



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Wednesday, 7th March 2018
The Lantern Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Jamie Fletcher	-	Environment Agency
Gordon Elliott	-	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Stuart Timmiss	-	Planning, Durham County Council
Vicky Burrell	-	Strategic Waste, Durham County Council

Attendees:

Oliver Sherratt (Chair) (OS)	-	Direct Services, DCC
Liz Charles (LC)	-	Durham Community Action
John Reed (JR)	-	Chair, Climate Change Group
Tim Wright (TW)	-	Public Health, DCC
Steve Bhowmick (SB)	-	Chair, Coastal, Heritage and Landscapes Group
Katharine Birdsall (KB)	-	Environment Agency
Stella Hindson (SH)	-	Communications, DCC
Tarryn Lloyd Payne (TLP)	-	Secretariat, Partnerships Team, DCC
Graham Dell (GD)	-	Coal Authority
Jeremy Regan (JReg)	-	Coal Authority
Angela Brown (Minutes) (AB)	-	Secretariat, Partnerships, DCC

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions OS welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Graham and Jeremy from the Coal Authority. Round table introductions were initiated and apologies were listed.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising All actions were agreed as a true and accurate record</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Priorities are on agenda as agreed • In relation to Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy TLP met with Glenn Robinson, Tim Wright and Steve Bhowmick and fed into the overall plan. The plan will be distributed once its agreed • OCUMA – IH was looking to take up support from Durham University and join up system with 	

	<p>Environmental Health data. It would be useful to have a sharing of the two systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Award – is on today's agenda 		
3.	<p>Environment Strategic Priorities</p> <p>The plan on the page draft was presented at the last meeting and took on board partners comments and made necessary amendments.</p> <p>TLP mentioned that everyone seemed to be fairly happy with the four themes but we need to decide what we want to do. JC fed in and wants us to change the logo. LC has asked to feed comments in the next couple of days. OS mentioned that an important element pyramid is missing actions, once this is agreed then we will populate with actions. It sets out the overall direction and themes.</p> <p>OS suggested next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a partnership and our own organisations we need to consider further formal steps to get 'buy in' • Looking to take to ReaL Management Team for buy in. Beyond that possibly take with a brief report to County Durham Partnership. If we are setting these as key themes we need to have formal approval. <p>The Board endorsed this.</p>	ALL	
4.	<p>Environment Awards Highlights – Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>The Board watched a video which had been put together for the Environment Awards. It was very early stage of editing so are aware that there is a lot of work to be done. SH asked for feedback in relation to the video.</p> <p>It was suggested that rather than a video its maybe better to show pictures with music. The video will be used for potential sponsors and potential applicants. Want to showcase a range of categories.</p> <p>The video was 12 minutes it has been agreed that this should be cut to around 3 minutes and a different approach is needed as it wasn't clear on the video what the categories were.</p> <p>OS suggested something similar like Visit Co Durham did for year in life of County Durham with little snippets which would help to promote Durham environment.</p> <p>SH will feed this back the comments to the Communications Team</p>	ALL	SH
5.	<p>Wear Catchment Partnership – Katharine Birdsall, Environment Agency</p> <p>KB gave a presentation to the Board on the catchment Partnerships in the North East and the Wear catchment in particular.</p>		

	<p>The following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Catchment Based Approach • The Wear Catchment Partnership: focus and achievements • What is next for the Catchment Partnerships • Links with the County Durham Environment Plan <p>AB to circulate presentation</p> <p>Questions/comments</p> <p>It was asked if there was representation from farmers and landowners on Wear Rivers Trust. KB replied that farmers/landowners are less engaged on a strategic side of things, but links are there and have done a lot of good work in making the links. It was felt that strong partnership is very important</p> <p>In relation to geographical gaps because of funding the Environment Agency gives to projects it relies on evidence, although we know the area is failing getting evidence of this can be more difficult. There is a lot we would like to work on if could access the funding. Will BREXIT have impact on funding? – RDP grant money and running workshops the next one is end of March. KB will share information from DEFRA once this is available. Have 25 year plan working towards going beyond more than the water quality, hoping that funding will come from Government. The top part of the catchment is covered by AONB Peatland work and Coal Authority had quite a lot of money put into it. There are lots more to scope. Coastal streams have been given quite a lot of focus.</p> <p>OS thanked KB for her presentation</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>KB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Wear catchment water and abandoned metal mines – Graham Dell, Coal Authority</p> <p>GD thanked the Board for the opportunity to come along to present today. He mentioned that the Coal Authority were formed at the end of the UK deep coal mining era in 90s. Currently working with the Environment Agency and DEFRA. They cover nationwide area but the North East for mining and metal mining and iron in rivers.</p> <p>Comments/Questions JReg mentioned that they have regular partnership conversations and are mindful that some of the schemes are visible from public highways and byways.</p>	

	<p>The benefits are quantified by the increase in watersports coming into the area and fiscal impact through to property prices which are impacted on water quality. If you can reduce content the benefits would be apparent over a period of time.</p> <p>The reason so much money is being put into the Pennines is that they are severally polluted. Looking at engaging local committees who have an interest in metal mining. It needs to be cleaned up but how can we collectively as a community help to do this?</p> <p>OS thanked GD and JReg for presenting today and mentioned that it was great to hear about the work that's going on.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> SB updated the Board: Due to bad weather the group did not meet, so the last meeting was held in December. Discussion took place around seascape coastline from Tees to Tyne. Looking at new delivery and £248,000 is available Project offers to lead that. Will be worth around £5m.</p> <p>Durham woodland revival £80,000 HLF Durham Woodlands in the home. Looking at 4 study areas on that. Existing HLF schemes – new visitor centre is awaiting completion in Thornley. Bright Water has good vibes for HLF Phase 2 hoping to talk to marine management organisation Zoey Mckie. Wildflower Meadows goes from strength to strength have secured over 150,000 from planning money for new kit all come about through this group from bringing players together. Project greening the gap – have had more feedback and heritage at risk are looking at areas where heritage is under threat and trying to understand what the management needs of that are. Two heritage action zones have been awarded for Bishop Auckland town centre and the line and environs of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. Highways England are looking to do a similar scheme as us on wildflower work on the A1 so will be interesting to see how that relates.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> LC updated the Board A new campaign giving advice on refuse, recycling and revamping will be launched very soon.</p>	

Sainsbury's Waste Less, Save more – following on from the fridge in Shildon Alive two new fridges are being opened in Consett and Chester-Le-Street.
OLIO Food Sharing App is free app which enable everyone to share food. Since the launch in November 2017 nine stores and cafes are involved, 26 volunteers are trained to collect unwanted food and three community drop boxes have been installed in the Durham City area. There are 165 new users. Both Brandon and Carville areas are promoting the app.

ON 20th January Edible Gilesgate held a Lantern Parade which was very well received.

Work is continuing on the fish project in Willington and will start in Gilesgate too offering more therapeutic work

At last meeting had an update from the Environment Agency looking at possible impact changes on plastic recycling.

OS mentioned DCC Policy has been adopted and Overview and Scrutiny will be looking to the Environment Partnership to look to promoting single use plastic being phased out. OS has not yet been approached but suggested that maybe get small group together to look at these issues. John Shannon from Waste Team and Environment Agency. OS will speak to John and get a group to integrate together. SB mentioned that need to be mindful that across the service there is an internal approach on this so we need to ensure we avoid duplication

Climate Change & Air Quality Group

JR – The name of the group has now expanded, so it is now the Climate Change and Air Quality group. The remit has also expanded and Denyse Holman, Environmental Health and Joanne Waller are now part of the group. We welcomed the opportunity to be part of the group through air quality. Wood burning stoves are popular and sometimes people don't use the appropriate fuel. Trying to encourage people to use the right type of fuel from sustainable resources, also linking with Cliff Duff who has joined the group from the Housing side so very valuable to have him as has knowledge of accessing grants as well as Energy Efficiency. Working to explore moss walls imitative and are working with planners to identify if funding can be identified. Keen to do a pilot on this.

	<p><u>Chair update</u> OS mentioned that at the last County Durham partnership meeting on 23rd January the main highlight was Aykley Heads Development, County Council HQ moving and 6000 jobs to be created over the period. A few weeks ago attended Forum on Social isolation looking at how the partners might be combatting that. In relation to the consultation for Durham History Centre one of the outcomes of Aykley Heads will mean proposals to move archives to Mount Oswald.</p>		
8.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications SH circulated the spring edition draft of the Environment newsletter The Spruce up to continue is the front page headline which is confirming the programmes continuation. The Environment awards is on the back of the newsletter asking for sponsors Caring for Environment Awards – call out to all partners if know of anyone going the extra mile please let SH know so it can be highlighted.</p>		
9.	<p>AOB AAP priorities report should be available soon. Keen to see what is written in relation to state of roads and litter. Over the last period now have Government 25 year plan do we want short presentation on the context of the plan? SB mentioned that would ideally like Defra to present and possibly for the next meeting. SB will speak to Graham at the Environment Agency regarding this.</p>	SB	
10.	<p>Date and time of next meeting 20th June 2018, 10.00am, The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham</p>		