

Chairman's Announcements

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| Subject: | Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Partnership (LNP) |
| Officer Contact Details: | Zoe Pittaway, Wiltshire & Swindon LNP Coordinator, hosted at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Tel: 01380 725670 extension 279, Email: zoep@wiltshirewildlife.org |
| Weblink: | LNP website currently under development |
| Further details available: | Further details on LNPs can be found on Defra's website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/local-nature-partnerships/ |

Summary of announcement:

Over the last 6 months the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been developing across Wiltshire and Swindon. LNPs were introduced by Government in June 2011 as a new mechanism to help improve the health of our local environment. Ultimately LNPs will aim to raise the profile of the natural environment and enhance partnership working, in particular supporting the environment sector to engage more effectively with the business, community and health sectors.

All developing LNPs across the Country were asked to submit an application to Defra by 6th June 2012 outlining how the new partnership would function and what the LNP would aim to achieve. The Wiltshire & Swindon LNP engaged with a wide diversity of stakeholders from a range of sectors via workshops, meetings and talks. All of the feedback and comments that we received were incorporated in to the development of the LNP to ensure we built a useful and dynamic partnership.

Over the last two months we have been waiting to hear if our application for LNP status has been successful and I am now pleased to announce that the Wiltshire & Swindon LNP has officially been recognised by the Secretary of State. The Wiltshire & Swindon LNP Board will be meeting for the first time in September 2012.

Please find attached a short information sheet outlining what an LNP is, why the partnership will be important and how the LNP will function. Most importantly we hope you will be keen to respond to the key questions that we have included in the information sheet.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the LNP and look forward to hearing from you soon.