



Surrey Nature Partnership
Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

Takeaway Message

“Surrey Nature Partnership welcomes in 2024 with an energised approach to finding a new chair. We will be exploring our recruitment options and are welcoming informational conversations, at this time. Please get in touch with Lisa Creaye-Griffin, lisacreayegriffin@outlook.com.

We are focusing on our Biodiversity and Planning Conference, held at Dorking Halls 12th March 2024. The [tickets are available here](#) we look forward to seeing as many of our partners there as possible.”

Surrey Parks and Countryside Forum- are due to meet again at the end of February.

Biodiversity Working Group – Welcomed the new LNRS lead Adam Brown. Had a presentation from the River Thames Scheme from SCC, announcing their Preliminary Environmental

Information Report consultation launch imminent. BNG – to be launched 12/02/24. Discussion in group around Rules for Validating (i.e. ‘checklists’) applications pending submission of essential around BNG offer.

The River Catchment Partnerships - Water quality monitoring groups across Surrey are set up and meetings held. Full review of projects is being undertaken across both catchments - with a view to providing an interactive map of projects via the catchment story maps.

All Thames water catchments are attending a forum in March, Zoe Channon is hosting one of the panel discussions with farm clusters and their views on water/water management.

The Local Site Partnership – are looking to restart in February 2024.

Next meetings and events – 2024

All 2024 meeting dates have been emailed through.

Biodiversity and Planning Conference - 12th March 2024.



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Board Meeting Friday 26th January 2024

Board Members

Richard Murphy	RM
Stephen Rudd	SR
Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira -Chairman	SJC
Rob Fairbanks	RF
Carolyn McKenzie	CM

Officers

Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Director of SyNP Chairman for the Countryside and Parks Forum	LCG
Mike Waite	Director of Research and Monitoring, SWT Chairman of the SyNP Biodiversity Working Group	MW
Vivienne Greenough	Natural Environment Strategic Lead SCC Chairman of the Local Sites Partnership	VG
Zoe Channon	Director of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and Partnerships, SWT Co-Chair of the Catchment Partnerships	ZC
Zoe Williams	Administrative Officer SyNP	ZW

Apologies

Jim McAllister	JM
Bill Biddell	BB
Gordon Jackson	GJ
Zoe Channon	ZC
Vivienne Greenough	VG
Jason Gaskell	JG
Ruth Hutchinson	RH

Agenda		Discussion	Actions
Open	Welcome Present and Apologies		
1. Previous meeting minutes	<p>Review of the previous meeting minutes.</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting, reviewed.</p>	<p>Meeting minutes approved.</p> <p>Takeaway messages on top to continue.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>LCG update – Carolyn has contacted Ruth and is awaiting a response. Ruth to be sent Terms of Reference and LCG and CM liaising.</p> <p>Send round student forms again. (RM)</p> <p>CM on Land management framework to be updated next time.</p> <p>Action to keep on board refresh. And List.</p> <p>ZW Start gathering email for SyNP Message circulation.</p>	<p>Actions kept from previous meeting.</p> <p>Action: SJC to meeting with RF on paleoecology for Surrey Hills</p>

<p>2. Chair update</p>	<p>Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira - Chair</p>	<p>A candidate for the chair has been found through my connects, the current chair of Park Run. The potential candidate is the previous chair of Park Run. Rob Phillips who is local to Surrey. SJ will be meeting him for an informal discussion and will report back on how that goes.</p> <p>I think it would be wise to have our messages out on website/social media to say we are looking for chair. It is critical to get a new chair in soon.</p> <p>We will have another push over the next three months and see if we can get someone through. On social media and website. SJ would like to step down by the end of the financial year if possible.</p> <p>I have done another draft of the SLA framework, which has been sent to Adam Brown (LNRS). I hope this can be finalise once Carolyn has a chance to review this and sign off.</p> <p>There is the option of having a deputy, this should be considered.</p>	<p>Action we are looking for deputy chair to allow Sarah Jane to step down.</p>
<p>3. Director update</p>	<p>Lisa Creaye-Griffin – Director</p>	<p>Shared in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Action, Adam to be invited to attend the next Board and update on the LNRS.</p>
<p>4. SENP update</p>	<p>Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira - Chair</p>	<p>SJ is now the chair. Caroline has had to step down. SJ will use this year to focus on refining the role of the South East Nature Partnership, there are lots of groups and secretariate, that has grown in 2023.</p> <p>Zoe will be doing some secretariate support and Chris from Kent will continue to share the role. Chris will be pulling together the partnership meetings. Zoe will be taking care of the board and secretariate work.</p> <p>Partnership Meetings The plan is to have a theme and fewer speakers, to give people a chance to have more time to go into greater detail, to optimise the forum. There is some thought about how national landscapes link into this group.</p> <p>Currently finalising the application for £15,000 to go to the South East Nature Partnership. There needs to be discussion on the name, perhaps Nature South East to align with other collections of LNPs.</p> <p>The company has been set up and is running well, with three directors, Caroline may need to step down. SJ may need to become one, after stepping down as chair to SyNP.</p> <p>SJ keen to hold a regional conference under the Nature South East Banner. The University's may want to support and get involved. early September time in mind, like the Biodiversity and Planning conference, it could become an annual thing.</p> <p>RF We have lots of regional activity and would be excellent to showcase this. It would be good to open the conference out to London. So much offsetting.</p> <p>Priorities for the SENP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the funding bid • Then, have conversation off to see where they want to go regionally • Then feed this back. 	<p>CM to give London ecologist contact to SJC</p>

		<p>RF There is some potential funding from DEFRA and the national landscapes. £7,000 each, to buy in resources.</p>	
<p>5. LNRS update</p>	<p>Lisa Creaye-Griffin</p>	<p>Adam Brown is now in post; he is moving forward quickly. He now has the piece of work Mike had completed.</p> <p>There are still talks on the project mapping. Adam is starting to collate data for this. He has a GIS background, so is very familiar with this kind of work.</p> <p>Lisa to distribute the communications plan for the LNRS. Adam has now costed this up.</p> <p>RF, Raise that there is going to be a lot public engagement and surveying going on across Surrey and need to be careful of the overlap.</p> <p>SJ, Need to get better at the sharing of data, we need to find a way to share data more effectively. Some good conversations about GIS have happened. I feel as the Nature Partnership, we would right a statement about the sharing of data.</p> <p>RM, Suggested a picture representation, DEFRA loved the South East Woodlands piece on this.</p> <p>SJ, The Wildlife Trust is going to pay for a one year license for One Planet (£10,000) and will pay someone to understand the resource and get some information in. We are happy to open this out for as many partners to use. The more data the better the pilot can be.</p> <p>SR, When is the official statutory consultation for the LNRS? LCG, It is in the spring.</p> <p>RF, National Landscape Management plans have to be embedded in the LNRS. Our statutory consultation will be in November.</p> <p>SR, In the 2019 guidance, it suggests that any consultation that hasn't yet started, if there is a general election called would need to be put on hold.</p> <p>SJ, It may be worth starting these earlier in case an election is called.</p> <p>LNRS Key Outcomes</p> <p>SJ, Adam is going to prepare something to show the process and consultations. SLA frame work needs to be approved, which will show the workings.</p>	<p>Action: LCG to share LNRS comms plan to the board.</p> <p>Adam Brown to get a map of the current surveys underway and circulating timings.</p>
<p>6. Greener Futures Board update</p>	<p>Carolyn McKenzie</p>	<p>The Board is one of the routes the LNRS is going to link into. We have a community vision that is a community strategy, forming these points of work, Health, Economy and Green Futures. They are broad. Tim Olliver (Leader of the Council (SCC))pushed for partnerships, cross sector for each the outcome. Representation of all key bodies involved in the environment agenda. It has most partnership that aren't statutory or have more than one function. We need dedicated funding. We instigated a review for that in Autumn, we had a good meeting, there should be more actions coming out of this. What I think it needs is more independence. SCC need to be involved in driving this and resourcing this. We have asked the university to co-chair this for independence. Good conversation on wellbeing and donut economics. We need something people can buy into. Internally we are going through what happened in the last meeting.</p> <p>We need to focus on the SLA and roles and profiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying role • Joint comms/behaviour change campaigns for residents • Money side, bring money together not owning it • Problems and barriers, using the GFB to support these • Profile, promoting the agenda 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of priorities,(List not limiting) Nature recovery, fuel poverty, water quality, climate change, no one left behind, access <p>Use this to create a think piece paper and putting that into SLA's within the structure.</p> <p>LCG, You have a good partnership of people who regularly come along. I think the idea of having a think piece would be good.</p> <p>SJ, I think there is a always important to articulate things clearly. Around the think piece, one I think it sounds like a lot, need to see if it is viable to do all those things. Secondly, I think it would be helpful if that document articulate what others are doing in the space.</p> <p>CM, It's a "Partnership for Partnerships."</p> <p>RM, In some sense it will have action, and other areas it needs to be a review body.</p> <p>SJ, In the paper it would be good to see where it sits with the other boards. After the election the Community Vision will be reviewed. I want environment to be strong within it.</p>	
7. Finance review	Lisa Creaye-Griffin – Director	To be reviewed and sent round with the minutes.	Action ZW to send this round with minutes.
8. Biodiversity and Planning Conference	Zoe Williams - Admin	<p>We have all our speakers in place, draft day agenda to be sent round with minutes.</p> <p>I am awaiting Bios from Adam and Sophie, once I have that I will send out the big mail out.</p>	Action ZW to send agenda round with minutes.
9. Biodiversity Working Group Workshop	Mike Waite – Chairman	<p>MW (Biodiversity Working Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met 17th January – excellent turnout. New members inc. some of the recently appointed LPA planning specialists (e.g. Mole valley, Spelthorne). Presentations from Adam Brown, new appointed SyLNRS Manager at SCC, introducing himself and an update. Also from the River Thames Scheme admin team from SCC, plus consultant ecologist, announcing their PEIR consultation launch imminent. BNG – to be launched 12/02/24 (official). Discussion in group around Rules for Validating (i.e.. 'checklists') applications pending submission of essential information around BNG offer. Interesting round-robin of LPAs on achieving amended NERC Act Biodiversity Duty to "Consider what can be done to conserve and enhance biodiversity" (by 31/12/2023). 	
Conclusion	Round table updates from Board Members	<p>ZC</p> <p>The River Catchment Partnerships continue to develop strong links across organisations. Key areas of work include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality monitoring groups across Surrey are set up and meetings held. View is to align methodologies and ensure workable data is produced to inform the EA and Water Companies 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full review of projects is being undertaken across both catchments - with a view to providing an interactive map of projects via the catchment story maps. • The Surrey catchments are waiting to hear if they will be successful recipients of full Smarter Water Catchment Funding via Thames Water - this could unlock a significant investment amount tbd. It also depends on TW finances, as yet we are unclear how the company's current situation will affect this. • All Thames water catchments are attending a forum in March, I am hosting one of the panel discussions with farm clusters and their views on water/water management. • All business-as-usual work continues, with quarterly Steering Groups, monitoring and reporting. Already looking to this year's annual event and discussion underway as to focus and topics. <p>SJ, Enterprise M3 and the LEP's will be closing on the 31st March this year. Surrey and Hampshire council will be taking on the economic development aspects. The boards are being set up and the conversation on how the money is being split up is ongoing. This money will be for economic growth.</p> <p>Coast to capital set themselves up different in the last 18month, not quite the same levels of financial resources.</p> <p>CM, We had our first short series of meeting with utilities because of impact on residents and environment. Our first one was on water this went very well. They are interested in joining up and setting a more formal partnership, a strategic relationship with local councils and other partners.</p> <p>SR, The Surrey Hills national landscape boundary review, completing the consultation report should be done by March. Hoping to have something to bring to the next board meeting. Heathland connection has a good start of the year with our meeting. RSPB are looking into a landscape recovery bid.</p> <p>Our audience data work is concluding. Operationally our Thursley Park Reserves manager is moving to Norbury Parks as a warden reserves manager.</p> <p>SJ, It would be worth them talking to James Herd as he can go over why our landscape bid didn't go through.</p> <p>RF, Surrey Hills Sustainable Business Showcase at the University of Surrey on 7th February 2024.</p> <p>We have a massive budget for FiPL and access. £180k Green finance, DEFRA is funding three positions in Green finance. Part of the extra money is to upgrade our highway signage.</p> <p>Nature Calling – Surrey Hills Arts – ACE funding – Surrey and Croydon engagement focus (also advertising new Surrey Hills Arts Chair)</p> <p>National Landscape rebrand of AONBs 75th Anniversary of the 1949 Act Surrey Hills Management Plan – Nature Calling - a 75th year vision for the Surrey Hills National Landscape (2025 – 2100)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature (review and update Making Space for Nature – NRS) • People • Place • Climate 	<p>Action: SR to connect with James Herd on the landscape recovery bid, due to feedback from DEFRA.</p>
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