

**Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature
Partnership**

BOARD MEETING

**Monday 25th November 2013
Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd**

MINUTES

Attendees

Chris Hughes (CH)	Derby University
Tony Walker (TW)	Toyota
John Malpas (JM)	Toyota
Sam Lattaway (SL)	National Forest Company
Alison Thomas (AT)	Derbyshire County Council
Martin Suthers (MS)	Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
Tony Hams (TH)	E M Biodiversity Partnership
John Everitt (JE)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Helen Ross (HR)	Public Health Nottingham City Council
Tom Moat (TM)	Natural England
Andrew Critchlow (AC)	NFU
Tim Farr (TF)	Trent RFCC

In attendance

Adam Lathbury (AL)	Derbyshire County Council
Heather Stokes (HS)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Nick Crouch (NC)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Mandy Ramm (MR)	Nottinghamshire County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

TW welcomed John Malpas, Mandy Ramm and later Andrew Critchlow to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mike Ashworth (MA)	Derbyshire County Council
Anne Western (AW)	Derbyshire County Council
Sophie Churchill (SC)	National Forest Company
Rob Crowder (RC)	RCAN
Alan Gorringe (AG)	Saint-Gobain
Frank Lucas (FW)	RSPB

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

i) Greater Lincolnshire LNP

HS tabled a summary report relating to work undertaken to establish stronger links to the Greater Lincolnshire LEP. It was noted that this was not for wider circulation.

ii) *Evaluation – draft case study profile*

Prior to the meeting, TW had circulated for comment the following:

- The Tavistock Institute Report and
- A Research Briefing on the Development of LNPs

Action: TW actions recorded under 4 iv).

iii) DerwentWISE

Details circulated prior to the meeting.

iv) Board Membership

TW noted that he would follow up membership with Lafarge Tarmac and the need to increase private sector representation on the Board – ideally 3 representatives that have a clear link to the environment. AT and TM offered their support to this.

Food and farming representation to also be considered and alignment with D2N2 LEP priority sectors.

Actions:

1. **TW to approach Lafarge Tarmac and invite to join the Board**
2. **TM/MR to consider opportunities to increase private sector representation**
3. **HS to follow up representation of the CLA (noting difficulties re engagement with all LNPs)**

v) Working with the LEP:

It was noted that the LNP still needed to engage with the D2N2 funding framework – reiterating this was a key priority for the Co-ordinator and, in the interim, MR.

Furthermore, LNP engagement with the Nottinghamshire Enterprise Zone and other key sites was still outstanding.

Actions:

- 1. MR to provide a status update on the D2N2s EU SIF Strategy and the wider Strategic Economic Plan.**
- 2. HS/MR to follow up EZ engagement/biodiversity offsetting**

vi) Biodiversity Offsetting:

TH thanked everyone who had responded to the consultation.

vii) Mental Health and the Natural Environment:

There was a discussion on what the Action point covered - HS clarified that the re-worked document related to the wider Work programme. This would be discussed under Item 7.

It was however agreed that the "mental health" aspect would be broadened to cover "health".

viii) Health and Well Being Paper:

This Action was outstanding.

Actions:

- 1. AT to liaise with AW and chase up a volunteer for the Task and Finish Group**
- 2. Presentation on the role of the LNP to the Health and Wellbeing Boards – to be completed by the next LNP Board**

ix) Other Updates:

- **Sherwood Landscaping Scheme** – JE advised that the £3m bid for lottery funding had been unsuccessful – currently considering resubmission in May 14.
- **Nature Improvement Areas (NIA)** – JE suggested that this is given to the Biodiversity Action Groups in both counties. There was concern that this was a key role for the LNP and that it should cover all landscape scale projects and their inter-relationships

Action

- 1. JE to liaise with FL to:**
 - (i) Draft a Brief for the consideration and approval of the Board**
 - (ii) Ensure cross boundary linkages and**
 - (iii) "Coordinate "on behalf of the LNP, the technical work to**

identify all landscape initiatives through the Biodiversity Action Groups – thereby ascertaining what would fit with the NIA criteria – with both the long list and prospective NIAs fed back to the LNP Board in January or March 14

It was agreed that the Health impacts and other key aspects to be picked up as a second stage.

x) Dates of Future Meetings:

Forward Meeting Dates (default location Toyota offices unless specified differently):

- 1400-1600hrs - 29th January 2014
- 1400-1600hrs - 25th March 2014
- 1400-1600hrs - 27th May 2014
- 1400-1600hrs - 29th July 2014
- 1400-1600hrs - 30th September 2014
- 1400-1600hrs - 25th November 2014

4. Updates

i) CAP Reform:

It was noted that the Defra Consultation would close on the 28th November 2013 – given the complexity of the subject and the tight timescales it was decided that LNP Board Members should respond individually as appropriate.

Action:

- 1. JE noted however that it would be useful for those that respond to circulate their submission to other members – MR will co-ordinate.**

ii) Rural Network East Midlands (RNEM) Conference:

HS noted that she had attended the event. The main “take-away” was the opportunity for the LNP to influence the Homes and Community Agency – particularly in relation to the cross border Trent Valley work. HS to continue to engage with this.

Action:

- 1. HS to continue to engage with RNEM**

iii) LEP EU Structural Investment fund (SIF) Strategy:

It was noted that there was a lack of clarity on the current position although it was reiterated that the window of opportunity to engage with emerging content was very tight

Actions:

- 1. MR to obtain update from David Ralph (DR)**
- 2. HR to send HS details of current consultation on Sustainability/Green Jobs etc**

Overall, there was general concern reference the lack of resources, the need to make various strategies link and complement one another – ideally there was a need for a huge mapping exercise however, this was unlikely given the current situation. This potentially rendered the LNP reactive which was concerning – particularly in respect of new housing allocations. This led to the question being posed reference a potential strategic role for the LNP with it taking on a more political voice. It was agreed that the LNPs broad role was in fact to be the voice of the wider sustainable growth agenda

AL referenced the discussion under point 3 (ix) NIAs and noted the approach taken elsewhere – there was a need to identify those landscapes under pressure and then map out where housing might be appropriate together with what servicing and infrastructure might be needed for the developments to be sustainable. AT noted the importance of Infrastructure Plans and it was agreed that the overall objective was to get the maximum benefit through the developer investment – this could build upwards to the D2N2 level supported by the £2.7m SIF allocation for Green Infrastructure. This would be considered as part of Action point under 4(iii)

MS asked how the LNP can feed in and have impact on what would previously been covered by the RSS. JE confirmed that the first task was to clarify the LNPs offer – establishing principles and later prioritising projects and tying into funding available. There may be an option for a small sub group – but this would depend on the timescales identified by Action Point 4(iii).

iv) Defra LNP Chairs Meeting:

The Board suggested points that TW may feed into the meeting including;

- The need for effective business representation
- The need for confirmation that the LNPs still have Ministerial support
- The principle that “What is good for the environment, is good for business”
- The need for LNPs to have links and influence with BIS and other key departments to help decision making and in the first instance raise their profiles

- To highlight the approach of the LD & N LDP in the context of having embedded staff with the LEP and having secured TW's involvement

Action:

- 1. TW to send a note out following the meeting**

5. Coordinator Post:

It was confirmed that MR will complete 1.5 days per week until the end of January 2014.

In parallel, JE to undertake a new recruitment exercise. There was a discussion on what had impacted the poor initial response and opportunities to overcome this including the potential to use a graduate/Ph.D./business secondee/interns/involvement of Nottingham Energy Partnership/Futures etc. The Board considered if the role was administrative but agreed the post needed kudos and credibility with the LEP.

It was agreed that the post straddles the environment and the economy but at this point the latter was the priority

Action:

- 1. JM and JE to progress recruitment – potentially through an Agency as appropriate.**

6. Biodiversity Offsetting

NC gave a presentation to the meeting setting out the positive and negative experiences of the pilot to date.

The Presentation is appended to the Minutes for information

7. Work Programme

It was noted that the Work Programme had been updated. MR would focus attention on the first priority "working with the LEP", undertaking engagement work and facilitating the development of a prospectus for green growth from the LNP

It was noted that there was an urgent need for a Communications Strategy. AL confirmed that in principle Nick Moyes could give time to ensuring that key messages are disseminated however the co-ordinator post, when appointed,

should undertake the development and approval of the Strategy itself in order to cement ownership.

TF noted links to the Water Framework Directive – the River Idle project will complete in October 2014 – this has similar aims to the LNP – balancing economic and ecological benefits and issues. When complete it will be able to demonstrate potential problems and solutions that have been tried and tested at the local level.

It was noted that a key focus of the HWB will be on transitional funding until the second quarter of 2014. However HR advised that this should not prevent the LNPs engagement and feed in as appropriate.

8. AOB

1. TW noted that his appointment as Chair of the LNP was for 12 months only – this period had now elapsed. The Board unanimously agreed to re-appoint TW as Chair for the next 12 months.
2. HR noted 2 events at which she will highlight the work of the LNP. These were:
 - a. Sustainable Health and Environment Board and
 - b. One Nottingham -Sustainable Growth event
3. HS noted that she had received a communication from Defra reference a Google+ email community page for LNPs – HS will try and engage with this.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Please refer to 3(x)

The meeting closed at 1605hrs.