

Notes from meeting on 15 April 2003, Hove Town Hall

Present: Jenny Bowen – EN, chair for 2003
Matthew Thomas – B&H City Council, ecologist
Plus 7 other representatives from Sussex countryside organizations.

Apologies: Steve Waite, Uni of Brighton

5. LSP issues: B&H Community Strategy has been published to engage local people, groups and representatives. Aprile Biggs (EA) gave brief presentation on behalf of Alan Hopkins who is the environment rep. on the LSP.

Whilst environmental aspects have been mentioned in the draft strategy the LSP has not received a clear set of objectives, issues or targets. It was agreed that the WAG should aim to inform the LSP (apart from Dave Bangs who was very vocal about the undemocratic nature of the LSP). I offered to keep in touch with the LSP and ensure WAGs' interests are represented.

* ACTION: JMP to contact A Biggs and A Hopkins (EA), plus WAG members to establish communication channels for environmental issues between WAG and LSP.

7. 'NatureWeb' is being trialled with aims to link 'Quality Assessment' to the common database. This 'common database' is managed by the council and Matthew has ambitious plans to produce a web-based consultation mechanism.

8. WAG has been invited to provide a verbal report to the council's Sustainability Commission (Chaired Joyce Edmond-Smith). Jenny Bowen will liaise with WAG members on issues to raise.

Following Council election there is plan to hold meeting with Councillors in July on a farm (probably in Sheepcoate Valley).

12. Next meeting - 8 April 2003, Booth Museum

John Patmore
Brighton

22 April 2003