

## SDN Exec. Zoom Meeting Notes 20 April 2021

Present: Tony Whitbread, Vic Ient, David Burnet, Graham Elvey, John Templeton, Grahame Joseph, Andrew Edwards, Christopher Napier, David Johnson, Caroline Dibden, Debbie Tann, Phil Beldon, Ruth O’Keeffe, Nigel Brown, Henri Brocklebank, Patrick Howarth.

	Topic	Points discussed	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	Owen Plunkett, Chris Todd, Jill Sutcliffe, Mike Tristam, David Coldwell, Alison Matthews.	
2	<p><b>HIWWT overview from Debbie Tann</b></p> <p><b>Vision &amp; Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Key Issues &amp; Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Other Opportunities</b></p>	<p>One third of NP is in Hampshire.</p> <p>The Wildlife Trusts are formed of 46 charities. Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight one of the largest. £6m turnover. As much land as Hampshire County Council – over 4,600 hectares.</p> <p>‘Wilder 2030’ goal is to put nature into recovery. Restore natural processes and ecosystems. Harness nature-based solutions.</p> <p>“Our mission is to get more people on nature’s side and create more space for wildlife to thrive.”</p> <p>30% of land and sea to be in recovery for nature (by 2030). Currently about 10%. Push to reduce environmental pressures, i.e. water use, building developments, etc.</p> <p>Two programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Team Wilder’ – empowering and training/supporting people to act as champions and promote nature connectedness. Young people, farmers, businesses, and landowners included. 38 groups already.</li> <li>• ‘Wilder Land &amp; Sea’ – pushing for funding and changes in legislation through campaigning.</li> </ul> <p>Resources not adequate to manage visitor pressure. Extent of issues like vandalism, dogs, wildfires, littering, etc. reflect lack of funding.</p> <p>Ash die back, too dry or too wet – these extremes affect species. Pollution. St. Catherine’s Hill/Entrance to NP spoiled.</p> <p>Deacon Hill – a 20 year target realised! Working with Southern Water to restore part of the land and creating Green Bridge.</p> <p>Increased interest in rewilding from landowners, tackling water quality issues, species recovery programmes, nature-based tourism and solutions, carbon-removal, investment in green infrastructure.</p> <p>Rewilding has multiple benefits: see slide.</p>	

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	<p><b>Nitrates (pilot) Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Thoughts and Questions</b></p>	<p>Acquire land, stop any further application of fertilisers. Rewild and offset carbon. Developments must pass ethical eligibility tests.</p> <p>NB: Are you involved with the Hampshire part of the Western Rother restoration? DT: We're not that involved but will look into it. We work with Wessex Rivers Trust. Co-running a lottery project for restoration.</p> <p>VI: RE Green Bridge, TfSE developing 'interventions' – will send details. Cost of Green Bridge would be small percentage of overall scheme – worth campaigning, with SDN's support (?). What's the best leverage?</p> <p>DJ: Proposed framework for SDN: <b>Protect</b> the South Downs, <b>promoting, advance the interest</b> of NP, <b>recover</b> the nature within it.</p> <p>PB: Current goals should be to <b>recreate</b> and <b>restore</b> – not about only protecting anymore as this was the aim from the 1930s. Questions for DT: Is the Hampshire Trust in a sound state, financially, what with Covid? Are we too friendly with the NP and not critical enough? DT: I reforecast our budgets and we reframed our actions – took advantage of emergency funding, but actually our donors have been generous and members have been loyal. Take on board that we ought to be more challenging of the NP.</p>	VI
6	<b>Members' Report and Feedback</b>	<p>Skipped Review of Last Meeting's Minutes and jumped ahead to item 6.</p> <p>Vibrant time in the SDN. Looking for a new org. to facilitate the SDN, to replace Friends of the South Downs. Will be change as to how the Network is facilitated.</p> <p>Increasing 'critical friend' function. How do we maintain trust when we speak on behalf of the Network/'s members?</p> <p>CN: In the proposed modifications of the Planning Framework there is more emphasis on the <i>setting</i> of the National Park. This is particularly important for us in Hampshire due to recent infrastructure. The setting must be protected. What is the (extended) setting of the National Park? The outskirts are <b>Valued Landscapes</b> and should also be protected.</p> <p>RO'K: As a Civic Soc, we are primarily to do with a town, but thinking about how to connect with the landscape in and around the town. See goals on website: Opening Soc up to work more with people, work with policy makers and other organisations, reduce</p>	

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		<p>carbon emissions, etc. Lewes is the biggest town in a National Park. clear urban opportunity.</p> <p>PB: Some USNPs have "urban rangers" / guides / town or city interpretation - post-pandemic eco-economic opportunity to plan for now (be interesting to float this with the SDNPA and develop a partnership with Friends of Lewes, civic soc, etc).</p> <p>NB: Can something be done with Wildlife Trust or CPRE to protect mini rivers around Chichester Harbour and A27 corridor?</p> <p>CD: Will share report on Winchester City Council local plan. National Park district lines affect housing prices and numbers...</p> <p>The Climate Change debate has changed our responses and hopefully will the government's.</p>	CD
9	<b>Financial Report</b>	<p>Start of 2021: £4360.30 Last three months' income: £345 (mainly memberships) Expenditure: £262 (admin costs and wages) Net profit of £83 for first year quarter. Current balance £4443.30.</p>	
	<b>Memberships</b>	39 members. 36 paid members for this year (3 outstanding).	
10	<b>SDNPA Meeting Draft Agenda (and Issues)</b>	<p>Advantage to being an SDN member is having strategic input to the NPA.</p> <p>VI drafted itinerary of topics to discuss and backed up with paper – beneficial approach as opposed to rushed agenda. Communications needed prior to meetings.</p> <p>Waiting for a quarterly meeting is not the best approach to discuss a planning issue. Andrew Lee (head of National Park Partnerships and Strategy) to help facilitate new approach. What topics would be best discussed in a meeting, and which need to be discussed outside of a quarterly meeting? Consider purpose of agenda items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Whole Farm Estate Plans</b> – how they actually work. Do they inform planning? If so, how much? Are they an immaterial consideration?</li> <li>2. <b>Level of development in/around NP</b> – looked at individually. Valuable to have a meeting on entire topic. Where can we take this discussion? What's our lobbying/campaigning position?</li> <li>3. <b>Hostel accommodation along the South Downs Way</b> – NP is doing what it can, but can we represent different organisations' ideas?</li> </ol>	

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		<p>4. <b>Roads</b> – general discussion needed. Quiet Country Lanes, Missing Link project, Highway Authorities’ Cycling and Walking Strategy, etc.</p> <p>CN: Whole Estate Plan viewed by the community as a way of excluding their input into what’s going on re. planning.</p> <p>PB: <b>1. WEPs</b> - critical role, challenge SDNPA to raise the bar &amp; produce guidance for public bodies &amp; charities; <b>2 &amp; 4 Development &amp; Roads</b> - friend role, working with the NPA, individual SDN orgs can lobby hard for positive change (like meeting gov't sooner climate targets); <b>3. accommodation along SDW</b>, again, SDN orgs &amp; individuals can help NPA with persuading/influencing people we know out there who have land, redundant buildings etc.</p> <p>CN: Quiet Lanes project didn’t take off some years ago, county councils were against them and it was universally unpopular. CN to look into why.</p> <p>DJ: the four issues are significant areas of concern. What do we do for individual organisations in the network?</p> <p>VI: Focused, individual issues will be handled directly rather than in quarterly meetings.</p> <p>SDNPA to send emails to admin, admin to forward to members and share in NL. No need to rely on Facebook communications.</p> <p>HB: Will keep Tony and group up to date around planning application for Coastguard Cottages. Joint letter with CPRE to local MPs regarding housing numbers and algorithm. HB to share letter with CD/group.</p> <p>PB: SWT letter to MPs a good example of a SDN member doing its bit as a "friend" of the SDNP, doing what the NPA can't do, lobbying on this unsustainable development concern.</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>HB</p>
11	<b>AOB</b>	<p>Debbie’s *excellent* presentation shows grasp of knotty issues. Invitation for other members to talk about their organisations’ actions.</p> <p>DJ: Can we raise issue of (natural) beauty and how (natural) beauty is going to appear in planning in a future meeting? Also recommend High Weald’s Housing Design Guide.</p> <p>DJ: Major development proposed for entrance to Lancing College. Puts minor road at risk of closure, despite being more important during Covid. 600 houses will have access onto A27 – will be used as rat-run and poses threat of more traffic, but ideally would be a</p>	

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		Quiet Road. Urge Highways England to rethink. Network's support is key to successful discussions with College, etc.	
12	<b>Dates of next meetings</b>	<p><b>13/07/2021</b> + speaker,  <b>26/10/2021</b> (AGM) + speaker,  <b>18/01/2022</b> + speaker.</p> <p>Awaiting date from National Park for when their top team will be meeting us.</p> <p>No meeting in pipeline for SDN, Land Managers Group and National Park but would be useful. Intend to book one after speaking to NP.</p>	