

DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 9 December 2020 – 2.00-4.20

Zoom

Board Members

RBa	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water
MA	Mark Anderson	Councillor – BCP Council
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
AC	Angela Cott	National Trust
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
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College (Chair)
FR	Felicity Rice	Independent Rep

Officer Working Group Members

MC	Maria Clarke	DLNP
AK	Annabel King	Dorset Council
MR	Michael Rowland	BCP Council
KP	Karyn Punchard	Dorset Council

In attendance

IR	Ian Rees	Dorset AONB
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Observing

JP	Josey Parish	DAPTC Purbeck Area
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Apologies for absence

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
KB	Kath Burt	Environment Agency
TM	Tom Munro	Dorset AONB
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
IP	Ian Poultney	BCP Council (attended briefly before Internet lost connection)
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council
KT	Kate Tobin	Forestry Commission

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Declarations of interest: RK noted she is a resident and councillor for the Marshwood area – regarding item 4.

ITEM 2: ACTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING

Updates from the September Board meeting:

ITEM 5: DORSET INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Hold an LNP workshop in late September to develop project ideas.	MC / ALL	End Sept	Completed – workshop held on 29 September.
Submit projects to LEP by mid-Oct.	MC / ALL	Mid Oct	Completed – 3 actions submitted on 21 October. MC has discussed the big ideas submissions with consultant Sandra Rothwell. The LEP is not aiming to discount any proposal but will focus on a few. Of the three LNP submissions the LEP is keen to investigate the Natural Capital Trust idea and has proposed an initial roundtable in January with the aim of gaining commitment in principle to take this forward. The current timescale for the development of the Investment Prospectus is the end of January. LR also noted that there is more work to be undertaken on the prospectus, but the green agenda is high up the list of those to be included.

ITEM 7: MHCLG PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: WHITE PAPER – DRAFT LNP RESPONSE

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
ALL to submit any future comments on the Planning White Paper to MC by end Sept.	ALL	30 Sept	Completed.
Finalise and submit a response including cover letter.	MC	29 Oct	Completed – response submitted on 28 October.

ITEM 8: ENGLAND TREE STRATEGY CONSULTATION – DRAFT LNP RESPONSE

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
PB, AK and WB to send text to be included in the Tree Strategy response.	PB / AK / WB	10 Sept	Completed.
KT to feed in comments	KT	10 Sept	Completed.

Submit response by deadline	MC	11 Sept	Completed – response submitted on 11 September.
Discuss the potential to have a right tree, right place webinar	MC / KT	October	Ongoing. KT has been seconded onto some national Local Nature Recovery Strategy work – awaiting to hear if her post will be back-filled. IR gave a contact of Jon Burgess at Forestry Commission – MC to contact.

ITEM 9: BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Updates
Develop and implement recruitment process.	MC / LR / WD / ID / AP / RBr	Dec	Completed. Recruitment advertised on 12 October. Interviews were held on 25 / 27 November. SC asked for an update on a young person representative. MC noted that she was having positive discussions with Participation People (who lead the Dorset Council's youth council). It is suggested that in time there may be a youth rep to join the board as long as the engagement is meaningful. In the short-term other work to build awareness and trust of the LNP will take place: e.g. MC is running a workshop on nature-based wellbeing in February. DWT are also working with Participation People on nature recovery which will be the LNP's nature recovery work.

ITEM 3: MANAGER'S REPORT

MC presented her manager's report as circulated with the agenda papers. Details were expanded on in items 4 and 5.

ITEM 4: NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK

i) Overview of Work Programme

MC stated that Natural England had invited the LNP to apply for some seed corn funding to support nature recovery planning work. The aim of the funding was to unlock barriers to delivery of existing work to inform nature recovery network in the region. Working with Dorset Environment Records Centre, Dorset AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust a bid for £7,500 was submitted. The bid was successful and an additional £800 awarded to develop a marine biodiversity audit.

The outputs of the project include:

- Publication of the Dorset Natural Value Report
 - Finalise data collation and publish revised Natural Value Report.
- Publication of the Dorset Biodiversity Audit
 - Finalise Dorset Biodiversity Audit undertaken.
- Publication of Marine Biodiversity Audit
 - Produce Marine Biodiversity Audit.
- Publication of draft 'Statement of Biodiversity Priorities':
 - Workshop with stakeholders to review the biodiversity audit, undertake a prioritisation exercise to inform the development of a 'Statement of Biodiversity Priorities'.
 - Workshop to be held by mid-Feb 2021.
- Publication of the Dorset AONB Nature Recovery Plan (see item below)
 - Develop the Dorset AONB Nature Recovery Plan (as agreed under the Colchester Declaration) building on Test and Trial project.
 - Widen out to cover the whole of Dorset, as a forerunner to a Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Publication of the Dorset Ecological Network Maps
 - Expand on the Dorset Ecological Network Maps (existing and higher potential) to:
 - i) investigate catchment level information working with the Dorset Catchment Partnerships; and
 - ii) look at integration of species information.
- Publication of a community engagement strategy
 - Develop a community engagement strategy that will engage the wider community in the development of Nature Recovery Plans and any adaptations to meet the Local Nature Recovery Strategy regulations.
- Host stakeholder engagement to develop local Nature Recovery Network Partnership
 - Build on work from initial workshop session held as part of the Dorset LNP Forum in March 2020 and deliver initial stakeholder engagement to strengthen the local Nature Recovery Network partnership – at the March 2021 Annual Forum.

LR asked what the format of the Annual Forum would be. MC noted that this was yet to be planned but that Annual Forum tended to either be a selection of presentations or presentations mixed with breakout discussion groups – the forum for 2021 is likely to include discussion groups.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Deliver project actions including planning / holding Annual Forum.	MC	Mid-March

i) Dorset AONB ELM Test and Trial

IR from Dorset AONB set out progress to date on their Environment Land Management scheme test and trial, funded by Defra.

Dorset AONB is developing a Strategic Landscape Plan in relation to the new LMS scheme, but this would also link to the Dorset AONB's Nature Recovery Plan, the future Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Dorset wide Nature Recovery Network. This is a starter to get the process moving. A couple of online workshops have been held to discuss what a Strategic Landscape Plan should include using local and national data and build on existing work already available. The next stage is to go out to farmers to test the approach and then share with other organisations.

The project is aiming to map where action should take place based on six themes set out in the Government 25 Year Environment Plan:

- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Protection from and mitigation of hazards (flood protection / wildlife risk)
- Clean air
- Beauty, heritage and engagement (access / built environment)
- Climate regulation

Each theme covers three key stages:

- Quantity and local of natural assets related to the theme
- Quality and condition of these assets
- Areas for investigate and action to make improvements which will be used to help target action through ELMS.

The presentation focused on the Brit Valley and Marshwood Vale, but once the framework is developed it be replicated across the whole AONB and across the whole of Dorset.

Comments

LR noted that this sets out a clear visual format and it will be useful to see how this informs future work and funding allocations.

FB queried if there had been sufficient data available (recognising that there is a shortage on condition data) and does it deal with competing natural capital data to help guide which type of action could be delivered. IR said that the early workshops requested that data was not simplified, and the data has therefore not been summarised with any ranking. However, it could be presented to a farmer with areas which are felt are a higher priority for action. Defra are keen to co-develop solutions with farmers so decisions on what should be done should not be set out prior to this process. The testing with farmers will determine how much farmers want to be guided. The maps need to be shared with farmers, so data has not been an issue, but holes could be picked in the data sets due to the level of data. The data aims to guide work and avoid limiting ambition.

ID noted that for a targeted land management this approach works but when widening this out to Dorset we may need highlight a bit more about priority areas in terms of carbon capture, restoration potential etc. so a balance between smaller opportunities for a land manager and wider holistic benefits across Dorset is needed. This is being tested with farmers to see what works and is being discussed about part of the project working group.

MR asked if the presentation could be shared with the Stour Valley Park (SVP) team. IR said that the draft plan is still be developed and will be shared with the LNP once this is ready for wider circulation – currently there are a few caveats that need to be explained. IR happy to present to the SVP group to explain the process in the shorter term.

DL asked if the maps will be interactive to focus on smaller areas. The Defra contract is set out at this level, but eventually the maps will be published on Dorset Explorer to enable this opportunity. IR also noted a frustration that Defra have not set out the delivery options. The maps can highlight opportunities but it is not clear how these could be funded and what the payments rates will be available.

LR noted that LNPs will be in a position to help coordinate the approach.

FR asked about the access element, for example SANGs often focus on access via car. IR said that the Publish Health Dorset data on greenspace has been used based on the 300m WHO levels but other than this further work had not been looked at.

RB noted that Dorset Council are producing advice on right tree right place.

FB noted that the Local Access Forum meeting had discussed that a lot of access to farmland was currently funded by Countryside Stewardship so this may be impacted in the future. ELMS should pick this up, but this does not seem to have been picked up in any of the test and trials.

RK noted that where there is a public right of way there is a legal duty to maintain that route. The DC Rights of Way team are looking to ensure this is maintained and supported, looking at focusing on areas where the demand is to ensure resources are used where there is demand. This is a key interest of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board’s agenda – RK will take back to RP.

IR noted that one piece of data they would have liked is the condition of rights of way, which would help target action. RK said that the Local Access Forum of Right of Way officers should have the data, although might not be easily pulled together, but something she is keen to know more about.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Share presentation when developed further.	IR / MC	When available

ITEM 5: HEALTH AND NATURE DORSET

MC gave an update on the development of the Health and Nature Dorset (HAND) Collaboration. The Integrated Care System’s Sustainability and Transformation Plan, element of the Prevention at Scale programme already includes embeds the Healthy Places theme. Through work such as at Natural Choices (facilitated by the LNP), Dorset AONB’s Stepping into Nature, Active Dorset’s Active Ageing programme and Public Health Dorset we have jointly hosted *Picnic in the Park: Living Well Loving Nature* events. The first event was held with Dorchester Town Council in September 2018. In 2019 six more events were held across Dorset with the aim of even more in 2020, but these were postponed due to Covid.

Following the success of this collaborative work, a scoping workshop was held in November 2019 to bring environment and health colleagues together to scope the potential to formalise this joint working (building on the Health and Nature Charter endorsed by both Dorset LNP and Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board – it was noted that more links to BCP Health and Wellbeing Board are needed). The proposal to form a collaboration was supported, with the suggestion of following the model of the Dorset Coast Forum.

In December 2019, the Local Government Association and Health Foundation launched a call for projects to the *Shaping Places for Healthier Lives* – the programme would support systems change linked to the wider determinates of health. Working with the above partners an expression of interest was submitted to develop the collaboration. A stage 2 bid was invited with an initial deadline of March 2019 but this was delayed until October due to the pandemic. The partners were expanded to include Dorset Council, BCP Council and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

In October Defra and the Dept for Health and Social Care launched a call for projects for the Green Prescribing for Mental Health programme which would support 4 pilots across England. The focus was to be on supporting areas hardest hit by Covid, but it was recommended that applying would

demonstrate interest which might unlock other opportunities in the future. Dorset CCG submitted an expression of interest in late October.

The stage 2 bid and the expression of interest were both unsuccessful, however developing these bids has strengthened the existing partnership working and built new links. Through the Stepping into Nature extension funding some funding is available for administration support to develop the collaboration further and other funding sources will be investigated. Further work will be taken forward in the new year.

LR noted the links to physical activity and asked RK to comment from a Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board perspective.

RK noted that the last Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board had an update from Active Dorset about physical activity. Over the Covid period Dorset may not have had high levels of Covid, but there has been an increase in obesity in young people. Active Dorset have developed a physical activity strategy which aims to be the plan for the whole area – this is not just sport; it includes any activity including outside leisure. RK suggested MC attend the March Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board to give an update on this work.

MR noted that they are working with Active Dorset – some more active and some less. The Future Parks Accelerator and the Green Infrastructure Strategy development to look at accessing greenspaces and PHD are on this group. Work is looking at improving access and engaging with nature. MA noted that work with the Bereavement Service is working with Hengistbury Head to support those who have suffered a bereavement to engage with nature.

MC noted that Natural Choices aims to bring together activities with nature to make it easier for the health system to signpost activities such as Parks in Mind and conservation work parties.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Continued development of the HAND collaboration.	MC	Ongoing
Invitation to the March HWB to give an update on this work.	RK / MC	March
Investigate improving links with BCP HWB.	MC / MR / RP	Ongoing

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

MC presented the draft response to the Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency, which ends on 20 January. It is proposed DLNP supports the principle of the strategy but that more needs to be included on the ecological emergency and each theme could be looked through an ecological lens. DLNP is keen to work with the council to help develop this. The action plan includes a carbon saving column, and an ecological gain column could be added.

RB noted that the points were well made and would take this back to the team and looks forward to receiving the full response. He encouraged everyone to look at the strategy and comment through the consultation. It seems that people do not fully understand the impacts that this will have on Dorset and the costs that the council will need to invest to implement the strategy. He noted that they had only received about 450 responses (but over 3000 to a shoppers parking permit consultation).

MA noted that the BCP are developing their strategy. FR said that the BCP strategy was due to be published before Christmas for eight weeks consultation. MC noted that the LNP would not be

meeting again in time for that consultation but anything relevant from the DC would be fed into the response.

KP wanted to thank MC and ID for developing this response which is very helpful and wanted to see. Thinks many comments will be taken on board.

SC queried whether it would be costly to deliver in the mid to long term, in terms of investing now to save costs later and maintaining sustainably can bring costs down, with fairly short-term payback. He suggested low-methane livestock feeds would make a major global impact in reducing emissions.

Comments on the draft climate change strategy response to be submitted to MC by mid-Jan.

SC asked if the draft response could be shared with community groups. ID noted that she would be looking over the draft to check it is ok for sharing and will send to SC once checked.

LR noted that the councils are developing their Local Plans – DC due to be published for consultation on 11 Jan. This is an opportunity for the LNP to feed into this as well.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Check draft response suitable to share with community groups.	ID/MC	11 Dec 2020
Send comments to MC on the draft response to the DC strategy.	All	15 Jan 2021
Respond to the BCP Draft strategy once published.	MC	tbc
Respond to Local Plan consultations.	MC	tbc

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

Former board member Jim White represented the LNP at the Dorset AONB Partnership Board. Now that JW has stood down from the LNP, this position is vacant, and Dorset AONB has invited us to appoint a new representative.

The Dorset AONB Board meets twice year (March and November), with some wider forum events once a year (postponed this year due to the pandemic). TM is happy to discuss the AONB Partnership Board with anyone interested in taking on the role.

SC nominated WB or FB. FB to see how water is represented on the AONB Board.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Nominations to represent LNP at the Dorset AONB Partnership Board (inc. self-nominations) to be sent to MC.	All	15 Jan 2021

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Coastal Based Approach (CoBA)

MC highlighted a proposal for the development of a Coastal Based Approach which would replicate the Catchment based Approach. DLNP has been asked to endorse the proposal which will be submitted to Government. MA noted that he had passed this on to the Coastal Engineering Partnership who had given some positive support and will send their comments to MC.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Comments on the Coastal Based Approach to MC.	All	15 Jan 2021

ii) Planning Reforms

ID attended a round table of MHCLG about planning reforms. There was strong consensus about the positive and concerns of the white paper.

iii) Stour Valley Park

MR stated that in Jan BCP will launch some workshops on the Stour Valley Landscape Strategy. If interested in attending, contact MR/MC.

iv) People's Assembly

JP noted that Corfe Castle Parish Council would be holding a People's Assembly on the DC Climate and Ecological Emergency.

ITEM 12: DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Thursday 4 March 2021: 9.30-1.30 Annual Forum 9.30-1pm– Zoom
- Wednesday 10 March 2021: 2pm-4.30 – Zoom or tbc
- 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