



County Durham Environment Partnership Board Minutes

Wednesday, 7th September 2016
The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham

Apologies

Terry Collins - Durham County Council
Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
Jamie Fletcher - Environment Agency

Attendees:

Chair: Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council

Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
Liz Charles - Durham Community Action
Tara Duncan - Durham University
Gill O'Neill - Durham County Council
Ian Hoult - Durham County Council
Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
Tim Wright - Durham County Council
Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
Dorothy Smith - 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 were noted. Liz Charles was welcomed as the new Chair to the Environment in Your Communities Group. Introductions were given.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Tara Duncan asked that the minutes from 27 th June 2016 be amended under section 3 to read that Durham University had provided sponsorship towards the Environment Awards. The link to the revised Durham Tourism Plan has been circulated. Further press releases had been produced regarding the Environment Awards and the deadline for the Environment Awards had been extended. A HLF Landscapes project pipeline workshop is taking	

	<p>place on 11th October 2016, Jim Cokill will circulate further information when details have been confirmed.</p> <p>The link to the Kittiwake Cam project has been circulated. It was reported that the consultant taken on board by the LNP had met with Terry Collins. The LNP is changing to being an income generated body. There are detailed proposals taking place, with a fund being established. There will be a launch of the LNP business plan soon. It is hoped that the LNP will be a formal organisation which will provide support on environmental planning.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Director of Public Health Report – Obesity</p> <p>Gill O’Neill provided a presentation on obesity. Obesity levels are rising and this challenge requires a sustained response. The Board was asked to look at the importance of the environment and the use of greenspace in trying to reduce the growing number of obese cases. Board members were asked to come up with ideas on how the role of the environment/use of greenspace can help to reduce numbers.</p> <p>A discussion followed with ideas on how the Environment Partnership is already contributing towards reducing the numbers e.g. allotment work, volunteering, Durham University student app, sustainable travel, Country Park runs, etc.</p> <p>Board members to send ideas to Victoria Burrell and they will be presented and reviewed at the next Environment Partnership meeting and forwarded to Gill O’Neill following the meeting.</p> <p>Gill O’Neill to send the link to the Obesity Report.</p> <p>Gill O’Neill thanked the Board and left the meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Gill O’Neill</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Structure and Governance</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt welcomed Liz Charles and stated that the Board is pleased she has accepted the role as Chair of the Environment in Your Communities Group. Oliver thanked Ian Houtt for chairing the Group in the interim.</p> <p>Liz has met with Terry Collins and Victoria Burrell and it was suggested that she might want to speak to other members of the Board to exchange information, ideas, etc. It was stated that the Environment Partnership is an action orientated group. It was recommended that Liz speak to Victoria should she want to speak to other Board members.</p> <p>Gordon Elliott reminded the group that reorganisation is taking place within Durham County Council and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships is aiming to take partnerships from ‘good’ to ‘great’. Gordon stated that he had held a very useful meeting with Fred Robinson and had gained some ideas. Another meeting with Fred might be needed in the future. Oliver Sherratt is to discuss with Terry Collins the future review of the wider County Durham Partnership.</p>	<p>Victoria Burrell</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt</p>

5. Updates from Group Chairs & Questions

Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group

Oliver Sherratt circulated the latest copy of the Coastal Heritage and Landscape Steering Group Newsletter. He gave a brief update on some of the projects which include:-

- Land of Iron and Oak – The Land of Iron and Oak team is now in place and the project has generated a lot of community interest.
- Bright Water Landscape Project is going well.
- The Wildflower Meadows project is generating compliments and media interest.
- Marine/coastal work continues.
- Bathing water survey is taking place.
- Heritage at Risk – project is ongoing.
- Heritage Open Days – taking place between the 8th and 11th September.

A small number of projects are being refreshed but some are moving onto new ones such as biodiversity on road verges.

There are however HL funding/match funding issues – Jim Cokill to draft information and send to Terry Collins.

Jim Cokill

Environment in Your Communities

Ian Hout reported that there are two underlining focuses within the Group:-

1. Growing – the next meeting being held in October. Durham Community Action encouraging growing in communities.

2. Waste - including projects such as Operation Clean Sweep and Operation Stop It. A Waste and Recycling Facebook page has been created by the Council's Strategic Waste Team.

Other projects taking place within the group include:- Green Flags.

Northumbria in Bloom – judging took place in July and the results will be announced in September.

Britain in Bloom – judging took place on 2nd August with the results being announced in October.

Groundwork is involved in the Riverside Park and Friends group. Oliver Sherratt is currently investigating how many parks have friends groups.

Local Nature Partnership/DEFRA

Jim Cokill informed the group that the LNP Naturally Healthy Workshop which took place on 12th July at The Centre for Life, Newcastle had been a highly successful event. The aim of the workshop was to explore how to embed and mainstream the role of the natural environment in health priorities of the North East.

A HLF Landscapes project pipeline workshop is taking place on 11th October 2016.

A LNP Forum is planned for 30th November 2016.

<p>7.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications Dorothy Smith circulated copies of the Altogether Greener newsletter and highlighted events that had taken place and upcoming events. Durham has been awarded the Fish Cities Award and is the second city in the country to receive this award. Consultations are taking place on Air Quality and Flooding. Oliver Sherratt pointed out the need to include in the newsletter a consultation on Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control which will replace the existing Dog Control Order and include more powers on responsible dog ownership. A discussion took place on whether the Caring for Your Environment Awards are a good idea. It was agreed that they are although there hasn't been many awarded recently. Oliver Sherratt set the Board a target that each group must nominate someone for a Caring in Your Environment Award. Gordon Elliott stated that he could help in generating ideas for Caring for Your Environment Awards. Dorothy Smith to email information/criteria of Caring for Your Environment Awards to Liz Charles. Any changes/amendments to the newsletter to be sent to Dorothy by the end of the week.</p>	<p>Dorothy Smith</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB The Annual 'Big Tent' Event Engagement Event Workshop is being held on 5th October 2016 at the Durham Centre, Belmont. Claire Thompson is to attend the obesity workshop. Board members are welcome to attend any of the workshops. There are seven workshops:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Poverty/Welfare Reform • Oral Health • Reducing Obesity • Community Wellbeing Partnership – Making Every Contact Count • Health and Social Care Integration • Macmillan Partnership Joining the Dots Service • Mental Health Services in County Durham <p>Victoria Burrell to circulate workshop information.</p>	<p>Victoria Burrell</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date and time of next meeting 8th December 2016, 13.00 – 15.00pm, The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	