



TVNP Strategic Projects Group Meeting Minutes 1.00 pm, 3rd March 2022 via videocall

In attendance	Jeremy Garside Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; Judy Power Tees Rivers Trust; Ben Lamb Tees Rivers Trust; Rachel Murtagh Tees Valley Nature Partnership; Andrew Casey Darlington Council.
Apologies	Graham Clingan Stockton Borough Council; Clare Deasy Northumbria Water;
Chair	Graeme Hull Environment Agency
Secretariat	Rachel Murtagh 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 for 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.	
SP/01.01.22	<i>Actions from the previous meeting</i> Catchment sensitive farming is expanding in extent and remit so we may see more of this in this area	LR to take River Tees Initiative off the projects
SP/02.01.22	<i>Ongoing projects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tees Tidelands – ongoing – Discover Bright Water – ongoing – Living Leven – ongoing – Greatham NE and Portrack flood alleviation schemes – ongoing – Northumbrian Water Periodic Review 2019 program (and 2024?) WEIF – ongoing – Borderlands – ongoing – Climate Action Middlesbrough – ongoing – You've Got This – ongoing – Festival of Thrift – ongoing – North East Climate Coalition – ongoing – VONNE Climate Action Alliance – ongoing – Tees Swale: naturally connected – ongoing – Billingham Beck Project – Ongoing – Catchment Sensitive Farming Project – active in Tees Valley – Northumbrian Water Blue spaces scheme – Consultation on River Basin plans – out for comment – NRN Conference 2022 – Stockton Tree initiative – ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have funding through 3 schemes and have employed an officer for this. Have just completed a round of planting – Flood risk management authority – Fish 4 Tees Project – Natural Futures Project – Pilot for Natural England 	LR to chase up which proforma CD needed.

	<p><i>Discussion on Flooding with Andrew Casey</i></p> <p>LLFA is a Member led process across the country to avoid flooding and Tees Valley feeds into the Northumberland area.</p> <p>The NRFCC was aware that the flooding officers are mostly comprised of engineers so don't have as much environmental input. The plan pre-pandemic was to use existing partnerships to understand flooding schemes however this was put on hold with the pandemic. What they have tried to do is to get to something more practical is to start getting feedback on local flooding schemes with a description of the scheme and the planned outcomes with space for comments from relevant groups and then the next stages that are needed.</p> <p>Some schemes are led by councils, some by EA, some led by Northumbrian Water. Some of these are 6-year projects which will give time for feasibility studies on the various options.</p> <p>Currently looking at West Beck and Cocker Beck in Darlington. Schemes are mostly funded through GIA. This could link well with the LNRS and BNG strategies.</p> <p>As a starting point, we could lay out some options of how we can work together and then these can be built into work moving forward.</p> <p>Suggest options to consider include,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing TVLLFA group with the Tees Valley partner projects information 2. Considering if there was generic design advice we could provide or signpost that LLFAs could direct their design contractors to incorporate – there might be an expectation LLFA contractors would have this expertise in designing schemes 3. Comments on LLFA Programme in terms of opportunities current or potential to incorporate mitigation or betterment 4. Comments on individual Projects in more detail – this would probably be specific discussions where capacity allowed and the potential benefits warranted. 	<p>LR to include the examples AC sent over with the minutes.</p> <p>Group to define options on working together on this.</p> <p>AC to provide the program to the group.</p>
<p>SP/03.01.22</p>	<p><i>New/emerging projects</i></p> <p>Saltergill Beck</p> <p>Looking at removing/bypassing weirs but now looking at whether this is viable and will actually cause a worse impact, especially with possible Northumbria Water work on the sewage treatment work that may impact this. TRT is happy to have any conversations on the planned work on this.</p> <p><i>LNRS'</i></p> <p>TVCA has been approached by DEFRA to be the responsible body for the LNRS'. They will now contact the CEOs of the local authorities to confirm this before sending a response.</p> <p>Local authorities have been given £20,000 each for BNG so over £100,000 for the whole Tees Valley. Could this be something for TVNP to give its views on how to best spend the money?</p>	<p>BL to coordinate with ST and JG on Salter Gill and if there's any coordinated work that can be done on this. May want to include Stockton</p>

	<p>QUENCH Quality Urban Environments and Nature Connectedness. A national network of which Rachel is a part of. As part of a cross-sector team that put a bid in for a research project on nature connectedness in South Tees and will hopefully find out next week.</p> <p><i>Fish 4 Tees</i> Green recovery challenge funded, connectivity across the whole Tees and looking at fish passes improvements in upper Tees and at the Barrage. Starting estuary work on restoring seagrass and native oysters. Also, put in a submission for funding up to 2028.</p>	
SP/04.01.22	<p><i>Nature North</i></p> <p>Sounds like a similar scheme to the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund on a local scale (in the north).</p> <p>Have money from Esme Fairburn for the regional coordinator and are looking to set up a platform for investors to get involved with. There is more information here.</p>	
SP/05.01.22	<p><i>NERF 2</i></p> <p>Submitted the bid, thank you to the group for their input, haven't heard back yet.</p>	
SP/06.01.22	<p>AOB</p> <p>There is an emerging demand for land for BNG, do we need a strategic suite of environmental enhancement land available?</p> <p>During the pandemic, land sales were pretty much static apart from low-grade agricultural land which had seen a boost from this.</p> <p>NRN conference on the 12th and 13th of July. Drinks reception at MIMA on the 12th and Ormesby hall on the 13th. May include a river trip as part of this.</p> <p>RM has been invited to a parliamentary reception at the end of the month to speak on TVNP.</p>	
Date of next meeting	13 th June 1pm	

