

## TEES VALLEY NATURE PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS REPORT

Date: December 2020 to March 2021

### OVERVIEW

The last quarter has seen busy couple of months. The <https://www.festival2022.uk/the-r-d-the-30-creative-teams> R&D process was intense and time consuming but very creative and productive. The Teesside Team came up with a national nature recovery arts project. Whether commissioned for the festival or not the process has given TVNP national nature recovery connections and significantly increased exposure to new stakeholders and supporters in the Tees Valley. Focus now turns to organising the June Tees Nature Conference and submitting a bid for the development of a Natural Innovation Hub to take forward the strategic join up and expertise needed for large scale investment in the Tees natural environment.

### BUSINESS PLAN

- 2021 TVNP Action Plan Drafted.
- Engagement plan 2021 to 2022 for engaging with stakeholders and the wider public near completion.

### BUDGET & FINANCE

- Project Commissions: ERICNE <https://www.ericnortheast.org.uk/> £6k for digitising Phase 1 habitat maps; £3k for supervising Teesside University MSc Student Placement
- Income: £7,754 for professional time spent with FestivalUK 2022 R&D. £1,050 Teaching fees from Teesside University.
- TVNP Grant: Grants panel met 16-03-21 and awarded £4,600 to 5 projects

### EVALUATION

Following use of <https://www.inspiringimpact.org/self-assessments/> specialist organisations recommended by NLCF will be contacted for a quote to undertake evaluation of TVNP.

### GOVERNANCE

#### Steering Group

- Environment sector are the least diverse (after farming) of any employment sector. Plan to run some EDI training with external provider at next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### Working Groups

- New Governance Group created to oversee leadership theme of TVNP business plan e.g., finance & funding, evaluation, risk register.
- Engagement group currently working on the evolving engagement plan.
- Natural Assets working group had an update on the work done on ERIC habitat maps by student placement and assessed the focus of the group moving forward.
- Strategic projects group were given update on planned flood elevation work to be done by the Environment Agency and are keeping an eye on other strategic projects.
- Conference group had a demonstration of virtual platform from <https://freshstartevents.uk/> and are currently drafting a program.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

#### Nature Partnership Manager:

- TVNP Chair, Manager & SG members meet with STDC representatives to discuss wider Tees Valley context of net gain and nature recovery in relation to the Tees Works site.
- Meet with Professor Simon Hodgson Pro Vice Chancellor Teesside University re Net Zero Hub and link with natural solutions to carbon capture & mitigation.
- Festival UK 2022 R&D work bid. LNP national webinar, meetings with Natural England; Nature Recovery Network Partnership Manager; Principal Advisor Health & Environment; Local Nature Recovery Principal Advisor, Chair.

- Borderlands Consortium/board. The Business Plan has finally been signed off by The Arts Council following a programme restructure. This will give greater autonomy to the Director & Consortium partners with the University taking on a clearer role of programme host (similar to TVWT role with TVNP)
- January-April 2021 Teesside University Student Placement. GIS project supervised by ERICNE
- Festival of Thrift event: Sustain your Brain (and be Kind to your Mind!) - Climate Psychology Workshop <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJkce-grDwvEtFWPvAmYDfgOicp5x0AS6v3>
- Attended launch of Environmental Justice Commission [Tees Valley and County Durham Climate and Fairness Panel](#) attended by leaders of the TV councils, TUC, TVCA, VONNE leadership
- Meeting with Paul Booth, LEP Chair/Environmental Justice Commissioner, Geraldine Brown TVCA; Beth Farhat, TUC/ Environmental Justice Commissioner regarding taking IPPR Citizens panel recommendations forward.
- MIND – Green Social Prescribing although initial bid to Defra for national pilot unsuccessful partnership being progressed with alternative funding.

#### **Nature Partnership Officer:**

- TVNP Community Grant - engaging with local groups.
- Engage with Forums on TVNP Community Grant.
- Middlesbrough College work experience week.
- Askham Bryan on guest lecture/lesson.
- Monthly social media focus - collaborating with partners to concentrate on a different theme each month.
- Meetings with successful grant applicants scheduled.
- VCAA meetings and engaging with their evolving plan.
- Engaging with conversations with environment and climate groups as part of the VCAA process.
- You've Got This meetings.

#### **TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

- Nature Partnership Officer Agile Project Management training/qualification.
- Nature Partnership Officer attended national conference Progress towards UK Net Zero Policy
- Nature Partnership Manager attended RSWT (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts) seminar on Nature Recovery.
- Monthly supervision for Nature Partnership Officer.

#### **COMMUNICATION & PR**

Quarterly newsletter sent to all TVNP stakeholder contacts.

Website: New [infographics](#) uploaded to the website

Social Media: - Monthly social media focus - collaborating with partners to concentrate on a different theme each month. This has seen an 90% increase in numbers since this time in 2020.

#### **DELIVERY**

- Green Recovery Challenge Fund application submitted for Ecology Hub concept. Unsuccessful.
- Teesside FestivalUK 2022 Bid submitted. Outcome will be announced end of March 2021.
- Application to host workshop at COP26 based on FestivalUK 2022 'Council of All Beings' concept developed by Teesside FestivalUK 2022 team.
- [Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund](#) application being worked up for Natural Innovation Hub Project Development. Submission involves commissioning business case and demonstration projects as proof of concept. TVNP to submit with backing from TVCA & support from key partners organisations.