



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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STEERING GROUP MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held on 16th September 2009

Tay Room, Blackfriars Development Centre, North Port, Perth

Present: Prof Martin Price: Chair (MP) CMS, Perth College
Alison Anderson (AA) Dundee City Council
Bruce Anderson (BA) RSPB
Amy Challis (AC) RPSB
Pam Coutts (PC) Angus Council
Carol Littlewood (CLw) Littlewood Land Care
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Ian Lorimer (IL) SEPA
Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN) Perth & Kinross Council
Mark Simmons (MS) Perth Museum
Stan Whitaker (SW) SNH
Iain Campbell: Minute Taker (IC) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

Apologies: Carolyn Deasley Scottish Natural Heritage
Tim Barratt Forestry Commission Scotland
Dennis Dick Scottish Biodiversity Forum
Christine Hall SAC

Circulated to: Sabine Dey, SRPBA; Bryan Harris, Dundee City Council; Alan Hendry, SGRPID;
Martyn Jamieson, Scottish Field Studies Association; Ben Notley, NTS; Jin Park,
Perth College; Kate Scott, NFUS; Merrill Smith, Dundee City Council; Paul Ramsay,
SRPBA; Stewart Roberts, Angus Council.

1. Welcome and Apologies

As above. **MP** welcomed Stan Whitaker from SNH.

2. Prioritising Species and Habitat Actions by LBAP Area - Stan Whitaker, SNH

SW delivered a presentation on detailing new methods of prioritising habitats and species through weighted analysis for individual LBAP areas. This will produce a 'traffic light' list which will offer assistance in choosing areas of local importance, with phase II of the project looking to make the information available online. It is hoped that a first draft for discussion will be available in the next couple of months. **MP** thanked **SW** on behalf of the group.

ACTION: SW TO E-MAIL PRESENTATION TO GROUP

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting on 18th June 2009

The minutes were passed without comment.

4. Matters Arising

ACTION: TIM BARRATT TO PROVIDE SRDP UPDATE

MP asked for an update on the new PKC Biodiversity Officer - **ERN** reported that the full time officer will be starting in two weeks, with a primary duty of assisting planners in delivering biodiversity targets.

5. Priority Updates

Please see attached Progress Report for compiled updates, as provided by sub-group leaders prior to and during the meeting.

6. Tayside Biodiversity Festival 2010

CL opened discussion on the 2010 festival - there are two Dundee University student placements, both showing a lot of interest. TBP has signed up to International Year of Biodiversity, which will open new paths of opportunity. There is quite a lot already moving forward, but input is needed from everyone. Funding is a major issue - £1500 has kept back, which will hopefully be matched by SITA, but the SITA money will not be available till later. **CL** further noted that the previously suggested Events Scotland funding application is not likely to be moving forward, due to its limit of a quarter of total funding. **PC** suggested looking into applying with time in kind funding considered - **MP** noted that student placements could count towards a lot, and additionally suggested exploratory letters to trusts emphasising the International Year of Biodiversity. **CL** will also be meeting SNH for funding regarding street theatre plans throughout Perth & Kinross (working with the Perth Youth Theatre and PKC).

There has been much interest from people who participated in the 2009 event, including photographer David Boag expressing interest in coming back - **CL** suggested that it would be good to have a funded wildlife photography day at Kindrogan for disabled / disadvantaged children. David Lampard is hoping to tie in the McManus Galleries reopening to a city-wide BioBlitz. Links to Perth 800 will allow for a large number of events, including one promoting Orchard 800 (it is proposed to plant 800 fruit trees as part of the Perth 800 celebrations in 2010). Forestry Commission Scotland is looking to be involved, with 50% funding from the Gannochy Trust hoped for. Pitlochry Plant Hunters Garden and Festival Theatre are also looking to get involved. Dundee Sensation is already considering how to link in to the Festival.

ACTION: ALL TO CONTACT CL RE. FESTIVAL IDEAS

ACTION: CL TO SEND EXPLORATORY LETTERS TO TRUSTS

ACTION: CL TO SPEAK TO PETER SANDWELL RE. EVENTS SCOTLAND FUNDING

7. Website review

CL reported on the updated TBP website and demonstrated it to the group, noting that while it is still a large website, the embedded Google search is a great help. The Planning Manual is online, and has received 100 hits already, while between January and August 2009 the site as a whole had 59,644 total session and 369,745 page hits. **AA** suggested looking into whether it was possible to know what was being searched for. Priority lists are currently outdated, but they will soon be brought up to date with relation to SNH lists and other sources; they will be reviewed with the LBAP during 2010.

The group discussed items for possible change - **CL** noted that the link to the ZOOM In2 project was not directed correctly, and **AA, MP, CLw, ERN** and **CL** discussed changes to the contacts list, including having it separately on the main dropdown bar, combining it and the partners listing - including looking into making e-mail addresses for sub-group leaders available, and adding Perth College and Littlewood Land Care to the list. **CLw** noted that the Hedgerows and Treelines listing was incomplete, and suggested having action plan layout available on one page. **MP, ERN, IL** and **CLw** also suggested structuring the events by date, always displaying the next event, making the events continuous rather than split into 2009 and 2010, economising the links into only 'Next Event' and 'Calendar of Events', and making the events link more prominent on the page - potentially by switching it with the news section. **MP** additionally recommended a change of colour on the menu bars. **MS** suggested amalgamating some areas of the information dropdown, and limiting each dropdown to five or six items - **MP** recommended moving the photograph credits and glossary to the site map.

MP asked if the Benefits of Biodiversity to Tayside publication would be available on the public section of the website - **CL** confirmed that it would be, adding that while the annual reports have not

previously been on the main site as they are primarily a “report to SNH” rather than a “report on the TBP”. **MP** and **MS** suggested explaining that 'Tayside Recorders' involves recording biodiversity in Tayside. **CL** added that eventually the Recorders' Forum section will offer the opportunity to highlight different surveys. **CL** also asked that the group provide any comments by the end of the month, and earlier if possible, to allow the site to be ready for its official launch in November.

ACTION: ALL TO PROVIDE WEBSITE COMMENTS BY END OF MONTH,

ACTION: CL TO CONTACT CLARE BAILEY RE. REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS

As **MP** is not available on 2 November, the launch of the reviewed website has been delayed until 9 November (2pm photocall at the Wellgate Library, Dundee); Steering Group members will be welcome to attend. **CL** confirmed that Ambar Varela, the Venezuelan student who has been assisting the webmaster, also helped book a series of library displays across Tayside, starting with the launch in Dundee in November and continuing until March 2010.

It is proposed to print a series of full colour bookmarks (at a total cost of c£500) to publicise the different aspects of the website. **CL** asked if Steering Group members could contribute £50-£100 towards these costs as the SITA TBAP Promotions Funds is now depleted until 2010. Sufficient copies of the bookmark would be printed so that the surplus could be used during the Biodiversity Festival next May.

ACTION: ALL TO LOOK INTO POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR BOOKMARKS AND LET CL KNOW ASAP

8. Funding - SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund

CL reported that all funding from this year has been used, but that there will be another £100,000 next year. Steps are being taken to be stricter regarding the use of awarded monies, ensuring that it is used in good time.

9. Way Forward for Partnership 2010 and Beyond

CL reported on the Benefits of Biodiversity to Tayside report, noting that she would add SITA funds details and return the report to **MP**. **ERN** added that PKC would be going to committee on the 4th of November, **PC** adding that Angus Council's date was the 27th of October, while **AA** recommended speaking to Bryan Harris regarding Dundee's date. **MP** recommended sending the report to Roseanna Cunningham and all local MSPs, as no other partnerships have produced anything similar. **PC** added that it could be worth sending to Chief Executives, from **MP** in the capacity of chair - **MP** agreed to this, and recommended also delivering copies to MPs and SITA.

ACTION: CL TO UPDATE SITA FUNDS DETAILS ON REPORT AND FORWARD TO MP

ACTION: MP TO CIRCULATE TO MSPS, ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM, CHIEF EXECUTIVES

10. Finance

CL distributed the financial report from Bryan Harris, reporting that individual sub-group listings are now available, but that money left over from previous years has not been assigned to specific groups. **AA** pointed to inconsistencies in the Urban sub-group column; **CL** noted that she would look into where the Sustain Dundee funding is being held, and try to get more information on individual budgets. **MP** added that sub-group funds information needs to be clarified. **PC** recommended asking someone from Dundee City Council's finance department to attend the next Management Team meeting - **MP** suggested asking Bryan Harris if a DCC person was more likely to attend a meeting held in Dundee. **MP** summarised the problems, noting that there are inconsistencies, areas of income, including ZOOM In2 funding income from the local authorities, not shown, carry over not detailed, and other local authority payments lumped together.

ACTION: MP TO CONTACT BRYAN HARRIS TO HAVE NEXT MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING IN DUNDEE TO ACCOMMODATE DCC FINANCE

ACTION: IC TO BOOK WELLGATE MEETING ROOM

11. AOCB

There was no other business.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

Next meeting to be in Dundee on Thursday 10th December, 10:30am, pending confirmation of availability from **MP**. Venue to be confirmed by Bryan Harris.

DRAFT