

**Biodiversity South West Steering Group**  
**Renslade House, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

| <b>AGENDA ITEM</b>  | <b>ACTION</b>                                       |
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| <b>Attendees</b>  |   |
| Naomi Brookes, Emma-Rose Herrera, Basil Greenwood, Mark Robins, Neil Sherwood, Ray Perrins, Imogen Davenport, Simon Brenman   |   |
| <b>Apologies</b>  |   |
| Justin Milward, Helen Thompson, Phil Tolerton, Mark Durk, Richard Ormerod, Roger Covey,   |   |
| <b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>  |   |
| <p>MR and SB have yet to contact the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, this will be picked up in the workshop session about raising the profile of biodiversity across the region.</p> <p>The position statement on Nature Map will be ready for the Partnership meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Please send any thoughts on the current draft to NB by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008.</p> <p>SITA have requested that we send a letter to Government supporting their request for an increase in the amount of money that are able to give to good causes (the landfill tax has increased, but the money for good causes has not). It was agreed that a letter would be sent on behalf of Biodiversity South West.</p>   | <p><b>NB</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>NB</b></p> |
| <b>Work Programme</b>   |   |
| <p>BG has stepped down as co-chair of Biodiversity South West. The South West Wildlife Trusts volunteered to provide a co-chair to work alongside E-RH in order to re-balance the governance of the partnership in the light of NB's role being taken into Natural England. The group agreed this proposal. BG to provide information on what the role involved in terms of time commitment.</p> <p>E-RH suggested that the change over in chairs would be a good opportunity to re-engage with steering group members and potentially invite additional members. It was agreed that we should have a 12 month programme of meetings set out in advance.</p> <p>NB's post will be taken into Natural England. SB raised the issue about the remit of this post and the TUPE process. SB said that he had not heard back from Natural England. BG to call Christine Wallace (Natural England) to establish the situation. NB said that she needed the opportunity to have any questions answered.</p> <p>NB's role will be to focus on the partnership's targets, with Matt Low being employed to look at the biodiversity targets which Natural England leads on.</p> | <p><b>BG</b></p> <p><b>BG</b></p>                   |

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| <p>The core services document for Biodiversity South West runs out at the end of March 2008. It was agreed that another core services document should be produced, this will have some overlap with NB's Natural England work plan.</p> <p>NS will be leaving the partnership at the end of March 2008, the Biodiversity South West work plan needs to reflect that there will be one coordinator rather than two. NB to propose a new work plan at the next steering group.</p> <p>Other regional biodiversity partnerships have communications and funding strategies. The funding strategy could include tactics for targeting funds such as HLF and influencing European funding and key partners (such as the RDA). NB to establish what is happening in other regions to discuss at the next steering group meeting.</p>  | <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> |
| <p><b>Funding</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>Defra, via Natural England, have given Biodiversity South West funding to raise awareness about the NERC duty. Part of this money is going towards workshops in each county, to be organised and facilitated by Mike Oxford. These workshops will be aimed at local authorities (head planner and CEO level). The remainder of the funds will be used to produce Marine NERC guidance which will be completed by the end of May 2008.</p> <p>NB circulated the Biodiversity South West budget. NB to contact Kate Cox at Somerset Wildlife Trust to collate figures. SB pointed out that there is no contingency for a deficit from the SWWT.</p> <p>It is important that members signed up to the MOA pay their subscriptions to Biodiversity South West.</p> <p>Once NB's post has transferred across to Natural England all her T&amp;S and other such costs will be paid by Natural England. However meals for meetings, meeting room hire and large mail outs/printing jobs will have to be paid for through the Biodiversity South West.</p> <p>MR said that there was opportunities to provide advice and engage with the South West Rural Enterprise Gateway (REG).</p> <p>The SWWT produced a proposal for providing a banking facility for Biodiversity South West. This was at a reduced fee if the funds remain less than £30k pa. This proposal was supported by the group.</p> |                     |
| <p><b>South West Nature Map</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>NB circulated a paper giving an update on the visioning workshops that are taking place throughout the region. Wiltshire will be having their workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008. John Waldon will give feedback at the partnership event on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and a report will be produced after this date.</p>  |                     |





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| <p>work further.</p> <p>BG mentioned the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and our role in responding to proposed changes. REN will hold a session on the RSS looking at staying ‘within environmental limits’. Carol Somper (Defra) will host the event.</p> <p>There seems to be confusion around the Green Infrastructure policy within the RSS with the terms Green Space and Green Infrastructure apparently being misunderstood.</p> <p>ID gave an update from the Planning and Development Sector Group concerning the single planning form (the 1app) and the example two page checklist produced in Dorset. The ALGE guidance is 300 pages long.</p> <p>RP spoke about the BIRG meeting, with the emphasis on keeping the enthusiasm going and highlighting achievements over the last year. The group is a good networking opportunity for its members, for example at the last meeting the Devon Monitoring Framework was introduced by Craig Dixon. Issues for the coming year could include marine and coastal issues.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Workshop session</b></p>  |  |
| <p>A workshop was held with the aim of raising the profile of biodiversity in the region.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>AOB and DONB</b></p>  |  |
| <p>Dates for future steering group meetings –<br/>8<sup>th</sup> May 2008, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008<br/>(all 10:30 to 15:30).</p> <p>The next partnership meetings –<br/>12<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.</p>  |  |