

## Meeting of the Natural Cambridgeshire Shadow Trustee Board, 8 December 2020 at 10am

### Present

- Matthew Bradbury
- Sarah Smith
- Hannah Ward
- Mark Nokkert, Cambs Acre (Adviser)
- John Torlesse
- Tim Brietmeyer
- Pippa Heylings
- Richard Astle
- Rebecca Britton
- Carly Leonard
- Adrian Cannard, Combined Authority (Adviser)
- Roger Mitchell
- Chris Bowden (Adviser)
- Rob Wise

### Apologies

- Martin Baker
- James Littlewood, CPPF (Adviser)
- Cameron Adams, Environment Agency (Adviser)
- Peter Landshoff,

### Summary of action points

1. Awaiting decision of Charities Commission.
2. Task and finish groups to report back to the board by February 2021 with more detailed ideas and costed projects for each of the following areas of work
3. RA to talk to MB about taking forward paper on biodiversity net gain
4. RA to communicate our position on the idea of an AONB in the Great Ouse valley to the GOVT
5. RA to confirm who is required for meeting with Mayor Palmer

### Discussion and actions arising

1. Roger Mitchell advised that we had resubmitted our application to the **Charity Commission** and had tried answer all their outstanding questions. There was a concern that we had thought we had answered these before and had no feedback. We had also requested a meeting to discuss outstanding points of issue. We hope to hear back shortly.

2. The Board welcomed Helen Dye, who had been appointed as the **new NC Co-ordinator**, on a one-year contract, working 22.5 hours a week. Helen will be formally employed by Nene Park Trust. Richard and Phil Clark agreed to meet to ensure all funds are transferred to NPT to cover costs.
3. At the last meeting on 2 November, the Board agree to set up task and finish groups with the aim of developing simple action plans and ideas, including costed proposals, for the following areas of work
  - a. Priority landscapes – co-ordinated by James Littlewood, CPPF
  - b. Community projects – co-ordinated by Carly Leonard, PECT
  - c. Funding – co-ordinated by Adrian Cannard, CA and Matthew Bradbury, NPT
  - d. Measuring and evaluation – co-ordinated by Peter Landshoff and Martin Baker

The coordinators of each group will draw up terms of reference and arrange a work programme, with the objective of reporting back to the main board at its February 2021 meeting. Membership of these groups should include non-members of the board to offer a wide perspective of how we move our work forward.

Each of these groups offered an interim report of their initial meetings, with the commitment to develop full recommendations in time for the next Board meeting on 2 February. Brief summaries are as follows

**Priority landscapes** – JL is leading this work and had held one meeting of the group. There is a need to identify lead organisations for each landscape. A request had been made through Roger Mitchell to discuss whether the Biosphere Group can lead on the Connected Fens project. The task and finish group were asked to consider whether the Cambridge West Hundreds should be a 6<sup>th</sup> landscape and whether to expand the landscape of the Gog-Magog hills into the wider Cambridge Nature Network.

**Community projects** – CL reported on two meetings and developing ideas on how this could be rolled out across the county, building on pilots in Peterborough and through the New Life on the Old West project. Important to co-ordinate with the Future Parks project too.

**Funding** – AC reported on meetings with Finance Earth who are working on the Future Parks financial model. NC is keen to keep the momentum up by potentially launching the idea of a new fund for nature which can embrace both natural capital approaches, public money and CSR campaigns.

**Measuring and evaluation** – In the absence of Peter and Martin RM reported on the work of this group. The present members were Peter, Martin, Rob and Roger. Martin, Roger and John Torlesse have been discussing the best way ahead on this since October 2019, Martin and Roger produced a summary of options in April 2020 and Martin drafted a more detailed proposal in November 2020. Earlier calculations indicated that most of the 'doubling of nature' in the county would be through agri-environment (c75% ) and Nature

Conservation Projects (c20%), so the actual measurement of these contributions would probably be prescribed by ELMS and the conservation organisations involved. And the DEFRA metrics would be applied to development net gain. The first meeting of the Measuring and Evaluation Group is on 8th January 2021.

4. **Biodiversity net gain** – Martin Baker had circulated a paper in advance of the meeting. The Board welcomed the paper and found it an excellent basis for developing our policies on this important issue. There was discussion about whether NC should advocate 20% BNG, rather than the recommended 10%, but concern expressed by some members that this could make some important development projects non-viable. RA will speak to MB about how to develop the paper and engage fully with the LPAs.
5. **GOVT** – the Great Ouse Valley Trust had written to NC asking if it would support their ambition for an AONB to be established along the river Great Ouse. After discussion and following the meeting, this statement was adopted in response

*Natural Cambridgeshire recognises the important role of the Great Ouse valley in delivering nature recovery and our ambition of Doubling Nature across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. It is one of the five landscapes we have identified as priority areas for landscape scale habitat recreation; wildlife friendly farming and improved access to nature for local people. We look forward to working with the Great Ouse Valley Trust to realise this ambition. At the moment, our approach is to work through voluntary agreements with landowners and farmers, and other key stakeholders such as community groups, local authorities, developers and health-wellbeing organisations. As the future of AONB and National Park designations is currently under discussion alongside the development of local nature recovery networks, we will continue to keep these approaches under review for now before we decide how to offer support to any single initiative.*

6. **Meeting with Mayor Palmer.** RA is meeting with Mayor Palmer and John Hill of the Combined Authority on 17 December. The main lines to take will be as follows
  - Importance of Doubling Nature ambition within context of Green Recovery. A huge opportunity to demonstrate how by putting nature at the heart of the Authority's agenda, we can improve lives, as well as restore nature.
  - Acceptance of principles green recovery and need to build back better
  - NC agenda absolutely supports this
    - Landscape projects
    - Community projects
  - Climate Change Committee also recognising opportunity to use nature friendly approaches to maintain Fenland agriculture's world-leading status within context of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
  - Need now to put these ambitions into practice. Want to launch £Multi- million fund for nature recovery. Need to invest heavily in the agenda, otherwise it can't deliver the benefits we all want. Importance of DNIP.
  - Request for support for launching fund and for working more closely with Local Industrial Board to ensure green recovery principles are delivered.

There was discussion of who should attend this meeting. RA to confirm by end of week.

#### **Outstanding actions from previous meeting**

There was discussion of the **current membership of the board** and whether there should be additional representation from any groups, given the three current vacancies. Gaps were identified from the local authorities in the north of the county and from organisations engaged in looking at issues around water supply and usage. There was also a recognition of the need to look at issues around the diversity of Trustees. This discussion will be finalised at the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting of the Shadow Board of Trustees – Tuesday 2 February, 10am by Zoom.

Minutes prepared for approval of the Shadow Board by Richard Astle on 10 December 2020.