

## DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday 8 June 2021 – 2.00-4.15**

Zoom

### **Board Members**

MA	Mark Anderson	BCP Council
RBa	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water
SC	Simon Cripps	Wildlife Conservation Society
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
LH	Lee Hardy	Dorset Coast Forum / Poole Harbour Commissioners / Dorset Local Access Forum
RK	Rebecca Knox	Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board / Dorset Council
DL	Durwyn Liley	Footprint Ecology
AP	Angela Pooley	SUSTAIN & Bournemouth 2026 Trust
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College (Chair)
FR	Felicity Rice	Independent Rep

### **Officer Working Group Members**

JB	Jon Burgess	Forestry Commission
MC	Maria Clarke	DLNP
TM	Tom Munro	Dorset AONB
IP	Ian Poultney	BCP Council
KP	Karyn Punchard	Dorset Council
MR	Michael Rowland	BCP Council

### **In attendance**

CB	Cecilia Bufton	DLEP
WC	Wendy Cunningham	Minutes
HK	Heather Kiel	Dorset Council

### **Observing**

PB	Peter Bowyer	DAPTC Purbeck Area
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### **Apologies for absence**

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
SB	Steve Baron	BCP Council
WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA (Vice Chair)
KB	Kath Burt	Environment Agency
AK	Annabel King	Dorset Council
JP	Josie Parish	DAPTC Purbeck Area
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council

### **ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Declarations of interest: None

## **ITEM 2: ACTIONS FROM MARCH 2021 BOARD MEETING**

Updates from the March Board meeting:

### **ITEM 4: NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN METRIC**

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
MC will share the presentation with members.	MC	Mid-March	Complete – sent with the Board minutes on 29 March.

### **ITEM 5: DORSET COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN**

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
DL will provide some wording relating to protected sites	DL	12 March 2021	Completed.
JB will provide some wording relating to Forestry	JB	12 March 2021	Completed.
All members to forward any further changes to MC	ALL	12 March 2021	Completed.
MC to collate comments and submit the LNP response.	MC	15 March 2021	Completed – submitted on 15 March.
MC to arrange a board meeting after the next consultation	MC	As needed.	To complete as necessary.

### **ITEM 7: THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY: THE DASGUPTA REVIEW (brought forward)**

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
MC will share the link to the Dasgupta review.	MC	End March	Completed – sent with the Board minutes on 29 March.
MC will obtain further information on the investment trust being set up in Devon.	MC	Early April	Requested information – need to follow up.

### **ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Timetable to recruit new board members to be drawn up	LR/MC	June	To action.

## **ITEM 3: MANAGER'S REPORT**

MC presented her manager's report as circulated with the agenda papers. The Manager's work plan which is linked to the strategic priorities was discussed.

As part of the Nature Recovery Network funded project as stakeholder workshop for Weymouth and Portland is being held on 7 July. Any members interested in attending should let MC know.

Links with Dorset LEP continue including attending the One Health conference held in March and MC and LR met with Connor Tracy to discuss joint communications.

MC is working with the DWT on a Young Journalism project with Participation People. The first blog has been published on Mental Health Awareness, as part of Mental Health Awareness Week ([blog available here](#)). The 30 days wild blog will be posted shortly, and this will be shared with the Board. Funding is being sought to continue to support the group, with the aim of training a new cohort and working with both cohorts for 12 months to work with LNP partners. Dorset Council Waste and Recycling and Planning teams and the Wilts and Dorset Fire service are interested in being involved. A bid has been submitted to Dorset AONB's Sustainable Development Team and a bid to Dorset Council is to be submitted to support this project.

LR asked TM about the outcome of the Glover Review. TM confirmed that a ministerial statement is due to be published in the next few weeks which will respond to the Glover Review and should lead to a full DEFRA response. TM will circulate the webinars of work carried out on the archaeology work as part of the National Grid underground cable work. TM also noted about the new Farming in Protected Landscape grant programme which will launch soon (this will also be available within the Cranborne AONB).

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Any members interested in attending the Weymouth and Portland NRN stakeholder event to let MC know.	All	End June 2021
Share future Young Journalist work with the Board. All to be published here: <a href="http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog">www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog</a>	MC	End July 2021
Circulate details of the National Grid and Dorset AONB archaeology webinars. <a href="http://dorset.nationalgrid.co.uk/news-and-events/going-underground-digging-for-history-in-dorset/">http://dorset.nationalgrid.co.uk/news-and-events/going-underground-digging-for-history-in-dorset/</a>	TM/MC	10 June 2021
The ministerial statement will be circulated when it is published.	TM/TM	End June 2021
Share details of the Farming in Protected Landscapes grant programme.	TM/MC	When available

#### **ITEM 7: BUDGET UPDATE (brought forward)**

MC reported that all core funding during 2020-21 had been received from:

- BCP Council
- Dorset Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Public Health Dorset
- Wessex Water

Plus project funding or sponsorship for events/activities had been received.

The Board noted that travelling expenses for the LNP Manager were reduced due to Covid restrictions during the year, but a new laptop had been purchased in May 2021.

Planned expenditure includes Admin support for the development of a Health and Nature Dorset Collaboration. Public Health Dorset have provided £1,000 for Mental Health First Aid course materials and MC has undertaken some Mental Health First Aid training and is a qualified instructor.

SC felt that the budget has the right balance and allows the LNP to reach out, take action and not compete with members. The LNP needs to act as a conduit for funding and enable action to occur.

RK suggested that the CCG might be able to provide funds as they need to encourage preventative measures for health benefits. LR and MC will discuss how they could facilitate this.

SC felt that the LEP could provide more funding support as they should be working in partnership with the LNP, and this is disappointing. LR will discuss this with the LEP.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
LR and MC will discuss possible funding from CCG.	MC/LR	September 2021
LR to discuss possible funding Dorset LEP.	LR	September 2021

#### **ITEM 5: FUTURE PARKS ACCELERATOR/STOUR VALLEY PARK UPDATE**

Michael Rowland gave an interesting presentation on the Future Parks Accelerator and Stour Valley Park. The key points noted were as follows:

- BCP are working with eight different Local Authorities and the National Trust to utilise Heritage Lottery funding to protect and develop natural resources in urban areas.
- The Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy will raise awareness of the value and benefits of green space, set out a shared vision, establish principles and priorities and inform planning policies for the BCP local plan.
- The GI Strategy will encourage health and well-being, strengthen climate change resilience, support nature recovery and support economic recovery.
- The type of spaces included in the GIS are parks, wild space, sports and play, food space, civic and amenity space, coastal space, blue space and private gardens and grounds. The idea is to have multi layers of space.
- The GI Strategy will repurpose green space as green infrastructure and this will include green living rooms – vibrant spaces, green sponges to manage flood risk, re-wilding and wildlife gardening.
- The GI Strategy will better connect green spaces with green corridors, ecological networks and travel networks.
- The urban environment will become green by promoting sustainable drainage and urban cooling features, make streets greener, optimise space create rain gardens and pocket parks, create sky gardens and improve planning by including an urban greening policy.
- The draft consultation will be completed by July and will be adopted early next year. There is a platform on the BCP website to “have your say”.
- The Stour Valley Park (SVP) is supported by many nature partnerships including the RSPB, Dorset LNP, DWT, Wessex Rivers Trust and the National Trust.
- The SVP will connect the National Trust Kingston Lacy Estate to Christchurch harbour.
- Direct business opportunities will be created for farmers, landowners, create opportunities for cafes, bike hire, eco-tourism, create a backdrop for a rural powerhouse, provide low profile high tech research and opportunities for aquaculture and hydroponics.
- Planners and developers will be able to create off road commuter road routes.
- There will be links to the LEP and LNP and it will fulfil obligations to the Government’s 25-year environment plan.
- The next stage is for BCP and Dorset Council to agree the masterplan, complete a public consultation and explore funding options.
- The plan should be signed off by 17 partners in 2022.
- The Parks Foundation is now covering BCP and will help to facilitate legacy donations.

- A volunteer strategy is being put in place to engage and benefit young people and a CRM is being developed to recruit a team.
- Through working with consultants, it has been proven that people who live near green spaces are healthier and this will provide £231m gross benefits to local communities.
- Green spaces create an uplift in property prices and improve carbon sequestration.
- Green spaces create social value and this needs to be prioritised with Public Health.
- Three pilot projects are being put in place at Winton Rec, Watermans Park and Alexandra Park. Investment will improve facilities to make them vibrant and attractive.

The Board felt that this was a very interesting project, and it will compliment other initiatives in place with Country parks across Dorset Council area. BCP will work with large councils and Parish Councils. The Parks Foundation will work with PCs to create an operating model which can be shared across the country.

DL queried how much land is actually needed to deal with 10m recreational visits per year. MR explained that The Future Parks programme may determine that more land is needed or could be reallocated. The use of the land needs to be reviewed to ensure it is the right use, it will be a live strategy and work will continue. Standards will be set to agree typology to provide the biggest multi-functional use. The work will provide information to ensure that opportunities can be identified to create green spaces in conjunction with other development schemes.

LR welcomed Cecilia Bufton to the meeting. CB felt that MR gave a very compelling presentation. The sustainability of the business model is vital, and CB confirmed that George Eustace is a strong supporter of biodiversity in urban areas. MR will confirm the closing date of the consultation period.

LR stated that Google analytics confirmed that people had reconnected with the countryside during lockdown and that they are continuing to do so which creates opportunities. The that the SVP project is fascinating. There will be opportunities for skills development particularly in heritage, history and engagement with nature and many other opportunities for schools to be engaged. LR thanked MR for his engaging presentation and MR left the meeting.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
MR will confirm the closing date of the consultation period	MR	End June 2021

#### **ITEM 4: INTRODUCTION TO THE LEP CHAIR**

LR introduced CB who is the new Chair of the LEP. It is important that the LNP and LEP explore opportunities to work together and LR and CB will discuss funding sources as the LNP does not receive any funding.

CB is new to Dorset and has been in post since December. CB has worked internationally in Health and Social care and is the Chair of Plant Heritage which is focused on managing National Plant collections. CB has a passion for gardening and biodiversity and is pleased to see that interest in gardening has increased during lockdown which is a good way to introduce people to the benefits of the outside world. Young people are increasingly interested in this. The most exciting part of the LEP for CB is the One Health strategy which is linked to the environment, and this is engaging people with the health benefits of the outdoors. There is a clear focus for the LEP on net zero carbon and the SW has an ambition to be the first area of the country to become net zero. These ambitions are big, but the data shows that they should be achievable. Other focuses for the LEP are Aquaculture, Agritech and Aquatech and a strong understanding of how food can be produced sustainably is important. Technology should be used to address issues in farming that have not been done well in

the past. A lot of work has been going on and the strategy document has been produced, more promotion and more funding is needed to promote the work being undertaken. Staycations are providing an opportunity for businesses but an increase in visitor numbers makes it more difficult to manage the sustainable footprint.

There is currently a national review of LEPs and the outcome should be reached by the end of the summer. It is anticipated that LEPs will be in place to provide business and skills support. The LEP brings a real business focus to what is happening around the county and the environment has to be the long-term view. The LEP has to have an understanding of what possibilities there might be and has projects ready in case opportunities for funding arise and these projects will be pushed forward whenever possible.

LR thanked CB for the update and confirmed that the Local Industrial Strategy document is with Government for review.

The LNP and LEP are similar organisations in many respects which are funded in different ways the LNP is nature led and the LEP is business led, there is an overlap and an opportunity to work together as partners.

FR is interested in the healthy population through enabling community owned renewable energy and CB confirmed that the LEP look at all ways to fund energy projects and now that the technology has been proven this may be more achievable.

JB felt that it is good to hear talk about sustainable food and the overlap of business and the environment, however, it is important to remember that sustainable timber is a substitute for carbon heavy construction materials, and it needs to be more obvious that this timber is available and being used.

RB asked for views on how the environment can be used to deliver carbon zero through soil carbon sequestration or using wetlands for offsetting. CB stated that it will not be possible to enable all carbon use to cease and innovative technology needs to be utilised to achieve net zero. There is a need to use tech to solve some of the problems, but this idea utilises nature to solve some of the problems that are man-made. Skills, ideas and focus on efforts to solve the issues are needed including developing the skills of young people and encouraging innovations from overseas. Development has seen progress in Aquatech and similar solutions need to be found by utilising skills to make it happen. LR thanked CB for her contribution to the meeting.

KP left the meeting.

#### **ITEM 6: LOW CARBON DORSET - UPDATE**

Heather Kiel, Low Carbon Dorset Programme Manager, delivered a presentation on Low Carbon Dorset and the key points were noted below.

The Low Carbon Dorset programme has been running since 2018 and has recently been extended to 2023.

- The LNP Board provide the panel for the low carbon approval process and look at projects over £200k and those that come through Dorset Council to ensure transparency.
- Interim evaluation is completed, and beneficiaries were asked for their views on support and funding, the results were very high.
- 63% of suppliers were from Dorset as some technologies are not available locally.

- Recommendations – feedback with the LNP panel could be improved and this is now being put in place. An additional clause has been added to the TOR so that the LNP panel can refer back to the LCD Board if there are any particular environmental concerns around a project.
- Sum up – feedback noted this project as being really successful, well managed and doing important work. Some consolidation and improvements can be made in some areas.
- Completed projects include Riversmeet Leisure Centre cost £325k, Dorset History Centre cost £154k and Stalbridge finance cost £275k. Case studies are on the website.
- Stewarts Garden Centre case study completed cost £689k for installation of solar PV, ground source heat, thermal screens etc.
- Additional ongoing projects include Hazelmead community energy (housing in Bridport), Innova AGS Ltd (Energy from waste), Dorset Community energy (solar energy for schools and colleges), Athelhampton House (renewable energy), the Connaught Hotel (aircon and renewables), Dorset Council (solar charging for electric tools) and Dorchester Town Council (biomass).
- Three big projects coming soon – Canford Renewable Energy (solar farm and green hydrogen £6m), Kingston Maurward College (whole site innovative project £2m+), and Green Nation (rent a roof solar arrays).
- Future funding – much of the grant will be contracted if LNP approvals go ahead. Expressions of interest are being banked.
- Remaining funding will be used to leverage targets especially around housing, the public sector and innovation. If any contracted projects underspend or under performing funds will be recycled.
- Future plans will be communicated, and free technical advice and support is available. Workshops and demonstrations are taking place. LCD are working proactively with the social housing sector.
- LCD are specialists and can provide an SME with 12 hours of technical advice FOC.
- Projects need to complete and claim. LCD need to verify the outputs and publicise the results.
- The LCD team plans and delivers legacy work.

HK thanked the panel for all the work that they have put in. Taking time to scrutinise these bids is an extra commitment for the board, but it is vital to ensure the validity of these projects.

SC suggested that there is a need to show the value of a project and one way to measure this would be to calculate the savings projected by measuring a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> at £1.5k which would represent good value. Projects could be evaluated using this measure and those that did not meet the target would not be approved as they would represent less value for money. This is a difficult position for the Board but they need to ensure that they take a wider view when evaluating projects. HK agreed that the LNP should raise concerns but stated that the funding has to be awarded within the criteria stipulated by the ERDF. Projects are evaluated using a counter factual process which involves making sure that the best possible option is approved, it is not possible to measure it in terms of cost per ton of carbon. Different projects have different criteria to ensure value for money and some may be more high risk than others.

FR asked if the European fund allowed for any social economic benefits to be considered. HK explained that the rules are very strict, and the measures are very focused, so it is difficult to look at softer projects. However, as the funding is running out LCD have tried to think about social implications and have agreed housing should be looked at to try to do more for community-based models, but it is very limited the rules do not take account of wider benefits but do include public sector. The LNP must be clear and operate within bidding procedures however much it would like to provide wrap around care.

FR requested a list of submissions that have not been enabled yet for the next panel. HK will try to provide as much information as possible, but things change very quickly so this may not be possible.

ID noted that there is a demand for funding and queried whether a replacement fund had been announced yet. No new funding programme is in place yet, but HK is hopeful that something will be put in place and LCD have the got experience, expertise, and knowledge to provide useful resource.

LR thanked HK for her informative presentation.

#### **ITEM 8: ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

The LNP Annual Report was discussed the highlighted projects have been aligned to the strategic priorities. LR has written the forward and the document was approved for publication.

#### **ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

LR thanked FR for her blog. The next one will be written by PE and will be published later this month. LR will write one for July and officers and board members were asked to provide blogs for the forthcoming months. All blogs should be linked to strategic priorities.

MC will share the links to the group chat.

AP felt that it was important that the LNP monitor Dorset Council and BCP Council in relation to how they intend to meet their climate emergency targets. The Board felt that this is important and should be done in a supportive way.

The next meeting is taking place on Wednesday 8 September and may take place face to face and possibly at Brownsea Island or Kingston Maurward.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
MC will share links to the group chat for this meeting.	MC	June

#### **ITEM 12: DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Wednesday 8 Sept 2021: 2pm-4.30 – Zoom or tbc
- Wednesday 8 Dec 2021: 2pm-4.30 – Zoom or tbc
- Wednesday 9 March 2022: 2pm-4.30 – Zoom or tbc
- Wednesday 8 June 2022: 2pm-4.30 – Zoom or tbc