

**East of England Biodiversity Forum Meeting Minutes 11 October 2012
East Herts District Council Wallfields Hertford**

<p>Present</p> <p>Steve Scott (chair)~Forestry Commission Rebecca Banks ~ Essex LBAP Mark Iley ~ Essex LBAP Catherine Wyatt ~ Herts LBAP Catherine Weightman ~ Natural England Dominic Coath ~ Environment Agency Tony Chadwick ~ Woodland Trust Gen Broad ~ Suffolk LBAP Simon Odell ~ Landscape East Liz Anderson ~ Central Bedfordshire Council/Alge rep Mike Drew ~ Anglian Water Cath Patrick ~ Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Deb Howard ~ Essex Wildlife Trust (minute taker)</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Andrea Kelly ~ Broads Authority Henry Bexley ~ National Trust Stuart Warrington ~ National Trust David Hooton ~ Deer Initiative Haidee Bishop ~ Norfolk LBAP Eve Dewsnap ~ National Trust John Sharpe ~ RSPB Deborah Marchant ~ Cambridgeshire County Council Phil Pearson ~ RSPB</p>
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	Action
<p>Minutes from the last meeting Held on 3 July 2012 were agreed as correct</p>	
<p>Matters arising and action points from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Iley has emailed Dominic Coath the Water Framework Directive (WFD) documents • Steve Scott confirmed that he had circulated the Independent Panel on Forestry report to the East of England Biodiversity Forum (EEBF) members. • Mark Iley gave an update of the secretariat; he informed the forum that £12,191.57 remains unspent. Any requests for funding should have a regional wide impact; an A4 side should be submitted outlining the idea or project. 	
<p>The Lea Catchment – the way forward Cath Patrick from Lea Valley Regional Park Authority gave a presentation on the Nature Improvement Area (NIA) to the Forum – see attached presentation for more details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic Coath felt that a project officer post was a good investment • It is a landscape scale project • Groundwork Hertfordshire are the accountable for the project. • A discussion took place about gaining funding from other sources for projects. • The project can still be called an NIA as long as it is linked to an LNP. • Concerns were expressed about funnelling all funds to one area meaning that other areas lose out. However, it was agreed that some work would still 	

<p>be completed without the NIA funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEBF offered a letter of support if needed, Cath informed the meeting that the project is being looked at again to work out a way of taking it forward. Governance is being finalised and partners are being signed up. • It was agreed that sharing experiences with other NIA candidates would be good. • There may be an opportunity to bid for more NIA money in 2013/14 • Steve Scott thanked Cath Patrick for sharing Lee Valley Regional Park Authority experience with the EEBF 	
<p>Local Nature Partnership (LNP) progress Update from LNPs/NIAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Wyatt from Herts LNP informed the meeting that she had attended a workshop for LNP coordinators with a presentation from Robin Mortimer and 5 workshops on specific issues. All LNP's are at different stages and some do not have any funding. Information is being gathered from all LNPs. Herts LNP gained LNP status in September and is now looking to set up a board in the next few weeks. They are setting up a delivery group and their priority is to take forward 4 themes. • Norfolk and Suffolk LNP Gen Broad informed the group that the LNP is moving fast, an executive and non-executive board is being set up and they will be looking at whom to invite onto the board. There will be a job opportunity in Norfolk details of which are being drawn up. New Anglia is keen to work with them. A technical group has been formed with several different partners and these are the people that are making the LNP work happen. • Cambs Catherine Weightman informed the group that Phil Clark from Cambridgeshire County Council, has been allocated time to take the LNP forward and the LNP is looking for a chair but the LNP is struggling with lack of officer time and capacity at present. • Beds Liz Anderson said that the LNP is being coordinated by the green infrastructure consortium and is still in the developing stages. 	
<p>Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF) work in Essex MI gave a presentation on the CRF work that has been taking place in Essex, (see attached presentation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He felt that the CRF bid effort has paid off, £457K has been secured over the next 3 years, £96K is to be spent by March 2013. • During the 75km river walkover surveys 60 projects were identified, with a final total of 27 project sites, 9 core sites and 18 smaller ones. • Precise details of the projects could change during the 3 year time scale. • River Wardens will be a communication point to report to parish councils and landowners. • The project must address WFD failures; there may be more money available from the Green infrastructure. • Partners in the project are FWAG, Essex Wildlife Trust, Environment 	<p>MI</p>

<p>Agency, Essex Biodiversity Project.</p> <p>Mike Drew from Anglian Water informed the group they are connecting with the general public to raise awareness about where our water comes from and goes to. He advised the group to log onto the Anglian Water website http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/household/water-supply/ he said that Anglian Water are working with farmer to monitor phosphate levels on their land.</p>	
<p>Independent panel on forestry (see attached presentation)</p> <p>Steve Scott gave a presentation on the Independent panel on forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views were sort creating 42,000 responses. • All responses must be sent by October 2012 • Government will release a full report January 2013. 	
<p>Woodland potential calculator (see attached presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views are being sought on a national scale for England for woodland creation • The Independent Panel on Forestry hope to increase coverage from 10% to 15% by 2060, this is an ambitious target but hoping to work with landowners. • The local target has been translated to the national target, to see what a sensible target is and to set and test whether 15% is possible to achieve. • www.forestry.gov.uk/england-wpc an online form is available for download with an initial end of October deadline; a response can be made by the end of 2012. • Informal consultations will be held as part of independent stakeholder engagement and to encourage stakeholder responses. • It was agreed that comparing the mapping for biodiversity with trees would be beneficial and Catherine Weightman agreed to ask for this Natural England layer to be made available. 	CW
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Chadwick informed the group that Ellie Henderson will be returning to her post on a part time basis and Geoff Sinclair would be leaving. Tony Chadwick will be taking the post of Essex Site Manager. Steve Scott thanked Tony for his time on the EEBF and wished him well. • Dominic Coath informed the meeting that Defra have asked what the Environment Agency are doing for Biodiversity and what the expectations are with the WFD. It is hoped to lead to habitat creation with targets and WFD programmes stepped up with a floodplain and catchment approach. Discussions are expected in the future with more significant outcomes • Steve Scott told the group of a new pest disease called Chalara Ash die back. www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara see the link for more details. Trees have been affected with the disease that have been brought in from the Netherlands. There is no cure, trees are burnt in situ. There is a consultation taking place to ban imports of Ash trees. • Simon Odell showed the group an interesting Environment Bank Offsetting booklet http://www.environmentbank.com/docs/Landowner%20Booklet_Offsetting.pdf and pointed the group to The Birmingham City Council website ideas to 	

<p>get trees planted in urban areas (more information attached to email with minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Kelly asked that the forum are informed of £2 million of Biomass funding available from Defra. • SITA have reduced funding to 1 year only projects, there will only be 1 round but still have regional panels, £2 million available overall and will still be divided between the regions. Research or survey work will not be considered. • A 2020 team has been put together at Natural England to find out how we can deliver targets without LBAP's. It was agreed to ask a representative from the team to come to a future meeting to speak about where they are with the targets. • Dates and venues for 2013 meetings it was agreed that Lakenheath RSPB reserve would be best visited in March 2013, permission has been sought from David Rogers. It is hoped that a boat trip to Wallesea Essex will be possible for the 3 July 2013 meeting with further suggestions of The Fens – Catherine Weightman, Essex CRF River works – Mark Iley, Heartwood – Tony Chadwick and Rushmere from Liz Anderson for the 10 October 2013 meeting. 	CW
<p>Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 19 March 2013 – Lakenheath Fen (more details to follow) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting closed at 13.15 p.m. followed by lunch and a guided site visit to the National Nature Reserve at Broxbourne Woods 	