



**One City Environment Board**  
**DRAFT Notes and Actions 22 October 2024**  
**meeting**  
Beacon House (Queen's Ave, Bristol BS8 1SE)

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| <b>Attendees</b>   | <b>Co-chairs:</b> Cllr Martin Fodor (BCC), Savita Willmott (BNHC)<br><b>Members &amp; alternate members:</b> Heather Barnes, Eden Beadle, Megan Belcher, Charlee Bennett, Joy Carey, Kit Connell, Anne Cousins, Charlie Dixon, Chris Dunford, Lucy Edgar, Jenny Howard Coles, Mark Jacobs, Janine Michael, Alex Minshull, Kirsti Norris, Julian Okoye, Chris Priest, Clare Reddington, Hannah Spungin, Lizzi Testani, Sam Willitts<br><b>Invitees:</b> Kit Beaumont (BCC), Judith Langdon (City Office), Laura Fogg Rogers (UWE / Bristol Repair Coalition), Enda Hayes (BACCC), Jo House (BACCC), Mark Minkley (BANES) |
| <b>Apologies</b>   | Leah McNally  |
| <b>Secretariat</b> | Reem Khreisheh (BCNP) – minutes, Lizzi Testani (BCNP)   |

| ITEMS  | ACTIONS  |
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| <b>Welcome, quorum &amp; declaration of interests</b>  |  |
| Co-Chairs welcomed members, observers and invitees and thanked CP / University of Bristol for hosting and providing refreshments.<br><br>Membership Notices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hannah Spungin, Bristol City Leap, has been co-opted as a member following their expression of interest and with agreement of original EOI panel for the Board.</li><li>• Eden Beadle, Future Leap, has replaced Lauren Gillis who has moved to the Skills and Economy Board.</li><li>• Mark Minkley attending today as alternate for Jackie Clayton (Observer for BANES).</li></ul> Meeting is quorate. No declarations of interest.   |  |
| <b>Minutes of last meeting &amp; action register</b>   |  |
| Previous meeting minutes approved. Outstanding, in progress and complete actions shared.   |  |
| <b>Co-Chairs updates &amp; introduction</b>  |  |
| SW introduced as new Co-Chair noting she has been a long-time member of the Board.<br><br><b>One City Plan Launch:</b> Members received a digital copy of the refreshed plan launched at the breakfast event this morning. Co-Chairs and many Environment Board members attended.<br><br>Members asked to share reflections on launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request for LT to share her presentation/speech. LT will look into this.</li><li>• MJ: Great to see LT present and that climate and nature is at top of the agenda.</li><li>• JM: Interlocking nature of the four missions came across well.</li><li>• JL: Task of drawing up a systems map is underway and will share when complete.</li><li>• SW: Plan to look at Environment Board's work plan in relation to One City Missions in January. Encourage all to reflect on the missions, share with colleagues and your organisations in meantime.</li><li>• JL: Recording of previous 'Introduction to One City for Board Members' meeting can be recirculated.</li><li>• AM: Great energy in room at launch and new mission structure good unifying model. Note the three of the four strategies at the end of the document belong to this board.</li></ul> | <u>Action:</u> LT to circulate OC plan launch speech.<br><br><u>Action:</u> City Office to share OC systems map when complete.<br><br><u>Action:</u> All members to reflect on OC missions, share with colleagues and consider potential |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JL: When previously met a climate and nature mission was not included in draft, but as a direct result of representation from this Board and others it now has been included so many thanks.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ SW: Thanks to JM, CDu, LT and others for their work towards this.</li></ul></li><li>• MF: Reminder that Sustainable Development Goals and Just Transition Principles are continuing commitment in this document.</li></ul> | organisational contributions.<br><b>Action:</b><br>Partnership to recirculate Introduction to One City for Board members recording on behalf of City Office. |
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**Introduction to Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change – Jo House and Enda Hayes (BACCC)**

JH and EH presented an overview of BACCC and information on current opportunities – refer to slides.

**Discussion:**

- MJ: what would be the most constructive relationship between this Board and BACCC?
  - JH: Current relationship good and productive. With the cross-board mission statement its now more the challenge in engaging cross board e.g. around transport. Previously brought items to these meetings such as raising adaptation up the agenda, doing a resilience meeting. BACCC (due to volunteer capacity) focusses on responding to significant consultations and items from organisations where there is opportunity to influence or enhance the city and region's ability to deliver its climate and nature goals. Now need to consider how we make the relationship with other boards more functional.
- MJ: Can we amplify your work or any concerns that arise out of your work?
  - EH: Suggest instead if there's a specific ask / work you're doing that you would like a BACCC lens for, please send us the ask. It might be that it doesn't come to all 20+ members of BACCC but rather we put it to specific key members or to our wider registry of experts for a BACCC lens or a sense check.
- JH: Note that the committee meets every two months and we engage with City Office and the Partnership in the meantime about planning and bringing items to meetings. Helpful to know well in advance if you would like to submit items for a particular meeting.

**Nature Together Project – Kit Beaumont (Bristol City Council)**

KB presented overview of Nature Together Project, a new project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of Nature Towns & Cities.

**Members asked to share feedback:**

- MF: Feel the project fills gap around nature addressing bias towards climate projects.
- MM: Connecting up all the fantastic activity at community level throughout region with community nature mapping very important exercise.
- JHC: Opportunity around whether any of this be leveraged into making it easier to not have weed killer sprayed onto your streets.
- JC: Good to connect with 70+ community gardens and orchards included in the Get Growing Trail around food and nature.



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- MB: In nature and environment spaces there are communities who are heavily underrepresented such as community of Disabled people. Noticed mention of general EDI training but suggest having specific training / support tailored to who's represented in the specific area rather than general EDI training which often doesn't go far enough, for example Disability equity and inclusion training or race equality training.
- JHC: Would be good to see communities who are not doing anything on nature already also included / encouraged into this programme.
- HS: Discussion around whether organisations and community groups are still able to apply:
  - KB: Previously advertised widely and now looking at how to meaningfully share moving forward. Working with Avon Wildlife Trust around creating opportunities to share information widely and invite other partners in.
- JM: Important to ensure not replicating prior work in same areas e.g. Community Climate Action plans.
  - LT: One role of the project is to integrate with the CCA project as the plans are there, but more resource required to translate these into action. Will be looking into advancing work to explore a fund that local businesses can contribute to and communities can take from to deliver climate and nature action. Getting strong interest from businesses to support this.
- MF: Discussion around Permitting Scheme
  - KB: Scheme is to be designed with communities to understand what will make it easier for them to take action. Trying to find a process that a). communities have stake in, not just councils' decision, inviting a more collaborative approach to managing those green spaces and b). recognising there are many different council landlords so simplifying the process with one simpler way of taking action.
  - AM: Single view of what should happen from people in one neighbourhood unlikely, more about how to manage that diversity of views for same area.
- CDi: Great that you're thinking about how to leverage funding you already have to get more funding. Currently working with WECA to understand what businesses are looking for from nature restoration from a resilience point of view across the region. Linking to LT's note on potential fund, developers are seeing many benefits from having urban green spaces and community projects in their areas for leasing times and occupancy rates in new properties. Good opportunity to explore connecting this with the possible fund as an opportunity to get more private sector funding for bigger projects down the timeline.
- KC: Flag that two years is short period particularly before you can take any tangible action with nature – how will you deal with this and ensure long term thinking?
  - KB: This project is more focused on creating the enabling systems and processes that make it easier to take tangible actions.

KB collected written feedback from board members and agreed to reflect on these and bring a project update slide back to Board in January.

Action: KB to reflect on feedback from Board members and to update Board at January meeting, considering impact of this feedback on NTP.

**Bristol Clean Rivers Working Group update – Julian Okoye (Wessex Water)**

JO presented update from the Bristol Clean Rivers Working Group – refer to slides.

Members were asked to consider the following questions in groups and feedback:

- What would you like us to do? What would have the biggest impact for your business/partners? How should this be delivered?
- How can you help us take this work forward? What resources can we leverage?



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**Group 1:**

- Importance of piggybacking on existing initiatives e.g. Retrofit West and energy advisors already out talking to people about how they can save money. How to bring in different messages.
- Subsidised water butts that could be sponsored.
- Citizen science to raise awareness e.g. Watershed, links to South Gloucestershire and BANES noting Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) does citizen science in South Gloucestershire with the Yellowfish campaign “only rain down the drain” in addition to monitoring quality of water.
- Community water butts, helping with droughts and tree watering.

**Group 2:**

- Citywide campaign about what can and can't be put down drains would be helpful particularly regarding Victorian buildings.
- More water butts and more information about what can and can't go in the water going into water butts then could deal with more than rain e.g. how does grey water work with this?
- Are there key city centre sites, similar to Southmead such as Council Houses or Watershed, where soakaways and rain gardens can be created to promote these and inform people how to do these in their houses?

**Group 3:**

- Opportunity to connect into the nature agenda with KB well placed to support. People want to take action for nature and water is the missing need for nature in public spaces.
- Importance of community spaces and making water butts visible and easy to install.
- Discussion around Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Schedule three and lack of implementation in England.
- JHC noted with their public site having 60,000 footfall per year, opportunity to have water butts with signage about where to get these and how they work with clarity on who would install it. This would enable householder to have confidence to push for these.
  - JO: Big challenge in absence of skills for how to create and install rain gardens and soakaways.
  - MF: Potential opportunity to link to other boards for skills agenda.
  - HS: Offer: we currently deliver on BCC social housing and so could install water butts while doing other work and speak to residents about how to use these.

**Group 4:**

- Soakaways or connection to river both domestically and commercially / industrially is difficult to do. Many organisations inherit a system which costs a lot of money to change over as well as often requiring regulation / permitting from Environment Agency. Could this be incentivised or the methodology of doing it simplified? Suggest creating guidance on how to dig a soakaway in your garden and connecting with EA to try to get them to streamline the regulatory process.
- Utilise exhibits in local science centres.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support community gardens and orchards around the city with water butts and soakaways. Could compile list of interested groups for providing support.</li><li>Tap into organisations that have homes e.g. the Diocese have clergy homes where free water butts could be installed as a requirement and opportunities with social housing.</li><li>Terrace housing often without gardens so difficult to save water but could e.g. on Park Street install canvas across to collect water with plants inside as art installation with education value.</li></ul> |  |
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**Bristol Circular Economy Hub: Mark Jacobs and Laura Fogg Rogers (Bristol Repair Coalition)**

MJ and LFR, Bristol Repair Coalition, presented on Bristol Circular Economy Hub demonstrator proposal for achieving net zero, reducing waste, and creating green jobs - refer to slides.

Key Ask/ support request from MJ and LFR to make the Demonstrator happen:

- Feasibility Study:** Develop a Business Case to assess the project's operational, financial, and environmental viability, including a SWOT analysis to identify risks and challenges.
- Partnership Development:** Formalise partnerships across the city to secure resources, expertise, and access to green economy training.
- Location Assessment:** Identify suitable locations or meanwhile spaces to assess costs for setting up and maintaining the facility.
- Education and Skills:** Plan training, apprenticeships, and work placements to equip local residents with green skills and address the city's skills gap.

Discussion:

- Members invited to get in touch with MJ and LFR directly to learn more about the project or be part of future discussions.
- JO: Needing the building to be rent free could present a barrier. Is there a model where you can take a run-down building, demonstrate recycling and refurbishment and raise the value of the building enabling you to re-finance it and thereby demonstrating the value of your project?
  - LFR: There are models where councils give a peppercorn rent. Also looking at Bristol Historic Buildings Trust models. Suez as a commercial company did rent and it took two-three years to reach a point of making money.
  - MJ: Challenge is putting monetary value on social value and costing things as a benefit for the community in order to get the business model to work.
- MM: Is Bristol a sufficient scale or consider scaling up to bring in the whole region? With Keynsham Reuse and Recycling centre, and Bath Share and Repair Centre.
  - MF: Combined Authority also have a developing skills and training role.
- LT: Any link with 'Trailblazer Neighbourhoods' coming to South of Bristol? £2million for 10 years and could be linked with flower farm and Hartcliffe reuse site.
- JM: Do Manchester and Sweden use spokes model and does Bristol have spokes on board?
  - MJ: Sweden does not but Manchester has three reuse shops. Bristol has healthy community of organisations trying to deliver what we aspire to but don't currently have scale of processing that is required, or the workshops / education facilities seen in other countries.
  - MF: We have connection to our high street initiatives in the council - potential for spokes.
  - LFR: many spokes already on board.
- HS: How are you envisaging the role of volunteers? With training and skills position, the career pathway with reuse is challenging. And the wellbeing position is an entirely different set-up. Lot of appetite to be part of this but not necessarily going to be a pounds per hour type contributor
  - LFR: Combination of both, with paid employment too. Lack of career pathway with reuse but comes with transferable skills of customer service, learning trades. Spoke infrastructure



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| <p>already about volunteering and value in feel-good-factor of preventing incineration and also social prescribing aspect of men's sheds, mental health and wellbeing, social cohesion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ MF: note tradition with sofa project and lifecycle with prison release training.</li><li>● HS: talk about older generation and skills being lost as well as loneliness – is there apprenticeship link possible?</li><li>○ LFR: Not at this scale but we run UWE Bristol Repair Cafe and have Duke of Edinburgh apprenticeships at Winterbourne. UWE has student engineers working with retired engineers. Just released a toolkit and have research coming out.</li><li>● CDu: Any business model that includes a corporate sponsor / partner?</li><li>○ MJ: Exploring all options.</li><li>● MJ: Shared ambition and have bids in which we hope will enable the development of this project but please share any opportunities for advice, support or funding.</li></ul> | <p><u>Action:</u> All members to consider how they can support the circular economy hub and their key asks and contact MJ and LFR with any offers of support.</p> |
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### Board Opportunities

Co-Chairs recapped actions and impact reporting and flagged the following:

- Require a venue for next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- Scheduled to meet four times in 2026. Members to let us know if there is a time over the next year where an intervention / presentation with the Board would be helpful for a piece of work you're doing or an item in the city that needs challenge, support or interrogation.
- Suggestions for 2026 agenda include: Bristol Food Network Good Food action plans, Bristol Disability Equality Commission's recent statement, and updates from Mission Net Zero team. Invite any response from members on how to make most of 12 hours together in 2026.

Action: Members to get in touch with Co-Chairs/ Partnership with any ideas for 2026 agenda items and venue offers.

### AOB

JC: Suggest a 2026 agenda slot for a **deep dive into Bristol Good Food 2030 Goals**.

JC: **Interactive game developed** based on learnings from Covid-19 as part of Good Food 2030 **about how to deal with real life climate related disasters**. Would pitch this as something to explore, requires one hour to play perhaps as add on to our scheduled meetings.

Action: Members to send nominations to LT for Bristol Legends award or nominate directly.

LT: **Bristol24/7 is running a Bristol Legends award** in March 2026 and is open for nominations with sustainability as one category. LT, MF and SW on the panel and need to bring 4 nominations (organisations or individuals) each at least. Members invited to send suggestions to LT or can nominate directly.

LT: **Luke Jerram opportunity:** With Government launching a public participation strategy on Net Zero and with new One City mission that everyone is empowered to act on climate and nature action, believe there is still lack of awareness that we are still able to have an impact and that there hasn't been a regression on global policy, so we need to think about how to get that message out there. LT will be meeting with Luke Jerram (artist who created helios, Moon and the water slide) on November 7<sup>th</sup> to see if he would work with us to inspire the city on climate resilience and how we can all have a role. Have liaised with KC on this and raised at BACCC but suggest a working group or informal group to progress this and would invite anyone interested in shaping this thinking to contact LT and KC.

Action: Members to contact LT and KC if they are interested in joining group to support work with Luke Jerram.

- CR: partnered with LJ previously and happy to chat with LT.
- MF: suggest linking with culture board.