

Notes of Wye Catchment Partnership (WCP) Meeting Wednesday 4th October 9.30-2.30pm The Swan, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DQ

■**Note summary of actions from meeting at end of this document

Agenda

9.30 START - Welcome & Introductions. Chair: Professor David Revill BSc MRICS

9.40 - Presentation followed by questions: What is the Wye Catchment Partnership and how could it operate? Pat Stirling Citizen Science, Wye Alliance

10.05 - Wye Catchment Partnership Funding - Update – Simon Evans, Wye & Usk Foundation

10.15 - WCP Draft Terms of Reference – feedback and questions

10.25 - High level Updates including: Nutrient Management Board, Landscape Recovery Bids, Natural Flood Management Fund, NRW SAC project, Wildlife Trusts projects, others.

11.00 - BREAK

11.30 – Introduce Issue-based List and approach – Defining and solving the issues that are impacting the Wye – Simon Evans, Wye and Usk Foundation

11.40 - Break out session – Issues List continued - Join table for specific issue for contribution and shaping

12.05 - Table reporting back

12.30 LUNCH

1.15- Presentation: - System mapping and the river Wye – a collaborative approach
Dr Brendan Bromwich, Senior Associate – Systems Thinking, Mott Macdonald

1.40 – Break out session – Systems thinking – Each table takes an issue for finding solutions

2.05 - Table reporting back

2.15 - Reflections and items for next meeting

2.30 CLOSE

1. **Welcome & introductions** – Simon Evans & Kath Pyke – Host (Wye & Usk Foundation)
Interim Chair for 4.10.23 Partnership meeting: Professor David Revill BSc MRICS introduced and joined at 12 (due to car break down)

Apologies: Caroline Hanks (Herefordshire Meadows), Tom Tibbits (FOUW), Peter Horsburgh (WUF Trustee), Nerys Hammond (Farming Connect), Catherine Hughes (Freshwater Habitats Trust), Jenny Gamble (Environment Agency), Christopher Morley (WUF Trustee), Havard Prosser (Cardiff University), Edward Davies (NRW), Sarah Jones (DCWW), Andrew Osbaldiston (Environment Agency), David Lee (NRW), Alan Johnson (WUF Trustee)

2. **Updates on actions from last Partnership meeting 4.7.23**

1. Request for production of a 'Problem definition statement' on what the WCP believes are the set of causes of the decline of the River Wye – for 4.10.23 Partnership meeting.
Simon Evans produced list of pressures/ issues and compounding factors – presented at the meeting **see item 7**

- II. **Production of revised Terms of Reference and proposed governance structure** by Steering Group for next WCP Partnership meeting 4.10.23 **see item 4**
 - III. **Communications** - Steering Group were asked to consider proposal on communications at 18th July 23 meeting, re agenda circulation, Partnership input, notes of meetings and structure for information availability. Steering Group agreed that notes of Steering Group meetings would be sent to Partnership after every meeting. Dates of meetings are listed on these notes. Will also be listed on new website with notes and agendas when this is ready.
- 3. Wye Catchment Partnership Funding - Update – Simon Evans, Wye & Usk Foundation – see pdf of slides attached**

SE provided overview of WCP funding and delivery 2023/24

Comment: Kate Speke Adams – Clarify in TOR - Terms of Reference - the decision-making process for spend.

- 4. Presentation followed by questions: What is the Wye Catchment Partnership and how could it operate? Pat Stirling Citizen Science, Wye Alliance - See Pdf of Slides**

Concern about duplication of plans in the catchment and partnership meetings. How can they be aligned.

Merry Allbright - This is a communications plan.

Andrew McRobb – Accountability and responsibility needed.

- 5. WCP Draft Terms of Reference – feedback and questions – Chaired by Gill Perry NRW (part of Steering Group Task & Finish group to revise the plan).**

GP Asked partners to review and highlight any issues

Jamie Audsley - Chair for Partnership – proposal in change to the Draft TOR that an independent Chair is required for both the Partnership and the Steering Group meetings

Kate Speke Adams – Articulate how the Wye Catchment Partnership interfaces with existing and expected plans in the Catchment so there is not a duplication of delivery or organisational operations?

Sarah James Farm Cymru request for information for partnerships to define purpose and add to WCP website

Action 1 – 25.10.23 Item for Steering Group meeting & T&F Terms of Reference Group to clarify and outline process for recruitment of an independent Chair for WCP.

TOR Task & Finish Group to also address other feedback/comments from the meeting and if unresolved raise at next Steering Group meeting on 25.10.23

Action 2. Admin – Kath Pyke - **Task & Finish group to be set up to capture Project delivery and funding in the Catchment** - WCP is required to produce a list of current delivery projects as an annual KPI in the CaBA Monitoring and Evaluation Form. However, this can miss projects. Group will explore ways for a collaborative/interactive process that also captures funding. Will also seek clarification from partnerships on their remit (short summary that communicates: what their

partnership is, what it seeks to do, how this will be achieved, who is involved, targets) to seek input on plans (Plans: NMB, DWPP, SoS plan, HLNP, PLNP())

Update: Farm Herefordshire provided information on their Partnership 4.10.23

Kath Pyke (WUF) to set up T&F group. First meeting set for 12th October with Rhiannon Pierce (Natural England and Pat Stirling (Citizen Science) and Wales representative . **Report back for next Partnership meeting** Jan 24

6. High Level Updates:

- **Nutrient Management Board:** Elissa Swinglehurst – Herefordshire Council
- **Landscape Recovery Bid 1** ‘ WyesCAPes.... – Kate Speke Adams provided update. Codesigned process with partner organisations built the bid which was submitted late Sept. 1800 Ha Riparian landscape covered from Leominster to Goodrich and 2500 Ha on adjacent farm land.
- **Landscape Recovery Bid 2** – Ben Nott - Duchy of Cornwall and Moccas Estate submitted bid for a similar amount of land for protection and enhancement, and for same deadline.
- **Natural Flood Management Fund:** Emma Whitehouse - 25 million will be allocated with the intention of reducing flood risk on properties. Expression of interest meeting to be held 10th October. Contact Emma for more information.
- **NRW SAC project:** Gill Perry NRW - Welsh Government are on funding drawback leading to recruitment freeze. Project is impacted with key staff not able to be recruited. Delivery now on pause.
- **Wye Adapt to Climate Change** – Partnership project with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and Wye Valley AONB. £500,000 funding – 3 programme officers in place. More details to be made available
- **Dwr Cymru** – Jenny Grubb DCWW Business Plan has been published and is available on their website.
- **Local Nature Strategies** - Rhiannon Pierce - Natural England – Steering meetings set up – further information will become available
- **Local Nature Partnerships Herefordshire** – Purpose to develop high quality projects
- **Avara Food** – Emily Don – Avara have published their road map on how they work with growers and strategic disposal of waste products.
- **Wye Algal Project** – Simon Evans , Wye and Usk Foundation – Internal interim report produced with second round of data. Report will be available next year.

Action 3. –where possible partners requested to provide a link with information that could go on WCP website. Action – all involved. **End Oct 23**

7. Presentation: Introduce Issue-based List and approach – Defining and solving the issues that are impacting the Wye – Simon Evans, Wye and Usk Foundation

Feedback on the presentation was that these issues/pressures would be made clear via the system mapping approach presented by Brendan Bromwich later in the meeting. The process started by SE can feed into this and be used as evidence.

Additional item before lunch - Accountability discussion for Terms of Reference

Raised by Richard Tyler (Save the Wye Coalition) and Jamie Audsley (Herefordshire Wildlife Trust), Nicola Cutcher (FOUW) – follow up discussion with Brendan Bromwich – Mott Macdonald (governance expertise) who gave an overview on two approaches – level and vertical.

Level accountability could be an option for WCP where by signing up to the Partnership and therefore the Plan brings accountability and responsibility for actions identified within the Partnership. This can be seen as a positive dynamic; The WCP is a forum for all to agree a Catchment Management Plan, commit publicly to their part of the plan and report back and be accountable to their commitment and seek help if needed.

8. Presentation: - System mapping and the river Wye – a collaborative approach

Dr Brendan Bromwich, Senior Associate – Systems Thinking, Mott Macdonald

Presentation - How a system mapping approach could inform the Wye Catchment Management Plan. BB outlined process and how focus groups would inform an Integration workshop that would lead to presentation of a Systems Map Plan

Partnership proposal to complete the mapping system approach for the Wye Phase 1. in a funded facilitated exercise led by Mott Macdonald for completion by December 23/Jan 24

Partnership agreed 4.10.23 in the meeting and the following steps are required:

- Send the Partnership 2 documents: 1. Brendan Bromwich's slide presentation on System Mapping Approach 2. Understanding the Wye Catchment: project brief - 2-page summary by Mott Macdonald/Environment Agency.
- Ask the Partnership what focus groups needs to be added or merged to populate the system map
- Ask for volunteers from the Partnership to form the focus groups relating to their expertise (note there will be a limit to numbers for each focus group)
- Steering Group members to identify funding sources and report back for meeting 16.10.23

Action 4. System mapping Approach

a. Steering Group meeting to identify funding sources for system mapping approach Phase 1 on 16.10.23 c. £20k

b. Admin@ Wye Catchment Partnership to circulate System mapping Approach information. Partnership member inform admin if any groups missing and express interest in focus groups (There will be a follow up email to the Partnership on this with more details if funding secured for Phase 1)

Dates of next WCP Steering Group meetings and Partnership meetings 2023/24:

- Steering Group Meetings: 25.10.23, 21.11.23, 11.1.24, 6.2.24, 5.3.24, 7.5.24 (all via Teams)
- Partnership meeting 24th January, 17th April – location & venue tbc

Attendance List Partnership meeting (40 attended, 12 apologies)

Emily Don	Avara - Sustainability Lead
Merry Albright	Border Oak
Andrew McRobb	CPRE Herefordshire
Christine Hugh-Jones	CPRW and FOUW
Martin Quine	Environment Agency
Emma Whitehouse	Environment Agency
Sarah James	Farm Cymru
Steve Klenk	Farm Herefordshire
Nicola Cutcher	Friends of the Upper Wye
Nerys Hammond	Farming Connect - Wales government
Emily Penning	Environment Agency
Liz Bickerton	Banau Brycheiniog
Pat Stirling	Friends of the Upper Wye Citizen Science
Elizabeth Duberley	Herefordshire Council
Elissa Swinglehurst	Herefordshire Council
Kate Speke Adams	Herefordshire Rural Hub
Jamie Audersley	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Gill Perry	NRW
Brendan Bromwich	Mott Macdonald
Will Watson	Internal Drainage Board Lugg
Stuart Smith	Wye Salmon Association
Rhiannon Davies	Natural England
Wayne Davies	Natural England - Catchment Sensitive Farming
Richard Davies	Environment Agency
Tony Norman	Lugg & Arrow Fisheries Association
Catherine Hughes	Powys Moorland Partnership SMS Project
Richard Tyler	Save the Wye
Paula Keen	Woodland Trust
Tom Jolley	Wye and Usk Foundation
Simon Evans	Wye and Usk Foundation
Kath Pyke	Wye and Usk Foundation
Ben Nott	Wye and Usk Foundation
Beth Lewis	Herefordshire Council
Andrew Blake	Wye Valley AONB
Ros Garratt	Wyecliff Fishery
Kate Stinchcombe	Monmouthshire CC
Cheryl Williams	ADAS
Jenny Grubb	DCWW
David Revill	Interim Chair
Georgie Hyde	NFU

**Actions from Wye Catchment Partnership (WCP) Meeting
Wednesday 4th October 9.30-2.30pm The Swan, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DQ**

Action	Agenda item	Detail	Lead	Date
1.	5 Draft TOR	Clarify and outline process for recruitment of an independent Chair for WCP. Item for Steering Group meeting & T&F Terms of Reference Group TOR Task & Finish Group to also address comments from the meeting and if unresolved raise at next Steering Group meeting on 25.10.23	Steering Group	25.10.23
2.	5 Delivery & Funding information capture	Set up new Task and Finish group to capture project delivery and funding in the Catchment. (WCP is required to produce a list of current delivery projects as an annual KPI in the CaBA Monitoring and Evaluation Form. However, this can miss delivery work. Group will explore ways for a collaborative/interactive process that also captures funding. Will also clarify remit of Partnerships to seek input on plans Kath Pyke – WCP admin to set up Task group with Natural England, Citizen Science , Wales representative & others interested	Kath Pyke – WCP admin	Report back next Partnership meeting Jan 24. Update Steering Group on progress
3.	6 High level updates	High level updates & key projects in Catchment Partners requested to provide a link with information that could go on WCP new website	Partners	End Oct 23
4.	8 System mapping approach & the river Wye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Steering Group meeting to identify funding sources for system mapping approach Phase 1 c. £30-35k b. Admin@ Wye Catchment Partnership to circulate System mapping Approach information. Partnership members to inform admin if any focus groups missing and register interest if wish to join. (There will be a follow up email to the Partnership on this with more details if funding secured for Phase 1 	Martin Quine, EA; Brendan Bromwich, Mott Macdonald & Steering Group	16.10.23