

Natural Cambridgeshire Board meeting		18/4/16																																					
		10.00am – 12.30pm																																					
		Held at the David Attenborough Building, Cambridge, 1-6 Corn Exchange St, Cambridge CB2 3QF.																																					
Chaired by:	Richard Astle (Chair)	Note taker:	Philip Clark (Coordinator)																																				
Present:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Richard Astle (RA)</td> <td>Athene Communications (Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phil Clark (PC)</td> <td>LNP Coordinator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Robinson (JR)</td> <td>RSPB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roger Buisson (RB)</td> <td>Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carly Leonard (CL)</td> <td>Peterborough Environment City Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oliver Burke (OB)</td> <td>Wildlife Trust BCN (Vice Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Torlesse (JT)</td> <td>Natural England</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matthew Bradbury (MB)</td> <td>Nene Park Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rob Wise (RW)</td> <td>National Farmers Union</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martin Baker (MBa)</td> <td>Wildlife Trust BCN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roger Mitchell (RM)</td> <td>Cambridge Conservation Forum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lawrence Wragg (LW)</td> <td>Campaign to Protect Rural England</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edmund Thornhill (ET)</td> <td>CLA/Thornhill Estates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Bourgeois (PB)</td> <td>Greater Cambridgeshire LEP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugh Cripps (HC)</td> <td>Groundwork East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Nokkert</td> <td>Cambridgeshire ACRE</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Gillian Beasley</td> <td>Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martin Gilchrist</td> <td>Natural England</td> </tr> </table> <p>RM covered housekeeping and gave a brief presentation on the Cambridgeshire Conservation Initiative (CCI)</p>			Richard Astle (RA)	Athene Communications (Chair)	Phil Clark (PC)	LNP Coordinator	James Robinson (JR)	RSPB	Roger Buisson (RB)	Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum	Carly Leonard (CL)	Peterborough Environment City Trust	Oliver Burke (OB)	Wildlife Trust BCN (Vice Chair)	John Torlesse (JT)	Natural England	Matthew Bradbury (MB)	Nene Park Trust	Rob Wise (RW)	National Farmers Union	Martin Baker (MBa)	Wildlife Trust BCN	Roger Mitchell (RM)	Cambridge Conservation Forum	Lawrence Wragg (LW)	Campaign to Protect Rural England	Edmund Thornhill (ET)	CLA/Thornhill Estates	Paul Bourgeois (PB)	Greater Cambridgeshire LEP	Hugh Cripps (HC)	Groundwork East	Mark Nokkert	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Gillian Beasley	Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire County Council	Martin Gilchrist	Natural England
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Apologies	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cllr Irene Walsh</td> <td>Peterborough City Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katy Anderson</td> <td>CLA East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Sanders</td> <td>Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Matthew Shuter</td> <td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td> </tr> </table>			Cllr Irene Walsh	Peterborough City Council	Katy Anderson	CLA East	Mary Sanders	Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum	Cllr Matthew Shuter	Cambridgeshire County Council																												
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Agenda item: 2	Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Council's to talk on Devolution and a role for Natural Cambridgeshire	Presenter:	GB																																				
Discussion:	<p>GB gave an overview of the Combined Authority and where the LNP might best position itself to influence the new Devolution Plan.</p> <p>Some background: Government passed legislation in 2009 to allow LA's to join up. These 'Combined Authorities' to have Devolved powers from central Government. All LA's in Cambs involved plus LEP's. Combined Authority first met in March 2017. Leaders from all Councils will work with elected Mayor. Transport powers will go to Combined Authority. Will be constituted. LEP will have voting rights. Housing strategy/Infrastructure strategy and finance strategy. 20 million per year for 3 yrs. 30/40 million for 2018/19. For skills development.</p>																																						

	<p>Early contact with new Mayor and Cabinet portfolio holder possibly around sustainability? Need to get an early meeting when appointed.</p> <p>GB will let Richard know who the Cabinet leader is.</p> <p>Devolving funding from Gov. Looking at Autumn round of funding for our work. (Maybe GI strategy?)</p> <p>JT – non spatial strategy? Still have Local Plans so will be for the Mayor to decide how this all fits together. GB suggested that all local plans will be drawn together into a higher level strategy.</p> <p>MB – had experience with Manchester, expressed concerns that high level infrastructure will be given the greater priority. Need to make sure our vision is written in to the overview at a very early stage.</p> <p>Need to make the portfolio holder a ‘Champion’ for our cause so that we can influence the whole agenda at a very early stage.</p> <p>PB – talked about influencing the Combined Authority on our vision.</p> <p>JR – Innovation and excellence and how we can create our area as a ‘Centre of Excellence’ to the CA. GB replied that we should be challenging the politicians.</p> <p>Cambridge Ahead – also need to engage with. RA to have a meeting with them</p> <p>RB – raised some of the non-statutory issues such as connections with other neighbouring authorities, i.e. GI Strategy.</p> <p>RA gave thanks to GB for her time etc.</p>		
Action items:		Person Responsible:	Deadline:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to pull together a meeting to discuss a strategy for ensuring we are ‘around the table’ from earliest possible stage post the mayoral elections 2. 	RA/PC	
Agenda item: 3	Natural Connections – presentation by Martin Gilchrist from Natural England http://tinyurl.com/h8vwznz	Presenter:	MG
Discussion:	<p>Natural Connections – presentation by Martin Gilchrist from Natural England http://tinyurl.com/h8vwznz</p> <p>Check out the NC report for deeper analysis.</p>		

	<p>Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) potential source of funding</p> <p>Devon LNP have worked with this model.</p> <p>CL – Is there funding available from DEFRA? No but NE are always seeking potential funding sources?</p> <p>JR – How can NC use this model to promote more outdoor learning in C+P.</p> <p>PB – How can we use pupil premium better?</p>		
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RA – would like to explore as to whether we can sell this model to Village Colleges/Academies in Cambridgeshire? Interested organisations can give thought to how NC might take this forward as a group 2. Need to set up a sub-group to investigate 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>	
Agenda item: 4	Biosphere Reserve in the Cambridgeshire Fens – presentation from Roger Mitchell	Presenter:	RM
Discussion:	<p>Fens for the Future – Kate Carver (Wildlife Trust BCN) leading on HLF bid.</p> <p>Needs all sectors of the area to agree and own it (farming)</p> <p>RA – could this come from our politicians as part of the Devolution process?</p> <p>Need to recognise the concerns of the farming community around the word ‘designation’</p> <p>RA – asked for RM/Fens for the Future to draft together are the pro’s and cons’ of the biosphere are and how we could sell it to the new Mayor. What are the cost benefits?</p> <p>Natural Cambridgeshire welcomes the idea but would like to see more detail for next meeting.</p>		
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circulate presentation to Board 2. Check whether any other LEP’s are working with other biospheres. 	<p>PC/RM</p> <p>PB</p>	

Agenda Item: 5	Minutes of last meeting	Presenter:	RA
Discussion:	There were no matters arising from the minutes not already covered on the agenda.		
Action Items:		Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Agenda Item: 6	LNP Themes update	Presenter:	MB/PC/JT/
Discussion:	<p>Developing with Nature – MBa/RA attended LA’s Planning Heads of Service meeting.</p> <p>Developers on board include; Countryside Property’s, Urban +Civic, O+H,</p> <p>Design the toolkit for publication spring / early summer. Promotion and dissemination of toolkit summer / autumn onwards. Working group to review future work programme.</p> <p>The need to get District Council planners involved was discussed and MS suggested speaking to John Hill/Philip Rose of Palace Green Homes in East Cambs.</p> <p>The importance of getting a commercial developer on board was also raised.</p> <p>Plan for launch in September 2017</p> <p>Naturally Healthy – The Awards for All bid was unsuccessful. Need to have a review of what next steps should be.</p> <p>State of Nature – Draft has been circulated to a wider ‘nature conservation’ stakeholder groups for comments. Deadline of end of April. Comments to be reviewed and draft document amended accordingly. Plan for launch in September 2017.</p> <p>Green Spaces Network – Cambridge CVS have agreed to take lead on this Theme and will be working on a funding bid to develop a website/social media and running targeted training.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy – A sub-group has been formed and are now planning to bring a wider meeting/workshop together. District Council planners are happy to be involved</p>		
Action Items:		Person Responsible:	Deadline:
	<u>Developing with Nature</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up sub group to plan launch event for September 2. Make contact with District Council planners to discuss planning status of Developing with nature toolkit. John Hill/Philip Rose of Palace Green Homes in East Cambs. 3. Need to identify a commercial developer to invite to sit on group 	PC RA/MBa MBa	

	<p><u>Naturally Healthy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting of sub group to decide on next steps <p><u>State of Nature</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collate comments at end of April 2. Pull together ‘images’ needed for the publication to the group (including James R, RSPB) 3. Oli to dig out chart on relative proportions of priority habitat and check with Phil Ricketts for other helpful graphics to include 4. Roger and Phil to review comments from consultees and produce a revised draft before 7th May 5. John to set up face to face meeting 7th May to consider revised draft and next steps. <p><u>Green Spaces Network</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting with Cambridge CVS to plan next steps <p><u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk to John Williamson regarding planning status of any framework plans produced under devolution and to ensure that the LNP and the natural environment are involved from the beginning in developing a new strategies/plans. 2. Speak with CCC/District Council planners regarding their involvement on sub-group. 3. Invite other key members to join sub-group 4. Draft words of GI Strategy for RA to send to Gillian Beasley as an update. 	<p>PC</p> <p>PC PC/CW</p> <p>OB</p> <p>RM/PC</p> <p>JT</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p> <p>PC</p>	
Agenda Item: 7	Forward Plan 2017	Presenter:	
Discussion:	<p>DEFRA 25yr Environment Plan Workshop – published and given today’s news on the general election, DEFRA will now be unlikely to publish</p> <p>LEP Board Meeting – will have to be carried forward to next meeting. JR/ET to join RA</p> <p>Launch of Developing with Nature Toolkit/State of Nature Report – to be in September need a sub-group to be set up to decide on launch etc.</p> <p>Joint LEP/LNP Economic Strategy Workshop – PB to follow up</p> <p>July LNP Board Meeting – to be held at Alconbury Weald</p> <p>October LNP Board Meeting – to be held at Wicken Fen</p>		

Action items:			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm details for economic Strategy workshop 2. Set up sub groups to arrange launch event 	PB PC	
Agenda Item: 8	LNP Resourcing Plan	Presenter:	
Discussion:	<p>A total has so far been secured from a number of the partners. We now need to look at how we use this money and of £15K number of potential funding sources were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA Flood management and local levy fund • CCI has funding, speak to RM • HLF also a possibility • CLG/DEFRA about to produce report on the future of parks/green spaces 		
Action Items:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate funding through the local levy fund 2. Speak to RM regarding CCI funding 3. MB to circulate report when available 4. LNP Resourcing Plan – PB to look at opportunities for doubling the funding. Will talk to Anglian Ruskin. 5. Circulate Coordinator JD to Board. 6. 	PC PC MB PB PC	
Agenda Item: 9	AOB	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCF website for details of events 2. LW to send report on roads 3. HC Green Wheel to be revisited/Green Flag awards for universities. 	PC LW	
Agenda Item: 9	Date of Next Meeting	PC	
	Tuesday 18 July 10.00am to 13.00pm at Alconbury Weald		