



Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1st March 2-4pm

Venue: Via Teams

Attendees:

Lucy Abram (NE)	George Coombs (NE)	Annie Merry (Faiths for Change)
Gideon Ben-Tovim (Chair)	John Dempsey (Green Sefton)	John Sanders (Mersey Rivers Trust)
Mark Booth (UU)	Lorna Drake (NE)	Richard Scott (Eden) – part
Colm Bowe (LJMU, Nature North)	Katie Finkill-Coombs (NE)	Juliet Staples (Liverpool City Council)
Hannah Branwood (LJMU)	Susannah Gill (TMF)	Nick Thompson (CPRE)
Andrew Clark (MEAS)	Jo Holden (Peel)	Rachel Waggett (LCRCA)
Rachel Cripps (Lancs Wildlife Trust)	Liam Hurley (EA)	
	Alan Jemmett (MEAS)	

1.0 Introductions / Apologies / Welcome; (meeting chaired by Alan Jemmett due to connection issues Gideon Ben-Tovim experienced at the start of the meeting)

Apologies:

Jeni Brittlebank (EA) – Liam Hurley attending instead
Michelle Cameron (Liverpool Chamber)
Syd Cottle (University of Liverpool)
Emma Galbraith (Liverpool City Region Combined Authority)
Alex Preugschat (University of Liverpool)
Caroline Riley (Mersey Rivers Trust) – John Sanders attending instead
Don Thompson (Merseyside Environmental Trust)
Danielle Walsh (Natural England)

Unfortunately no minutes are available from last meeting on 12th October 2022. Michelle Whalley, who usually takes the minutes, is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Michelle on the birth of Georgiana!

2.0 Nature North – update (Dr Colm Bowe)

Presentation by Colm Bowe (shared with minutes)

Mark Booth - I would be very interested to understand the planned work on rivers and estuaries to ensure our investment plans support your work. You may have UU people on the groups already - but I can either support them or find the right people.



Nature Connected needs to think about its partnership and getting right players involved. E.g. some of Nature North advisers have not been involved.

Longevity of Nature North – current funding to end March 2025, but steering group has been here before funding since 2019. Appetite for it to continue, as has developed organically. Really a 10-20 year project.

Nature North is helping to change landscape of unlocking finance to large scale projects.

Do we have understanding of projects in LCR, from small to large scale? How to capture smaller scale and ones not aware of? NN hoping to pull together list of buyer ready projects, and aggregators of smaller scale projects. Nature Connected connected to projects in region. Needs to think more about how we pull it all together and brainstorm/map and develop pipelines. How we can work together in more cohesive way, join bids when doing similar things. Will be important for implementing LNRS. Management group to discuss.

NFM Hub/connecting with a national hub may be a way to go. AC - Would be good to have a presentation by Nature North at different partnership groups e.g. Catchment Partnerships.

NC can help to identify LCR offer as part of wider north offer. Again a key component of LNRS.

3.0 Liverpool City Region Climate Partnership – updates

Introduction by Gideon Ben-Tovim. NC have been trying to collaborate closely with LCRCA since year of environment.

(i) 5 Year Climate Action Plan

Rachel Waggett had shared restricted access version (sent prior to meeting), please do not share for now.

Part of wider LCR Climate Action Plan, just with action for the LCRCA not other orgs. Nothing in Climate section about adaptation, but in a central cross-cutting pillar as relevant to all sectors. Also not set in stone for 5 years. Hopefully approved in June this year. By March should have final draft. Terminology questions to NC – use of term “sequester”; sensitivities around farmers perspectives on “freeing up” agricultural land as per Committee on Climate Change terminology.

All – Please send comments by 20th March to climate@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Need way of measuring/valuing across the land and sea ref action 1.1.

Agricultural – positive lens on ELMS etc rather than barrier. Poorer quality agricultural areas.

NC role in helping to deliver action plan? Challenge back to all to look at what action they can contribute.

Should we have agricultural community on NC board? E.g. Adam Briggs NFU/ Sustain/ Soil Association, Nature Friendly Farming network. Can invite NFU immediately.

Katie will share with agri-environment colleagues.

MRT links into Water Friendly Farming Group, will be extended to whole of LCR.

(ii) Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Presentation by Katie Finkill-Coombs (shared with minutes). Defra suggesting national role out April 2023.

LNRS needs to engage with LAs as landowners.

Also churches – Katie's colleague Jenny Griggs is engaging with churches. Annie Merry - I'm working with Jenny currently, I'll pass on my lead contacts as we're working with leads for respective denominations on their net zero carbon programmes which incorporate land management

LCRCA seed funding to work with NC. Keen that it builds on existing work in region.

MEAS – building internal capacity for LNRS. LNR (not S) newsletter shared prior to meeting. All can share content going forward.

SG – can share letter on amendment to Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill that NC signed up to (shared with minutes). This is a letter from Wildlife and Countryside link to Defra asking for amendment to Bill to strengthen status of LNRS by incorporating them into Local Development Plan. NC a signatory alongside other LNPs.

(iii) Community Environment Fund / UK Shared Prosperity Fund – LCR allocation

CEF came out of Year of Environment 2019. Has put just over £1million into projects, incredibly successful. This picked up on by Shared Prosperity Funding allocations. Shared prosperity funding given is less than EU funds it replaces. But has strands on greening and social capital/volunteering – will be just under £2million over 3 years, accessed through LAs. Will be launched in April. May be a hiatus between end of CEF and this being rolled out. Investment Colleagues looking for way to bridge this.

CA colleague could tell us more at another meeting.

4.0 Natural Capital Steering Group – report back (Dr Colm Bowe)

Colm gave slide update (shared with minutes).

Natural Capital literacy training for LA planners as part of Green Recovery Challenge work.

Spatial Development Strategy – consultation will probably be late spring/early summer. MEAS can find out more.

5.0 Progress of local NEIRF projects and other member updates

TMF NEIRF project nearing completion. Draft report being prepared - should be available very soon. Iain Taylor has sent several organisations involved with the pilot study areas an advance draft for comments earlier this week. Circulate summary when available.

Liverpool city region NEIRF – LA/ land estate. Alan summarized. Work has started in 2023. Better shape to share at next meeting.

Jo Holden – Biobanking aggregate across private sector NEIRF. Looking at Speke/Garstang. Salford Boothstown is most advanced bank, habitat management plan. Happy to present on the Boothstown biobank in Salford when it is up and running!

Nick Thompson - CPRE about to launch a national campaign on solar power. Our Branch likely to be funded to look at panels on warehouse rooves and car parks. Please share any examples.



Warrington BC invested in rooftop solar on some of the warehouses at Omega - lots of lessons to learn. Speak to Mark McGiveron mmcgiveron@warrington.gov.uk

Future meeting – Richard Scott could present on Eurovison related work with seed cleaning

6.0 AOB

Richard Scott lost connection but sent the following after the meeting:

“I wanted to acknowledge for the whole City Region and Merseyside, the great loss and legacy of Chrisie Byrne, as an extraordinary green space advocate, and for all the help advice she gave to so many other groups and individuals, across the region, and outside it, and certainly the support she gave to keep work of the National Wildflower Centre alive here.

Chrisie died between Christmas and the New Year. Her funeral was very sad of course - but life-affirming too (there was a lot of humour). We will miss her - but her legacy continues, in her spirit and example, her beloved Walton Hall Park and the Community Garden there, and many other Parks and Greenspaces across the City, which she helped protect and vision for. We thank her for that. Bravo Chrisie.

Chrisie was appreciated far afield. Many Cities are watching Liverpool because of Fields in Trust and the future of Parks takes a new importance to biodiversity delivery close to people. I did a presentation to The Bristol Parks Friends Forum with Chrisie during lockdown for example, for this very reason.

<https://www.fieldsintrust.org/News/chrisie-byrne>

Here is a lovely interview (only 8 days remaining) - a 10 minute slot- on Radio Merseyside on this link below- 21 minutes in. Few people could raise a Cygnet from an abandoned Swan’s nest - Chrisie did just that - it is called Wally of course- for Walton Hall Park. It says it all, heart and soul.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0dyf1m6>”

Thanks and close from Gideon.

Next meeting: Wednesday 28th June 2023, 2-4pm - online