



**TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Steering Group Meeting**

**Tuesday 27 April 2004 at 10.30 a.m.**

**held in Committee Room 1, 14 City Square, Dundee**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>M Smith (Chair)</b> <b>Catherine Lloyd</b> <b>Mark Simmons</b> <b>Mike Strachan</b> <b>Martin Price</b> <b>Shona Hill</b> <b>Alan Hendry</b> <b>Doug Flint</b> <b>Jo Long</b> <b>Alison Anderson</b>	<b>DCC</b> <b>TBP</b> <b>P &amp; KC</b> <b>Forestry Commission</b> <b>Perth College</b> <b>SNH</b> <b>SEERAD</b> <b>P &amp; KC</b> <b>SEPA</b> <b>DCC</b>
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<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>John Miskelly</b> <b>Liz Garson</b> <b>Pam Coutts</b> <b>Christine Hall</b> <b>Carol Littlewood</b> <b>Richard Lockett</b>	<b>NFUS</b> <b>SNH</b> <b>Angus Council</b> <b>SAC</b> <b>FWAG</b> <b>FWAG</b>
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No	Item	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b> As above.	
2	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting of 27 January 2004</b> The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.	
3	<b>Matters Arising</b> 10.5 Tayside Biodiversity Exhibition open date is Friday 21 May. Invites will be in the post this week for the official opening on Thursday 20 May.  10.3 The AGM will not be in Perth on 14 May.	
4	<b>Sub Group Leaders Reports</b>	
4.1	<b>Woodlands – Mike Strachan</b> There was a good “Building Better Diversity” seminar in Perth which was very constructive and the Perth & Kinross Provost is hoping to take things forward in Perth & Kinross Council. Seven local authorities were represented and 45 people attended from North Ayrshire to Angus.  A Woodlands Sub Group Meeting has still to be organised for 22 June in Comrie.  Action with regard to Actions of Woodlands – Working under Scottish Strategy. One of the elements of the strategy is to improve the setting of woodlands in and around towns and the urban woodlands and farms and how things can improve local income. There will be £7,500,000 available over the next three years improving the allocation and well being of local people. Looking at everything and trying to increase the income value of woodlands. If all farmers signed up 25% of wood supplied will come from small businesses. Looking at increased grant rates. £3,000,000 of modulation. This is being looked at in the urban	

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4.2	<p>area and will become nationwide and will be launched next year</p> <p><b>Farmlands</b> There was no Farmlands Report and no update on the Barn Owl Interest Group.</p> <p>R Lockett and C Hall have had a meeting to try and access additional funding for farmland projects in Tayside. This was not successful and lack of time has precluded any progress on the matter.</p> <p>The Farmland Sub-Group has not met since late 2002 but there are hopes that a meeting will take place during May when the membership of the Sub-Group will be discussed.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>Uplands – Catherine Lloyd on Behalf of Dr Martin Price</b></p> <p>A sub group meeting took place on 22 March 2004. Although it was poorly attended a lot got done. One of the people there was the new Cairngorm National Park Biodiversity Officer.</p>	
4.4	<p>Upland Tayside is a part of the Cairngorms. They want to have an demonstration day in September at Glen Prosen. Angus Walking Festival – there was a lot of interest last year and it will be bigger this year. C Lloyd confirmed that the TBP would have its display boards in the Festival Box Office to promote local biodiversity.</p> <p>Water Voles – A survey project is being considered in Deeside and Scottish Nature is keen to undertake the project in the Angus Glens. Catherine and Steve Corcoran for actions.</p>	CL CL/SC
4.5	<p><u>Progress About Actions for the LBAP</u></p> <p>Further actions have been flagged up to improve or delete at the Review date. More SMART actions are needed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche.</p>	
4.6	<p>Time Line – probably need to think of a much smaller range of actions. On 25 May the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will be published and a draft implementation plan will be published on a national level. Look at how to itemise different sets of goals and priorities.</p>	
5	<p><b>Water and Wetlands – Jo Long</b></p> <p>The Wetlands Group are organising a lunch-time seminar and field visit in July. SEPA are hosting the event to heighten people’s awareness of the existence of their Habitat Enhancement Initiative. This should be relevant to all groups and partners and highlight the benefits of getting an award. The Group are also to organise a seminar in the Autumn for River Engineering. They are also thinking about having a joint workshop between SNH and SEPA. Discussions with members of the sub group are ongoing on the writing of the remaining HAPS. She wants to maintain a certain amount of pressure just to get them finished. It is difficult to get people interested.</p> <p>Jo Long is keen to get people’s experience together as to what has been done badly with biodiversity and what has been done well.</p>	
6	<p><b>Estuary and Coast – Shona Hill</b></p> <p>Not had any further meetings. Quite confident that there is progress being made. The Tern Project is expanding with an initiative to move terns on from industrial roofs in Montrose. SNH has given a grant to SWT. An RSS scheme is in the pipeline.</p> <p><b>Urban – Alison Anderson</b></p> <p>The Urban Group had a meeting in Perth. Invasive Species Project for the Dighty is going ahead, part of it being a survey over the next 4-5 months. There will be a draft management plan by October. Leaflets have been given to colleagues in Angus.</p> <p>The second tranche of HAPS has been produced. Hospitals and Sheltered Housing and School and College Grounds – will try to get comments together by the next meeting on 23 June.</p> <p>At this stage of the Meeting a video was shown to the group re the Red Squirrel Project in Dundee. Alison felt confident that this promotional video could be used in schools.</p>	

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	<p><b>Links to National Biodiversity Strategy</b> The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is soon to be published. There is no requirement to rewrite any of the TBAP due to this. The local issues are part of the national considerations. In Tayside, we will see where the cross over elements are and work on them. Consideration of the actions we have at the moment in Tayside should be concentrated on and linked to those that cover all of Scotland.</p> <p><b>Financial Update – Merrill Smith</b> Final accounts for the TBAP until the end of the financial year are nearly complete. Any funding available will be transferred by Angus Council to Perth &amp; Kinross Council.</p> <p>The Financial Sub Group will concentrate on researching into available funding sources to pass the information on to the sub group. Funding has to be set aside to publish the next HAPS and SAPS.</p>	CL/JMcD
7	<p><b>Education Sub Group – Catherine Lloyd</b> A meeting is being planned for 27 May. Waiting to hear back from Botanic Gardens to host the meeting.</p>	
8	<p><b>Forward Plan &amp; Priorities</b> The Management Team proposed to the Steering Group that a workshop for the full partnership was organised in October to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <u>Structure of the LBAP Partnership</u> Is the Steering Group with subject/sub groups the right framework to take forward the implementation of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership?</li> <li>2 What are the work priorities – both for the Partnership and for the Co-Ordinator post. An agreed list to be generated by the Partnership members and prioritised.</li> <li>3 Decision making – what should be decided where and who should be involved in decision making at different levels? This will need to be aligned with the Framework agreed in 1.</li> </ol>	
9	<p><b>Business Plan – D Flint</b> A draft Business Plan had been circulated to the Partnership for approval.</p> <p>The structure of LBAP as the appropriate medium to take Biodiversity in Tayside forward was submitted.</p> <p>Discussions ensued as to what are the work priorities, why a partnership and the structure of the sub group. Decision making was also discussed and what levels this should be set at. It was suggested and agreed that there be a ½ day workshop. The date suggested was October as it fits into the monitoring cycle and could be used for the transfer of the chair.</p> <p>There was also discussion about how funding for the Biodiversity Co-Ordinators post's funding could be secured after 2007.</p>	
10	<p><b>Next Chair</b> The previous chairs have been Perth &amp; Kinross Council, Angus Council and then Dundee Council. It would be beneficial not to have another Council as the next chair as Perth &amp; Kinross are the employing agent and administrator for the partnership.</p> <p>Merrill Smith will write out to all partners to ask for suggestions for the chair and to gain agreement on the October future planning workshop.</p>	MS
11	<p><b>AOCB</b></p>	
11.1	<p><b>Monitoring Programme</b> There have only been 12 out of 38 responses to date to the monitoring request.</p>	

No	Item	Action
11.2	The Annual Return has been drafted. The draft was tabled and it will be e-mailed asking everyone to comment by 5 May.	
11.3	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will be circulated at the next meeting.	
11.4	The meeting scheduled to be held on 27 July has been cancelled.	
14	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 26 October 2004 at 10.30 a.m. at Battleby</p> <p><b>Future Meetings:</b> <b>All Tuesday</b>                      <b>2005 - 25 January, 26 April, 26 July, 25 October</b></p>	