



Steering Group Meeting Minutes 10.00 am 15/12/21

Attended	Paul Clarke Middlesbrough Borough Council; Graham Clingan Stockton Borough Council; Chris Francis RSPB; Jeremy Garside Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; Eddie Halstead Environment Agency; Ben Lamb Tees Rivers Trust; Rachel Murtagh TVNP; Andy Whitehead Natural England; Rebecca Wren Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council; Graeme Hull Environment Agency Tom Stephenson Hartlepool Borough Council; Ben Lamb Tees Rivers Trust; Clare Deasy Northumbrian Water; David Hand Darlington Borough Council;
Apologies	Glyn Smith Public Health England; Sarah Scarr Hartlepool Borough Council;
Chair	Timothy Crawshaw Chair TVNP
Secretariat	Louise Richards TVNP

Item	Notes	Action
SG/01.03.20	Minutes of the last meeting 15/09/21 accepted by the group	
SG/02.03.20 Annual report	<p>TC an opportunity to show what we're doing to the work we do to partner organisations as part of our final year of funding.</p> <p>EH what feedback have we had from the lottery? RM the grants programme has been restarted and there is a lot of competition, we could possibly apply for an extension. There is also potential scope to extend the end of the project if we have any underspend. There's also context to think of with the Wildlife Trust. The main thing is to be people led.</p> <p>TC there is potential to do a separate community event in the last year of the project.</p> <p>Quarterly Managers Report - key things this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small grant from Natural England of £10,000 to run a pilot on that follows on from the Natural Futures plan, partnered up with Borderlands and MIMA for this and have run a couple of workshops already. There's potential to scale this up from here. - We've been working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Teesside University. 	ALL to share the annual report within their organisations
SG/03.03.20 Update from working groups	<p>Governance (Rachel Murtagh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cover the fourth theme of leadership which needed support. ▪ Had a discussion about the underspend we currently have will continue assessing to see what can be done with this. <p>Natural Assets (Jeremy Garside)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Looking at habitat mapping and making it accurate for the area so habitats such as ancient woodland are protected ▪ Looked at LNRS's and how this will work for the Tees Valley and how this will fit in with net gain. ▪ We finalised some papers for a new LWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strip of land alongside Southbank station. Mostly owned by R&C but some bits unclear on ownership planning to put planning signs up to let possible owners know of the plans. – Voted through unanimously. <p>Engagement (Paul Clarke)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting was dominated by the feeling that the way the group currently works isn't working with engagement. One of the things we're looking at doing is setting up a workshop in the new year to plan the workshop to set it up not too far into the new year. We will 	<p>RM to send on the LWS recommendation</p> <p>AW to send Ester's details over to Paul and Rachel.</p> <p>LR to circulate list of flood alleviation schemes.</p>

	<p>be getting support on this from the You've Got This Movement. Engagement workshop planning 10am 13th January. The actual workshop will take place early March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AW had Ester Smith join the team on inclusion ▪ Involving local groups, they have been really struggling at the moment and could use support as a lot of the forums that usually support them aren't running or they don't have one in the area. Should this be included in the workshop, but it may need to be a separate thing as this could be too much for one workshop. Could we partner with another organisation as part of this? <p>Strategic Projects (Graeme Hull)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have sent out Project proformas to the group, so we know what all the projects are about. This would be especially useful when being asked for letters of support. ▪ It was acknowledged that the projects are quite water heavy <p><i>Projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stockton have pulled together a tree initiative ▪ Northumbrian Water Blue Spaces - a project on accessibility to blue spaces - looking for suggested areas for projects ▪ The local lead flood authorities have a programme of flood alleviation schemes and there is an ability within these to feed in environmental improvement. Looking to join these together. ▪ There's a concept started in Yorkshire called Nature North which may be of relevance moving forward. ▪ Consultation on the river environment plan. ▪ Was a mention on funding particularly on the second round of NERF funding. ▪ Do we write a letter to the treasury now based in Tees Valley? 	
<p>SG/04.03.20 Environment Bill</p>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Now have the office of environmental protection. They will be a regulator and complaints body and will work with EA, DEFRA etc to deliver the 25-year environment plan <p>Waste and resource efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ putting more onus on the waste sector and polluters to work on the behaviours upstream and DEFRA will be able to charge more <p>Air quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More focused on local authorities and changes to vehicles <p>Water environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More integrated water planning and reducing overflows and increasing general quality. There has been a big ask on an investigation on what's happening with water companies. Are also looking at legacy licences to do with water extractions etc <p>Nature Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main headlines are LNRS' and Biodiversity net gain. Bodies are still being identified to deliver LNRS' ▪ Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is now in effect but will likely be mandatory from 2023. ▪ Conservation governance is one more thing to come out of the environment act. <p>BNG – problem we have is what to do if they go in and bulldoze the site before planning goes through? – can back date this when enforcing How to enforce it now as it isn't law? Hartlepool focus on no net loss currently.</p>	
<p>SG/05.03.20</p>	<p>EDI Poll on the steering group EDI based on the Wildlife Trust EDI data.</p>	

SG/06.03.20 NNR Conference	<p>Natural England are having their National Nature Recovery Conference in Tees Valley on the 29th and 30th of March 2022.</p> <p>We've been given a section of the agenda for the local focus of the event.</p> <p>Should our annual conference be focused on this or be a separate event?</p> <p>The session separated into break out group to focus on the question - what's the message we want to get across?</p>	RM to take the feedback to conference meeting this afternoon.
SG/07.04.21 AOB	N/A	
Date of next meeting: 10am Wednesday the 16 th of March via Zoom unless stated otherwise.		