

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



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Education Sub-Group Remit

Aim

To support the implementation of practical biodiversity actions to the wider local community through education - by means of both formal education and informal lifelong learning



BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Tuesday, 10th March, 2009

Living Field Studies Centre, Scottish Crop Research Institute, Invergowrie

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present:	Catherine Lloyd (CL) (Chair)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Martyn Jamieson (MJ)	Kindrogan Field Studies Centre
	Sandra Penman (SP)	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Ann Lolley (AL)	Broughty Ferry Environment Project
	Daniele Muir (DM)	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
	Julie Campbell (JC)	Dundee City Council McManus Collections
	Alasdair Hood (AH)	Dundee Botanic Gardens
	Iain Campbell (IC) (Minute Taker)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Apologies:	Lesley Wood	Angus Ranger Service
	Morag Cooney	Dundee City Council Education Department
	Gill Lawrie	RHET Angus Countryside Initiative
	Theresa Lynn	Dundee City Council
	Mark Simmons	Perth & Kinross Museum Service
	Iain Ballantyne/ Kalina Kasprzyk	Dundee University Student Placements

Also circulated to: Mike Flinn, Forest Education Initiative; Ian Mason, Perth & Kinross Council Education Service; Richard Burton, Angus College; Ben Notley, National Trust for Scotland; Bruce Anderson, RSPB; Stuart Downie, Perth College; Fiona Thackeray, Trellis; Linda Winskill, Loch Lomond & Trossachs Ranger Service; Sharon Neilson, SCRI; Serge Merone, Perth & Kinross Schools in Action (Eco-schools); Alistair Seaman, Grounds for Learning; Elley Petrie, Murton Trust; Kathy Longmuir, Dundee Ranger Service.

- Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**
CL welcomed everyone to the meeting and round-the-table introductions were given. Apologies as above.
- Minutes of the Last Meeting (3rd December 2008) and Matters Arising**
Minutes passed without comment.
- Tayside Biodiversity Festival 2009**
Update on the progress and finalization of programme - CL reported on behalf of Iain Ballantyne that the programme has many events, but more are required. Details on the opening of the 'What on Earth is Biodiversity?' event are not yet known. There will also be various walks, a children's film event at DCA (arranged by Kalina Kasprzyk), walks, talks and training sessions throughout Tayside, and a Swift

Gathering in Scone, with a Forfar counterpart also planned. CL confirmed that owing to the uncertainties of the different events going ahead there has been no progress in contacting either Lorraine Kelly or Clive Anderson to be part of the launch.

ACTION: IAIN BALLANTYNE TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS AND FINALISE BY 31ST MARCH.

ACTION: KALINA KASPRZYK TO CONFIRM DCA DETAILS BY 31ST MARCH.

ACTION: CL TO PREPARE PROGRAMME AND CONFIRM FUNDING.

DM reported on the guided beaver walk planned by Paul Ramsey at Bamff (Alyth) - which will combine a walk with removal of non-native plants along the route. CL asked DM to confirm details with Iain Ballantyne as soon as possible: i.ballantyne@dundee.ac.uk. DM noted that the 10th of May event will involve Ranger Service conservation volunteers - but she will look into getting other groups involved too.

ACTION: DM TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS WITH IB

SP reported on contact with Shirley McGregor regarding an expressive arts project at Loch Leven from the 5th to the 8th of May. CL asked SP to check if they'd like to be listed in the TBF programme.

ACTION: SP TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS WITH IB

SP also reported on the adult learning group Artspace who are keen on running plays - CL suggested they could cover the Street Theatre event in Perth on the 2nd of May in the absence of the Perth Youth Theatre. SP will look into this. MJ suggested that CL look into whether Pitlochry Theatre has a youth group.

ACTION: SP TO CONTACT ARTSPACE AND FORWARD DETAILS TO IB IF NECESSARY

ACTION: CL TO CONTACT PITLOCHRY THEATRE

JC noted that there will be McManus museum tours on the 9th of May for the Festival.

ACTION: IB TO ENSURE DETAILS ARE ADDED TO THE PROGRAMME

MJ noted that there will be an Open Day in Kindrogan during the Festival; date to be confirmed.

ACTION: IB TO ENSURE DETAILS ARE ADDED TO THE PROGRAMME

AH said there would be an event at the Botanic on 7th May - if successful, there would be a Sea Pea planting session in Carnoustie following an assessment of the Broughty Ferry plantings last year.

ACTION: IB TO ENSURE DETAILS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME

Street Theatre Plans - SP reported that the Street Theatre will not be going ahead after all, with no replacement event available either. This was particularly regrettable as SNH funding had been provisionally confirmed and CL had assisted the Perth Youth Theatre with the application forms. The Perth Youth Theatre had also had the opportunity to work with Perth & Kinross Council Parks Department (with funding in place) to widen their remit (with a series of events across Perthshire). The reason cited for the sudden cancellation was that the Youth Theatre Director was over-committed. CL suggested the sub-group revisit the potential for running something similar during 2010 as early as possible. SP said that there may be difficulty in getting funding next year as money would be allocated to celebrating Perth's 800th anniversary.

"Biodiversity: What on Earth is it" Exhibition/Reception Launch - CL reported that the exhibition at Dundee Sensation is definitely going ahead, although dates have yet to be confirmed. An unexpected increase in booking fee at Sensation has made holding the Reception to launch the Festival at Sensation problematic. If this is not resolved soon, a Caird Hall committee room has been made available; the room itself will be hosted by DCC, but the Partnership would have to pay for catering. The planned tour of Tayside by David Boag as part of the Festival's Wildlife Photography Weekend is also likely to be cancelled as Aggregate Industries has had to withdraw its proposed sponsorship.

Festival Publicity (programme of events, website, media) - CL reported that all information will be available on the website, and that she will get in touch with journalists - Felicity Martin at the Perthshire Advertiser has already agreed to a one page article for publication in April.

CL requested ideas for more unusual events that would catch the public's eye. AL noted that the bathing machine will be launched at the BFEP AGM on the 1st of April, and if there is opportunity to put it into use it could provide a good visual focus during the Festival. AH suggested using it with the Botanic Gardens' Mountain to Sea event with the machine being at Botanic Gardens from the 4th to the 7th of

May. AL noted that she will be speaking to other marine-involved people - including SNH - regarding the bathing machine.

ACTION: IB TO LIAISE WITH AL/AH TO ADD DETAILS TO THE PROGRAMME

4. Brief Priority Project Updates

Sheltered Housing and Hospitals Project

DM reported on visiting the Blairgowrie nursing homes. She had spent time talking to staff and some of the sixty-four residents at Muirton House, where they are using SNH and (forthcoming) SITA TBAF grants to install nest boxes, bird boxes, a pond, hibernation sites, and a sensory garden, among other features. They will record birds, butterflies and bees. The Beechgrove Garden is interested in featuring them. CL noted that they have already provided an article for the forthcoming Summit to Sand newsletter. DM added that they have affiliates throughout Tayside who will be contacting CL soon to potentially widen the project.

Mammal Atlas

CL reported that Mark Simmons has been too busy to make progress with this.

Zoom In2 Project

CL reported on the Urban sub-group discussions on this year-long project starting in early May - AL had suggested using the BFEP's 'Still Changes' project - wherein participants used recyclable cameras to take a photograph from a single spot every month for a year, with photos being compiled into a DVD film. Project funding of £4,500 is required: SNH have confirmed £1,000 from their 2009-10 budget; Angus Council - £1,000; Dundee City Council - £1,000, and Perth & Kinross Council - provisionally £1,500. AL suggested that the project be used to draw out links between cultural heritage and local natural heritage. CL recommended saving postage costs by distributing the cameras in person at events such as the Kinross Discovery Day and Perth Museum's 2nd May event, as well as inviting The Courier to publicise the project.

CL also provided an update on the original ZOOM Project, noting that very few packs are left (c60-80 out of the original 1,000); requests for packs are still being received and the survey form will be reprinted to ensure that the actual survey continues.

ACTION: CL TO INVOICE COUNCILS.

Training Events

CL reported on the five Angus lunchtime seminars held between October 2008 and February 2009, noting that attendance averaged 26 per seminar, exceeding the original target of 20. Four similar Perth & Kinross seminars will be taking place in the coming months.

The Greenspace & Biodiversity seminar in Forfar at the end of February went very well, while the Green Roof workshop in Dundee had a disappointing uptake. All workshop participants had, however, agreed to undertake case studies for Dusty Gedge (of Living Roofs).

The Swift workshop, also at the end of February, went well despite only eight participants (there were thirteen last-minute cancellations). MJ asked who had attended and CL noted that key people from across all the three local authorities (and housing associations) had unfortunately cancelled. However, those who did attend found the workshop useful. The new Edinburgh LBAP officer attended so he will take ideas away to use in his area. It was agreed that the speaker, Edward Mayer of London Swifts, was excellent. CL had arranged for him to be interviewed for the "Out of Doors" programme on BBC Radio Scotland. The broadcast would be delayed until late April and CL would contribute Tayside news for the programme at a later date.

CL confirmed that the three February events had attracted national speakers, but at a cost. Generous sponsorship for the events had come from Hertalan and the Dundee Institute of Architects, plus funding from the three local authorities. The small shortfall, caused by the lower number attending the Green Roof Workshop, will be made up by the Partnership.

5. Round-the-table Updates

Kindrogan: MJ distributed the latest FSC Kindrogan postcard, and noted the new course upcoming for April, put together by the Wildlife Sound Recording Society. Possible uses are for exhibitions and talks, but it is also useful for those just interested in recording wildlife. MJ also reported on new seasonal

tutor, centre assistant, and cook posts. CL asked for information on Kindrogan's otter and wild squirrel projects, confirming that the allocated SITA TBAF funding can still be spent.

ACTION: MJ TO LOOK INTO DRAWING DOWN TBAF MONIES; REPORT BACK TO GROUP

McManus Gallery: JC noted that it is hoped the gallery will be reopened by the end of 2009, but it could be into 2010. Owing to rearrangement of space there will be a lot of potential for new projects.

Dundee Botanic Gardens: AH reported on receiving £150,000 of public money to replace boilers, upgrade environmental control systems and so on. The schools programme has now commenced.

Dighty Burn Project: AL confirmed there would be the employment of a Dighty Burn Officer with Voluntary Action Fund monies - events would include seasonal celebrations, poetry, etc. Once the project is underway a lot will be happening on the Dighty with biodiversity and environment management; much of it will be reliant on volunteers.

6. **Other Biodiversity Awareness-Raising**

JC enquired about getting the Tayside Recorders' Day booking form on the website - CL confirmed this would be done immediately. The event would take place in Dundee on 21st March.

AL noted that she is working with Edward Mayer and an illustrator on a swift booklet. BFEP has received part-funding from SNH. In style, the booklet which will match the Sand Martin booklet.

CL added that Rachael Higgins is working on a series of eight postcards about Wildlife Trees (Woodland sub-group project). These postcards have a focus on lifelong learning, being eye-catching for children (of all ages) but also providing information that is suitable for all.

CL reported on the Fingask/White Lochs Project tea towel (Water and Wetland sub-group project) - something tangible to encourage community involvement. The sub-group is currently collating the number of anglers, golf club members, schools, etc. who will receive the "Make a Link with Your Sink" tea towels. An information sheet will be prepared to give out with the tea-towels. Costs for the tea-towel were c£800 for 250, made of organic cotton and printed in the Scottish Borders (the cost per unit would decrease considerably for higher numbers); this includes design costs. DM expressed an interest in getting involved; CL suggested that the Blairgowrie Sheltered Housing Project be brought in. There is also a need to link the project to nearby schools.

ACTION: CL TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT TO DM

CL also noted the upcoming "From Summit to Sand" Newsletter and the potential Swift Newsletters - and asked for contributions to both as soon as possible.

ACTION: ALL - CONTRIBUTIONS TO CL ASAP

CL mentioned that there would be a "Wild Harvests of Scotland" event at Birnam on the 15th and 16th of April (Reforestation Scotland); there will be an evening networking event on 15th to bring orchard owners and Scottish producers together.

7. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

8. **Date & Format of Next Meeting - proposal to visit Stanley Mills (May) and Montrose (summer)**

It was agreed that the next meeting would probably coincide with the terns being at Montrose (CL to check) - Tuesday 26th May (10:30am) was provisionally agreed. If not, the sub-group had received an invitation to visit Stanley Mills and use the Education Room for a meeting.

ACTION: CL TO LOOK INTO HAVING NEXT MEETING AT EITHER STANLEY MILLS OR MONTROSE