



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Monday 27th June 2016
Terry Collins' Office, County Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Tara Duncan - Durham University

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
 Jamie Fletcher - Environment Agency
 Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 Ian Hoult - Durham County Council
 Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
 Tim Wright - Durham County Council
 Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
 Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
 Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
 Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising Tara Duncan has contacted Liz Charles (Project Co-ordinator) Food/Energy from Durham Community Action (DCA) and Liz is now a member of the Climate Change Group. The revised Durham Tourism Plan has been published – Steve Bhowmick to chase this up and provide a link to the document. Stella Hindson included the article regarding Julie Form's contribution to the Environment Partnership and County Durham Partnership in the Spring edition of the newsletter. The terms of reference were circulated by Victoria Burrell and comments received back. An expression of interest for the Vice-Chair position was included in the Environment Partnership newsletter. Gordon Elliott is to approach Liz Charles and ask if she is</p>	<p>Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Gordon Elliott</p>

	<p>interested in the position of Chair of the Environment in Your Community Group.</p> <p>Bryan Harris electronically circulated sponsorship information to the Group relating to the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Stella Hindson has produced a press release to highlight the Environment Awards.</p> <p>The Vice-chancellor of Durham University has been made aware of the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Ian Hoults reported that the Big Spring Clean had been successful and continues to develop each year.</p> <p>A joint press release (DCC and Durham University) was produced for Earth Hour.</p> <p>A discussion between Gordon Elliott and Oliver Sherratt did not take place regarding information on grants, however this information has been collated.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick reported that the Environment Awards are now open for entries. Steve asked the partners to look at the categories to establish if there are any schemes to be entered. Steve thanked Terry Collins for his editorials and support.</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick to send the link to the Environment Awards page.</p> <p>Steve stated that the current balance of the budget is £8500. Banks Group has provided £2000, Durham Wildlife Trust has given £250, Groundwork has offered £300, Durham County Council has input £5000. Durham University has also provided sponsorship. Marmax has offered prizes. Further responses regarding sponsorship will be reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>The awards launch went live on 3rd June and runs to 15th July 2016.</p> <p>Stella Hindson is to produce further communication relating to the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Steve pointed out that the format of the evening for the awards process was discussed at the previous meeting of the Board which included streamlining the ceremony and refining the judging procedure.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor of Durham University has agreed to attend the Environment Awards ceremony.</p> <p>World Environment Day (5th June 2016) – was well supported across the county:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haggrid Project – at Durham City Railway young people from the Haggrid Project worked with Virgin Train staff and DCC staff to hang flowers and plant summer bedding. • Pupils from Gilesgate Primary School and members of the British Legion joined DCC staff to plant a carpet bed on Gilesgate roundabout to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. • A beach litter blitz was held at Seaham as part of 	<p>Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Stella Hindson</p>

	<p>the Reach for the Beach Festival. The Energy Management in Community Buildings event on 9th June was very successful, with 70 people attending. Steve added that next year the Board event must be more coordinated in scheduling dates for launch events.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications Stella Hindson circulated copies of the Altogether Greener newsletter (Summer 2016) and gave a brief update of the events and projects taking place including Heritage Open Days which runs from 8th to 11th September 2016 and National Recycle Week which also takes place in September. All Board members to email Stella with any changes or comments to the newsletter. Jim Cokill to email Stella more information on HLF Landscapes project pipeline workshop. Stella reported that there is one Caring for your Environment Award in progress with Durham University.</p>	<p>Jim Cokill</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions <u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u></p> <p>Oliver Sherratt circulated copies of the latest edition of the Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Steering Group newsletter. He gave a brief update of the ongoing projects which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage at Risk – DCC is continuing to work with partners in the development of a new Heritage at Risk Strategy. A programme of works involving the conservation and consolidation of the Scheduled Monuments of Brusselton Incline and The Gaunless Bridge on the Stockton to Darlington Railway Line. • Bright Water Project covering the 200 sq km catchment area of the River Skerne is now underway. • Reach for the Beach – a programme of events and activities along the coast which took place between 28th May and 5th June. • Limestone Landscapes project – work has come to an end, residual funds left. • Wildflower Meadows – work ongoing. • Woodlands work ongoing. • HLF landscape project pipeline workshop – a workshop to develop a pipeline of landscape environmental projects across the North East will be held this summer. • War Memorials – a project to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local war memorials. • Land of Oak and Iron – practical work is being undertaken on the first projects. • Looking at refreshing the projects and the possibility 	

of new schemes.

Environment in Your Communities

Ian Hoult reported that:

- Britain in Bloom is going well, with judging taking place in early August.
- It's Your Neighbourhood Grant Scheme (growing) – trying to push a grant scheme for growing which links into the food network.
- The Growing group is putting together a calendar of events, building on such things as composting. Looking at expanding the Growing group to include members of the Food group.
- Operation Stop It – Flytipping campaign is ongoing.
- Activities taking place with the help of Groundwork.

Local Nature Partnership/DEFRA

Jim Cokill provided an update on the work of the Local Nature Partnership which included:-

- Bright Water Project – ongoing work including specialist reports have been produced. There is uncertainty as this project requires match funding (European funding).
- Heritage at Risk Sites – ongoing work with partners.
- Limestone Landscape partnership bid – a project looking at the limestone coast.
- HLF – Jim Cokill has joined their committee.
- The Durham Wildlife Trust's project Kittiwake Cam is a finalist in this year's National Lottery Awards (Environment category) and has a chance to win to help continue their work. Jim to send the link to it to Board members.

Jim Cokill

Climate Change Group

Victoria Burrell provided an update of the groups work in the absence of Tara Duncan. Some of the main points being:-

- Building Community Resilience for Sever Weather – The Civil Contingency Unit has produced an annual report for the project (circulated). The project is going well with an upcoming focus on caravan sites and a high profile event is planned for the uniformed youth organisations who have completed the Community Safety Award.
- Community Energy Event held on 9th June (as mentioned earlier in the meeting), with 70 people attending. Speakers covered a range of opportunities for community buildings to save money on energy bills and reduce their emissions.
- Modal shift – It has been decided to no longer go ahead with this project and will now focus on an initiative as part of the successful North East Combined Authority bid for revenue funding from

	<p>the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund. The aim of the funding is help to cut carbon emissions by reducing congestion through the promotion of sustainable travel. Looking at a wide range of projects to promote walking, cycling and public transport will be delivered in partnership with major employers, schools and local communities focussed on Durham City and Chester le Street. One idea is for an 'in town without my car' day promoting the National Event in Durham City in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorn Lighting – there is a proposal to run a 'Dragon's Den' style event at Thorn Lighting with five secondary schools in the County. There would be a tour of the site and judging of the ideas. 	
6.	<p>AOB Jim Cokill stated that the LNP has a consultant on board and is looking at ideas and talking to a few partners. Jim to send Terry Collins an invite to speak to the consultant. Steve Bhowmick reported that the County Durham Plan is being refreshed and described work relating to this. The Consultation is running till mid August. Steve to email the link to Board members.</p>	<p>Jim Cokill Steve Bhowmick</p>
7.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting Wednesday, 7th September 2016. 13.00pm to 15.00pm, The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	