

**Internal report for the development
of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership**

**Summary of telephone surveys
undertaken with a representative
proportion of current members of the
Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership
Between 12 March and 16 March
2012**

By Clare Lowe

Background

A new Local Nature Partnership is being planned for the Tees Valley. The existing Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership (TVBP) is meeting on 27th March to discuss the Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP). Telephone interviews with a representative proportion of current members of the TVBP were carried out using a set of questions agreed by the TVBP co-ordinator. The questions aimed to find out members current level of understanding of the transition to becoming the TVNP, to assess what is valued from the current TVBP, what changes they envisage will be made as part of the transition, together with the role they think the new TVNP should undertake and what they would like it to do.

Timescale

Funding was available to pay for 3 days of work, which included the briefing, the telephone surveys and the report. The briefing took place on Friday 9th March. Interviews were undertaken during the week beginning 12 March. A report of the findings was required by 20th March.

Method

There was limited time to undertake the telephone interviews and it was not possible to speak with all members of the group.

A list of representatives and their contact details was provided. Calls were made to the representatives, and surveys were carried out on the telephone at a convenient time.

The agreed questions were asked. The interviewer clarified understanding when necessary but only contributed further information if asked. The answers given should therefore reflect members understanding, ideas and thoughts.

The interviewer attempted to speak with one member of each of the organisations represented on the group. This did not prove possible but 17 different organisations were represented. The calls varied in length, averaging between 25 and 30 minutes. A total of 20 surveys were undertaken.

<u>Organisations represented in the survey</u>
Middlesbrough Council
Natural England
RSPB
INCA
Teesmouth Bird Club
Stockton Council
Hartlepool Council
Wildflower Ark
Middlesbrough Environment City
Northumbrian Water
ERIC
Darlington Council
Tees Valley Unlimited
Groundwork North East
Redcar and Cleveland
Tees River Trust
Environment Agency

The questions and the responses

The responses are in no particular order. Where it has been possible to link the responses this has been done. They are not in order of importance.

When looking at the comments collectively it may appear that the responses cover a wealth of ideas and thoughts but individual responses varied and some member’s responses and understanding were very different from others.

Question 1) Have you looked at the website? How do you feel about the new website (are you registered?)

Response

Members that had viewed the website thought it was a good idea, a useful tool for keeping people up to date and informed and a good point of contact for information.

Other points and comments:

- Clear messages.
- Interesting.
- Professional.
- Positive message about the partnership.
- Very valuable that people can feedback and provide comments.
- Need to get more people registered.
- Is the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership website to continue?
- It would be useful to see other people's comments and be able to respond – creating dialogue on the website.
- 6 out of 18 of those surveyed had not yet seen the website but were keen to do so.

**Question 2) What do you feel about what the TVBP does now. Why is it useful?
What are the benefits?**

Responses

The TVBP is viewed very positively.

Reasons why it is useful and its benefits included:

- It provides a valuable role.
- It has a coordinating role and is a coordinated group. It has good coordination of work, projects and actions.
- Very important in coordinating a biodiversity partnership and action plan.
- It enables practical projects on the ground.
- Sub groups are very useful – layering of overarching partnership – strategic and sub groups – actions, works well.
- Good networking.
- Good partnership, brings key players together.
- Good cooperation.
- Working together to achieve something broader.
- Good mix of specialists from the Tees Valley.
- Close working relationship with specialists is useful
- Good range of different partners.
- Good representation, a mix of different partners bringing both local and regional perspective.
- Bringing people together to share information, ideas and good practice, helps with 2 way communication.
- Keep up to date with what is going on in the area.
- Up to date information on the statutory requirements relating to biodiversity and new regulations.
- Production of guidance notes very useful.
- A specific focus on species and habitats – has its own niche.
- Act as a lobbying group.

- Creates a forum which challenges and encourages organisations and local authorities to do what is required.
- Provides a wider voice.
- Shares workloads for partners.
- Supports members in their work.
- Opportunity for co-ordinated response to strategies and plans.
- Work done on local wildlife sites very positive.
- Provides advice and guidance.
- Strategic overview of biodiversity very important.
- Having biodiversity represented is important.
- Invaluable in raising profile of biodiversity.
- Allows more to be achieved with reduced resources.
- Provides valuable information about the area, what is being done, what is happening, what data is available on key wildlife sites.
- Enables regional organisations to gain sub regional information.
- Informs on targets and survey work.
- Helps to fill the gap in relation to fragmented land.
- High quality of work due to strength of partnership.
- Good track record.
- An active group with enthusiastic, motivated members.

Other comments included:

- Group has gone from strength to strength.
- Consistently get good numbers, which is an indication of good value.
- Strengths not to be lost with new partnership.
- Time spent on meetings, plans and documents more than actions on the ground.
- Not that strategic, taking things forward needs to be more strategic.
- Some issues are big and it is difficult to find routes and mechanisms to make a difference, so remains limited to how it can make a difference..

Question 3) Do you feel clear about what a Local Nature Partnership is?

Responses

Most people indicated they had an idea of what a Local Nature Partnership is, but were awaiting clarity on how it will be achieved and developed in the Tees Valley and who will be involved.

Some indicated that they were unclear on what an LNP is.

Comments included:

- Still many unanswered questions regarding the level of the partnership and who will be involved.
- Understand government agenda but practicality poses questions.
- Can see what is trying to be achieved and the value of new partnerships, not clear what will be done differently to current partnership.
- Unclear about what it will replace and what it will be.
- Less surveying and practical work and more people on the partnership.
- Understood that decisions had already taken place or that DEFRA is quite prescribed.
- Website has provided information but hopeful that 27 March will prove useful.
- Broadening biodiversity to include economic and people.
- Broader public engagement.
- Have the opportunity to shape it in the Tees Valley within the loose government framework.
- Not exactly clear on the aims and objectives.
- Added advantages with link to economy locally is important.
- Putting biodiversity into a broader framework.
- How it will actually do things in practice is the key.
- Delivering high level and also keeping the volunteering process is a challenge.

Question 4) What are the main changes you think will be made to the existing Partnership?

Responses

Most members expressed the view that the partnership will expand and the remit and agenda of the group will expand too. This raises questions for them such as how will this happen, who will become involved, what changes will it bring about, how will the group be structured and how will the current partnership and biodiversity remain strong throughout these changes.

Comments include:

- It is likely to have a more senior representation on it.
- New framework.
- Broaden scope and agenda and remit of the group.
- Broader range of objectives.
- Broadening out the base of people involved and the areas of engagement.
- Links with LEP and LNP.
- Widening the partnership to include and involve more partners – those mentioned are; community, health, Green Infrastructure, access, landscape, enterprise, business and planning.
- Change to dynamics and focus.
- How do we engage more broadly with other partners?
- Environmental voice of the Tees Valley.
- Wider remit, firmer remit. Firmer footing – LEP will engage with the group.
- More political engagement.
- Wider stakeholders leading to wider range of projects.
- Raise the profile of nature amongst decision makers.
- Engaging at high level and voluntary sector.
- A more community slant.
- Engaging with partners who are not already in biodiversity and nature.
- A bit more clout as government are handing over management of the natural environment to the third sector.
- More powerful.

- Need to make good links.
- Economic focus but must not lose biodiversity focus.
- More strategic (but not losing the good delivery).
- Not clear what will be done differently, although partners will increase. How will this make the difference? What is the LNP offering those groups?
- Changed need to be done carefully to get it right first time.
- Extra layer required, may be different tiers with sub groups and sub committees.
- Have a more coherent biodiversity strategy, taking forward as well as reporting.
- Linking corridors with sites.
- Engagement at local and parish council level.
- It may become more about access and links to the sites rather than the wildlife. People may become the focus not the wildlife.
- Economic value and wildlife value are not always the same. Wildlife still needs to be the key element and seek economic benefit (but let the economic benefit be the driving force).
- Difficult to keep the partnership strong with so many different agendas.
- Too broad an agenda means people don't get something out of the meeting.
- It is important that the strategy maintains and continues to develop existing projects.
- Must remain effective on the ground.
- Continuing the way TVBP have worked towards supporting nature.
- Wider remit takes more time. The bigger the partnership the more time can be taken on non actions on the ground. Would like to see more action on the ground.

Question 5) What are the most important issues (to you and your organisation) that affect the natural environment in Tees Valley?

Responses

There were a variety of responses. A number of responses mentioned the challenge of balancing economic investment and nature, and the particular challenges that the Tees Valley face, the pressure of development both urban and industrial, and the lack of awareness of understanding of Tees Valley's natural environment and its importance and value.

Comments include:

- Perception that there isn't high quality natural environment in the Tees Valley.
- People not being connected, not valuing and not seeing it as an asset.
- Development pressure.
- Competition for land development.
- Economic development of brownfield and greenfield sites and ensuring sustainability of the environment.
- Environment versus economy. Economy equals growth and development but must still maintain and enhance key assets in the natural environment. A balance needs to be reached.
- Engaging with industry and business to get decision making based upon both economics and the desire to support the natural environment.
- Industry needs to be engaged with nature groups.
- Tees Valley can be viewed as having a lesser valued landscape – could be seen as a place for urban and industrial development and for economic growth because of this but nature should not be overlooked in terms of its value.
- If green isn't designed in initially it becomes an afterthought. Opportunities are missed and nature can then be viewed as troublesome.
- Public and decision makers not connected, not valuing, not seeing it as an asset
- Lack of imagination and seizing the opportunity to fully consider nature and access as part of developments. Planning has the opportunity to create developments which enhance biodiversity as well as supporting healthy lifestyles.
- Damage to, and reduction of, habitats by developments.

- Climate change – natural environment can mitigate and adapt to changes – links with green infrastructure.
- Eco-systems Services – soil, water quality, businesses depend on these to function – good opportunities to make this link with businesses to demonstrate how nature helps them meet their aims and objectives.
- Lack of, and reduction in, staff resources locally.
- Management of natural environment – fewer people to manage them now. Managing what we have got effectively.
- Change of direction sub regionally indicates the natural environment is not a key consideration alongside economic growth.
- Government policy – agricultural policy in particular – CAP reforms are the key influence on future management of catchments.
- Urban and agricultural run off.
- Human impact.
- Lack of support on enforcement issues. Suitable enforcement will give more people confidence to visit sites.
- Urban creates issues of management and anti social behaviour.
- Under-funded and important work not happening.
- Coordination of activity.
- Data on the natural environment is not collected and that it is not available for use.
- Meeting discharge consents – combined sewage outflows.
- Flood alleviation – control of surface water run off.
- Amount of development creates fewer opportunities for water to naturally drain away.
- Conserving local character and habitat to ensure species and habitats are not lost.
- Green tourism.
- Funding – knowledge is there but needs money to do something.
- Public would benefit from better understanding and awareness of the natural environment on their doorstep.

- Raising awareness of the environment to local people and gain an understanding of what's there, appreciate it, engage with it and use it sympathetically.
- Collectively have a stronger voice – strategy can help with this.
- Fragmentation of sites. Sites are small but still have good land and high value.

Question 6) What do you think about having a Local Nature Partnership in the Tees Valley?

Responses

Responses were positive with many members expressing the importance of having a LNP and the valuable role it should play.

Some of the answers given to this question also suggest some of the roles that the TVNP may adopt.

Comments included:

- Vital.
- A positive thing.
- Great idea.
- Very valuable.
- Very supportive of the partnership.
- Extremely important that we have an LNP. The 5 authorities can have a joint vision and joint work and way forward.
- Essential – it acts as a safety net for the environment – a strategic role – standardisation of what is being applied. It has the ability to achieve more through co-ordination and partnership.
- Could be one of the key locations for an LNP – locality has specific pressures and opportunities due to the industry and business in the area.
- More necessary in the Tees Valley due to the challenges in the area and the perception that the natural environment does not contribute to the economics of the area.
- LNP needs to be an advocate for the natural environment in the Tees Valley.
- Will have to have one to avoid exclusion and isolation.
- Will help to have a stronger voice for the environment sector. One voice to be a bigger player with economic decision makers – LEP. Without it, no voice to support nature and conservation.
- More strategic role of presenting value of the natural environment.
- Will need to be part of discussions or will lose credibility and could affect working relationship with key partners.
- Must do all we can to develop LNP to move and achieve.

- Biodiversity and nature not seen as a barrier but a solution to the problems in the Tees Valley.
- Existing partnership is strong which will make transition easy.
- Boost TVBP – raise profile of the good work undertaken and through the statutory engagement and links with the LEP.
- Important to continue TVBP and build on work being done. Must keep nature a priority.
- Very important to keep an overall view, contacts, information, partnership and project working.
- Hope that it would eventually be as good a group as the LEP will be on the business side.
- Hope to engage industry and landowners to develop and move forward.
- Potential to make a difference in a small area with not much cost.
- Strong advocate for the environment for business and local people.
- Opportunities for environmental voice and links with the economic agenda.
- Opportunity to give a broad benefit of nature but key is to how this is done
- Hope that it will not tread over the same ground. Something new and refreshing is needed. New sectors could do this.
- Good but it needs to work and be successful.
- There is a threat that if it doesn't work it would be worse and could end up having a less voice.
- Forum for discussion, new regulations and jointly implement on the ground. Collectively we can do more.
- A chance to shape it.
- Existing partnership is well attended and works well. The coordinator has a lot of knowledge of projects in the area and how links can be made. Important to keep the strength of the partnership.
- Biodiversity partnership is good, need to keep the profile of biodiversity high with new partnership.
- Benefited greatly from TVBP and people on the group will still be part of it and use the networks.
- It will expand to volunteers and community too.

Question 7) What do you think should be the role of the TVNP?**Responses**

The responses to question 7 and 8 sometimes overlapped. There is still lack of clarity over the structure and vision of the group which appeared to make it easier for members to answer the question about what the role of the LNP should be, as oppose to looking at the detail of what they wanted it to do. The response for question 7 and 8 should be looked at collectively.

The responses are varied. They indicate that the desired role of the LNP should be to ensure that the good work of the current biodiversity partnership is not lost, nor should the ability to deliver networking and partnership working as well as on the ground projects.

The partnership should engage with a range of new partners from a variety of sectors, which include economic, health, planning, developers, business, LEP, community and volunteers.

The LNP should be a coordinated and recognised voice, with a clear vision for nature as a whole in the Tees Valley. Engaging with key decision makers to raise the profile of the natural environment and to establish ways that health and economic growth sectors understands, appreciates and advocates the importance and benefits of the natural environment in delivering a better Tees Valley for those living, working and visiting the area. The LNP should work with these key players so that decisions are made that support and enhance habitats and species.

The structure and vision of the LNP will play a key role in moving the partnership forward.

Comments include:

- Varied and high level of expertise needed to influence and guide which will give focus for new partners.
- Create a new structure.
- Establish how the wider partnership will happen.
- Identify and engage with new partners.
- Ensure that existing partners and new ones get something from the partnership
- Influencing and strategic role leading to actions – engaging with local communities and volunteers.
- Awareness raising, demonstrating how it's part of everyone's role. Passing the responsibility to everyone.

- Engage with wider environmental partners. Debate with new groups – private sector, development control, planning policy, developers and the LEP. Demonstrate how nature compliments their work and objectives.
- Promote how crucial nature is to quality of place.
- Work as a counter balance to the LEP.
- Local value added to compensate for lack of capacity within government organisations.
- Keep the biodiversity element strong whilst implementing benefits of new partnership and the new focus.
- Continue along the successes of current partnership. Maintaining work to date and maintain focus is not lost on habitat restoration.
- Important to keep the strength of the partnership.
- More integrated and coherent approach to the natural environment. All aspects coming together to be stronger and add value. Role is to bring them together and show they go together and compliment each other.
- Look at nature on a bigger scale – linking with health and community.
- To review, challenge, support, advocate and create an awareness of biodiversity and nature.
- The need to challenge is important, it gives credibility to the group.
- Biodiversity is properly integrated into the decision making process.
- A vision for nature in the Tees Valley, an agreed way forward.
- Vision for the Tees Valley - Identify and outline areas of development and management.
- A strong lobby for the environment and economic development.
- Coordinating land use.
- Coordinating bigger projects.
- Championing the cause of biodiversity in the Tees Valley and bringing the right people together.

- Linking together to improve the natural environment in the Tees Valley.
- Make links with the broader partnership linking green infrastructure, community and health.
- Make more evidence based links that demonstrate benefits of nature linked to economics and health.
- Help demonstrate the value of the natural environment – economic value. Can be used for informing investment.
- Resolve conflicts – alleviate barriers for business.
- Demonstrate how the natural environment can provide opportunities for businesses through their corporate, social responsibility and their decision making for their business.
- Deliver environmental improvements.
- Link with Green Infrastructure and develop key sites.
- Look to draw down further resources for funding for a broader partnership, linking biodiversity with other agendas such as, health, business, development and urban planning.
- A wider strategic role linking design, planning and economy so contribution can be made early on. Nature to be considered in economic projects at the initial stages.
- Standardising guidelines and approaches to nature in the Tees Valley and how it is integrated into the wider strategies and partners.
- Provide a bigger voice for the group, speaking collectively not individually.
- Co-ordinating the partnership.
- Group members/partnership develop links with other groups and partners.
- Getting nature on to everyone's agenda without losing the focus of on the ground delivery.
- Strategic with leadership and direction.
- Strategic managers need to know what and who is available to deliver so plans and projects are realistic.

- Close, 2 way, relationship with strategic and delivery and planning and delivery.
- Linking other groups with the partnership. Working with the Local Enterprise Partnership. Working with industry. Wider participation across communities and businesses.
- LNP could and should help the connectivity between sites. Link up wildlife areas so they are more resilient to change.
- Prioritise corridors and links between sites.
- Strong role in habitat and species conservation.
- Raising awareness of local habitats and wildlife.
- Strategy should include how we can get local people to engage with and enjoy wildlife on their doorstep.
- Funding for projects. An attractive investment for funders
- Increase understanding and knowledge for collaborative working. Bring people together to achieve projects that can not be done alone.
- Engaging with partners and allowing it to evolve and work collectively.
- Local people and communities involved.
- The LNP should be allowed to evolve and build on the successes to date.
- Present a more complete picture of nature in the whole of the Tees Valley
- As and when there are clear aims and objectives for the partnership members, then members can be the advocate and voice, the recognised body, for nature that is championing nature in the Tees Valley.
- Formally recognise that it is the whole catchment of the Tees and the partnership is not restricted by its geographical boundaries - communication between LNPs needs to be good.

Question 8) What sort of things do you want it to do?

Responses

Some of the responses overlap with question 7. The answers to question 7 and 8 should be considered collectively

Comments include:

- Continue to develop projects to improve habitats and priority sites.
- Continue to coordinate joint working and taking individual projects and ideas and disseminating them across sites. Further projects and funding can be sought for Tees Valley wide delivery.
- Continue the support with local sites and maintain the work being done to date so it is not lost.
- Improve links with local communities.
- Make contact with the health and well being agenda and create evidence of benefits.
- Invest in green space to improve health. Putting a value on this will support investment.
- Not responsible for delivery. More strategic with layers of support for those delivering the projects on the ground. Partnership groups do the delivery.
- Look for opportunities for funding and partnership projects.
- Develop a vision and key issues affecting the area.
- Present a picture (rather than a vision) of the key areas in the Tees Valley and show the environmental sites and areas and what they would like to achieve or be like in the future. This will be based upon current habitats and how they can be maintained, improved, linked and easily accessible.
- Influencing decision makers and Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Work with developers and the planning process to engage with them to develop nature.
- Creation of strategies and input into strategies.
- Coordination of delivery.
- Present an action plan, a list of strategic plans aimed at specific audiences, for example, decision makers/economic growth to demonstrate how

biodiversity objectives can be gained alongside meeting their objectives – speak the language of business.

- Deliver a demonstration project showing how engaging with the natural environment can meet objectives of new partners (economic/business/health etc) as well as delivering a well planned and attractive project.
- Utilise other partnerships, for example green infrastructure, and link to other plans and strategies.
- Achieve some sustainability so not just one project is followed by another project but instead there is a level of sustainability across projects.
- Resources to support the continuation of successful projects.
- Explore opportunities to link with new partners and open up new ways of delivering biodiversity in particular with businesses and organisations.
- Must have on the ground projects.
- Sub groups have worked well- may be more needed with new partnership. It is important as the LNP has a wider agenda and wider participation and there is a need to maintain the good work of the groups and to maintain the biodiversity focus.
- Create advice and information which supports businesses and organisations considering development opportunities and the installation of technologies, for example wind turbines.
- Look to attract more funding from the new partnerships.
- Deliver projects relating to key elements (broad reaching) nature related projects.
- Work with other LNPs and neighbouring areas and compare.
- Really important to have a coordinator in place who actively makes links and enhances projects, similar to the TVBP.
- A forum for discussion and keeping up to date with new regulations and what is happening locally and regionally.
- Joint working and implementation on the ground.
- Coordination of the BAP.
- Getting people involved on the ground.
- Raise awareness of local nature- links to healthy walks and other activities that promote sites.

- Keep communication channels open between a wide range of organisations linked to wildlife and habitat conservation. Coordinate and communicate on projects.
- Do more publicity around nature. Have a promotional push to highlight it. Create an awareness of what is there and create an understanding of how they (the audience) can benefit from it and access it.
- Pooling and sharing of resources to manage sites.
- Identify projects and take them out into the community.
- Have a coordinating role which provides communities with opportunities to take part and get involved.

Question 9) How involved do you think your organisation and you personally will be in the TVNP?

Responses

All members taking part in the telephone interviews expressed a willingness to be involved with the LNP. The level of their engagement would depend on the structure and framework of the LNP, the links to their roles and the capacity of their organisation. The more the LNP meets their objectives and targets the more they are able to be involved.

Question 10) Do you feel part of the process of developing the TVNP?

Responses

The majority of the members felt they are part of the process of developing an LNP and they thought that communication was good. One member who works across the region has had more communication from the Durham Local Nature Partnership than the Tees Valley Nature Partnership.

Question 11) Do you think that the creation of the LNP will dilute or enhance your role? Does it meet your agenda more/less/the same?

Responses

This question was asked to 15 of the 20 members interviewed. Generally there was a belief or hope that the LNP would enhance their role. Some members of the group had a feeling that the LNP could dilute their role but it would depend on the structure and framework of the LNP. The forming of one Nature Partnership in the Tees Valley will assist organisations who are already spread thinly and are unable to attend lots of different meetings.

Question 12) What are your expectations of the meeting on 27th March? What would you like it to achieve?

Responses

Comments include:

- Clear view on what is going to be involved in the TVNP.
- What needs to happen to get TVNP set up? What is the process?
- Core information on what the legalities are expectations of DEFRA and LNP are.
- What is the link between the TVNP and the Tees Valley Environment Forum?
- Better understanding of where the partnership is currently at – the current position on funding from DEFRA.
- The structure of the TVNP.
- The management of the new partnership.
- The role of the TVNP.
- What the TVNP will do.
- The timescales involved.
- What is their strategic role?
- Real strategies on the way forward.
- Re-emphasise the main focuses of the group and the opportunities.
- Re-emphasise biodiversity links.
- How do we broaden the agenda and not lose current focus?
- Create aims and objectives.
- Are they looking for new partners, how can existing partners help with this?
- Who are the key partners, which organisations will be involved? How will new partners be engaged with the group? How will they fit in? What is the offer to new partners – what does the TVNP offer them? Further planning on who will be involved.

- What is expected of partners within that role, what will they do how do they get involved?
- Work more in partnership with businesses and organisations.
- People feel involved and that they feel comfortable about where the LNP is going.
- Agree way forward and the vision.
- Presentation on what TVNP is all about, what is being proposed?
- Partners feel they can be represented – they know how their voice can be heard.
- Where is the funding coming from?
- An interactive meeting where partners are able to express their views and ideas further.
- A chance for others to ask questions and gain an understanding of the LNP.
- How does the group develop new projects?
- How does the group support delivery?
- Working on connectivity and eco systems as a priority.
- Brainstorming.
- Begin to think of the picture – what does the TVNP want the Tees Valley's natural environment to look like? What is realistic?
- Hope that the group is open-minded and will look to develop and expand the partnership.
- Team meeting style approach with updates.

Question 13 Are there any contacts/organisations who you think would be useful contacts for the group? (not always asked)

Responses

There were few responses to this question and in some cases it was not asked.

Comments include:

- NHS Tees and public health.
- Need to know geographical boundary.
- As the partnership develops; volunteers, friends groups. There is a need to recognise and acknowledge the importance of their role and the importance they play on providing on the ground knowledge.
- Health walks in the future.
- Industry and business, Local Enterprise Partnership.

Question 14) Is there anything else you would like to say?

Responses

Additional comments made:

- All changes need to ensure that the natural environment directly benefits from them.
- The LNP is important and there are good opportunities which hopefully can be grasped to take things forward.
- The existing partnership is very successful and the new partnership should build on that.
- It would be good to have an understanding of how the Environment Agency can play a role. Aims and objectives would be useful. What is looking to be achieved long term and short term?
- It would be useful to know what is happening in neighbouring authorities and partner areas.
- LNP will have to consider its structure. Is it a BAP with additions? Will it have the influence it needs?
- Who is best placed to liaise with these new groups?
- LNP needs to integrate all aspects of nature and develop strategically and be all encompassing
- For the existing partnership to continue doing its good work, does the TVBP become the LNP or does the LNP become the umbrella which the TVBP sits underneath?
- Is the LNP more connected to Green Infrastructure which has the potential to be all encompassing?