stated that it is mostly from the EA flood defence budget to compensate for losses of habitat due to sea level rise.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress.	NW / MC	Ongoing

## ITEM 5: DORSET FLAG PROGRESS

MS gave a presentation about the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) led by Dorset Coast Forum. There is an £800k fund being allocated to five priority areas in the local strategy: collaboration; aquaculture; infrastructure; innovation; and diversification and training. There are 127 fishing vessels in the area, mostly single-handed small boats and seven ports. 28 projects have been supported so far, equating to 64% of the funding being committed (this is an increase to figures stated in the presentation due to a FLAG meeting the evening before the Board meeting). The project needs to commit all funding by March 2019. Examples of projects funded so far include: vital H&S equipment and aquaculture projects (including a development officer post). Dorset and East Devon FLAG hosted the national FLAG conference this year.

Government have recently announced that it intends to replace the European Marine Fisheries Fund (with a transition fund in the interim), but it is not clear about role of FLAG groups in the future.

BH chairs the FLAG, he praised the work of the FLAG officers and noted that MS spends much time liaising with fishers and gaining their confidence in the system.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress.	MS / MC	Ongoing

## ITEM 6: WATER PROTECTION ZONE

LS from the NFU presented on the potential to develop an alternative to a regularly approach to reducing nitrogen into Poole Harbour. Natural England is looking to reduce the input of nitrogen by 500 tons a year. The NFU is looking to set up a voluntary scheme as an alternative to regulation through a Water Protection Zone (WPZ). Reducing nitrogen by this amount quickly through a WPZ process would have serious financial implications for farmers and it would prevent some farms from farming, especially dairy, but also pig and poultry. The NFU feels the regulation of a WPZ would go against the principle of collaborative working and result in farmers not owning the problem.

The project has set out a vision to make the management of nutrients in the catchment the best in the world. The project would include nutrient trading, having set an annual limit for nitrogen in the catchment. Each farm would receive an annual credit which would reduce over time to gradually meet the 500 tons reduction target.

The NFU have spoken with a number of stakeholders and have received support for the idea. There is a farmer-led task & finish group leading this work. Statutory agencies, Wessex Water and Catchment Partnership support the approach, WWF and RSPB support the initiative but feel a WPZ is needed as well. The project is looking to run as a pilot in 2019-21 with full implementation by 2023.

The NFU would like support from the LNP for the project.

### Questions / discussion

Discussion points included:

The key query is whether the targets are in comparison with what a WPZ would deliver?

WB noted that the CLA supports the approach and noted that it is worth highlighting that the current nitrogen level is about 2,400 tons – so a huge reduction is needed with a phased approach.

A lot of the problem is created by nitrogen already in the system, in the aquifer etc. and atmospheric nitrogen.

A query was raised about whether magnesium in fertiliser could help lock in nitrogen? LS noted that this is a potential.

It was noted that as this is a voluntary scheme getting reliable farm by farm figures for nitrogen balance is crucial, and a trustable tool to do this is critical.

It was suggested that advice is essential, farmers can sometimes just do what the fertilizer salesperson tells them, so the quality of advice is key and Catchment Sensitive Farming is already supporting this.

Would an award scheme help incentivise farmers? BH visited Wisconsin where there was a system in place which promoted farmers good practice.

PM suggested that rather than referring to a 'target' for farmers having an 'upper limit' might be a better incentive – there is a danger of the target setting becoming a political decision.

Is there a role for aquaculture in the solution? It was suggested that the NFU and the FLAG discuss this.

It was noted that the presentation didn't cover the role of other nitrogen reduction opportunities (e.g. wetland enhancement). Although this wasn't in the presentation it will be addressed in the measures to reduce nitrogen on individual farms.

It was noted that the LNP was not included on the list of steering partners in the presentation although the LEP was.

It was suggested that the project needs to be accompanied by action on other issues such as sewage (again this is part of the reduction measures).

What are safeguards are there against cheating the system? Farmers would sign up to a pledge. There would be some element of proof-checking. It is a voluntary system though so would potentially be open to abuse, but the incentive is to deliver otherwise an WPZ will be introduced and will force a reduction.

SC feels it is something the LNP could in and of itself support but is reluctant to say whether we do or don't need a WPZ as well. This was agreed.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress.	NW / MC	Ongoing

#### **ITEM 7: 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR DORSET AND ANNUAL FORUM**

SC noted the opportunity for Dorset to develop a 25 Year Environment Plan and liked the way Chris Packham's 'manifesto' was drafted by a range of experts to talk about their areas.

It is important to link the document into the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. A draft template had been circulated to all Board members and officers with suggestions for authors. Not all proposed authors had responded to the invitation to draft. LNP Board members and officers are invited to suggest other elements / chapters.

MC proposed text to be drafted by 16 Jan.

PB suggested reviewing where each section is at after the Board meeting. PM suggested drafting something before giving others a remit to edit it (it was SC's deliberate decision to see what people come up with rather than setting a remit).

It was noted that it would be good to connect more with the LNP's original vision which was developed locally and not to replace it with this new version which is based on the Government's priorities. There was consensus on this point.

The Annual Forum will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February – MC proposed using the session to discuss the document with Forum members. This was agreed.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Draft text for the Dorset 25 Year Environment Plan	All	16 January 2019
Collate and edit the Dorset 25 Year Environment Plan	MC / SC	8 February 2019
Plan and host the Annual Forum	MC	27 February 2019

#### **ITEM 8: LNP SUBMISSION TO GLOVER REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

MC set out a first draft of a response to the Glover Review following the discussions at the September Board meeting. There is a need for some specific examples to be added but wanted to know if it was going in the right direction.

SW noted he had submitted his own personal submission to the review. He personally does not support the idea of a National Park for Dorset. He will forward his submission to MC.

Dorset LEP is formulating a response but unlikely to support a NP in Dorset.

PB noted that it is important that the review doesn't get hijacked by National Park issues and forgets all the other points such as potential amendments to the existing AONB structures.

RSPB have done some work nationally on SSSI conditions and it noted that NPs & AONBs area worse than the general countryside. They feel that AONBs should have some more resources, alongside duties and targets to work to.

There was a general consensus in favour of measures to strengthen the existing designations, remit of and resources available to AONBs.

Additional comments to be sent to MC by the end of Friday.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
All to send additional comments to be included in the LNP response to the Glover Review	All	14 December 2018
Collate and submit response	MC	18 December 2018

## **ITEM 9: HEALTH AND NATURE UPDATE**

Health and Nature Charter: MC noted that, in addition to the LNP and HWB, there were now 7 organisations endorsing the Health and Nature Charter up to the charter (DWT, DAONB, BBC, Bournemouth Parks Foundation, National Trust, Livability Holton Lee and an independent nature-based counsellor).

Greenspace Accessibility Mapping: A positive session on greenspace accessibility had been held before the Board meeting with Exeter University's European Centre for Environment and Human Health and Public Health Dorset.

Natural Choices: There are now 60 activities from 27 providers listed on the programme. MC is working with the Wessex Public Health Community Fellowship (three Foundation 2 Doctors and 1 GP Trainee) are reviewing Natural Choices activities (including a survey to participants) and will report in January.

There is ongoing work with LiveWell Dorset and the new Clinical Commissioning Group social prescribing model due to start in April to increase referrals to Natural Choices.

Natural Healthy Month: is being planned for May 2019 working with the SW LNPs and the Natural Choices Steering Group. This will have a public and professional campaign. It is a regional and local initiative, but it could link in with Defra's year of green action (aka YoGA).

- Public Campaign: Social and print media to promote: the benefits of nature for health and wellbeing; Natural Choices activities; and a call to action = get/keep fit and healthy in nature for both physical and mental wellbeing
- Professional Campaign: including: a conference event – bring together health, environment and business together; training for environment and health professionals; and awareness raising through team meeting presentations

## **ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PB – There was a call for new ELMS tests and trials, should the LNP hear more about these trials. PB noted that some of RSPB's proposals have been approved. It was suggested that the LNP should find out which of the 50 approved trials are relevant to Dorset and discuss at a future meeting.

SR – The JCT have been given a grant (Coastal Communities Fund) to put a volunteering programme together. Anyone who interested should contact SR.

MR – BBC have been successful in a Future Parks Accelerator Fund Expression of Interest and are through to the last 10 (expecting 5-8 projects to be funded). The final bid is due to be submitted in January. The funding is HLF and NT (with NT providers mentoring). MR would like to include a letter of support from the LNP.

LR – The LEP Board is currently recruiting new Board members. It was noted that there is a need to broaden the breath of the board – they especially welcome applications from women & LR is keen to strengthen representation from the rural area.

PB is leaving RSPB at Christmas but will continue on the LNP (at least until next year).

JM noted she has left KMC and will also continue on the LNP on personal basis.

MH provided some copies of the LEP's Horizon 2038 document. MH thanked MC and others for their input and is really pleased that the environment is embedded within the document. Horizon

2038 is available at: <http://dorsetlep.co.uk/media-centre/dorset-lep-releases-twenty-year-vision-for-growth/>

MC – Defra has opened a consultation on net gain with a deadline of early February. MC to circulate a consultation for comments.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Add Dorset ELMS pilots to a future Board meeting	MC/ID	March 2019
Draft letter of support for the Future Parks Accelerator	MC	December 2018
Circulate and comment on the Defra Net Gain Consultation.	MC / All	8 February 2019
Confirm venue for June 2019 meeting.	MC	February 2019

**ITEM 11: DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Wednesday 13 March 2019:14:00-16:30 Pavilion, Queen Park Golf Course
- Wednesday 19 June 2019: 14:00-16.30 tbc
- Wednesday 11 Sept. 2019: 14:00-16:30 Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester
- Wednesday 11 Dec. 2019: 14:00-16:30 Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester

Meeting ended 4:29

## Appendix 1:

### LNP Chair's report

December 2018



In these days of unprecedented political uncertainty, this has serious consequences for our natural environment in Dorset. The passage of the Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Bills as well as the 25 Year Plan and net gain principles, all from Defra, have huge implications and potentially opportunities for us. If Gove leaves what will happen to their final shape?

Add to that the Local Industrial Strategies that BEIS are to be asking the LEPs to write, will also impact our environment. Dorset Horizon 2038 was produced by the LEP recently as a prelude to the Industrial Strategy. We were asked to supply wording to that document to ensure that environment was in their thinking.

As a result of our work in the LNP in bold in the introduction section was the statement, 'Dorset's natural capital will be a key consideration in all decision making'. Other text is in relevant places throughout the document, so not a bad result at this stage.

I have met with LEP Chair and pointed out that we were pleased with the statement but as yet we are unaware of any process or mechanism that will actually ensure that natural capital is considered in their thinking. We have offered to help the LEP put this in place, several times. Hopefully now this will happen, especially before the next funding round.

In October the National Park Team who will write the Glover report on landscapes following the 25 Year Plan proposals visited Dorset and stayed at DWT's Kingcombe Centre. The AONB, DWT and others showed them around and we discussed, also from an LNP perspective, the potential for a national park in the county. Our policy at present is non-committal but seeking to ensure all sides are heard and the pros and cons are brought out and reviewed.

#### 25 Year Plan

- TWT held a Parliamentary reception to lobby for maintaining high standards in the 3 bills, particularly the Environment Bill. All Dorset MPs were invited. Only Letwin declined but on the day only Michael Tomlinson turned up because of the political machinations at the time. I reminded him of the value of the LNP and the need to include environment in the Industrial Strategy.
- It would still seem a good idea for us to complete a 25 y manifesto to show how Dorset is going to deliver on the 25 Year Plan for Defra. It will be a powerful document if it is written by the Dorset experts in their field so long as we can tie it into one cohesive document. Thanks to those who have contributed already. If we set a deadline of 27 Jan for inputs Maria can draw these together from when I get back. This will feed into our Annual meeting, act as a refresh for our strategy and feed into the Industrial Strategy and hopefully other plans by LAs and our members.

#### Health & wellbeing

- Our health and wellbeing work progresses at a pace. A Public Health and Exeter University greenspace accessibility analysis workshop was attended by Rachel and Maria.
- Maria attended a Mental Health is Everyone's Business conference ran by the High Sheriff for Dorset, Dorset Healthcare and Dorset Mental Health Forum with the aim of developing a mental health manifesto for Dorset.

- I attended the Celebrating Poole event representing DWT and LNP and raised the need for greater connectivity between business development, health and environment especially in Poole.
- Five additional organisations have endorsed the Health and Nature Charter.
- Maria has been working with PHD, local authorities and Intelligent Health's Beat the Street programme and the sustain element of the games to get nature-based health and wellbeing activities.

#### Land management

- A Stour Valley Park Partnership meeting was attended by Michael, Martin, Ian and Maria.
- Jim W attended the Purbeck Green Infrastructure Strategy development meeting in October.
- Angela P, Luke, Ian, Martina, Imogen and Maria attended the Exploring Horizons for Dorset's Natural Capital workshop in October led by Bournemouth University.

#### Responses

- A meeting was held with Cranborne Chase AONB and response to their Management Plan consultation submitted.
- Response to Dorset AONB Management Plan consultation submitted.
- Response to West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Preferred Option Consultation submitted in October.
- Response to Purbeck Local Plan Preferred Option Consultation submitted in December.

#### Communications

- Enews was circulated in October to 165 Forum Members. We have 412 Twitter followers.