



Engagement Group Minutes

10am 25/10/19

Education Room, Clock Tower, South Park, Darlington

In attendance	Ben Lamb, Tees Rivers Trust; Graham Clingan Stockton Borough Council; Clare Deasy, Northumbrian Water, Rachel Murtagh TVNP.
Apologies	Linda Tuttiet, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Lucy Chapman, Groundwork Trust.
Chair	Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough Borough Council
Secretariat	Louise Richards, Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
E/01.01.19 Welcome NPO		
E/02.01.19 Presentation of expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to establish a baseline of our engagement work thus far. 2. Establishing baseline numbers of schools already engaged by the partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do we establish this with: membership groups and volunteer groups? ▪ How do we get an understanding of how and at what level people feel like they are engaged? 3. Aim – Nature is celebrated and valued, how do we work on and demonstrate this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement events and volunteering. ▪ Comments and engagement on social media. ▪ Annual conference. ▪ Participation ladder – Comms at the bottom and then collaborators at the top, you try to move them up the ladder as time passes. ▪ We don't want to spread ourselves too thin with engagement work, we need clear aims so that we can know what work we want to do to meet those aims. 4. Aim – Use our unified voice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can we better champion the environment to local decision makers? 5. It all comes down to; What is it that we are trying to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage with communities to get the environmental message across. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 'Strategic Project Group' in the roles and responsibilities figure could do with moving into health and wellbeing but apart from that, this figure is very useful. 2. TVNP needs a website that is going to bring in more people and social media accounts. 3. TVNP need social media campaign training so that we can make the most of social media, not fall into any pitfalls, and know how to manage negative comments and feedback properly. 4. What is the purpose of the group? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need to draft something up, based on our mission statement, and then send it out to the engagement group for comments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage with local groups to see what's important to them and inform our plans from this. <p>6. We need to be clear about the scope of the partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do we only involve ourselves with local nature and wildlife? ▪ Or do we engage with larger natural issues like the environment and climate change? <p>7. We are a nature partnership, our focus is probably best placed focusing on local nature, however we can work with groups focused on larger environmental issues like VONNE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VONNE are coming to next month's TVNP steering group to talk about their work and how we can work together. 	
E/03.01.19 Initial scoping of opportunities	<p>1. Creative people and places are a new group in the Tees valley, they may be possible future partners. They received £2.9 million over 4 years to fund arts engagement in the Tees Valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They have identified that the environment and nature are one of their top priorities – we could help to work with them on this, connecting them with relevant partners to their work. 	<p>1. We will scope out what groups are around to help with this, along with current partners and members.</p>
E/04.01.19 Building in the Social Learning Framework	<p>This works on four key principals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate value 2. Potential value 3. Applied value 4. Realised value 	
E/05.01.19 What's Next?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future meetings – The engagement group should meet up 1 or 2 weeks before the TVNP steering group. 2. Should we try to get involved in Catalyst's green spaces event 18th Feb in Stockton? 3. Next steering group meeting is planned for December, we may need a meeting earlier, in November, to work out more specific aims and terms of reference so we are more prepared closer to the time of the steering group meeting 	<p>1. Before the next meeting we will get some content together on TVNP's mission statement and purpose and send it out to the engagement group.</p>
E/07.01.19 AOB		
Next meeting:	Friday 22 nd November 10.00am to 12.30pm	Future meetings 2 nd Thursday every quarter starting with 11 th March 2020. To tie in with steering group which meets 3 rd Wednesday every quarter.