

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 19th October 2023

Present:

Fran Lancaster	FM	Principal Natural Environment Officer HC
Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley AONB and representing Malvern Hills AONB
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Martin Quine	MQ	Environment Agency
Helen Dale	HD	Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)
Liz Duberley	LD	Service Manager Built and Natural Environment HC
Claire Spicer	CS	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust
Jenny Engwell	JE	Senior Ecologist HC

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

1. Welcome

FL welcomed members to the third steering group for the Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

ACTION:

JE to write up the minutes

2. Update on the actions from the last meeting

The group ran through the minutes of the last meeting – no comments were made

3. LNRS Officer Post

We are ready to recruit. The job advert has been updated and is in the system, it will go out ASAP

4. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust – mapping quote

The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have supplied us with two quotes to do the opportunity mapping one at a Partnership Rate and one at a Commercial Rate.

- The Partnership Rate is cheaper (£6,130) however outputs would not be available until July 2024
- The Commercial rate is more expensive (£8,050) however outputs would be completed by April 2024

Additional charges for tweaking and changes would be charged at a day rate of £382.

Everyone agreed that it is worth the extra cost of approx. £2,000 to get the mapping outputs for April 2024.

Everyone happy to go with GWT for the opportunity mapping. HBRC will be undertaking the baseline mapping and prepping data.

Action: HC to proceed

5. Discussion around partnership structure and working groups

Fran had powerpoint to show option of breaking the steering group down with two "Task & Finish Groups" and three "working groups".

Task & Finish Group 1 (Strategy Production) – it was suggested that this will be lead by the new officer once they are in post and would involve statutory agencies such as the Meadows Group etc.

It was discussed that a start and finish date for this would need to be decided.

It was discussed that a following need to be decided on in order to move forward with purpose:

- Vision of the steering group i.e. broad or specific, audience.
- Strategy – description of LNRS

It was suggested that everyone has a think about their vision. Then at the next steering group these can be collated and discussed.

All agreed the visioning was an exercise that needed to be done sooner rather than later and that simple was better for engagement.

Task & Finish Group 2 (Local Species List) – It is suggested that the species list is prepared by Emma (HBRC) and NE, as per guidance.

A schedule of time is needed for Emma and Rhianna for this.

Working Groups:

Working Group 1 – Stage 1: Led by HC and HBRC with NE, EA & FC to support with the preparation and delivery of the baseline map. Stage 2: Led by HC, BBRC with any potential mapping consultant this group will support with the production of the Opportunity Map.

Working Group 2 – Stakeholder Engagement. This group need to be put in place as on overarching engagement group, then from this have further working groups i.e. for landowners

Again timelines need to be put in place to ensure success of the working groups.

Actions

All to think about their idea of a vision for LNRS

Develop an overall timeline and GANT chart with timelines for each group/subgroup

FL to update the draft organisational structure to reflect the discussion

6. Next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 29th November at an amended time of 12.30 to 2.20pm at the Shell Store, Rotherwas, Hereford.

It is to be focused on "visioning" and an opportunity to agree on a tag-line and what our documents may look like.