

**Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature  
Partnership**

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**BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday 18 December 2012 Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees**

Chris Hughes (CH)	Derby University
Ian Stephenson (IS)	Derbyshire County Council
Sophie Churchill (SC)	National Forest
Tom Moat (TM)	Natural England
Tony Walker (TW)	Toyota
Tony Hams (TH)	E M Biodiversity Partnership
Rob Crowder (RC)	RCAN
Tim Farr (TF)	RFCC
John Everitt (JE)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Allen Gorringe (AG)	Saint-Gobain
Helen Ross (HR)	Nottingham City PCT
Councillor Martin Suthers (MS)	Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
Heather Stokes (HS)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Janet Valenti (JV)	Nottinghamshire County Council

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Tony Walker, in his capacity as host, welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by introductions.

**2. Apologies**

None.

**3. Election of Chair.**

Tony Hams nominated Tony Walker as Chair for the first year, this was seconded by Sophie Churchill.

**4. Update on progress**

TH and HS provided a verbal update.

The following comments were noted, particularly relating to funding issues:

TH advised that a letter from all the Wildlife Trusts in England had been sent to Oliver Letwin regarding funding for LNPs. TF queried the availability of funding from Defra. HS confirmed there isn't any money within the Defra budget, however the funding for LEPs had resulted from a direct approach to the Treasury. Perhaps Defra should be encouraged to follow this route. SC suggested contacting Robert Mortimer, in the Defra Ecosystems Policy Unit, as there are modest sums of money available to support nature improvement projects.

## **5. National and sub-national partnership work**

HS provided a verbal update, including the recent Defra LNPs meeting in London.

HS advised that Defra is working with Ursus Consulting and the Tavistock Institute to evaluate the LNP process to date. As part of this work, they are aiming to set up a regional meeting of LNPs in the Midlands area in January and there is an opportunity for LDN LNP to help to organise and strongly steer the agenda. LDN LNP is also 1 of 9 LNPs that have been asked to participate in a more detailed evaluation.

Board members were keen to participate in both events but queried whether we would also be able to have access to any funding for the regional meeting. This would be an opportunity to raise the profile of the LNP and to co-ordinate with other LNPs.

TH advised of recent communications from East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership members, who are keen to set up a meeting regarding LNPs in the spring. Sharon Palmer from the Environment Agency and Frank Lucas from RSPB are leading this discussion. Board members agreed that it would be better to combine the EMBP and Defra LNP meetings if possible.

Natural England's premises at Apex Court in Nottingham had been suggested as a possible venue for the Defra regional LNP meeting. TW confirmed that Toyota would also be happy to provide the venue but would need to know the date a.s.a.p.

**Action: HS to liaise with Defra consultants and SP/ FL regarding regional meetings and with TM and TW regarding possible venues.**

HS also advised the Board that Defra was planning to organise a meeting with the Minister in the New Year. Further detail would be provided as soon as it was available.

## **6. Potential LNP – LEP link project**

HS tabled an application that had been made for funding from Natural England to facilitate engagement with the LEP. TM updated the Board on the background to this funding opportunity.

The Board agreed that this presented an excellent opportunity to build a strong relationship and that the focus should be on moving forward positively. NCC are acting as the lead for this project as the LNP is unable to hold the funds in its own right.

SC suggested that there should be a greater emphasis on the desk-based assessment and the workshops within the bid, to showcase examples of best practice and develop mutually beneficial projects. TM confirmed that there could be some flexibility in the distribution of funding between individual elements of the project.

TH and CH referred to the influence and reach of members of the LNP Board. MS would be happy to work with senior politicians from Derbyshire County Council to ensure that the LNP is raised on future agendas

TF queried potential barriers to accessing other sources of funding. RC suggested the voluntary sector could access funding.

## **7. Priorities for next 12 months**

HS tabled a paper setting out the objectives that had been agreed by all partners during the LNP capacity building process. The Board agreed that the LNP needed to develop its strategic influencing role as a critical friend and advocate and should focus on a small number of key activities to achieve this. It was agreed that the Board should develop 3 or 4 projects delivering “quick win” practical outcomes.

IS advised the group of work by Derbyshire County Council on the Trent Valley which could be extended to cover Nottinghamshire. TW referred to Toyota’s work with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to create areas for biodiversity within its landholding. HR and MS raised the potential for working with the Health and Wellbeing sector, particularly on projects related to mental health and obesity. Current projects on biodiversity offsetting and the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre (which is supported by the LEP) were also raised.

It was agreed that the initial focus for project development should be on:

- Working with the LEP
- Health and Wellbeing (mental health)
- Planning (Trent Valley and biodiversity offsetting).

MS would be happy to add an item to the Agenda for next month’s Health and Wellbeing Board meeting. HR offered to provide a briefing paper for this.

**Action: MS to add item on LDN LNP to agenda for next HWB meeting, HR to provide briefing paper.**

Volunteers from the Board were requested to put together an Action Plan. SC, JE and CH volunteered their time, TW offered Toyota’s assistance and TF offered time if any further assistance required.

**Action: SC, JE and CH (plus TW & TF) to draft Action Plan for circulation to Board before next meeting.**

## **8. Governance**

HS confirmed NCC's commitment to provide the Secretariat for the Board in the short term (12 months). The possibility of a joint Secretariat with another organisation was raised and it was agreed that the possibility would be investigated as relationships with other bodies developed.

TW then opened a debate about the general structure. It was confirmed that there would be a need to set up task groups, bringing people together from different sectors to deliver projects and report back to the Board. In the short-term, however, the Board agreed to have more working meetings to develop the Action Plan and raise the profile of the LNP. If Board members aren't able to attend meetings it was agreed that they could send a representative in their place.

TW suggested that a launch event in the New Year would be helpful. HS confirmed that the only resource for this would be staff time as the LNP does not have any core funding at present. A web presence was also considered essential as a means of getting information to constituents.

HR mentioned the Climate Change Health & Wellbeing event taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. This event may present an opportunity to raise the profile of LDN LNP.

In the short term, the Board agreed to focus on:

- Strategy/ Action Plan
- Natural England-funded project
- Workshop
- Launch

## **9. Dates of future meetings**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 February 2013 2:00pm, Toyota, Burnaston.

TW confirmed that Toyota would be happy to host future meetings.

It was agreed the Board will in future meet on the last Tuesday, every other month.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 30 April

Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 27 August

Tuesday 29 October