

Minutes of Wye Catchment Partnership Meeting

Date: 10.7.24

Times: 9.30-2.30pm

Venue: The Swan, Hay on Wye HR3 5DQ

Apologies: Richard Tyler (Friends of the Wye), Caroline Hanks (Herefordshire Meadows), Liz Beckerton (Bannau Brycheiniog), Peter Horsborough (Wye Owners), Elissa Swinglehurst (Herefordshire Council), Liz Duberley (Herefordshire Council), Georgie Hyde (NFU), Andrew Osbaldiston (Environment Agency), Catherine Hughes (Freshwater Habitats)

Item	Action/Update	Lead	Due
1.	<p>Welcome & Introductions – David Revill CHAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of last meeting 17.4.24 - approved • Governance – Chair & Vice Chair Recruitment (Andrew McRobb – lead - Task & Finish Group). The following roles confirmed: James Marsden – Chair, Stephen Ware - Vice Chair and both welcomed starting from mid July/August 24 David Revill thanked for excellent chairing for 1 year in role (4 Partnership meetings) and stepping into role at short notice in 2023. Thanks also noted to Andrew McRobb for considerable volunteer time leading the WCP recruitment process. • Finance 24/25 (Simon Evans) £15,000 WEIF grant successfully secured from Environment Agency. WUF will contribute £7,000. The Partnership hosting is operating under a reduced budget. Additional funding required to project manage and deliver the Revised Wye Catchment Management Plan. 		
2.	<p>Project/Plan updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wye Catchment- Map of Partnership Projects – Pat Stirling – Friends of the River Wye – April update . 4.6 million invested specifically in the Wye (up from 3.75m in April), across 20 projects currently under delivery (up from 19 in April with 1.8m shared with other catchment areas (Usk Severn) totalling 6.4million • Ridge to River Landscape Recovery – Del Jones, Duchy of Cornwall - Presentation • Upper Wye SAC Restoration Recovery Project – Susie Tudge, Natural Resources Wales (presentation provided with minutes) • Garnstone Estate – Regenerative programme – Steve Klenk, Farm Herefordshire Presentation • Wyescapes Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Max Eckhert Contact Max wyescapes@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk to receive e-newsletter • CLA Cymru Water wise River Events – Sarah James, Farm Cymru – Farm events - Free to non-members 5th Sept, 5th Dec 2024 • The Source of Life Project – Bob Handley – Rotary Monmouth • A Rotary charity event raising funds to fight pollution in the River Wye and GIST Cancer UK Project events August to September 2024 		

3	<p>Update on plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Herefordshire LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) – Liz Duberley gave apologies and provided short summary – see end of minutes • Diffuse Water Pollution Plan – Update by Martin Quine Environment Agency - presentation The DWPP will be the update of the (English Catchment) Nutrient Management Plan. An options appraisal is in progress focusing on sub-catchment level. • Wye Catchment Systems Approach Modelling - Final report out – Environment Agency/Mott MacDonald - circulated to Partnership with meeting minutes– Link: Understanding the Wye Catchment Project Final Report July24 • WCP River Wye Catchment Management Plan Simon Evans – 3 stages: 1. Creation of a ‘State of’ document; 2. Compilation of baseline data, determine metrics and assessment methodology & carry out options appraisal 3. Produce plan and communication strategy. Plan will be deigned on sub catchment level. Next Task & Finish Group meeting 16.7.24 Additional funding being sought to project manage and deliver revised plan. • River Wye Action Plan Defra - Martin Quine - Status of plan unknown– requested update from Defra with change in government. • Definition of River Friendly Farming – Steve Klenk - Farm Herefordshire farm Herefordshire took lead on workshop to produce collaborative document. Next step to meet with Welsh representatives and finalise draft – to be circulated to WCP when available. 		
	<p>Two short films produced by the Environment Agency shown at the lunch break</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>‘Focus on Phosphorus’ produced with Lancaster University explains the relevance of phosphorus in the Wye water story.</i> 2. <i>‘Working Together’ - How partners are working together across the catchment to build evidence and deliver interventions that will have the greatest impact.</i> 		
4 1- 2.20 pm	<p>Table Break out work:</p> <p>Pat Stirling – Friends of River Wye/Wye Alliance led afternoon session. 4 table groups (partners chose their area of expertise) looked at <i>‘Upsides, Downsides, Barriers, Solutions to barriers’</i> for two ideas/proposals for each of the following themes: <i>Land & River Use, High & Low Flows, Biodiversity, Water Quality</i> . Information captured from table outputs will be fed into CMP process – See Xcel workbook for outputs attached with minutes.</p>	KP PS	16.7 .24
	<p>AOB -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catherine Hughes Jones FORW, proposed that WCP write to Welsh government, Defra, ministers and MP’s following General Election re work of WCP, support for Revised Catchment Management Plan delivery and funding requirements. Not clarified who would lead on this. 2. Farm Cymru will be part of a panel meeting with Welsh government on Monday 22nd July at Royal Welsh Show. SJ asked partners to communicate their top 3 things to her (feedback 		

	<p>included 'donut ' diagram of plans in the Wye Catchment, raising awareness of role of WCP, and River Friendly Farming recent work led by Farm Herefordshire).</p> <p>3. Next meeting dates: Partnership – Tuesday 22nd October Steering: 8/8/24, 11/11/14</p>		
	END: 2.30		

***Herefordshire LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) – Liz Duberley – Herefordshire Council
- Update for 10.7.24**

- The opportunities mapping is now complete and has been shared with LNRS team, we are just working through this at present and will share the highlights shortly.
- We held a species workshop earlier this week with HBRC and Natural England to review and agree priority species with our county recorders.
- LNRS engagement is now under way, this week and next we are holding several in-person workshops in the city and market towns to make contact with the public. We are also preparing a workshop with a specific focus on the landowning community, as well as further workshop with Members and Parish Councils. We will be publishing a series of self-serve webinars on our website.
- We are currently out to tender for the development of the strategy, the closing date is next week and we will then be reviewing submissions.