



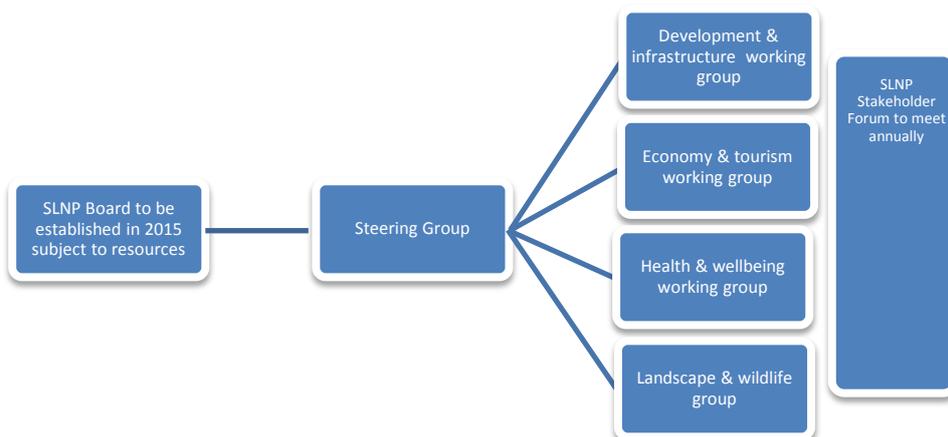
LNP Stakeholder Update November 2014

Hi all – as you are probably aware the lack of resources and direct support for the Somerset Local Nature Partnership has led to issues with progress and communications over its initial couple of years. To date we have been focusing our limited resources and energy on things that can be achieved – building links with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and developing the prospectus. Alongside LNPs up and down the country we have continued to make the case to government for some central resourcing.

We do recognise how important it is that all stakeholders are aware of how the SLNP is operating and have opportunities to get more involved. Briefing sessions for bodies such as local authorities have been taking place to inform them about the SLNP and prospectus, however resources to date have not allowed us to engage extensively and generate productive partnerships with and between wider stakeholder groups.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that Somerset County Council has now made some funding available to the SLNP easing to some extent the lack of staff (and other) resource . Recruitment of a part time SLNP Officer is taking place giving us some capacity to organise events and disseminate information. A website, Naturally Somerset, has now been set up for the SLNP and content is being added, including a self-managed contacts section and progress updates.

Progress update:



Governance structure updated

- Working Groups are being set-up:**
 Four provisional working groups have been identified and the leads are currently assessing/confirming the need for the groups and drafting terms of reference, setting out for each their purpose and proposed representation:

- Development and Infrastructure: Led by Steve Dury and Mark Jones
- Health and Well Being: Led by Louise Finnis and Katherine Armstrong
- Economy and Tourism: Led by Mark Robins and Simon Nash
- Iconic Landscapes and Wildlife: Led by Michele Bowe and Sarah Jackson

Working groups will report to the Steering Group.

- **2 events planned:**
 - **Meet the LNP session for stakeholders**, the four working groups to report back to original stakeholder group/forum. To take place in the Red Brick Building Glastonbury in February 2015.
 - **Somerset Nature Summit**
Plan for a summit spring 2015 to get nature back on the map – with keynote independent speakers and commitment/pledge session.
- **Creation of a dedicated Somerset Local Nature Partnership website:** [Somerset Local Nature Partnership](#)
- **Allocation of £15,000 from SCC for SLNP - SNLP Officer currently being recruited.**

The Steering Group meets every 2 months and its role is to determine the strategic direction of the SLNP (see [Naturally Somerset – The Prospectus](#)), be representative of the wider stakeholders and convene working groups to deliver the SLNP priority programme work areas.

Steering Group members are currently:

Will Barnard: Grass Roots Food Ltd

Michele Bowe: Somerset Wildlife Trust

Steve Dury: Somerset County Council

Katy Menday: South Somerset District Council

Chris Edwards: Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Louise Finnis: Somerset Public Health

Katherine Armstrong: Community Council for Somerset

Nigel Hester: National Trust

Sarah Jackson: Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mark Jones: Natural England

Mark Robins: RSPB

Simon Nash: Somerset Wildlife Trust (SLNP Chairman)

In 2015 consideration will be given to establishing the Board which will focus on “informing”, “influencing” and “advising” at a strategic level on matters relating to the environment and public policy. The SLNP Board will provide advocacy and leadership within the sectors they represent. They will aim to influence local decision making relating to the natural environment, provide advice and guidance to relevant sectors, organisations and policy areas, promoting the economic, social and health benefits of the environment.

If you would like to find out more please visit the [Somerset Local Nature Partnership](#) website, click on the ‘Get involved’ link to join the Stakeholder Forum and receive regular updates.