

Natural England Board



Meeting: 9
Date: 13 February 2008

Paper No: **NEB PU09 01**

Title: **Stakeholder Engagements**

Sponsor: **Guy Thompson, Executive Director External Affairs**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Board on the latest key external affairs activity.

2. Issues

Board member advocacy

- 2.1. Since the last Board meeting in December, the regions have each delivered a draft engagement plan for Board members. These were reviewed at the January Board Outcome Groups, where Board members' additional advocacy time was also considered. As a result, a co-ordinated programme of activity for 2008/09, linked to our strategic outcomes, will be developed for Board members at a national and regional level before the April Board meeting.

External affairs planning and delivery

- 2.2. External affairs planning for 2008/09 has commenced. External Affairs Plans have been agreed by the Communications Steering Group for Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Freshwater (including PR09). These plans will now frame our stakeholder engagement and advocacy, press and government relations activity. They will also strongly influence external affairs activity by Chair, Deputy Chair and CEO for the year ahead. Board member engagements will also be aligned to these priority areas where appropriate.
- 2.3. Current activity by Chair and Deputy Chair between 12 December and 30 April is shown at Annex 1.

Annex 1

Engagements attended : 12 December 2007 – 12 February 2008

Martin Doughty, Chair

December	
11 th	Meeting with Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for Marine, Landscape and Rural Affairs (with Helen Phillips)
11 th - 12 th	Natural England Board Meeting, London
17 th	Telephone meeting with Hilary Benn
18 th	Visit to Hatfield Moors and Sheffield Office with Lord Haskins
19 th	Meeting with John Armit, Chair of Olympic Delivery Authority, London
20 th	Lunch with Stephen Hockman, Environmental Lawyer, London
January	
16 th	LGA New Year Reception, London
29 th	Meeting with Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State – Performance Review, London
30 th	Meeting with HRH the Prince of Wales, Clarence House NGO White Paper Dinner, London
February	
5 th	Meeting with Hilary Benn, London (with Helen Phillips)
7 th	Regional Visit to South West
8 th	CLA AGM
12 th - 13 th	Natural England Board Meeting, Sheffield

Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

December	
11 th - 12 th	Natural England Board Meeting, London
13 th	Defra Management Board, London
January	
2 nd -4 th	Oxford Farming Conference
4 th	Interview Panel, Director General Food and Farming, Defra
9 th	Central Oxfordshire Steering Group meeting
14 th	Hindhead Partnership Meeting, Haslemere
17 th	Hindhead Stakeholders Day
24 th	Defra Management Board Meeting, London
25 th	Defra Financial Management Improvement Programme Board
28 th	Visit to Milton Park, Abingdon
31 st	Environment Agency Drinks reception, London
February	
1 st	Meeting with Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Transport Re: Hindhead
4 th	Meeting with Lord Plumb, Re. CAP, House of Lords
12 th – 13 th	Natural England Board Meeting, Sheffield

Forward Look of Engagements before the next Board meeting: 29-30 April 2008

Martin Doughty, Chair

February	
26 th	Meeting with Terry Farrell, Architect, Thames Gateway Parkland Dinner with David Fursdon, CLA, to mark his retirement (with Helen Phillips and Poul Christensen)
March	
10 th	Opening address "Access to Green Space Standards" National Conference, London.
11 th	BTCV Green Gym 10 year celebration Event, London Chairs Group Dinner, London
12 th	Meeting with Jim FitzPatrick MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DfT (with Helen Phillips) Lunch with Sir Don Curry (with Helen Phillips) Meeting with Lord David Puttnam, House of Lords LGA Dinner, Liverpool
17 th	"Volunteering Is" pre-Conference dinner (with Helen Phillips)
18 th	Opening address "Volunteering is" Conference, York
19 th	Defra Business Meeting (with Helen Phillips), London. RSPB/Natural England Joint Reception, London
April	
16 th	Dinner with SNH, DOENI, CCW, Cardiff (with Helen Phillips)
24 th	Coastal Access Meeting with EEDA and CRC
29 th - 30 th	Natural England Board Meeting, Sheffield

Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

February	
21 st	Defra Management Board Meeting, London
26 th	Dinner with David Fursdon, CLA, to mark his retirement (with Martin Doughty and Helen Phillips)
27 th	The Agricultural Forum, London
March	
7 th	Opening the Hindhead Public Exhibition
10 th	Natural England Audit Committee Meeting, Sheffield
19 th – 20 th	JNCC Committee/Board Meeting, Peterborough
27 th	Defra Management Board Meeting, London
28 th	Forum for Rural Industries Group
31 st	Hindhead Meeting
April	
22 nd	Defra Financial Management Improvement Programme Board
24 th	Defra Management Board Meeting
29 th – 30 th	Natural England Board Meeting, Sheffield