



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Tuesday 16th June 2015
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
 Adrian Vass - Natural England
 Tara Duncan - Durham University

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Julie Form - Groundwork North East
 Andrew Turner - Environment Agency
 Claire Thompson - Durham Wildlife Trust
 Brad Tooze - Natural England
 Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
 Tim Wright - Durham County Council
 Kirsty Wilkinson - Durham County Council
 Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
 Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
 Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
 Amanda Bryden - 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. Introductions were given.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Terry Collins reported that the full programme for Lumiere had not yet been released but gave details of some of the proposed features. Details of the full programme to be presented at the next Board meeting. Gordon Elliott said that he and Claire Thompson had met to discuss the potential of AAPs being involved in health and environmental projects. They have agreed to work on some ideas and to put them to AAP members. They have also met with Chris Scorer as public health interest. Tim Wright is now a member of the Environment	Terry Collins

	<p>Partnership Board as it was thought that a health representative would be beneficial.</p> <p>It was reported that World Environment Day went well and litter picks took place in Durham, Consett, Seaham and West Auckland. Press articles appeared in various newspapers.</p>	
3.	<p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson stated that the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy consultation will close in 4 weeks. Because there is so much work to do the strategy will be expanded to 2020. The Altogether Greener aspect was discussed at the last Board meeting where there was some discussion on how to achieve the objective. She added that ROSPA recommendations (such as infrastructure improvements, railings, lighting, etc) need to be incorporated. If there are any comments, amendments or omissions in relation to the draft document email Kirsty by 12th July 2015.</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt proposed looking at increasing opportunities for restorative justice for criminal damage. Kirsty Wilkinson to add this proposal to the strategy.</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson left the meeting.</p>	Kirsty Wilkinson
4.	<p>Environment and Health: Joint Working & Strategies</p> <p>Claire Thompson presented the latest position on the Environment and Health: Joint Working Strategy document. Claire thanked members of the Environment Partnership for their feedback and assistance with the production of the document. The next review of the document is November 2015 and evidence is required by the end of September 2015. This document will be presented to the Directors of Public Health on 17th July 2015 where key messages in relation to the benefits of health and the environment need to be given. There is a Big Tent workshop taking place on 4th November 2015 where the key messages of the strategy will be promoted. The Environment Partnership can assist with promoting these messages and Victoria Burrell suggested general communications linked to health and the environment could be given via the Environment Partnership's communications channels.</p> <p>The AAP's healthy town initiative in Shildon is an example of a health and environment project (Gordon Elliott is working with Councillor Stevens on this project). It was agreed by the Environment Partnership that the Shildon project will be used as an example to promote the benefits of health and environment to AAP's.</p> <p>Gordon Elliott to investigate early intervention opportunities.</p> <p>Julie Form and Claire Thompson to meet to discuss the action plan.</p>	Gordon Elliott Julie Form/Claire Thompson
5.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p>	

Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group

Oliver Sherratt circulated copies of The Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Steering Group Newsletter (Issue 8). He provided an update of the work being carried out by the group which included:-

- The design and installation of a plaque at the former home of Norman Cornish.
- Cold blooded and spineless project.
- Limestone Landscapes.
- Village Atlases.
- Heritage Open Days.
- Wildflower Meadows – 6 more wildflower meadows, sowed with perennials and annuals (bringing the total number to 8).
- Woodlands.
- Heritage at Risk.
- Toasty in Teesdale – Energy Conservation measures.
- Bright Water.
- Durham City riverbanks – work with riverbank safety group.
- Careful Environment Awards – Oliver would like to see individuals within the groups nominate candidates rather than just the chairman of the groups.

Oliver added that the volunteers who had carried out the litter picks had done a great job.

Environment in Your Communities

Julie Form reported that the group had met in April. Work being carried out by the group included:-

- A rolling programme of Community Action Team (CAT) work – work has finished in the Horden area and now focusing in Bishop Auckland.
- Publicity.
- In terms of the Waste Group Julie Dingwall is now attending meetings. Victoria Burrell met with Julie to discuss the promotion of National Recycling Week.
- Monitoring green waste collections.
- Continuing work on Nourishing Neighbourhoods – 3 growing champions, running courses on Growing Together and getting children involved.
- Looking at allotments.
- Working with the Pride Team – The Big Spring Clean went well.
- Have given out 10 awards.
- Volunteering.

Work ongoing with the flytipping group – CCTV cameras. A discussion about flytipping took place where it was noted that there has been a 32% reduction in flytipping since the introduction of CCTV cameras. It was agreed

Victoria Burrell

that the Board write a letter to magistrates asking that the fine for flytipping be increased. Victoria Burrell to coordinate a draft response on behalf of the Board. Julie Form stated that the Environment in Your Communities group could help with the clear up of flytipping in Willington Woods as the problem was mentioned in the earlier discussion.

Climate Change Group

Victoria Burrell gave an update on behalf of Tara Duncan. The main points being:

The Climate Change group has six core strategy members with representation from Durham County Council, Environment Agency and Durham University. The group's third meeting is planned for the 1st July.

Initially three project ideas have been identified:

- Building Community Resilience to Severe Weather – Building the resilience of communities to severe weather events by helping them to help themselves.
- Community Buildings – Engaging groups that manage community buildings to work together to reduce energy costs by attracting funding. Also promoting the adoption of positive environmental behaviours, possibly with the aid of local schools.
- Modal shift – identifying possibilities for positive modal shifts to aid the county's carbon reduction targets.

A fuller explanation of the projects will be brought to the next Board meeting.

It was suggested that as the group should be about partnership working, could it be possible to include a member of the volunteer sector? It was proposed that a member of Durham Community Action (DCA) join the group.

Steve Bhowmick stated that the Climate Change Strategy is going to cabinet on 15th July and was well received at the recent Management Team meeting.

Local Nature Partnership

An update was given by Claire Thompson who reported that:

- The Bright Water bid was submitted on 28th May to Heritage Lottery. It's a great example of partnership working and the purpose of LNPs in action.
- Work with health and wellbeing boards in Durham and the rest of the region is progressing well. Currently reviewing evidence base and opportunities for health and nature. Running a Big Tent workshop for the JHWS in November.
- European funding – it is expected the national Operational Programme will be signed off in July

Tara Duncan

	<p>with local calls going out in September (not confirmed). Thematic objective 5 has remained where there is £10.6million for green and blue infrastructure projects on site and upstream, which protect business from flood events - European funding match is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the sustainable development sections of European Structural Investment Fund through the Sustainable Growth Advisory Group. • 3Rivers website has been redesigned and goes live 1st July. 	
6.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications Stella Hindson circulated copies of the draft Summer edition Altogether Greener newsletter. She encouraged group members to spread the word regarding the Environment Awards. Stella is to add Heritage Open Days to the events and activities part of the newsletter. She asked that any further items to be included to be sent to her by the end of the week. Stella to send the link to the newsletter once it's completed.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson Stella Hindson</p>
7.	<p>Environment Awards Steve Bhowmick informed the group that this year's Environment Awards were launched on 5th June 2015 and the closing date is 24th July 2015. Information is available on the DCC website. There are 12 categories and there has been some good press coverage. He added that 6 entries have already been received. Judging will be the same as last year with the three group chairs assessing the entries. Sponsorship is coming in. A copy of the 2014 Winners List was circulated. The 25th year celebratory book is still in the process of being printed. The proposed date of the award ceremony is 5th November 2015 to be held at the Radisson, however it was suggested that the date should be rearranged and possibly the venue. Copies of the Environment Awards 2015 application information guide were circulated.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB None.</p>	
9.	<p>Date and time of next meeting 10th September 2015, 9.30am to 11.30am, Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	