

ITEM 2 Partnership Management Group Election results	
2.1 Tim announced that it was great news that Bob had been re-elected as Chair and Natasha appointed as vice-chair. Bob was proposed by Cllr Mike Canham (MC) and seconded by Cllr Graham Long (GL). Natasha was proposed by Cllr Bob Nelson (BN) and seconded by David Northcote-Wright (DNW).	BN / TY
ITEM 3 National Landscape Partnership Meeting	
3.1 Questions from the public – None Received 3.2 The minutes of the meeting held 27 th June 2024 and any matters arising - The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.	ALL
ITEM 4 Workshops	
<p>4.1 Management Plan Review - Tim explained purpose of today, to look at the draft policies and actions with a view to go to public consultation in mid November for a period of 8 weeks. SW asked how this differs from the last management plan NB questioned where we are with individual consultations LT clarified that the Plan was presented to Mid Devon District Council. TY Presented to East Devon District Council who were content with not seeing the draft but more about procedure. SJ confirmed been delegated to Andrea Davis and circulated. JD commented perfect timing to cross-reference all strategic documents. JB asked if there was a time limit LT Secretary of state agreed Management Plans could be delayed, so target date for us is Spring 2025. JD commented Blackdown Hills National Landscape are well ahead of most other National landscapes on progress. LT confirmed Mid Devon District Council positive of draft plan and no concerns. LT slide 6 – discussed consultation process which will be a web based online survey for responses – 8 week period including Partners, Parish Councils and will be promoted using various methods/contacts. MW questioned will consultation be made to boundary villages/ areas, such as Chard town and Combe St Nicholas. LT confirmed that border parishes are included in parish councils that will be consulted, and that we would ensure that surrounding town councils are also included. NB commented that following a recent planning appeal it was really important to include boundary areas and would like to see the consultation promoted on Social Media, e.g. Facebook GL questioned why are there different time frames – 2040 in some, we have mentioned vision 2050 LT confirmed that the plan is based on a 5 year period of 2025-2030, overall vision 2050 MW asked if we have input into other areas JD confirmed the Somerset consultation would be sent to all Officers LT discussed slide 7 – are the priority actions and policies Place, People, Nature and Climate sufficient and appropriate in order to realise the vision and conform to the guiding principles. LT asked all to refer to handout, covering slides 7-19, to make notes over the next few days and return to us. BN commented that he would like to see the phrase ‘natural beauty’ mentioned more. NB mentioned to check the NPPF as believes it is mentioned as enhance the natural beauty JD commented that there needs to be strong links with nature/ public health, promoting well-being. SW commented that in the Local Plan for Somerset the requirement to build houses and will need to have new housing in villages/ small communities in order to deliver the target. MW commented need to encourage rural schemes for housing local people SR commented need to sort the sewage and infrastructure before anymore house are built.</p>	ALL

<p>SW replied there are lots of treatment plants options and Wessex Water have made pledges by 2030 but we need to build more houses.</p> <p>BN commented, it is a huge dilemma for all of us.</p> <p>JB commented - any development needs to be sympathetic, we want to keep people in the Blackdown Hills so need to have housing for children.</p> <p>BN summarised that we must mention Housing.</p> <p>LT summarised that Place is the biggest section and re-emphasised that development needs to be appropriate and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>TY discussed slide 11 – 10 x PLTOF targets across all National Landscapes and National Parks.</p> <p>TY discussed PLTOF target 8 – significant new tree planting, explained increasing canopy cover in the Blackdowns.</p> <p>BN asked if it was statutory to meet targets</p> <p>TY replied, yes they are and in trouble if not met as it will miss Government targets but look to other National Landscapes for support as a collective target so play to strengths/ weaknesses.</p> <p>SW asked what type of tree planting</p> <p>TY replied mixed woodland, strengthen what we have, increase canopy cover and improve biodiversity.</p> <p>DNW queried slide 11 – increase the uptake of agri-environment scheme aiming for 75% of SFI, asking if ambitious/ realistic</p> <p>TY agreed its hugely ambitious in the Blackdowns.</p> <p>NB asked do you think that National landscapes should have more input into the Neighbourhood plans – having the power of the communities to hear what they want and where and Parish Councils to also support.</p> <p>JD commented a good Parish Plan can be a tool to help move forward with housing development.</p> <p>TY discussed slide 12</p> <p>LT discussed slide 13</p> <p>BN queried Access being mentioned</p> <p>LT referred to PE2 access and recreation</p> <p>SW commented regarding Active travel routes, safe cycling routes, walking, horse riding and the need for these to be promoted as good for health and well-being and to avoid vehicle usage.</p> <p>PH commented that it is important to be aware that we are using a shared space and non-motorised users need to be aware of blind bends and expect the unexpected. PROW defects and limited resources to rectify these. PROW are generally not as passable as we would like.</p> <p>LT referred to slide 14 – PLTOF target 9 promoting and improving accessibility.</p> <p>DL left the meeting 10:18am</p> <p>SW commented it is important to remember that people need to be able to travel when living in the Blackdown Hills.</p> <p>JD commented that it is important to look at volunteering as an effective resource and the power it can bring.</p> <p>TY discussed slide 15 & 16</p> <p>SJ/ JD commented that data isn't perfect and need to articulate what mosaic looks like</p> <p>TY discussed slide 17 – climate change adaptation plan by 2028 should all link to other strategies. TY commented would be interested in any comments.</p> <p>JB commented C10 what is classed as sustainable transport</p> <p>TY replied, Active travel as previously discussed and electric charging points.</p> <p>JB commented electric cars are not sustainable.</p> <p>BN replied, not going to crack that so go with what is achievable.</p> <p>NB commented on the Uber approach championed by GL as example of radical ideas worth looking at.</p> <p>TY discussed slide 18</p> <p>TY slide 19 – commented that some actions came out of the Climate change Adaptation Plan that Daniel Lazar, Paul Spearing and Adam Powell were working on with the Blackdown Hills team.</p> <p>LT suggested that any immediate minor comments could form part of the Consultation document.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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TY asked All if felt right to go out to Consultation
BN replied lots to address so can't go out for Consultation yet
TY confirmed this is just a snap shot, whole Management Plan is 87 pages long.
MW commented the need for Finance to be mentioned and the encouragement for investment/ grants to be part of the plan, so the public know we need income and investment.
TY agreed to add to Actions.
NB suggested the Plan goes out for consultation a little later – possibly two weeks, in the meantime all members can look at the 87 page document an input prior to consultation.
BN asked how long to give the room
TY replied 2-3 weeks
NB relied, important to see whole document and consultation questionnaire first.
TY confirmed by end of November 2024
BN asked for 87 page document to be sent out this week.
NB replied, needs to be sent out before Christmas, to allow for people to look at whilst off.
SJ confirmed that DCC Cabinet meet on 12 March 2025
BN confirmed that the full document needs to be sent out this week and questions out to all for feedback in 2 weeks so meaning a 2 stage consultation process.

LT/DW

Action: Management plan full document to be sent to All.



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presentation for 07.11

ITEM 5 Presentations

5.1 Presentation by Gavin Saunders on the Luppitt Landscape recovery scheme

GS

BN introduced Gavin Saunders

Gavin presented using a bright and interesting Powerpoint presentation including a short video and afterwards questions and discussion ensued and the Chairman thanked Gavin for his presentation.

Discussion followed between GS, SR, CD and JF regarding soil credits, carbon credits, maize planting.

JF commented that an Environmental Impact assessment should be put into force for things like maize being planted in the wrong place.

NB said she was horrified and had this information been fed back to Defra.

SJ asked what is Defra doing and is it actually being reported to them.

SR responded that they must have the information as would be supplied in RPA field codes.

JF asked GS what are you doing to reach out to other Landowners to get them involved in the Luppitt Landscape Partnership.

GS replied, element of peer pressure from landowners already involved, communication, giving some time to consider and voiced his concern that a few landowners are unsure about joining as nervous of possible implications, but working hard to fill the gaps.

DC voiced his concerns that land coverage is actually much higher than the figures in our consultation so not sure all the data is correct.

NB commented that it would be nice to involve similar landowners in other valley's and encourage local authorities to see if there is an option to fund and support the Luppitt Partnership.

TY summarised that we would like to role out the learning from the Landscape Recovery scheme.



LLP general
presentation.pdf

<p>BN confirmed that the financial report had been previously circulated, and I assume all studied it, and asked if any questions. BN commented that it's monitored by the Officer Support Group.</p>	<p>BN</p>
<p>ITEM 7.1 Briefings from Partners</p>	
<p>SR mentioned Higher Tier scheme (sits above SFI) no application window this year, not everyone has signed up to renew. Ministers want to look at the scheme again in the New Year. SR will be out visiting between now and the New Year.</p> <p>JF no update GL commented that Hunt the Heat has been a great success and training to continue. Uber bus, great support from the Government but Exeter University not keen to be involved in a pilot scheme, 80% of cars across county in use on the roads. Peninsular Devon 2040 plan, would like to get it onto their schedule. Graham voiced concerns over fast reliable Broadband and that 28,000 properties taken out of plan as issues with Airband meaning 28,000 have no solution to have a faster broadband solution which is a major issue.</p> <p>GF recommended watching the film Wilding or reading the book.</p> <p>YL Apologised for not being able to attend.</p> <p>SJ commented she would like to improve the habitat mapping for the Blackdown Hills and said if anyone has any specific DCC related issues then to let her know and she will aim to raise these and get responses and then bring to the next PMG meeting.</p> <p>JD mentioned lots of data can support vision for Somerset journey to net zero, lots of plates currently in the air, key data, transport strategy, eco development strategy.</p> <p>SW voiced concern that footpaths and bridleways should not disappear, if they are on a map then they should be usable.</p> <p>CD thanked FiPL funding for the opportunity to purchase a kiln which is used for Biochar, involvement from Bicton College and Colyton Grammer school who will be coming to learn about Biochar process.</p> <p>DNW reported that the Somerset Wildlife Trust are developing projects to make ecological links between the Blackdowns and Quantocks.</p> <p>MW commented that he sits on the committee that deals with footpaths and bridleways and to re-instate these can take many years, something needs to be done to speed-up this process as it is affecting movement around the Blackdown Hills.</p> <p>NB mentioned that Mid Devon District Council are in the last stage of drafting their Climate strategy action plan and would like to see the Somerset one.</p> <p>PH commented on the subject of footpaths and bridleways and said there is a massive backlog and there needs to be a resolution to speed up the process so it doesn't take as long.</p> <p>RD apologised for not being able to attend and wanted to draw the meetings attention to the brutal inheritance tax changes the government plans to introduce. It matters to the Blackdown Hills and the environmental measures we all want to see because this will diminish all of our ability to achieve these things.</p>	

<p style="text-align: right;">  National-Landscape s-Briefing_Herbal-Le </p> <p>National Landscapes Association briefing paper:</p>	
ITEM 8 Any other Business	
<p>BN mentioned the John Greenshields Award – which is a stunning oak owl sitting on a log and will be presented at the Wellington Monument in early December. The wood came from John’s farm.</p> <p>TY welcomed nominations for the Award, deadline for nominations is 22 November 2024.</p> <p>John Greenshields Award - Blackdown Hills National Landscape</p> <p>BN concluded the meeting with confirming minutes will be sent out with dates of next meetings.</p> <p>Meeting Close 12:00</p>	BN/TY
ITEM 8 Any other Business	
<p>Next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th March 2025 - 9.15am – 12pm, venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>Further meeting dates: Thursday 26 June 2025 Thursday 6 November 2025</p>	

Signed as a true record:

Chairman.....

Date.....