



## County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall, Durham

### Apologies

Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust  
Adrian Vass - Natural England  
Jayne Watson - Durham County Council

### Attendees:

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

Julie Form - Groundwork North East  
Tara Duncan - Durham University  
Julie Dingwall - Environment Agency  
Claire Thompson - Durham Wildlife Trust  
Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council  
Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council  
Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council  
Kirsty Wilkinson - 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.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.	
2.	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b> Consideration was given to the minutes of 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2014. The winter edition of the Altogether Greener newsletter was distributed. Terry Collins to provide a full programme of Lumiere at the next board meeting.	Terry Collins
3.	<b>Joint Health &amp; Wellbeing Report – Update Response</b> Claire Thompson provided an update on the response from the 3 Rivers LNP to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The main points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The JHWS vision is to 'Improve the health and</li></ul>	

	<p>wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities’. It states the intention of improving health needs for all with a focus on those at risk or of suffering from the greatest disadvantage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it possible that the focus of the JHWS can be widened as it concentrates on health and disease.</li> <li>• The JWHS needs to focus more on prevention rather than treatment. There needs to be more focus on positive activities to encourage citizen participation.</li> <li>• A wider focus around mental health issues is required – especially in urban areas where there is less access to green space.</li> <li>• The impact of climate change on health should be included in the JWHS.</li> </ul> <p>Claire added that she needs a greater understanding of the mechanisms of how the data included in the JWHS is compiled. Terry Collins is assisting Claire in meeting with the authors of the document.</p> <p>A discussion took place in relation to volunteering and the wider benefits it brings to physical and mental health as well as the social aspects e.g. being involved in the community.</p> <p>Gordon Elliott to meet with Claire to discuss the role of environment in the health and wellbeing/public health initiatives.</p> <p>It was discussed that a health representative would be beneficial to The Environment Partnership.</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson to speak to Anna Lynch in order to provide appropriate representation.</p> <p>Gordon to inform the group at the next meeting of the outcome of his discussion with Claire regarding the potential of AAPs being involved in health and environmental projects.</p>	<p>Gordon Elliott/Claire Thompson</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson Gordon Elliott</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</b></p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson gave background information stating that the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was established in 2009 from the Safe Durham Partnership. She provided the group with an early draft copy of the ‘Altogether Greener’ element of the strategy. The objective being ‘to reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham’.</p> <p>The Environment Partnership Board discussed how the Environment agenda links with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The Board discussed various issues for example:</p> <p>There are now better working practices on intelligence sharing e.g. litter problems, recycling bins.</p> <p>It was asked if the issue around the riverbanks and students should be included in the ‘Altogether Greener’ element of the strategy.</p>	

	<p>There has been an increase in the amount of alcohol being consumed at home leading to an increased amount of cans and bottles to be recycled. Areas discussed by the Board included whether it is possible to encourage people to get out of the house more. Is getting people involved in volunteering an option?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are crosscutting issues with neighbourhood protection and recycling especially when there are major sporting events e.g. the increase in bottles and cans – recycling and waste issues.</li> <li>• Work closely with CAT – flytipping and criminal damage.</li> <li>• Educational visits. There is a perception that only young people drink in fact it's not.</li> <li>• Promotion of sensible drinking - consider leaflets or talks regarding the harm of alcohol.</li> <li>• Serious health and environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Drinking in woods, cutting down trees to keep warm while drinking.</li> <li>• Trade waste licence checks for establishments that sell alcohol.</li> <li>• How does the issue affect Durham as a World Heritage Site – impact of these images affects the city plus also the noise impact.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is to be forwarded directly to Kirsty Wilkinson following the meeting.</p>	All
5.	<p><b>Updates from Group Chairs &amp; Questions</b>  <u>Coast, Heritage &amp; Landscape Group</u>  Oliver Sherratt circulated copies of The Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Steering Group Newsletter (Issue 7). He provided an update of the work being carried out by the group which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Browney Sea Trout – radio tracked sea trout.</li> <li>• Limestone Landscapes Partnership has been extended for at least another year.</li> <li>• Wildflower meadows – 6 new potential sites have been identified.</li> <li>• Woodlands – looking particularly at DCC woodland assets (these are split between Assets, Countryside and Direct Services).</li> <li>• Wider woodland grant application – package application for further woodland management, some of which could be transferred to a third party.</li> <li>• Progress relating to Heritage at Risk. Work has included looking at a database of sites and as a result a shortlist has been drawn up for works to be carried out. Examples being the Stockton to Darlington Railway and Brusselton Railway Bridge.</li> <li>• The Skerne Landscape project 'Brightwater' is in progress.</li> </ul>	

- Working in partnership with The Environment Agency regarding flytipping in the river Wear.

#### Environment in Your Communities

Julie Form reported that:-

- The flytipping sub group had held a discussion regarding hidden CCTV cameras. Oliver Sherratt stated that 23 cameras are in use across County Durham plus half a dozen from parish councils. There have been around 14,000 hits on the DCC video regarding flytipping.
- Work has been carried out by the Community Action Team (CAT) at Horden. It has been agreed that a carry on CAT will follow up work there once CAT has finished their work there. Durham City AAP has also approached CAT to carry out work in problem areas. Publicity around this work is to be issued soon.
- Growing for Health – the group is now working with a food strategy partnership. Delivering a programme called ‘Growing Together’ which is a 12 week course working with families.
- Working on a volunteer passport which includes working with local organisations regarding volunteering and a volunteering kitemark (being ready for volunteering).
- The Big Spring Clean started 2 weeks ago with photos to be taken on World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Local Nature Partnership

An update was given by Steve Bhowmick who reported that:

- There is an Upland Chain LNP meeting today.
- 3 Rivers Partnership is working with partner authorities to try to obtain funding to keep the role of the LNP Officer.
- Development of a bid for the ‘Brightwater’ project is progressing.
- Health and wellbeing work is being carried out.

#### Climate Change Group

Tara Duncan informed the group that she had met with Oliver Sherratt and Steve Bhowmick to seek advice and guidance on setting up the Climate Change Group. The group consists of Tara Duncan (Chair), John Reed (Vice-chair), Graham Warren, Su Jordan, Maggie Bosanquet and Rich Hurst.

The first meeting of the group is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April and it will need to agree on the frequency of meetings, projects to be carried out etc. The group would like to add benefit to the structures in place.

A theme to run through projects is education and

Tara Duncan

	<p>communication. Project ideas will be reported at the next board meeting.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Environment Partnership Communications</b> Stella Hindson circulated copies of the draft Spring edition Altogether Greener newsletter. A photo opportunity for a litter pick was discussed. Caring for your environment awards were deliberated by the Board. All nominations are to go through the group vice chairs and Neighbourhood Services Communications.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June, 2015)</b> A discussion took place regarding litter and it was asked if 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 could be a day of co-ordinated action. Stella Hindson is to coordinate information for this event and liaise with highways, Environment Agency, schools, Students/University, Police, etc. to promote litter picking. Tara Duncan to look into the possibility of obtaining a quote from Bill Bryson for World Environment Day. Steve Bhowmick pointed out that the 5<sup>th</sup> June is also the launch date of the 2015 County Durham Environment Awards and will be an opportunity to get the book out in the public domain. The Environment Awards ceremony will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November – more details to follow.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson &amp; Vicki Burrell</p> <p>Tara Duncan</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b> Julie Form stated that in April its Groundwork's 30<sup>th</sup> year in the North East. The first week in June is Volunteers Week. If board members/partners from the Environment Partnership have any memories of early stories details are to be sent to Groundwork as this will help in raising the profile.</p>	<p>All</p>