



Surrey Nature Partnership

Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

Board Meeting Friday 18th August 2023

Board Members

Gordon Jackson	GJ
Richard Murphy	RM
Stephen Rudd	SR
Bill Biddell	BB
Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira -Chairman	SJC
Rob Fairbanks	RF

Officers

Lisa Creaye-Griffin -Director of SyNP	LCG
Mike Waite -Director of Research and Monitoring, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Chairman of the SyNP Biodiversity Working Group	MW
Zoe Williams	ZW
Surrey Nature Partnership Administrative Officer	

Apologies

Mike Waite-Director of Research and Monitoring, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Chairman of the SyNP Biodiversity Working Group	MW
Carolyn McKenzie	CM
Jay Neale	JN
Jim McAllister	JM
Ruth Hutchinson	RH
Jason Gaskell	JG

Agenda		Discussion	Actions
Open	Present and Apologies		
1. Previous meeting minutes	Actions from previous meeting, reviewed. Review of the previous meeting minutes.	Minutes approved. <u>Actions carried forward.</u> • CM to contact Ruth to find a representative for the health sector. • Zoe to circulate CIC/CIO. • Zoe to send minutes of finance meeting instead of recording. • Land management framework CM.	
2. Surrey Wildlife Trust BNG update	What is Surrey Wildlife Trust doing currently in terms of BNG?	SWT Update Following the sale of net gain credits, we are in discussions with future sites. These conversations do take time, it is a long process. Manor Farm took one year, so that is the sort of timeframe we are working towards. Interest in purchasing credits is high. We are still maintaining a 20% biodiversity net gain minimum as The Wildlife Trust. The 20% will drive the nature recovery work, if we only go with 10%, we won't be driving recovery.	

		We will assess BNG unit's prices on a case by case basis. The NERF 2 bid is still being worked on with landowners, we are looking at putting in at least two NERF 3 bids to support landowners. (West of the county) East of county we will look to do a NERF 2+, we are looking forward to continuing this work with landowners. Surrey Nature Partnership Update We have asked MW to write interim guidance on how we want to see BNG work in Surrey, before the guidance comes in November. RM: BNG, can a developer go to more than one provider? SJ: You can, but the argument would be to use one, if possible, but as long as they are meeting the criteria, they don't have to purchase from one person. RF: Looking at stacking of schemes, BNG and FiPL and the comms and planning how do you see this working? SJ: My understanding of stacking BNG and for example nutrient neutrality is possible as these are both financially regulated products. The challenge is carbon, it is currently an unregulated market. SR: Heathland connects has a good report about the BNG units. SJ, I was interested with how your conversations with developers went? SJ: No deals this year have been signed yet, but conversations are underway. SWT is keen to make sure landowners are given a fair understanding of pricing for BNG credits. GJ: When does the money pass hands? How does this tie in with the development? SJ: There is a contractual obligation between the contractor and the provider of the credits. For example, Manor Farm was a section 106 agreement, when we signed this, that is when the transfer of money took place.	
		How could Surrey Nature Partnership be involved in the future? Suggestion that BNG and SyNP's role is a subject covered in the next Workshop. SJ: SyNP could be the logical entity holding the BNG site registers, for its neutrality, and knowledge pool. Something to consider about the role of SyNP going forwards. RF: I am interested to know what others are doing with this register? SJ: It is a mixed view across the country, some are with Wildlife Trusts some with RA's. BB: I agree, however I have concerns about the ability to do this. We are very much a consultant body currently. SJ: I agree with what you're saying, from the SWT we are looking to supporting the SyNP further to do this. As a neutral and third-party place to do this. Lisa and I were looking to have more infrastructure money support in, we are look at a longer-term plan to allow us to do more.	Zoe to put on the agenda for Workshop

		I feel that records centres have there place too in supporting this work, Alistair is doing preparatory work on the LNRS and he has two staff and looking to get two more.	
3. Written update from Vivienne Greenough Surrey County Council on BNG for the Local Authorities		“BNG general: I attended the last SPOA event (Surrey Planning Officers Association) on 7th July and did a presentation on BNG. We are all agreed that one approach to BNG across Surrey should be implemented. Further meetings to be held to discuss how to progress this. I will also be having some initial discussions with SCC colleagues about BNG tariff setting - very early days with this. BNG Habitat banking study: There is tender being advertised at the moment which includes 59 LPA sites across Surrey – 9/11 of the Ds and Bs have sites included in this tender, as do SCC. The contract will run for three years so there is scope for more sites to be added in the future (and the two Ds and Bs which did not participate this year have the option to be included in future). As a separate contract, SWT are currently undertaking baseline BNG surveys on five SCC sites now – also looking at how these can be used as BNG habitat banks. BNG training: BNG training for Ds and Bs – I am rolling out training to the Ds and Bs free of charge – currently just setting a few dates and will be sending invites soon. Training will be late Sept / early Oct in Woodhatch.”	
4. Recruitment of Chairman	Update	We have not had any suitable applications for the role of Chair, we will look into why we didn't have the right response, we were advertising in the right places. The role and way to advertise will be clearer once we, have had our workshop. We hope this will create a more appealing role once we are all a clearer in our direction. GJ: A better brief will help us to seek a chairman. SJ: I will be staying on for another year, I felt it necessary for direction and travel, to give continuity. BB: On behalf of us all, thank you for staying on a year, and for giving us another fantastic year of excellent leadership.	
5. LNRS update	Lisa Creaye-Griffin – Director	Confirm SCC are the responsible authority, and they are waiting for a new LNRS officer. I am working with Molly Easton NE and RJ Heron Comms Greener Futures SCC to continue progressing with the communications plan and stakeholder engagement. We are looking at participatory democracy. We have drafted our engagement plan, due to go to the steering group beginning of September. The Government funding has been confirmed for the Council to lead on producing the LNRS. It is, £254,844 over two years. Most authorities are looking at running till March 2025. The Mapping is underway with SCC. Biodiversity statement is being drafted by ME at NE. GJ: How is the budget being supervised and allocated? LCG: It is LNRS specific, and it is being used for people, an Ecologist and a LNRS officer for two years. We will have a small amount for drafting the engagement plans and SBIC have had some for their data audit.	SJ to share Ron Donaldsons contract details to Lisa.

		SJ: We have worked over the years with Ron Donaldson, he has worked with SWT for his experience in the participatory democracy. SR: At Natural England Molly will be filling in a tracker on the LNRS progress. Surrey is thought of as in a good place.	
6. South East Nature Partnership (SENP)	Lisa Creaye-Griffin - Director	Has now set itself up as a CIC. They have a finance meeting; they are looking at advertising for a bid writer to support the funding efforts. To support larger bids across the South East. SJ and ZW attend this meeting. LCG is sitting on the health and wellbeing group, to try to coordinate over the Southeast. We have volunteered to be a region tester for the evaluation of Health and wellbeing activities. I am looking for SyNP to meet with the Green Social Prescribing, NHS, Surrey Heathlands Health and Wellbeing Board, to look at how we can bring these areas together in Surrey.	
7. Surrey Parks and Countryside Forum	Zoe Williams – Administrator	Update received from Ben Siggery on Paleoecology how looking at the past can help us set good baselines for the future. Also, in terms of fires looking at how often these have taken place. LNRS update was given. Access for all update from Surrey Hills National Landscape, which was useful to consider the adaptation taking place at Box Hill and how these could be applied to other sites. Ongoing work regarding commercial dog walkers, can this be managed? How are others working on this. Thames Basin Heath are coming to the next meeting this month to share their knowledge. SCC and National Trust have been invited to do the same. BB: Puttenham common with all our woods in relation to dog walking we have done public engagement work; we are keen to be involved. We would love our dog walkers to become nature lovers. Please include us for future involvement.	Zoe to link up with Molly and BB
Conclusion	Round table updates from Board Members	SR: Heathland connections, officially launched, one of the six across the country, the areas in this total 176 thousand hectares. The plan is to launch a further 13 of these in the next year. We had a tour of Farnham heath. Good media interest, RF did a piece for radio also. Heathland connections page now on Surrey Hills website showing the new video. Heathland Connections - Surrey Hills National Landscape We have been awarded the contract for the visitors survey, we are looking at how people use the heathlands, questionnaires, mobile phone GPS tracking, offsite survey. To feed into our sustainable recreation plan. MOA to be negotiated with SWT. Our super LNR is progressing. Surrey Hill boundary review had 1500 responses; we have updated our citizen space on DEFRA. Click here to view. With a refreshed timeline.	

		RM: Surrey University are pushing forward the Space for Nature project, Painshill Park Bioblitz day was very successful. We have a good resource of master's students who could support on small scale projects, for a small cost or a small bursary. Will have 15 students starting with us. RM to send a project request note to ZW. RF: Woodland is our theme for the Symposium this year. Future trees and changing climates. Our Surrey Hills Wood Fair 2023 will be taking place on the 9th and 10th September. Surrey Hills Wood Fair 2023 - Surrey Hills National Landscape Lots of programme for outreach, making space for nature, tree trails. We are in a good place with funding, we are also part of a national bid to connect people with nature through the arts. We are looking into management of Deer and opportunities with this. BB: We have a new Queen Elizabeth woodland area, we have permissive path, that leads to huge benches made from a Monterey Pine. The cattle on Puttenham Common, it has been a huge bit of work, no fence is going very well, we had a meet the cow's day 60 people came to meet them. We have to now work out how long to leave the cows and how much food they need, it's a huge learning curve, but everyone is enjoying it. Hay making and hop harvest are in the next weeks. GJ: We are carrying on our normal programmes, we had been doing dead hedging, engaging with Surrey Choices, it has been nominated for the Bowland Award, https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-us/news/bowland-award. we have put in an expression of on interest for heritage lottery bid, for Surrey Choices with the collision and SMEF. We had an interesting Saturday we brought 100+ Muslim hikers into the Surrey Hills, which booked out in 20 minutes, and we have 400 people following this event.	RM to send ZW a project request note.
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Next meetings and workshop–2023

Monday 11th September 2023 10:00 am-12:00pm SyNP Board Workshop: Budget, finance and structure

Location: Nower Wood Educational Nature Reserve

Friday 17th November 2023 10:00am (Online TBC) Board Meeting

Tuesday 12th December 12:00 – 2:00pm Surrey Nature Partnership Annual review and Christmas social

Location: Nower Wood Educational Nature Reserve