

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS

Date:	28 March 2017	
Present:	Gideon Ben-Tovim (GBT)	Chair
	Alison Ball (AB)	Arup & Partners Ltd
	Lesley Barnabus	Knowsley Council
	Prof. Peter Batey (PPB)	University of Liverpool
	Nicola Brown (NB)	Natural England
	Christine Darbyshire (CD)	Liverpool City Council
	Dr Alan Jemmett (AJ)	Merseyside Environmental Advisory
	Dave McAleavy (DM)	Sefton Council
	Clare Olver (CO)	The Mersey Forest
	Anne Selby (AS)	The Wildlife Trust
	Stephen Sykes (SS)	EMANSYS
	Don Thompson (DT)	Merseyside Environmental Trust
	Nick Thompson (NT)	Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Apologies:	Paul Booth (PB)	Riverside Group
	Dave Callan (DC)	Chair of Local Access Forum
	Michelle Cameron (MCA)	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce
	Caroline Davies (CDAV)	Knowsley Council
	Mike Harden (MH)	Knowsley Council
	Paul Sanderson	St.Helens Council
	Paul Buntin	Mersey Travel
	Mark Chadwick	Environment Agency
Circulation:	As above and Board members.	

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Item	Comments	Action
1.0	Introduction.	
2.0	Apologies: As above.	-
3.0	Minutes and actions from the last meeting: Approved	
4.0	<p>Update from the Chair on his meetings:</p> <p>Gideon updated the group on the various meetings he had attended since the last meeting which included work with the LEP, chairing the Low Carbon Advisory Group and has been appointed chair of Knowsley Parks & Green Space Review Board.</p>	
5.0	<p>Rethinking Parks update:</p> <p>Lesley presented Caroline's report which included a case study from Newcastle upon Tyne where the council is currently consulting with residents on the future of its parks and green spaces. The council has been working with the National Trust and is now seeking the views of residents on the establishment of a charitable trust which will look after 33 parks, 21 recreation grounds and the city's allotment facilities.</p> <p>There was discussion around holding a Nature Connected event but it was agreed that this would best wait until the findings and mechanisms are known. AJ reminded everyone that NC did not receive any funding to support large scale consultation and dissemination events</p> <p>Agreed as NC is a strategic organisation covering the five local authorities that a stock take of progress should be undertaken by the task and finish group. Caroline Davies was nominated to co-ordinate requests across the local authority officers.</p> <p>GBT asked if anyone had any tangible proposals to get in touch.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CDav</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
6.0	<p>Engagement with the Combined Authority:</p> <p>Nicola Brown introduced the work she supporting through a Task and Finish group to look at the outcomes that we would like to see from the work with the Combined Authority in the short to medium term.</p>	

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	<p>This provides a good opportunity to ensure that the objectives of Nature Connected are fed into the plans and discussions about the future of the city region. AJ provided an overview of the discussions.</p> <p>The Board supported the ideas and agreed that it needed to get to the candidates before election. A summary document was suggested, similar to the Northern Forest flyer. There was a request made to the board to undertake this work.</p> <p>A discussion followed around the mechanisms for delivery eg. off-setting. Agreed that Planning Policy officers needed to be engaged at an early stage.</p>	All
7.0	<p>Natural Health Service:</p> <p>CO provided an update on the Natural Health Service and, as part of the next phase of development, a conference is being held on 9 May in Liverpool aimed at commissioners to explore the opportunities for wider commissioning of the Natural Health Service.</p>	
8.0	<p>EU Bids – ESIF and SUD:</p> <p>CO updated the group on the ESIF bid which is due to be submitted on 23 April. The bid is based on the GI Prospectus developed by ARUP and CFT for Nature Connected and the LEP. The bid links GI with renewable energy projects in the strategic investment areas across the city region.</p> <p>The SUD programme has still not opened for calls and so we continue to wait for that to submit the proposal that has been developed.</p> <p>A further update to be provided at the next meeting</p>	
9.0	<p>Sefton Coastal Plan:</p> <p>AJ offered to respond on behalf of the group acknowledging that as MEAS were closely involved it could be seen as a potential conflict of interest</p>	
10.0	<p>LCR Ecological Framework and GI Framework updates:</p> <p>CO provided an update on current activity that is being developed for the LCR Ecological Framework.</p>	
11.0	<p>Stobart Woodlands Survey:</p> <p>CO provided a brief update with Stobart currently talking to around 50 local authorities, and Cheshire West & Chester Council are developing the</p>	

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	<p>procurement protocols which could then be used by other local authorities if required.</p> <p>Discussion around opportunities to link to jobs and training within city region. CO explained that the requirements of RGF bid included a large element of training programmes.</p> <p>AS expressed concerns that valuable habitats for some bird species may be lost e.g. scrub land for willow tits. It was confirmed that before any felling would be undertaken, a UKWAS approved woodland management plan would have to be approved by FC: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard</p>	
12.0	<p>Defra 25 year Environment Strategy:</p> <p>NB and AS updated the group with progress.</p>	
13.0	<p>Funding Bids/Opportunities:</p> <p>ESIF/SUD bids already discussed. Other opportunities include Gems in the Dunes. NT reported that the SCLP was considering submitting a Big Lottery Reaching Communities bid. LS highlighted the joint Sport England bids that were being submitted with Sefton Council.</p>	
14.0	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>RB reported on a successful Healthy Rivers Trust event looking at urban water management, and confirmation from Defra for four years' funding.</p> <p>DT informed the board of an event on 7 April at the Brink.</p> <p>NT updated the group on the appointment of a fund raiser to CPRE to increase their presence in the area.</p> <p>DMc provided more detail to the board on the transfer of land at Formby from Sefton Council to the National Trust, and the restructure of departments to form a GI Service. DMc will be retiring at the end of June.</p> <p>AS reported some adverse publicity over grey squirrel control at Formby. The Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild will take place again in June following the success from last year helping people to reconnect with nature.</p>	
15.0	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>2:00 p.m. 13th June 2017 at Arup Offices</p>	