



County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes

Tuesday 23rd September 2014
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham

Apologies

Julian Carrington - Environment Agency
Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Julie Form - Groundwork North East
Adrian Vass - Natural England
Tara Duncan - Durham University
Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
Maggie Bosanquet - Durham County Council
Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
Corinne Walton - 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.	Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Consideration was given to the minutes of 15 th July 2014. No issues were raised.	
3.	AAP Update and Discussion Corinne Walton from the Derwent Valley AAP introduced herself to the Board. She gave an AAP update where the following areas were noted: The AAP's have been established for 5 years. Back in 2009, seven of the AAP's had environment as a priority. However over the years there has been a decline in the number of AAP's listing environment as a priority with an increased focus on health, welfare and employment. Between 2009-2014 £2,065 million has been invested,	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that the group had evolved and there was a need to refocus the groups' priorities. • The group has been successful and the Climate Change Strategy in the main has been delivered. <p>Problems of mitigation and adaptation. A paper has been written showing the possibilities for the future of the climate change group. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to keep the group as it is with a new chair; 2. Look at what actually exists and strengthen that group and make it part of this board; 3. Appoint sub groups to deal with different issues. <p>There is a need to raise how important the communication issue is. There was a discussion at the Board in relation to the Climate Change Group. It was concluded that climate change is an important issue and therefore warrants its own group. Topics such as flooding, education and domestic energy needs to be addressed. It was suggested that the group could perhaps concentrate on 3 projects a year and involve wider community partners. Terry Collins asked Tara Duncan to consider being the new chair for the Climate Change Group. Tara Duncan is to formally accept/decline the offer following her consideration.</p>	Tara Duncan
5.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p>It was stated that the first Caring for Your Environment Award had been issued to The Durham in Bloom Team. If the sub groups have examples of projects please contact Stella regarding publicity. It was suggested that the unsuccessful entries for The Environment Awards could possibly receive an award from the chair instead of receiving a letter. It was noted that the award certificate should be made bigger for publicity shots e.g polystyrene boards, pop up signs. It was pointed out that there is no category in the Environment Awards for engagement itself. This category is to be considered in the future. Terry Collins left the meeting.</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> Oliver Sherratt provided an update of the work of the group. Durham City, Chester-le-Street and Sedgefield received awards in this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition as well as other towns and villages in the county. It was reported that the Limestones Landscape Project is coming to an end. The Little Terns Project has been very successful. Wildflower Meadows has seen 2 pilots this year and there are plans to extend them.</p>	Steve

	<p>Work is ongoing on the Skerne Landscape Project. The group is looking at hedgerow schemes. A renewed HLF bid has been put together regarding a project at Ushaw College. Heritage Open Days have proved a great success and an update will be given at the next meeting. It was suggested that the timing of the Skerne Project needs to be right so that it doesn't clash with the Uplands Project.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> Julie Form stated that she would like to review the membership of her group in order to make it more action and delivery focussed. It was suggested that a representative from Natural England could attend the group meetings in the future. Julie to invite a rep from Natural England. Julie Form to speak to Terry Collins regarding the above issue.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> An update was given by Steve Bhowmick who reported that Claire Thompson is the dedicated officer for LNP work and Frank Major is chair. It was stated that resources will have to be found in order to manage the Climate Change Group. LEPs have substantive funding to help LNPs deliver an economic agenda. LNPs at the present time do not have large resources. LNPs in the north east are taking a positive step forward but how can the LNP have more relevance and how can it's profile be raised? Need to be more outward looking. The recent appointment of the LNP Officer has been invaluable. It was pointed out that there is another Upland Chain LNP in the area and this is well funded. DEFRA has asked for consultation with all LNPs in relation to the Upland Chain and how it will be involved in biodiversity offsetting. It was proposed that Adrian Vass/DEFRA update to be added to future agendas.</p>	<p>Bhowmick</p> <p>Julie Form Julie Form</p> <p>Victoria Burrell</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications Stella Hindson circulated copies of The Altogether Greener newsletter. Remarks from Board members regarding the content and look of the newsletter were positive. Stella to circulate the newsletter electronically to all for comments. She asked that members send her articles for the next newsletter as well as any details of awards that have been given. Stella proposed to distribute the newsletter through the partnership so members can in turn circulate through their own organisation. It was agreed that paper copies of the newsletter were not needed.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Environment Awards Update Steve Bhowmick gave an update and the following points were noted: A panel meeting is to be held later today and the judges will decide who will go forward to the final. There has been an amazing response from across the community with 119 schemes coming forward in the first round. Because there have been so many entries, the categories may be split into three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability (10 possible prizes) • Natural and Built Environment (14 possible prizes) • Caring For Your Environment (25 possible prizes) <p>Aiming to achieve good media for the event this year. The possibility of including the Beautiful Durham Competition in The Environment Awards next year.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>County Durham Partnership Event Victoria Burrell provided an update on the County Durham Partnership event and stated that the 'save the date' had changed from 17th October to 20th November 2014. The event is to be held at The Excel Centre at Newton Aycliffe, between 9.30 and 15.00. The event is a celebration of looking at the wider structure of the County Durham Partnership. The format for the day, themes and workshops is currently being developed. Victoria to send details electronically to all.</p>	<p>Victoria Burrell</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB The date of the next meeting is 10th December 2014, The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	