

DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 10 March 2021 – 2.00-4.30

Zoom

Board Members

RBa	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water
WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA (Vice Chair)
FB	Fiona Bowles	Dorset Catchment Partnerships
RBr	Ray Bryan	Councillor – Dorset Council
SC	Simon Cripps	Wildlife Conservation Society
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
PE	Pete Etheridge	Greenwood Ecology / Dorset Coppice Group
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
KP	Karyn Punchard	Dorset Council
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College (Chair)
FR	Felicity Rice	Independent Rep

Officer Working Group Members

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
MC	Maria Clarke	DLNP
MR	Michael Rowland	BCP Council
JB	Jon Burgess	Forestry Commission
NL	Nimisha Loveridge	Dorset LEP
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
TM	Tom Munro	AONB
IP	Ian Poultney	BCP Council

In attendance

VC	Victoria Copley	Natural England
WC	Wendy Cunningham	Minutes
JP	Jack Potter	Natural England

Observing

JP	Josey Parish	DAPTC Purbeck Area
NLC	Noc Lacey-Clarke	Dorset Council
CS	Chloe Sutcliffe	Volunteer

Apologies for absence

MA	Mark Anderson	BCP Council
AK	Annabel King	Dorset Council
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Declarations of interest: None

ITEM 2: ACTIONS FROM DECEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING

Updates from the December Board meeting:

ITEM4: NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Deliver project actions including planning / holding Annual Forum	MC	Mid March	<p><u>Natural Value Report:</u> Data collection updated.</p> <p><u>Dorset Biodiversity Audit:</u> Published.</p> <p><u>Marine Biodiversity Report:</u> Finalised – awaiting proofing.</p> <p><u>Statement of Biodiversity Priorities:</u> Two workshops held as a first stage of engagement – Terrestrial 5 Feb & Marine 24 Feb. Write up reports to be drafted.</p> <p><u>Dorset AONB Nature Recovery Plan:</u> Ongoing - TM commented that the AONB trial has been working with local farmers on landscape and farmscale plans to help them with environmental management on their farms. The AONB have been working with FWAG to develop advice on chalk grassland. Reports have been produced for 14 protected landscapes through the AONB. A synthesis of these will be produced and shared with local partners.</p> <p><u>Ecological Network Maps:</u> Catchment work being developed.</p> <p><u>Community Engagement Strategy:</u> Ongoing discussions.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder Engagement:</u> Annual Forum held 4 March.</p>

IR to share DAONB Test and Trial presentation when developed further.	IR / MC	When available	To action when available.
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ITEM 5: HEALTH AND NATURE DORSET

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Continued development of the HAND collaboration.	MC	Ongoing	Ongoing discussions. A workshop to be held in April 2021.
Invitation to the March Dorset HWB to give an update on this work.	RK / MC	March	Complete – MC to present to the Dorset HWB.
Investigate improving links with BCP HWB.	MC / MR / RP	Ongoing	To action

ITEM 6: DORSET COUNCIL'S CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Check if draft response suitable to share with community groups.	ID/MC	11 Dec 2020	Complete.
Send comments to MC on the draft response to the DC strategy.	All	15 Jan 2021	Complete.
Respond to the BCP Draft strategy once published.	MC	tbc	Complete – response sent on 26 Feb (deadline 1 March).
Respond to Local Plan consultations.	MC	tbc	DC Consultation deadline 15 March. To be discussed at the March LNP Board meeting.

ITEM 7: APPOINTMENT OF LNP REPRESENTATIVE TO DORSET AONB PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Nominations to represent LNP at the Dorset AONB Partnership Board (inc. self-nominations) to be sent to MC.	All	15 Jan 2021	Two members have put themselves forward for this board membership have been received from Will Bond and Fiona Bowles. Both WB and FB confirmed that they are still willing to stand and MC will circulate an email to ask members for nominations.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Coastal Based Approach (CoBA)

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Comments on the Coastal Based Approach to MC.	All	15 Jan 2021	Limited response – no feedback given to the CoBA team. MC to share existing comments to confirm a response from the LNP.

ITEM 3: MANAGER'S REPORT

MC presented her manager's report as circulated with the agenda papers.

- MC has received the text from Sandra Rothwell for the Investment Prospectus section on natural capital investment. This includes a natural capital trust and HAND collaboration and training conservation on the blue and green economy. LR attended the LIS meeting yesterday and was able to confirm that all the ideas collated in the Investment Prospectus include everything already discussed around natural capital and Stour Valley Park. There was a debate about the 3 big ideas for Dorset and the environment is definitely part of this and this is very encouraging.
- The development of HAND is progressing. Funding applications have been unsuccessful but there is a possible opportunity to bid for National Lottery partnership programme funding. The workshop planned for April has been postponed and a new date will be announced in due course.

ITEM 4: NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN METRIC

Jack Potter from Natural England gave a very informative presentation on BNG metric tool. The key points noted are as follows;

- The BNG is not a decision tool it is designed to aid decision making.
- The tool can use a collection of habitats or urban mosaic to measure net gain.
- The release date has not been announced yet but it is likely to be Spring 2021.
- The system will not be in use until 2024 and it will then become mandatory to use it.
- This tool will be used for larger developments and a small site metric is also being developed.

Comments

FB questioned how the tool can be used to change a river habitat which may have a knock-on effect on neighbouring habitat. JP confirmed that the tool can do habitat and linear sectors of impact for flood plain and a wider policy decision would be needed to assess if this could be incorporated into the tool.

DL asked how the BNG works alongside site protection. JP stated that it has to be additional to the requirement of a designated site.

PE asked when this would be launched and when this will need to be used. JP said it would be released in Spring (metric and guidance). Applications will be required to use as part of the biodiversity net gain duty from 2024 (following the Environment Bill receiving Royal Assent).

However, it was expected that developers would start using this earlier because the beta version is already being used.

FR asked about the use of the Metric on smaller scale sites, e.g., urban gardens. JP stated that a beta version of a 'small sites metric' is being developed and will be published for beta consultation.

JP offered to take any questions via email and MC will share the slides.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
MC will share the presentation with members	MC	Mid-March

ITEM 5: DORSET COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN

The Board discussed the paper outlining the LNP's initial response to the Local Plan.

Comments

IA stated that there was no reference to the Stour Valley Park proposal, and it was felt that this should be developed. DL noted that the Stour Valley project is mentioned in section 3.4 of the plan but it is not explicit.

The farm diversification plans link to other policies and are unlikely to be helpful to those who want to carry out wilding and re-wilding on their land. Potential major land owners are in a good position to address the environmental crisis and may be looking for other commercial opportunities to be viable. Ancillary diversification to a farm business will be allowed but it is not clear whether support would be provided for a new business venture. He recommended that Dorset Council should remove the potential land use change as there is a potential policy blockage.

JP noted that Section 3.3.1 – Habitat and species, the draft response says that the LNP support in principle, and said 'We should wait for it to become rare and threatened before protecting it. – The word 'not' is missing from this sentence ('we should not wait').

DL noted that there is no mention of heaths and air quality. DL will provide some suggested wording to strengthen the paragraph on protected sites.

RK noted that the application document contradicts its own policies relating to the provision of housing and this can create issues when land is being developed as the developer can claim that something is in the plan and that policies don't apply. There must also be agreement to include green space in developments. The plan is unrealistic for the housing supply and locations identified.

ID referred to a recent presentation to the Dorset Rural Enterprise Group by the local Planning department during which the DREG were made aware of the pressure the Council are under pressure to complete the local plan. It is an onerous job but it cannot be too radical or ignore AONB issues.

PE noted that forestry, temporary dwellings and coppicing need to be included and the housing figures should be challenged.

FR suggested that the vision statement should be more specific and state that it has an ambition to be in line with the Paris Climate agreement.

JB stated that there is not enough reference to good quality, well managed forestry which would capitalise the natural assets and provide low carbon building material. JB will provide MC with some suitable wording.

WB felt that the plan over stated the effect of wind speed and that the maps relating to wind generation were misleading.

FB felt that wording relating to nature-based solutions for rivers was contradictory and should be included in the river section.

SC stated that there is no mention of the blue economy and the Board debated whether the Council are responsible for a 6-mile limit from the shoreline. LR will explore this with Council Officers.

Board members should send any further suggestions to MC who will collate them and submit by the deadline of 15 March. The Board were happy with MC's report.

MC will arrange a specific board meeting to discuss the Local Plan again for the next consultation.

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

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

MC presented the Dasgupta Review. HM Treasury announced an independent, global review to assess the economic value of biodiversity and to identify actions that will simultaneously enhance biodiversity and deliver economic prosperity. This review was published on 10 February 2021.

The document has been shared with the LEP Infrastructure group and LR will be sharing it with the LEP Board. MC will share the link to this document. It is important to note that this was led by an economist and commissioned by the Treasury.

LR has raised this issue at the LIS meeting yesterday and suggested that this will be an area for future funding. LR also attended a recent meeting with Barclays Bank, senior economists from the Bank of England and representatives from SW economies who are looking at environmental investment opportunities across their work. It is very optimistic may result in significant investment in due course. The Stour Valley Park could be a flagship project for Dorset alongside other investment opportunities that may arise. It is a very interesting report.

SC confirmed that funding is available for sustainable investment and projects in the Blue economy. There seems to be a lack of financial intermediaries that can translate finance, economy and conservation. Councils, LEPs and employers may be able to facilitate these discussions.

FR asked about progress on setting up a Dorset wealth-retaining based organisation, which has been discussed at previous meeting. This would be a good project for the LNP or LEP to be involved with.

MC stated that this was the Natural Capital Trust project, mentioned earlier in the agenda and one of the big ideas submitted to the LEP and this is an on-going project.

JB confirmed that the Devon LEN are setting up an investment trust. LR noted we are linked into the SWLNPs but had not heard about this. MC will follow this up with the Devon LNP.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
MC will share the link to the Dasgupta review www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review	MC	End March
MC will obtain further information on the investment trust being set up in Devon	MC	Early April

ITEM 6: MARINE RENEWABLES

Victoria Copley from Natural England gave a very informative presentation on renewable energy. Key points noted are as follows;

- Future growth in offshore wind farms will be more extensive.
- The Government are heavily reliant on offshore wind farms to contribute to net zero.
- The sector is driving down costs which have been reduced by 30%.
- The Navitas Bay project was one of only two that have been rejected and this was due to habitat and landscape issues.
- There are impacts on wildlife and birds particularly around collision, displacement and sensitivities of designated sites.
- Some protected sites are now reaching capacity.
- Issues include underwater noise during construction, unexploded ordnance, special areas of conservation, seabed habitat impact.
- Visual impact for dedicated landscapes will become less of an issue as turbines will be sited further offshore.
- Floating technology has been developed for certain sites and will be utilised for round 5 developments.
- Wave and tidal stream projects have been trialled in Wales and Scotland, the wave sector technology is still immature and expensive. Tidal stream projects are showing promise and being developed. An area off Portland Bill has been allocated as a demonstration area.
- Risk mapping is under way and the sector is being innovative and doing things differently.
- Net gain opportunities and offset impacts will be utilised.

SC raised the issue of decommissioning sites and whether sites will be explored to see if the structures can be utilised to protect the environment.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) LNP Blog call for authors, anyone who would like to provide a blog should contact MC.

ii) AC is stepping down from the board and BH has not attended for a year. There are therefore 2 potential vacancies for board members and there will be another 3 vacancies when the original board members are due to stand down in March 2022. The Board were asked if they would prefer to recruit for 2 board members now or wait and recruit 5 at once. It was agreed that as the recruitment process is time consuming it would be better to wait and recruit all 5 new board members at once. LR and MC will draw up a timetable for this.

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

ITEM 12: DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 9 June 2021: 2pm-4.30 – Brownsea tbc
- 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