

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH DEVON NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP  
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM  
ON FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024**

**1. PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

- 1.1. One statement was given by a member of the public on the subject of "Plymouth and South Devon Freeport's proposed economic uplift, development, screening and ramifications in relation to targets and outcomes, priorities and the review of the AONB Management Plan". The Chair thanked the member of the public and requested a copy of the statement which shall be shared with Partnership members and will report back in consultation with SHDC.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Those present were:**

Peter Chamberlain	PC	Devon County Council
Cllr Georgina Allen	GA	South Hams District Council
Cllr John McKay	JM	South Hams District Council
Chris Brook	CB	South Hams District Council
Cllr Christine Carter	CC	Torbay Council
Tracy Brooks	TB	Torbay Council
Eamon Crowe	EC	Natural England
Peter Sandover	Chair	Independent
Ken Carter	KC	South West Coast Path Association
Penny Mills	PM	Representative: amenity groups
Natasha Bradshaw	NB	Representative: coast and marine
Leah Harris	LH	Representative: Landowning & farming
Peter Hinchliffe	PH	Representative: parish and town councils
Laura Campbell	LC	Representative: tourism

**Also attending**

Becky Hughes	BH	Natural England: from item 6A onwards
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**National Landscape staff attending:**

Roger English	RE	NL Manager
Nicky Bailey	NB	NL Community Projects Officer (presenter)
Phoebe Rhead		NL FiPL Administrator (meeting assistance)

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Cllr Roger Croad	RC	Devon County Council
Graham Swiss	GS	South Hams District Council
Emma Magee	EM	Environment Agency
Joshua Bennett	JB	Forestry Commission
Matthew Odgers-Brown	MOB	Forestry Commission
Richard Snow		National Trust
Ed Parr Ferris		Representative: environmental organisations

**Observers:**

Observers were requested to follow the meeting live via YouTube.

The Chair apologised for late issue of meeting papers; best endeavours will be made to issue in a more timely fashion for the next meeting.

*The Chair welcomed Leah Harris to the Partnership, who initially attended as an observer pending co-option to the landowning and farming representative role.*

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

3.1. No interests were declared.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE 23 JUNE 2023 PARTNERSHIP MEETING FOR APPROVAL & ANY MATTERS ARISING**

4.1. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2023

Proposed: Eamon Crowe

Seconded: Peter Chamberlain

Resolved: No objections, the minutes were approved.

4.2. Matters arising:

- i. March meeting action 7 (Vice-chair): Contact the AONB Manager regarding the two year research project. Update provided by the NL Manager: meeting arranged for next week, covering a number of items.
- ii. June meeting action 3 (NL Manager): circulate rebranding information pack when received with an invitation for feedback. This was circulated with the minutes of the November meeting.
- iii. Action 1 (Diane Lethbridge): Investigate options to cover existing gateway signs and develop a programme to replace. Update provided by the NL Manager: A programme for replacing signage when required in addition to new signage is in development. Additionally, a capital fund has been made available by Defra for spend in 2024/25
- iv. Action 2 (NL Manager): Is there scope within the neighbourhood proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy funding that parish councils may have available for any necessary rebranding. Update provided by the NL Manager: the principal for this is under discussion.
- v. Action 3 (Cllr McKay): Connect the NL Manager with Jane Nichols at Sustainable South Hams and provide contact information to Peter Hinchliffe. Nicky Bailey: I have been in contact with SusSH.
- vi. Action 4 (All): Contact the NL Manager with ideas for sources of information and suggested approach to consultations. NL Manager: there are still opportunities to assist with the Management Plan review. Chair: there is an opportunity for myself and Peter Hinchliffe to work together to engage clusters of parishes in the process.
- vii. Action 5 (NL Manager): Draw on findings from the University of West England report. NL Manager: we have a copy and the agenda item covering Management Plan review will show how we draw on evidence such as this.
- viii. Action 6 (Eamon Crowe): Arrange a meeting to discuss further with the NL Manager, Emma Magee and James Mason (Forestry Commission). Eamon Crowe: Conversations have taken place independently, next step to have a meeting together.
- ix. Action 7 (Diane Lethbridge): Send a list of parish and town councils in and partly in the South Devon National Landscape. Complete.
- x. Penny Mills requested an update on the shared planning resource; getting someone on board will clearly help and he sooner the better. NL Manager: Despite repeatedly seeking

contractor support pending recruitment, found either the rates are unaffordable or there are significant conflicts of interest. There is a window of opportunity next week, before Chris Woodruff leaves East Devon, to finalise the Partnership agreement between the three National Landscapes. Chair: I appreciate the concern and the NL Manager is working hard to fill the post which in turn will ease some pressure on the team.

Penny Mills: Is there a timescale to get the position advertised? NL Manager: from the point the Partnership Agreement is finalised together with costings, there should be no more than a four to five week period between going through the HR panel process at SHDC, going out to advert and then shortlisting. The period of time to get someone in post will depend on additional factors such as any notice period and availability to work.

**ACTION 1 (NL MANAGER): REPORT PROGRESS ON RECRUITING PLANNING SUPPORT AT THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP MEETING.**

**5B CO-OPTION OF COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES**

This item was introduced for the co-option of Leah Harris to the Partnership as the community representative for the farming and landowning community in the South Devon National Landscape.

Partnership members were asked to consider a personal statement from Leah Harris in support of her co-option, circulated with the meeting papers on Wednesday. Leah was asked to step out of the room while voting took place.

**5b.1 TO APPROVE THE CO-OPTION OF LEAH HARRIS TO THE VACANT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LANDOWNING AND FARMING COMMUNITY ROLE**

Resolved: No objections, Leah Harris was duly co-opted.

5b.2 Upon return to the room, Leah took up the role and continued the remainder of the meeting as a member of the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.

5b.3 The NL Manager gave an update on co-option to the role of community or voluntary groups of the National Landscape: Jackie Wesley from South Hams Community Action had been hopeful to be able to take on the role however pressures of work mean this is no longer an option. Now in conversation with Sustainable South Hams, seeking their nomination for consideration. An email will be circulated if this is resolved between meetings, as hoped.

**5A PARTNERSHIP CHAIR REPORT**

The report provided a summary of activity over the last few months undertaken on behalf of the National Landscape Partnership by the Chair, Peter Sandover.

Partnership members are recommended to note the report and are encouraged to provide brief reports where possible in advance of scheduled meetings to assist with Item 8 Partner updates.

5a.1 Since writing the report, the Chair has visited Loddiswell and Yealmpton parish councils, who he sees as one of the ways to engage communities in the Management Plan review.

5a.2 Every parish has its own difficulties and sensitivities, one of the constant ones is the challenge of planning. One of my responses is that there is a protocol within which we work. However, parish councils that have a particular concern over an application are encouraged to feed this back to me or the National Landscape team at the earliest opportunity. This also applied to members of this Partnership.

### 5a.3 Comments and in discussion

- i. Cllr McKay: You are not a statutory consultee so do you get notification of planning applications that could affect you?

NL Manager: South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council provide me with copies of the weekly planning lists. Additionally, we have a planning protocol<sup>1</sup> in place for the local planning authorities and the Marine Management Organisation. There are a series of triggers within the protocol to determine with the SDNL team should be formally consulted. We operate a triage system on applications that have been referred to us so that the most impactful applications are prioritised and can be looked at. This will change once a planning support officer is in post.

## 6A TARGETS AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

This item covers the introduction of a new Targets and Outcomes Framework for Protected Landscapes in England and will explore implications and expectations for the South Devon National Landscape area, team, Partnership, Management Plan and group of 'relevant authorities'.

Partnership members are recommended to note the introduction of the Targets and Outcomes Framework together with links to Environment Improvement Plan 2023 outcomes; give early consideration to supporting delivery that will advance the South Devon position on the items covered by the nine pertinent targets ahead of the formal Management Plan review and are recommended to use the nine targets pertinent to the South Devon National Landscape in advocacy work.

### 6a.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Becky Hughes, Natural England:
  - Understanding what this means will differ by each Protected Landscape.
  - This is not a reductive framework, so we need to continue to represent everything the NL is doing.
  - NE need to facilitate the work, in particular in relation to SSSI targets where there will need to be dialogue.
  - It is interesting there is no specific target for landscape condition, quality, maintain/enhance natural beauty. It may be because these do not directly link back to Environment Improvement Plan targets. It will be interesting to see if there is an appetite for proposing a specific target or how this is represented in Management Plans.
- ii. Peter Hinchliffe, representative for parish and town councils:
  - Who is responsible for monitoring?  
NL Manager: the data sets, which are core for the monitoring, are overseen by Natural England on behalf of Defra. The nature of the targets mean they stray into the territory of other bodies. Progress and monitoring will only be as good as the data going in. These are important as they set the direction of travel and we have an opportunity, as part of the Management Plan process and working out what these mean in the South Devon National Landscape context, to be clear on where we are now and what contributions can be and what project activity can be undertaken.

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<sup>1</sup> [Planning page \[South Devon NL website\]](#)

- iii. Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council
  - Some of the targets placed on Protected Landscapes are up to 50% of the national target contained in the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, highlighting the importance of National Landscapes in delivery of the national EIP.
- iv. Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association
  - Will National Trail Partnerships have a role within these targets or will they have their own set of Targets and Outcomes?  
Becky Hughes: National Trails UK are not included but may be considered under this framework in the future.
- v. Chris Brook, South Hams District Council
  - Regarding alignment and targets and the need to build these into the Management Plan. As it is not possible to mandate partners to make improvement, there is a gap between expectation and reality.  
  
NL Manager: You are right, the level of need and ambition does not match the funding levels now. The introduction of the enhanced duty in Countryside and Rights of Way Act means that 'must seek to further the purpose of' is being lent on heavily. This also embeds the requirement for all relevant authorities to contribute to delivery of the Management Plan, holding all partners to account. There is an expectation that the Management Plan is used as the vehicle to articulate what is needed locally. The statutory instrument is coming down the line however in its absence, some non-statutory guidance is expected in a month or two. This will help pitch the bar at the right level. The new Duty is a seismic change, as discussed at a previous Partnership meeting. Some partners may be shocked when they see the nature of the guidance and what is expected; this is a shared endeavour. Regarding funding, the amount that is really required does not match the ask. Green Finance is being lent on to bridge the gap and is largely untapped at the moment.
- vi. Eamon Crowe, Natural England
  - It will be useful to have a meeting with all the Devon National Landscapes, ensuring a consistent and co-ordinated approach. This can be followed up individual meetings with each National Landscape.  
  
**ACTION 2 (BH): Arrange a co-ordinated meeting with all Devon, Cornwall & IoS National Landscapes.**

## 6B NATIONAL LANDSCAPES ASSOCIATION AND NETWORK PRIORITIES

6b.1 The NL Manager provided a verbal update and presented a few slides.

### 6b.2 Observations and in discussion

- i. Peter Sandover, Chair
  - Is item 4, Integrated Local Plan for each National Landscape, linked to our LPAs and to inform future Local Plans?  
NL Manager: This is down to individual circumstances. I am aware that colleagues within the Joint Local Plan team have looked at and are considering the best parts of the Arnside Silverdale model.
- ii. Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association
  - Requested a copy of the slides.

**ACTION 3 (NL MANAGER): Circulate slides the NL Manager used in this meeting.**

*Post meeting update: meeting slides were circulated by email on the afternoon of 15 March.*

- 6b.3 The NL Manager provided details on the 2024 National Landscapes Annual Conference<sup>2</sup> taking place 3 – 5 July at Harper Adams University and invited members of Partnership to indicate whether they are interested in attending. There is an opportunity through Defra funding to sponsor a place or two if your own organisation is unable to support a place.

Chair: I encourage Partnership members to go along and get up to date and spend time with the team and other National Landscapes attending.

**6C NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON BATHING WATERS**

This item provides Partnership members with an update on the Bathing Waters consultation and National Landscape response.

Partnership members are recommended to note the scope of the consultation and wider benefits should bathing water status be approved.

**6c.1 Observations and in discussion**

- i. Peter Hinchliffe, representative for parish and town councils:  
Is this process closed or can more waters apply?  
NL Manager: My understanding is the consultation based on submissions is closed however there is likely to be a further round in future where more waters, likely to include inland, can apply.
- ii. Cllr McKay, South Hams District Council  
I visited a company called Valeport recently, a technology monitoring company based in Totnes. They are interested in working with SHDC, using SDF funding, to help monitor rivers like the Dart and gather data.  
NL Manager: Good news. Having telemetry based system using Sondes is a good way forward.
- iii. Laura Campbell, representative for tourism community (from Zoom chat):  
Particular thanks to the Friends of the Dart group, all volunteers, that have done so much to get us to this point.

**7A LIFE ON THE EDGE FIVE YEAR DELIVERY PHASE**

The item provides an overview of the Delivery Phase to Life on the Edge (LotE), following a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £2.24 million, awarded to South Devon National Landscape in December 2023.

Partnership members are recommended to appoint a member to represent the Partnership Committee on the LotE Project Advisory Group (it is suggested that this should be the Chair); to appoint the Partnership Committee Community Representatives to the LotE Grants panel; to note the South Devon National Landscape Core Funding Group continues to provide financial oversight of LotE budgets, reported to by the LotE Project Manager; that Partnership

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.national-landscapes-conference.org.uk/>

Committee members advocate, support and promote LotE as a flagship project of the South Devon National Landscape, to their communities and partners.

7a.1 Nicky Bailey, National Landscape Community Projects Officer, gave a presentation and provided further detail in the meeting.

7a.2 **Observations and in discussion**

- i. The Chair congratulated Nicky, the NL Manager and the team on the work invested in this.
- ii. Natasha Bradshaw, representative for coast and marine:
  - Congratulations, brilliant project. Is there an ambition to purchase any coastline within the project?  
Nicky Bailey: no capital money to buy land. However, one of our key partners is the National Trust who own and manage 60% of the coastline in the project area. We also have good buy in from smaller landowners on the coastal strip.
  - Can you seek opportunities to speak about this project nationally; in an ideal world this would be happening all around the English coast. I may be able to help with this, for example through the Coastal Futures Conference<sup>3</sup>.  
Nicky Bailey: The coastal wild belt project tie-in with the England Coast Path and South West Coast Path will hopefully show what has been achieved in our patch. Anything else you can think of that may be useful is welcome.
- iii. Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council
  - Have you any gaps in match funding?  
NL Manager: There is £96k still to find, which is underwritten by the District Council. However we would like to exceed the £96k target.  
Peter Chamberlain: Whilst Devon County Council has been supportive of the project, I do not believe it has contributed to funding it so far, but it is possible a contribution could be made. *Post meeting update: DCC have proposed a contribution of £10,000 towards the shortfall in project funding, to be made available in early 2024/25.*  
Nicky Bailey: Buglife as a charity can access funding unavailable to us. By partnering with them, the project has funding from Devon Environment Foundation, Milkywire (ethical crowd funding) and FatFace.
- iv. Laura Campbell, representative for tourism community:
  - I sit on the England's Coast Group, representing tourism on the coast. I can connect you to the group and reach more people who will be very interested in the project.
- v. Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association:
  - National Trails UK have been looking at the creation of coastal wild belt linked to the England Coast Path. We have funding and an officer in post looking at the feasibility of rolling out elements of what has been applied in Life on the Edge to other parts of the country. We are working with Defra targeting FiPL type funding to support this type of work around the coast.
- vi. Chris Brook, South Hams District Council:
  - Chris Shears team have UK SPF funding focussed on delivering a regenerative agriculture programme. Ensure links are made with this.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://coastal-futures.net/>

vii. **DECISIONS**

- For the Partnership Chair to represent the Partnership on the Life on the Edge Project Advisory Group:

Proposed: As recommended in the meeting papers

Resolved: No objections

**The South Devon National Landscape Partnership Chair will represent Partnership on the LotE Project Advisory Group.**

- To appoint Partnership Committee Community Representatives to the Life on the Edge Project Grants panel:

Proposed: As recommended in the meeting papers

Discussion:

- The Chair invited the community representatives attending the meeting whether they would be happy to be involved in the LotE Grants panel.

Nicky Bailey: There will be four meetings each year with one in person meeting and the rest on Teams. Four need to attend for the meeting to be quorate.

- Natasha Bradshaw, representative for coast and marine:

Four meetings a year may be challenging but happy in principle.

Resolved: No objections

**The South Devon National Landscape community representatives are appointed to the LotE Project Grants panel.**

**7B SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL 'KEEPING IT LOCAL' PROGRAMME**

Cllr John McKay provided a verbal report. Summary here

**7b.1 Main points**

- Working with the agriculture sector to develop a 'Keep It Local' scheme to promote local produce and reduce food miles.
- There is a real need for a programme to help local producers get their product to local markets, create a food hub network, shorten supply chains and address emissions, with traffic representing 25% of emissions across the District.
- A Keep it Local Symposium was held last November with forty delegates from across the area attending.
  - I have been speaking with those that attended the Symposium, to build a project the Council can take forward. Something about funding???
  - Dartington Estate are very interested and can see opportunities.
  - The Apricot Centre project for regenerative farming and learning, part funded by the UK SPF fund, are really interested in taking the project forward and playing a key role.
- I am aiming to present a reasonably well defined programme to take this forward, together with some costings, in the next month or so.
- We are currently recruiting a Food and Agriculture Officer who will be key to help drive this forward.
- We are planning an Arts festival in 2025, with a climate change and biodiversity theme.



## 7b.2 Observations and in discussion

- i. Nicky Bailey:
  - Regarding the themed arts festival in 2025, we have art funding for LotE so it would be good to discuss this with you.
- ii. Chair:
  - I have been involved in a feasibility study for a food hub in Cornwall and can share the research and business case with you.
- iii. Leah Harris, representative for farming and landowning community:
  - Will there be links back into school catering?  
Cllr McKay: I would expect schools to be involved in this.

## 7C KEY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS FROM SOUTH DEVON'S RIVER CATCHMENTS

The item outlines three key priorities and associated actions from across South Devon's River Catchments.

Partnership members are recommended to note the scope of work undertaken by the National Landscape Estuaries Officer, other members of the team and Partnership in support of the water environment and suggest other areas of estuaries and catchment work Partnership members would like to hear more detail on within future meetings of the National Landscape Partnership.

### 7c.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Peter Hinchliffe:
  - Interested in having more detail on initiatives relating to the Yealm estuary at a future meeting.

## 7D REVIEW OF THE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The NL Manager provided a verbal report with slides. A copy of the slides will be circulated. *Post meeting update: meeting slides were circulated by email on the afternoon of 15 March.*

## 7E NATIONAL LANDSCAPE TEAM PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

The NL Manager provided a verbal report with slides. A copy of the slides will be circulated. *Post meeting update: meeting slides were circulated by email on the afternoon of 15 March.*

### 7e.1 Observations and in discussion

- i. Chair:
  - Requests all partners to provide feedback once they have had time to digest the information, and before the next meeting.

#### **ACTION 4 (ALL): PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON TEAM PRIORITIES**

## 8. PARTNER UPDATES

An opportunity for Partners to update Partnership on their projects contributing to conserving and enhancing the South Devon National Landscape and work towards Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan priorities.

### 8.1. Peter Chamberlain, Devon County Council

- i. We have previously spoken about the Devon Local Nature Partnership and the production of a Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy. The document will be adopted this coming Monday and will be available after Easter on the website<sup>4</sup>.
- ii. In relation to my departure, my role will be split into two: head of flood & coastal risk management and head of environment. The head of environment will be your key link into the County Council. The person likely to take that role is Melanie Croll. *Post meeting update: Head of Environment is Doug Eltham; County Landscape Officer Melanie Croll has been confirmed as officer advising on Partnership and Core Funding Group.*
- iii. Chair - On behalf of Partnership, thank you very much for all your hard work and commitment to the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.

### 8.2. Tracy Brooks, Torbay Council

- i. There are a number of things presently going through legislation. Biodiversity Net Gain<sup>5</sup> came in for major applications on 12<sup>th</sup> February and is coming on 2<sup>nd</sup> April for minor. This will start coming through the planning process soon, with the potential for a number of application sites in the National Landscape.

### 8.3. Eamon Crowe, Natural England

- i. Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier is presently in abeyance, pending Defra publishing new rates. We anticipate news will come between May and main elections. This could mean schemes would not be up and running until next year. We will go to monthly start dates, which will help with resources to some extent and there will potentially be some good finance available.
- ii. We have had around 200 applications in Devon and Cornwall for the Slurry Infrastructure grant<sup>6</sup>, 25% of the national total.

### 8.4. Becky Hughes, Natural England

- i. The latest I have heard is that hopefully there will be 'core' guidance for the Management Plan Review out next month.

### 8.5. Ken Carter, South West Coast Path Association

- i. The Government target is for the whole of the King Charles III England Coast Path to be complete by the end of this year. There is concern over funding and delivery although this is not expected to be an issue in South Devon as the County Council can apply for funding for changes.
- ii. Meetings have taken place on the Cremyll to Kingswear section and works to a new section of Coast Path are due at Stoke Fleming.
- iii. Natural England are considering looking at how National Trails funding is distributed. There is concern as it is not known how much it will cost to maintain the ECP until its completion.

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<sup>4</sup> [Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy \[Devon LNP website\]](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Understanding Biodiversity Net Gain \[GOV.UK\]](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Slurry Infrastructure grant round 2 \[GOV.UK\]](#)

- iv. It is likely that we will have an underspend of £175k on NE projects in the South West, mainly due to partners ability to deliver on time; there is one large project in Plymouth unable to go ahead.
- v. We have easy access routes on the website with quite a few in this region. Nationally there is work taking place ensuring consistency on the 'language' being used ensuring easy access.
- vi. The SWCPA base at Royal William Yard is moving location within the site to larger premises, nearer where the ferries arrive and depart.
- vii. The annual Coast Path Survey, undertaken by volunteers, will be complete by the end of March.
- viii. Chris Brook: The Mothecombe to Erme estuary stretch has a cliff fall, what is the co-ordinated response to that issue?  
Ken Carter: The designation of the England Coast Path allows for roll back following negotiation with land owners.

8.6. Natasha Bradshaw, representative for coast and marine

- i. A statement was made on the Freeport. Will this be on the agenda of the next Partnership meeting?

Chair: We will circulate a summary of what was presented. This may not be the right forum but once Partnership have had an opportunity to digest the summary, partners who wish to respond can do so.

**ACTION 5 (ALL): REVIEW THE CIRCULATED PUBLIC STATEMENT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

Cllr Georgina Allen volunteered to be involved.

Chris Brook: If this group wishes, and to ensure a factual response, I can bring it back to Partnership in the future.

**ACTION 6 (CHRIS BROOK): PROVIDE THE CHAIR AND NL MANAGER WITH A FACTUAL SUMMARY REGARDING THE FREEPORT.**

Chair: Thank you, we may put this on the agenda at a future meeting.

Natasha Bradshaw: There is an important connection to be made with the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park because both are driven by Plymouth City Council so we need to ensure the National Landscape is connected in and has a voice.

Chair: PCC are on this Partnership.

- ii. Devon County Council are looking at a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, optional to extend into marine however I believe that is the intention. I am doing some work for NE on what makes an effective partnership for marine recovery. Thank you to Roger and Nigel, who were interviewed for national research and provided great input. Results will be available April/May. The Life on the Edge project is a good example of the kind of partnership working we need for marine nature recovery.

8.7. Peter Hinchliffe, representative for town and parish councils:

- i. I have shared responses to my second email to all parishes with the Chair and NL Manager. Questions have included:

- Was rebranding necessary and cost effective in the current financial situation?

NL Manager: This was a recommendation from the Glover Review that concluded in 2019 and has also been a strong push from Defra. Funding for the rebrand has come from Defra and the national approach to this has ensured a cost effective solution.

Chair: This was not at a great cost to this Partnership and staff team. The rename raises the profile and places us on the same par as National Parks and National Trails. For engagement of the younger generation and others, who did not know what the AONB stood for, National Landscape is easier on the tongue and easier to understand what it means. Whilst I appreciate a lot of people are attached to the old initialism even though it was occasionally misspelled and mispronounced, the engagement of more people to celebrate our National Landscape is primary.

Becky Hughes: Consistency of branding is important but for me, this more comprehensively represents everything you do as an organisation. The AONB brand is very much the aesthetic and natural beauty, but now National Landscape starts to encompass, for example, connecting people with nature, climate, species etc. As well as broadening out, there is still the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty statutory designation underpinning it all. The branding and awareness will build up in the coming months and years.

- South West Water sewage treatment works at Leonards Cove regularly discharges raw sewage into the sea at Stoke Fleming. The PC request pressure be put on SWW to stop the discharges.

NL Manager: These points are being made really strongly to SWW to advocate fixing the problems in our area and putting money into the asset management programme.

- Seeking 30x30 funding for the Erme catchment between the National Landscape and Dartmoor National Park.

NL Manager: There is no specific 30x30 fund however there is the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape project, led by Dartmoor National Park Authority. We are an integral partner and have been in conversation with DNPA and other partners of the National Lottery funded project, currently in its development phase, to extend the boundary southwards. This would include a large part of the Erme catchment and the parish of Ermington will be involved in this project in the future.

## ii. Planning

- Page 4 of the annex to the meeting papers shows an appeal on a refused application on Yealm Road, Newton Ferrers. It would be good if the NL could lodge an objection. NL Manager: our Estuaries Officer lodged a robust objection the first time this came around. We were reviewing the objection yesterday to see if there is anything additional to add. The NL Manager requested any further details and we will take another look. Cllr Allen also requested a copy.
- If the MMO refuses the licence application from National Paints, who will then save £1m on remediation as a result, we plan to approach them for a share of the money to spend on the local community. Could the National Landscape help us with this? NL Manager: Nigel input into the scientific elements. We will help where we can.

## 8.8. Laura Campbell, representative for tourism community

- Three or four years ago the Government initiated a review of tourism in the UK. Devon was noted as having a multitude of tourism organisations. This is not necessarily a good thing as there is therefore no central voice or method that can go through channels such as Visit England into Department for Culture, Media and Sport etc. As a Devon Local Visitor Economy Partnership, we have submitted our proposal, the main focus of which is around collaborations and partnerships. Devon County Council and many others are involved. I have sat in LVEP workshops and am trying to model that locally in Dartmouth

and align this with our South Hams partners. There is a lot of change at the present time and more opportunities for collaborations and partnerships.

**9. PLANNING UPDATE**

This is a 'for information' item. A planning annex paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

**10. PARTNERSHIP MEETING DATES**

Remaining meeting dates in 2024

- 19 July, Follaton House Repton Room and online via Zoom
- 29 November, Follaton House Repton Room and online via Zoom

**MEETING CLOSED**

These minutes remain as draft until approved at the next meeting of the South Devon National Landscape Partnership.