



## County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham

### Apologies

Julian Carrington - Environment Agency  
Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council  
Stuart Timmiss - Durham County Council

### Attendees:

**Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Julie Form - Groundwork North East  
Adrian Vass - Natural England  
Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust  
Claire Thompson - Durham Wildlife Trust  
Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council  
Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council  
Maggie Bosanquet - Durham County Council  
Jayne Watson - Durham County Council  
Vicki Burrell - Durham County Council  
Stella Hindson - Durham County Council  
Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Claire Thompson the new LNP Officer was introduced. No apologies were received from Steve Hunter. Terry to contact Steve Hunter.	Terry Collins
2.	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b> Consideration was given to the minutes of 20th March 2014. Julie Form requested that the minutes be corrected in relation to Item 5, Group Update. Oliver Sherratt stated that he has been liaising with Steve Bhowmick regarding Britain in Bloom.	
3.	<b>Presentation from Economic Partnership and Questions</b> Maggie Bosanquet gave a presentation on European Funding regarding the Low Carbon Economy. The main points of the presentation being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Within ERDF funding there is a ring fenced allocation which must be spent on the Low Carbon</li></ul>	

Economy. The amount allocated to Durham is around £14m.

- Domestic energy efficiency – improve the energy efficiency of domestic housing stock using a mix of low carbon interventions. Support and enable exemplar area-based schemes and develop low carbon demonstration projects in community and public buildings.
- Business energy efficiency – an intensive programme to enhance business energy and resource efficiency and resilience through expert advice, skill development, building retrofit and process improvements.
- Public and community buildings programme – to demonstrate practical implementation of approaches to improve sustainability and reduce energy use.
- Low carbon supply chains – to develop supply chains to realise the unique opportunities from the low carbon economy in the North East including renewables, building retrofit, biomass and new and innovative technologies. For County Durham the most important thing is to develop the biomass of that chain.
- Renewable energy generation – to promote the uptake of renewable energy technologies through district heat, biomass, waste to energy, community owned renewables, solar photo voltaic, micro-hydro and air/ground source heat pumps.
- New and innovative technologies – drive low carbon economic growth through new and innovative technologies including offshore wind, wave and tidal technologies, geothermal energy, hydrogen capture and storage, electric vehicles, battery storage and smart grids, carbon capture and storage. It was noted for information that Chris Tennant from the University is carrying out studies into smart grids and battery storage.
- Green infrastructure improvements – programme of green infrastructure improvements to create more resilient communities, businesses and infrastructure using Sustainable Urban Drainage and flood mitigation schemes, peatland protection, wetland and woodland creation.  
The group held a discussion in relation to contaminated land across County Durham.
- Low carbon skills and training – targeted recruitment, apprenticeships and self-employment support; community led projects to support low carbon activity; improved links between business and educators – internships and student placements.

	<p>Maggie to electronically send Low Carbon and Sustainable Growth document to all.  Adrian Vass to send 'Roots to Prosperity' document electronically to all.  It was suggested that a representative from Durham University should be invited to attend future board meetings. Julie Form stated that the University has representation on the Environment in Your Communities group. Terry to invite a University Board Member.</p>	<p>Maggie  Bosanquet  Adrian Vass</p> <p>Terry Collins</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Coastal, Heritage &amp; Landscape Group</u>  Oliver Sheratt reported that the group had looked into European funding and it has a good understanding of what's there. He then gave an update on current projects:  Heritage Coast – the coastal path opened on 12<sup>th</sup> April.  Land of Oak and Iron – received a helpful presentation from the project officer.  Limestone Landscapes – has recorded 2,421 volunteers contributing over 22,000 volunteer hours.  Durham Hedgerow Partnership – work is going well. Looking at work to tie in with council estates.  Piloting wildflower meadows with publicity taking place later in the year.  Hedgerow Partnership – providing training to DCC crews and tree tagging scheme.  Heritage skills and green jobs – there's a meeting with Groundwork coming up.  Heritage open days – thinking of extending to gardens.  Heritage at Risk – looking at improving training events.  Profile and engagement – raising the profile of Britain in Bloom.  Skerne Lands Project – holding a meeting to progress further. Looking to developing a new landscape initiative.  Life After Landscape Project – ongoing.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u>  Julie Form reported that:  The group's next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> May.  Big Spring Clean – work is ongoing.  The group is putting together an events calendar, this also includes Durham University events as the group is liaising with a representative from the university.  Nourishing Neighbourhoods – would like to see the market garden idea off the ground, where a centralised location can be used for skills, training and local community engagement.  Tim Wright is to attend the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u>  Maggie Bosanquet gave the group update:  Craghead presentation.  A meeting with Ewan Boyd had taken place regarding 11 renewable energy schemes.</p>	

	<p>The group had looked at potential flooding areas. Working with Durham University regarding World Environment Day and jointly screening a film in Market Place on 13<sup>th</sup> June with a discussion afterwards in the Town Hall.</p> <p>Sustainable Schools Conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in Durham.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u></p> <p>Jim Cokill reported that Claire has been in post since 12<sup>th</sup> May. Her job entails developing the partnerships vision and influencing other sectors.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing are two major issues. A paper going to Economic and Regeneration highlights this issue.</p> <p>On a wider level the Northern Upland Chain LNP presented a proposal to engage Ministerial interest in the idea of Environmental Investment Plans that would be mandated by Government and funded cross-departmentally. Chris Woodley-Stewart is doing excellent work in lobbying ministers for funding.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Environment Partnership Communications</b></p> <p>Mock-ups of award certificate designs were circulated by Stella Hindson.</p> <p>It was agreed by the group that the A4 earthy coloured, caring for your environment design should be used. The signature/name at the bottom of the certificate can be in either of the group chairs names or Terry Collins name.</p> <p>Vicki and Stella to coordinate photos/media coverage/photo consent policy etc.</p> <p>A discussion took place about who the awards should be given too. Oliver pointed out that the works carried out on the Riverbanks clean up would have been an ideal example for awards to be given.</p> <p>Terry would like to see a partnership newsletter involving all groups.</p> <p>Julie asked that members of the group populate the calendar of events so everyone is up to date with what's happening.</p> <p>Stella pointed out that she would like to make more use of DCC's website.</p> <p>Vicki added that Internal Audit has offered 10 days of their time looking into Partnerships. Audit is recommending a Sharepoint type system be used by the Partnership.</p>	<p>Vicki Burrell/Stella Hindson</p> <p>Stella Hindson/Vicki Burrell</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Environment Awards Update</b></p> <p>Steve Bhowmick reported that preparations are taking place for the Environment Awards launch.</p> <p>Steve to circulate the Environment Awards poster electronically to all.</p> <p>The launch is taking place on 5th June at the Gala Theatre, about 200 people have been invited (Invites have gone out). There will be an event on the morning with the Leader of the Council doing the opening. Terry Collins to make a speech about it being the 25<sup>th</sup> year. Rod Lugg has</p>	<p>Steve Bhowmick</p>

	<p>been invited to make a speech on how the Environment Awards started.</p> <p>Judging - 3 new group areas – Sustainable projects, Communities and Built and Natural Environment.</p> <p>Terry is to do the wrap up and introduce the new category with a few words from Oliver regarding Britain in Bloom.</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick is to close the show followed by lunch and a discussion. There is a need to get some press and publicity around it.</p> <p>Award entries are open till mid July with the final taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Radisson Hotel.</p> <p>There's a possibility that John Grundy will be a guest speaker at the final.</p> <p>Budget situation – there has been some strong sponsors again this year, for example Groundwork and Sita however some sponsors have come in lower than anticipated. The budget is currently £12,750 but more funding is required.</p> <p>Steve to speak to Terry regarding the budget.</p> <p>Steve added if anyone is aware of companies that might be interested in sponsorship to please contact him.</p>	Steve Bhowmick
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Oliver introduced Pauline Walker and Stuart Clasper from the Civic Pride team. They brought with them a foamex board advertising Britain in Bloom. A mosaic is to be produced for the judges to see. Photos for the promotion of Britain in Bloom were taken.</p> <p>Julie Form pointed out the need to reduce the amount of paper brought to the meeting.</p>	All to note