

MOOR THAN MEETS THE EYE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

26 April 2017, Meeting Room, Parke, 10am

Present:	Andy Bradford	Dartmoor Framers Association	ABr
	David Lloyd	DNPA	DL
	David Rickwood	Woodland Trust	DR
	James Platts (Chair)	South West Lakes Trust	JP
	Jenny How	Visit Dartmoor	JH
	Kevin Bishop	DNPA	KB
	Mark Allott	<i>MTMTE</i> Scheme Manager	MA
	Phil Hutt	Dartmoor Preservation Association	PH
	Simon Lee	Natural England	SL
	Rob Parkinson	CSG Representative	RP
Attending:	Andrew Bailey	Community & Events Officer, <i>MTMTE</i>	ABy
	Andrew Watson	DNPA Recreation, Access & Estates	AW
:	Ellie Fabiani-Laymond	Finance & Admin Officer, <i>MTMTE</i>	EL
	Emma Stockley	Community Heritage Officer, <i>MTMTE</i>	ES

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Ally Kohler (DNPA), Andy Crabb (Historic England), Helen Booker (RSPB), Ian James (Devon County Council), Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall) and Chrissy Mason (*MTMTE*).

3 Minutes of the last *MTMTE* LP Board Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 were agreed as a true record and have been approved.

ACTION: EL to upload approved minutes to the *MTMTE* website.

There is one outstanding action point from October 2016 meeting.

Action: ABy to arrange Communications meeting including Jenny How, Savannah Jones, Kirsten Netley and members of the CSG.

ABy will bring a formal review of the draft plan to the Board meeting in July.

4 Project Spotlight

AW gave a concise presentation on project PA6 Higher Uppacott, detailing the work that has been done, the challenges facing the project and the next phase of work. Specific points of interest include the following:

- Work on site is currently on hiatus until the tendering process for the next phase has been completed. In the interim, a series of guided visits have been arranged for interested members of the public to view the significant changes that have taken place over the last two years. Places on the guided visits are bookable and have proven to be very popular
- Higher Uppacott was used for some location filming for a short film called 'Darkness of the Moor' which is due to be released in the summer
- The cost of restoring the out-shut roof was significantly higher than expected and the project is likely to overspend, or there may be a shortfall in the outputs achieved. More will be known once the tendering process has been completed and the remaining budget re-aligned
- AW extended an invitation to LP Board Members to visit Higher Uppacott to view the project progress so far

Action: MA to arrange a visit to Higher Uppacott for LP Board members.

5 Highlight Report Review

MA presented the key points of the Y3Q2 Highlight Report. The main points are summarised as follows:

- Overall the Scheme expenditure is £1m underspent against the original forecast included in the bid
- Current forecasts predict that overall costs will be £100k underspent by the close of the Scheme (see Appendix B), although this figure is likely to be corrupted by inaccurate reporting/forecasting by some of the projects
- Potentially, there is a risk the Scheme could result in a £300k underspend. This would cause a shortfall of £150k in HLF funding. This would directly impact on the delivery of the projects requiring a high level of funding to achieve their outputs
- Programme B (Increasing Community Participation) is of particular concern as 5 out of the 10 projects are significantly behind on expenditure (see page 5 of the Highlight Report)

Programme B project updates are as follows:

- PB1 (Believer & Postbridge Trails) – was significantly behind schedule but a plan is now in place to move the project forward
- PB2 (Parishscapes) – has been very successful to date. Forecasts and tracking shows actual expenditure but does not take into account 'committed' funds which have been ring-fenced for specific community projects and which will be drawn on in stages rather than being paid out up front in lump sums

- PB5 (Welcome to Widecombe) – had been delayed but the interpretation outputs are in now progress. The other half of the project has stalled
- PB6 (Managing Volunteers) is currently underspent and may need to be re-scoped
- PB7 (In the Footsteps of the Victorians) – additional funding is required to extend Community Heritage Officer support of one day per week for delivering this project. The current contract expires in mid-July. This will be an agenda item for the July meeting
- PB8 (Pony Herd Identification) – has been withdrawn

ABr raised a question about land access and the possibility of linking PB1 trails to the Brimpts trail

Action: EL to ask Ian Durrant (DNPA Access and Recreation Officer) to feedback to ABr regarding PB1 and the possibility of delivering work outside the scope of the original plan.

Other projects causing concern:

- PA1 (Moorland Birds) – there has been a slight delay in the recruitment of the Moorland Bird Advisor role which may cause a shortfall in project spend later on in the Scheme
- PD3 (East Shallowford Trust) – has withdrawn from the Scheme leaving a £10k pot to be reallocated/ re-scoped. This was discussed in the January Board meeting
- PA8 (Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming) – work is outstanding on two farms. The project will be back on schedule when these have been completed

Other items discussed were as follows:

- The Christmas Woodland fairies event in December 2016 was very successful drawing families from a wide and largely urban catchment area
- Volunteering continues to perform strongly across the Scheme
- The *MTMTE* website and social media are being revamped although there is still a need for content and pictures from all projects
- Partners are asked to support the Scheme by ‘sharing’ the various media streams such as twitter and facebook through their own social media

A discussion ensued about the delivery of communications and social media with the limited resources available. MA recently attended a Landscape Partnership conference which included Schemes in various stages of development or delivery. There were several different approaches to communications. Some pay for an external party to deliver this aspect of their Scheme. It was noted that the Woodland Trust use a third party to support their social media and the model has proved successful, both in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

Action: ABy to meet with project leaders individually to help identify and share communications opportunities.

6 Scheme and Project Queries

a) Updates were given for the following projects:

- i. PA7 Ponies, Pounds and Driftways – this project had stalled with little progress over the last year. Plans are now being put in place to move it forward
- ii. PB8 Pony Herd Identification – suggestions and ideas for a replacement project have been put forward but none taken up. JH has created a website with the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust which focuses on pedigree ponies. This was done without funding but she is willing to link it to the Scheme if it helps to unlock HLF funding. MA was invited to attend the Pony Action Group (PAG) meeting in January but this was postponed. The project will be discussed at the next DNPA Leadership meeting

Action: MA to give an update on what is happening with PB8 at the Board meeting in July.

- iii. PC8 Postbridge Visitor Centre – KB gave an update on the current position of the project. DNPA will be submitting an expression of interest to the Growth Fund and, if successful, this may unlock the additional funding required to deliver the outputs of the project. If the funding is not realised, there is also a 'Plan B' which will aim to deliver the same outputs in a different way. More will be known by the end of July. If Plan A is adopted, a decision will be made by the end of the year with the intention that work will be underway by the Summer of 2018
- iv. PB7 In the Footsteps of the Victorians – This was discussed earlier in the meeting. MA has looked at 8 different options on how to extend the funding for project leader support (see page 3)

PH suggested there should be a deadline by which all project over and under spends are identified and dealt with

7 Decisions

There were no decisions requiring approval.

8 Communications

a) ABy gave a brief events update. A summary of the main points is as follows:

- The Victorian Symposium (11th March) for project PB7 was fully booked
- Approximately 200 people attended the Working Woodlands event on 20th March
- The Bovey Tracey Parishscapes project 'Granite Elements' has had numerous events and activities
- A community archaeological dig is currently underway at Vinnimore medieval farmstead in the Bovey Woods
- The Woodland Festival in May will deliver a series of events to the public

- A Moor Meadows conference and family open day are planned for July
- b) ABy gave an update on the press and PR opportunities available at present. He has put together a draft of ideas for the next project Team meeting. A discussion ensued about the best application of social media and external communications and how to improve them. Overall the Partnership need to work on identifying themselves with the Scheme, participating in the Scheme communications strategy.

JH suggested setting up a regular *MTMTE* column in 'The Moorlander'. After discussion several actions were agreed.

Action: KB to speak to Mike Nendick (DNPA Communications Officer, External Relations) about placing *MTMTE* articles in the national and regional press (i.e. the Western Morning News).

Action: ABy is to lead on working with the various projects on generating local press opportunities.

9 AOB

- a) There will be no project spotlight in the next meeting. The focus will be on Scheme finance and the re-budgeting of projects.
- b) DL advised the Board that this was to be his last meeting as his tenure on the Board of the DNPA comes to an end. He wished the Scheme and the project team best wishes for the future. The Chair thanked him on behalf of the Partnership for his invaluable input throughout the development and delivery phase.
- c) DR asked if the Countryside Stewardship money can be used to match fund with the Heritage Lottery Fund. The consensus was that it could.
- d) PB6 Managing Volunteers project underspend – a question was raised about using the money to recruit more volunteers. ABy advised that there had been a previous attempt to do this but most projects worked with their own pool of volunteers and do not require a central source. However, there is scope to help projects with targeted recruitment efforts.
- e) DR advised there will be a Barbastelle Bat walk and talk event on the 22nd June.

10 Date of next meeting

12 July 2017, Meeting Room, Parke at 10am.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 11.47am.