

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability Partnership Board (ESP) Board</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>14:30 start 16:30 finish</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Kaposvar Room, Guildhall, Bath</b>

### Attendees

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chair Cllr Mark Shelford	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, Lyncombe Ward Councillor, Conservative, B&NES Council.
Cllr Bob Goodman	Cabinet Member for Development & Neighbourhoods, Combe Down Ward Councillor, B&NES Council
Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones	Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath, Lansdown Ward Councillor, B&NES Council
Cllr John Bull	Paulton Ward Councillor, Labour Group, B&NES Council
Cllr June Player	Westmoreland Ward Councillor, Independent, B&NES Council
Cllr Paul Crossley	Southdown Ward Councillor, Liberal Democrat Group, Member Advocate for The Sustainable Environment, B&NES Council.
Peter Andrews	Community Board Member, Transition Bath and other community initiatives.
Paul Scott	Consultant in Public Health, B&NES Council

<b>Board Advisors</b>	<b>Position</b>
Barry Smith	Sustainable Places Team Leader, Environment Agency

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Position</b>
Lisa Bartlett	B&NES Council
Sara Grimes	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council
Nick Bird	Community and Communications Officer, Bath & West Community Energy

<b>Standing Officers</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jane Wildblood	Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES Council
Micaela Basford	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mandy Bishop	Director, Environmental Services, B&NES Council
Bruce Laurence	Director of Public Health, B&NES Council
Shaun Carr	Executive Director of Property Service, Curo Housing Association
Peter Capener	Independent Sustainable Energy Consultant
David Trethewey	Divisional Director, Strategy & Performance, B&NES Council

## Agenda 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

	Subject	Time	Presenter
1	<b>Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest</b>	10m	Cllr Mark Shelford
2	<b>Minutes &amp; Actions from last Board Meeting</b> (minutes below)	5m	Cllr Mark Shelford
3	<b>Sustainability in Planning: Updates (Presentation)</b>  <b>Discussion</b>  <b>Desired outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To update the Board on the latest developments on sustainability in Planning</li> <li>• To allow the Board to consider any issues arising and provide input to the next stage of development</li> </ul>	15m  25m	Sara Grimes
4	<b>Community Action Review (presentation)</b>  <b>Discussion</b>  <b>Desired outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To update the Board on community action on sustainability in Bath and North East Somerset, particularly through the Bath &amp; West Community Energy Fund</li> <li>• To allow the Board to consider any issues arising and provide thoughts on how to support action in the community in the future</li> </ul>	15m  20m	Nick Bird Micaela Basford
5	<b>Verbal updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Free BathNES pledge</li> <li>• WECA Energy Strategy</li> </ul>	20m	Micaela Basford Jane Wildblood
6	<b>AOB and Next meeting</b>	10m	Cllr Mark Shelford

**Next ESP Board meeting:**  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Aix en Provence Room, Guildhall Bath.

**Agenda theme:**  
Waste and Resources Strategy for England – what it means in Bath and North East Somerset.

# Note of the meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Partnership

## (ESP) Board

Held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Brunswick Room, Guildhall, Bath.

### Attendees

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chair - Cllr Bob Goodman	Cabinet Member for Development & Neighbourhoods, Combe Down Ward Councillor, B&NES Council
Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones	Lansdown Ward Councillor, Conservative Group, B&NES Council
Cllr John Bull	Paulton Ward Councillor, Labour Group, B&NES Council
Cllr Richard Samuel*	Walcot Ward Councillor, Liberal Democrat Group (standing in for Cllr Crossley)
Peter Andrews	Community Board Member, Transition Bath and other community initiatives.
Bruce Laurence	Director of Public Health, B&NES Council
David Trethewey	Director, Partnerships & Corporate Services, B&NES Council

<b>Board Advisors</b>	<b>Position</b>
Barry Smith	Sustainable Places Team Leader, Environment Agency
Peter Capener	Independent Sustainable Energy Consultant

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Position</b>
Sarah Jackson	B&NES Council
Sara Grimes	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council

<b>Standing Officers</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jane Wildblood	Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES Council
Micaela Basford	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mandy Bishop	Director, Environmental Services, B&NES Council
Cllr Paul Crossley*	Southdown Ward Councillor, Liberal Democrat Group, Member Advocate for The Sustainable Environment, B&NES Council.
Shaun Carr	Executive Director of Property Service, Curo Housing Association
Chair Cllr Mark Shelford	Conservative Deputy Group Leader, Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, Lyncombe Ward Councillor, Conservative, B&NES Council.
Cllr June Player	Westmoreland Ward Councillor, Independent, B&NES Council

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Declarations of Interest**

- Introductions were made.
- No declarations of interest were made.

## **2. Minutes & Actions from the last Board Meeting**

It was agreed the minutes were accurate and a true reflection of the meeting.

## **3. Delivering the 25 Year Environment Plan – the local angle**

Barry Smith presented to the Board. The 25 Year Environment Plan is one of a suite of government documents released in the last 12 months that are complimentary to each other, including the Air Quality Strategy, the Industrial Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. The presentation gave an overview of the UK's 25 Year Environmental Plan, with attention drawn to goals that Bath and North East Somerset is seeking or should seek to deliver on..

### **Items covered included:**

- Strong narrative that the plan is for everyone, whether an NGO, a business, or local authority, we all have responsibility to deliver on the areas where we have influence.
- DEFRA is currently consulting about Net-gain – putting a value on biodiversity as a unit.
- Government are developing metrics to assess progress against the 25 Year Plan.
- The Year of Green Action is in 2019 to encourage community engagement and build momentum. A toolkit is available for those wanting to support it.

### **During the discussion, the following was noted:**

- Opportunities for B&NES on using and managing land sustainably in its land holdings and highways, regarding run-off and downstream impacts; the benefits of woodlands for cooling and carbon capture; and, how the WoE Green Infrastructure Plan will be reflected in local plans and decision making.
- Opportunities for Health & Wellbeing, especially about making use of the local landscape, e.g. woodland, waterways. Managing traffic and air quality around schools.
- Developers will have to factor in the net-gain costs to their business case when purchasing land
- Nationally, from a carbon emission perspective, the challenge is around transport where carbon emissions have not reduced, whereas emissions from domestic and industrial sources have been reducing.
- There is likely to be a move from diesel to petrol car ownership in

the next few years.

The Chair supported the 25 Year Environmental Plan and noted that it is important for the Council to identify the local priorities and make them known, so that local partners can take a lead on relevant issues.

Sarah Jackson presented an overview of the environmental partnerships that B&NES Council are part of and how the Council's involvement contributes to delivering Council priorities. These in turn, contribute to the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

**Items covered included:**

- The environment needs to be considered holistically to deliver the Council's people-focused priorities. Unless we get the environment right, the impacts will be felt by all citizens and the number of vulnerable people would increase.
- Most partnerships have between 10-15 partners. There is Council officer representation in these partnerships. These partnerships provide opportunity to engage on green infrastructure at different levels, through the various strategy and plan documents and associated processes.
- The West of England Green Infrastructure Strategy is pulling together different strands. There is an evidence base being gathered.
- Net-gain is in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Joint Spatial Plan so it will run through B&NES plans. In some cases mitigation for the impacts on habitats due to planned growth of housing might have to be delivered elsewhere.
- Ecological network mapping has been undertaken together with access to green space and other GI mapping. Mapping shows where people don't have access to nature. This evidence will assist Development management team know what is required from development areas to meet standards in provision.

**Challenges:**

- Some designations receive government funding, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, which are in the rural areas of the district, whereas other designations of such as Bath World Heritage Site has no automatic funding. with the designation.
- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest, Local wildlife designations currently do not come up in property searches when buying land, such as which means that can the purchaser is not aware of management needs.

**Action** – Sarah Jackson will create a visualisation showing the connections between the partnerships and names of officers who represent the authority on them.

**Action** – the Council will assemble a Year of Green Action programme of events and activities already planned, including Festival of Nature, Plastics

Pledge and key community-organised events including the friends of parks' groups.

**During the discussion, the following was noted:**

- The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) work on the Joint Local Transport Plan and then flowing into the Joint Spatial Plan is strengthening the green infrastructure agenda in special and transport planning.
- Maps of where people are most at risk of overheating and layering that with green spaces.
- Mapping in Strategic Development locations.

**B&NES Plastic Pledge proposal**

Jane Wildblood presented. Following the Council's clear commitment at Council in February 2018 about tackling plastic pollution locally, the Council is proposing to launch a B&NES Plastic Pledge in the first quarter of 2019.

This is a first step. This is initially aimed at business and is about working together to understand this complex issue and make well informed decisions when phasing out single use items. It will build on existing energy, creativity and engagement, the intention is to amplify this and engage more businesses.

**During the discussion, the following was noted:**

- Lots of catering venues locally have moved away from plastic straws and brought in alternatives to plastic for single use items.
- There are already organisations and groups who will be keen to sign up.
- The Council's Waste and Recycling Team are lobbying government to provide leadership. The UK Plastics Pact has signatories from many major retailers.
- Can the Council lean on the LGA to talk to government?
- Once people are engaged, we should aim to encourage them to go further.

**4. Local Plan**

Sara Grimes provided a verbal update on the Local Plan. There is a consultation open until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Included in the plan are some key policies relating to environmental sustainability:

- True-zero carbon development, which is subject to the Council's own viability study, and are set out following a hierarchy of energy efficiency, onsite renewables and carbon off-setting off site.
- Transport including the provision for electric vehicles in new developments, and,
- A Wind Energy Policy.

The Sustainable Construction Checklist is now in place for all developments over the scale of one.

**During the discussion, the following was noted:**

- Residential parking standards present different challenges in urban or rural areas.
- Ambitious transport targets mean that you have to look at providing alternatives, i.e. public transport.
- There is a generational shift happening on car ownership
- The Smart Grid is emerging and battery storage is a key component of this, whether domestic, parked cars or second-life batteries.

### Table of actions

Action	Owner	By when
1. Create visualisation showing the natural environment partnerships, their connections and names of key officers	Sarah Jackson	February Board meeting
2. Assemble a programme of events and activities under the Year of Green Action banner, such as the Festival of nature, the Plastics Pledge and key community-organised events, eg by friends of parks' groups.	Micaela Basford and Sarah Jackson	February Board meeting

**Date of the next ESP Board meeting:  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Kaposvar Room, 2.30pm.**

*Theme: Sustainable Construction Checklist Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) & West of England Energy Strategy*

**Environmental  
Sustainability  
Partnership**

**Agenda Item 3**

**Title: Sustainability in Planning: Updates**

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

<b>Desired outcomes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>To update the Board on the latest developments on sustainability in Planning</b></li><li>• <b>To allow the Board to consider any issues arising and provide input to the next stage of development</b></li></ul>
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The Board has received several presentations over the last few years on the work that has been undertaken in the Council’s Planning department and in collaboration with the other local authorities in the West of England to support the implementation of the B&NES Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. This has included the Board providing valuable input to new policies and guidance documents.

This item will provide updates and an opportunity for Board discussion on some of these, including:

- The **B&NES Sustainable Construction Checklist Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** (click here for the relevant documents: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents-spds/sustain> ) - working with developers
- Progress towards **zero carbon homes policy** in the West of England and the next step – viability testing.
- The **Allowable Solutions Fund** - how it can be used
- **Electric vehicles** – developing policy and infrastructure

Presentations will be given to bring the Board up to speed on developments, with ample time for discussion of issues arising.

February 2019

**Environmental  
Sustainability  
Partnership**

**Agenda Item 4**

**Title: Community Action Review**

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

<b>Desired outcomes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>To update the Board on community action on sustainability in Bath and North East Somerset, particularly through the Bath &amp; West Community Energy Fund</b></li><li>• <b>To allow the Board to consider any issues arising and provide thoughts on how to support action in the community in the future</b></li></ul>
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**Background**

- A key element of the strategic approach described in B&NES Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (2016-2020) is Community Enablement, which is defined as ‘Enabling residents and community groups to achieve their sustainability aims’
- This aspect of the ESP’s leadership role was also highlighted in the last year’s Environmental Sustainability Vision Statement
- We have a long history of successful community action in Bath and North East Somerset on sustainability issues, from the development of the UK’s first farmer’s market right through to Transition Bath in more recent years and the ground-breaking work of Bath & West Community Energy

**The Review**

In conjunction with partners from the community, this item will review current community activity that enables local people to reduce their carbon emissions and improve quality of life, in particular through the Bath & West Community Energy Fund.

There will be plenty of time for Board discussion and to hear from Board members on their ideas for how the ESP can support future development.

February 2019