



TVNP Strategic Projects Group Meeting Minutes 1.00pm, 14th June 2021 via videocall

In attendance	Graham Clingan Stockton Borough Council; Jeremy Garside Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; Chris Hood Environment Agency; Chris Hood Environment Agency; Rachel Murtagh Tees Valley Nature Partnership; Lucy Chapman Groundwork North East; Jim Cokill Durham Wildlife Trust; Clare Deasy Northumbria Water;
Apologies	Rachel Murtagh Tees Valley Nature Partnership; Kate Lowes Environment Agency
Chair	Graeme Hull Environment Agency
Secretariat	Louise Richards Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Background	TVNP Business Plan 2019-2022 . Activity 1.3: Establish a 'Large projects subgroup' to enable cross sector support on identifying and promoting/supporting the development of key strategic projects. Activity 4.1: Work with TVCA and the Mayor on large strategic projects including the Mayors 'River Tees Initiative' to develop local exemplars of sustainable development.	N/A
SP/01.02.20	<i>Action points from last meeting</i> Project template from last meeting GH showed a draft project template to the group and discussed whether this would be useful for the group and meetings moving forward. Group felt that this would be a good way to move forward - the only issue would be what constitutes a strategic project.	LR to send form out. ALL to enter their projects into this and send them back so we have a record of ongoing strategic projects.
SP/02.02.20	<i>Ongoing strategic projects</i> CD - Water environment improvements scheme looking at projects around accessible water environment on 3 themes of access and recreational facilities, biodiversity, and water quality. Looking at project that meet at least 2 out of 3 themes. Looking at Billingham, the Skerne, Kirklevington, Lustrum Beck (this is a very complex site). Catchment nutrient work follows this and involves looking at alternative ways to remove phosphate from waterways	ALL to look at opportunities to work together on these projects with NWG All to look at being involved with the NWG business plan

	<p>such as working with farmers and other catchment workers.</p> <p>Starting to plan for business plan 2025-30 and looking at getting partners involved with this. Looking at finalising this next year - would be good to be involved, should we go through the partnership through this? How does TVNP get involved? Should the engagement be one big group thing?</p> <p>NWL are really struggling to find cash to invest in this so it would be best to work with partners who are also focused in these areas</p> <p>Tees Tidelands Stockton have an indicative allocation through DEFRA's Flood and Coastal Erosion resilience Innovation Fund of £6million to be secured through approval of a business case and readiness assessment. Readiness assessment survey and workshop to be completed by end June to meet process timetable – would have wanted longer. Aim is to ensure the partnership is ready to deliver the project.</p> <p>Aim to develop an exemplar project around Holme Fleet to look at improving community resilience to flood risk at Port Clarence, including natural flood prevention measures including working on connection to the Tees and creating more intertidal habitat. Would also be involved in habitat banking process for those needing biodiversity credits to offset development impacts. Also establishing a mechanism to harness, record and trade biodiversity credits.</p> <p>The project takes forward key aspects of the Tees Estuary Partnership habitat vision: restoring intertidal habitat and improving ecological connectivity between habitats. Also looking at a Tees Tidelands circular footpath that would link some of the best aspects of the area and increase the tourism offer and increases the nature credentials of the area. Could also link this with Billingham Beck as well.</p>	
<p>SP/03.02.20</p>	<p>Brightwater is running on and works planned through Darlington town centre in 2021.</p> <p>FCRM Environment support scheme is available for all Risk Management Authorities (local authorities and water company) to bid towards achieving WFD or protected area objectives impacts by flood risk or land drainage assets. Darlington submitted a bid regarding the Railway Quarter section of the Skerne.</p> <p>Hazel Grove Saltburn R&C tried many times to get it into the WFD, can't lever funds as it's not officially a water body however there are many issues with it including the concrete aging and how</p>	

	<p>this effects the beck - the Wilder Coast project extends to Saltburn. Also, Saltburn valleys group. This is the one area everyone struggles with as it has many issues. This needs some thinking about over what's possible and what would fit everybody's expectations.</p> <p>Living Leven - preparing feasibility works to create relationships to identify sites that need improvements.</p> <p>Greatham North East Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) A few issues with Greatham NE, particularly around the costs that have come back. Have had some discussions and engagement with environmental and archaeological stakeholders and this may take time as it's a complex site. It would be nice to link in the relief road with this but there would be a difficulty with responsibility for maintenance etc.</p> <p>Climate action Middlesbrough EA have spoken to TVWT officers re CAM as looking at Ormesby Beck intertidal restoration. Clear potential for link into bigger picture of the Middle Marsh LWS. Seem to be may partners interested in this. The screens and sluice potentially to be removed dependent on study findings. Issue of plastics could lead to something around awareness or engagement.</p>	
<p>SP/04.02.20 <i>Projects</i></p>	<p>Sediment modelling/patterns in the estuary. Is the barrage depositing silt and what effect is this having? Modeller keen to look and see if the models we have could be adapted to wok for this?</p> <p>Projects around nature in urban areas/ green space in urban areas. There's a Health England green social prescribing UK wide but Tees valley wasn't successful. There's now a group working locally with charitable trust funding trying to work on this now. There was an assumption that the charitable sector are desperate for free volunteers so most of the funding was going towards the scheduling and services towards this rather than spread across the board.</p> <p>GC would like to look around catchment areas and work that links this all together and to build on the green corridors and links. Want to see how we'll work on the nature recovery networks and build strategic projects on the focus of this. The health element would be part of this.</p> <p>GH Was thinking from a Tees Valley wide perspective, can see the Environmental land Management being built. We have a Tees Valley Green structure strategy but maybe what isn't there is a narrative about how we would start this as we are not yet involved in the pilots. Are we adequately prepared for this? Do we wait for LNRS's or do we do something before these come out?</p>	

	<p>It Would be good to have a rewilding/demonstrator site although there may be sites/people out there who are involved in this. It would be good to support this in Tees Valley - do we want to do this through the partnership? Would be best to hit as many targets as possible (e.g. biodiversity, water management, engagement etc.) TVWT still looking at Eston Hills as rewilding potential. Could spill out to other landowners as well.</p>	
<p>SP/05.02.20 AOB</p>	<p>Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) Bids – decisions due June, informed early July.</p> <p>Lottery Green Recovery Challenge Fund 2 - determination date for small bids on 16th of June</p> <p>Large bids - 4th of June, haven't heard anything on either of these. Likely to have announcements around the end of June.</p> <p>Any other funding streams?</p> <p>Forestry commission woodland creation scheme.</p> <p>River basin management plan draft consultation will be later possibly in around 3 months' time. There is more flexibility to express local feelings and will be online rather than hardcopy.</p>	<p>LR to pick up with Ben Lamb if he's involved in the woodland planting advisory role.</p> <p>GH to send link to river basin management plan draft when open Group to respond to consultation when it opens</p>
<p>SP/07.02.20 Date of next meeting</p>	<p>1pm Thursday the 2nd of September</p>	