

Herefordshire Climate and Nature Board

17:30 – 19:00 Tuesday 18th July 2023

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Queenswood

Attendees - James Marsden, Jamie Audesley (HWT), Claire Kingston, Bill Bloxome, Gordon Coppock, Steve Klenk, Ian Howie, Chris Scott, Jackie Jones, Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst, Phillip Treacy

Herefordshire Council - Ben Boswell, Liz Duberley, Fran Lancaster and Nigel Koch

Apologies: Gareth Williams, , and John Whitelegg who has resigned

Welcome – James Marsden

James noted that this is the first nature focussed meeting of the board. Also noting that John Whitelegg has offered, outside of the Board to do some work for Herefordshire. **Action** - James and Ben agreed to pick this up outside of the meeting.

It was noted by the chair that some additional representatives were not present and had not sent apologies - reminder to members that the Board's ToR includes a '3 strikes rule'.

Action - Ben suggested that he pick this up with James Marsden after the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting held 2nd May 2023 - James Marsden

- **Matters Arising/ Actions – Board Action Log (attached)**

Gordon wanted to ensure that the points around energy were communicated to the farming and land-use group members. He felt it was important not to divide the group such that some members miss out on key information.

Action: Gordon offered to supplement the slides with additional information for dissemination.

Action log – this was taken as agreed and it was agreed that Judith would chase for outstanding actions.

- **Minutes to be agreed**

Format of meetings – the question of meeting format was discussed. The chair expressed a preference for either in person or virtual rather than hybrid. Dates until December have been set as either in person or virtual currently and council officers need advanced notice if a hybrid option is desirable since some meeting spaces do not have this capacity.

Action - Chair and Ben agreed to discuss format again following the meeting

2. Herefordshire Wildlife Trust Strategy to 2030 - Jamie Audsley

- Introduction to Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
- Present summary of HWT's new 2030 strategy

Jamie from HWT presented briefly on the Wildlife Trust strategy setting out their 5 priorities and their 3 main geographical areas for action.

Action - It was agreed that a link to the full strategy would be provided in the minutes

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Strategy%20Postcard.pdf>

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Strategy%20Summary.pdf>

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/HWT%20Strategy%202023-26.pdf>

ES noted the difficulty of squaring the circle of nature recovery vs farming making a profit and suggested that it is necessary to think from the bottom up, starting with the soil biome.

3. **National policy context** - James Marsden

- Lawton Review 2010
- National Planning Policy Framework 2021
- CoP15 Global Biodiversity Framework 30 x 30 target 2022
- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

James presented his slides on the national policy context for discussion including some key questions.

A short discussion followed. Steve Klenk made a number of points:

- HWT reserves are not representative of County as a whole
- Most of Herefordshire is farmed land which can be a nature risk
- There is a need to balance soil loss with winter stubbles
- It's about diversity of land use
- Setting the baseline is difficult
- Recording restored habitats (especially small areas) is currently tricky
- Is it possible to put a figure on restored meadows for example – we know work is happening but do we have a record of where/how much?
- Are there confidentiality issues around recording land use change which are off-putting to landowners?

4. **County policy context** – HC TBC

- Herefordshire's Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031 <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-1/local-plan-2021-2041>

BB/LD ran through some slides setting out the current Local Plan position.

JM asked a number of questions:

- How will the local plan spatial strategy link to the LNRS
- Will it include opportunity mapping for wind/solar energy generation

- Do we need a land-use strategy for Herefordshire which is a recommendation of the Dimbleby report
 - Also asked whether the Board have ideas what local plan indicators might look like and whether the Board could have ownership of a monitoring process against the local plan
 - **Action** - JM proposed that he and Jamie Audsley work up a set of potential indicators and bring them to HC
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5. LNRS process and governance & Biodiversity Net Gain

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network>
- [Understanding biodiversity net gain](#)

HC ran through the rest of the slides on BNG/LNRS and did not receive any actions from that update.

6. Date/ Time of next Board Meeting & Agenda Items

11 September 9:00, MS Teams

To include discussion on engagement with young people