



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

c/o The Environment Service, Perth & Kinross Council, Pullar House, Kinnoull Street, Perth. PH1 5GD
Tel: 01738 475273 Fax: 01738 476410 E-mail: tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net; Website: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

URBAN SUB-GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 14th December 2006
at Jamesfield Organic Centre, Newburgh

PRESENT:	Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Pam Coutts (PC)	Angus Council
	Ian Ford (IF)	Broughty Ferry Environmental Project
	Carolyn Warwick (CW)	SNH
	Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ER-N)	Perth and Kinross Council
	George Potts (GP)	Dundee Ranger Service
	Kate Baird (KB)	SEPA

- | Item | Minute | Action |
|------|--|----------|
| 1. | Apologies
Alison Anderson (Dundee City Council), Craig Borland (Angus Ranger Service), Ann Lolley (BFEP). | |
| 2. | Minutes of previous meeting were agreed.
Matters Arising: Key Species – Carolyn Warwick (CW) confirmed that details from SNH's Species Framework consultation would be available in the New Year; little change was expected. | |
| 3. | Report from Steering Group
There was no report from the Steering Group which last met on 1 st December, although the following were commented upon:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fifty two project proforma were discussed at the meeting; the Future Priorities listing will be attached to these minutes. The proforma themselves will remain as internal documents for use by the Sub-Groups, although the (agreed) Lead Partner and targets would be added to the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS) in due course. b) 2nd Tranche Consultation – Catherine Lloyd (CL) will circulate consultation comments to the appropriate author/sub-group to finalise the Action Plans for publication. c) SITA TBAF - CL reported that 3 applications had been forwarded to Entrust for funding confirmation in the latest round – these included the Kindrogan Otter Holt Project, the Kindrogan Red Squirrel Project (both applications from the Scottish Field Study Centre) and the Perthshire Barn Owl Project (Scottish Agricultural College). It was uncertain how far the Dundee Eco-house wildlife garden funding had progressed. d) Micro-budget – CL confirmed that she would supply CW with details of the Green Graveyard Initiative leaflet (including supplier and VAT details). | AA
CL |
| 4. | Priority Actions 2007 - 2010
Alison Anderson (AA) had circulated the latest version of the draft proforma. The sub-group discussed each proforma to consider funding implications and each project in more detail. Updated proforma are attached to these minutes. These will be forwarded to Angela Paterson for circulation to Steering Group members (and SNH in support of the Business Plan) – if there are any changes needed, please advise CL as soon as possible. | ALL |
| | In the future it was agreed to focus on projects that need sub-group implementation and to request brief progress reports on those that have a watching brief or lower priority. | |
| i) | USG1 – Urban Red Squirrel Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes proposed to proforma, except to make it clear that this is a Tayside-wide urban initiative. <p>Pam Coutts (PC) asked if any future Grey Squirrel Control around Monifieth would come under the Urban Red Squirrel Initiative or the Woodland sub-group's rural Red Squirrel Conservation project. It was agreed that it is likely to be included in the Urban Initiative.</p> | |

ii) USG2 – Acoustic Ecology

Ian Ford (IF) outlined the substantial progress to this project and plans for next year. CL suggested that a specific community event held during Scottish Biodiversity Week (19 – 27 May 2007) would publicise the project to a wider audience.

IF/AL

It was agreed that in future it would be good if a similar initiative could be undertaken elsewhere in Tayside, perhaps using feedback from the success of the BFEP initiative.

iii) USG3 – Greenspace, Community Gardens and Allotments

Add:

- Other Partners – Trellis (new organisation arising from the UK Thrive)
- Existing Commitments – The Calyx (Perth). (ER-N attended the Scotland's Garden Trust 'Education and ICT Committee' meeting on 23 November. It was agreed that the Urban sub-group would remain involved in this committee for the foreseeable future.)
- Costings: TBAF, FC(S) and SNH
- Target: consider the potential for publishing an 'Allotments, Biodiversity and Community Gardens' advisory booklet based on the Glasgow and Edinburgh LBAP Allotments booklet.

iv) USG4 – Urban Grassland Management

Add:

- Other Partners – NHS Scotland
- Existing Commitments – other areas: Kirkgate, Kinross (PKC), Keptie Pond (AC), Duntrune (as the DCC demonstration garden). Add "Field Day" events held in P&K 2005 and 2006.
- Costings – SNH. CL to give details to CW to order Landlife "Wildflowers Work" handbook (£12.50 per copy) – 1 x copy per local authority and 1 x copy for the TBP.
- Targets – delete 3rd bullet point ('produce best practice report...') and replace with "identify one or more trial areas in each local authority"; "undertake survey before and after changes in management regime", and "plan an overall Tayside interpretation strategy" (such as biodiversity bank markers, boards, etc.). Add "brief elected members", and "following a key contacts meeting across all three local authorities, plan a full day event (presentations/workshop/site visit)" and, if required, further "Field Day" training events.
- Targets (or objective) – add "encourage the setting up of biodiversity banks and verges across Tayside".

CL

CL to approach key contacts in the three local authorities and arrange a preliminary meeting in the spring. After this, CW to possibly approach Richard Scott, Landlife, for potential input to the training event.

CL

v) USG5 – Invasive Species Project

- Change. SEPA cannot be the Lead Partner for this project, so move DCC, AC and PKC to be the leaders.

PC to look into progress of planning application for housing near to Baldovan House

PC

PC and Esther Rogers-Nicolls (ER-N) to check legislation as regards non-native plant species and local authorities.

PC/
ER-N

Kate Baird (KB) to ask Jo Long for details on the Scottish policy for invasive species and advice on how best to take this matter forward in Tayside.

KB

vi) USG6 – Green/Living Roofs

- AC just looking for a potential site at moment, no guarantees.

CL to add website link to www.livingroofs.com and the Natural England booklet on Living Roofs.

CL to approach Gordon Crowe (DCC) re. shed costs before the end of January.

CL

AA to look into green roof shed for the Dundee Flower Show (orange 'theme')

CL

Proposed Urban sub-group visit to Crombie Country Park's new sand martin wall (possible venue for March meeting)

AA/GP
PC

vii) USG7 – Local Patch Project

It was agreed this needs to be split into two separate projects, i.e. the existing Local Patch Project and a new single species survey with a new title, perhaps along the lines of "Focus on Bumblebees" or "Zoom in on Bumblebees".

Existing Local Patch Project – there is an urgent need to collate existing survey forms. IF would have time this winter to take on this task if funding could be found. Once a recording system was set up, this could be used to encourage groups such as schools, Eco-congregation, etc. to contribute to the Local Patch Project in the future. CL is meeting the website designer before Christmas to discuss the

CL/IF

CL

potential for interactive Local Patch web pages.

The single species surveys would change yearly; it was agreed that Bumblebee would be the 2007 focus, with a decision made later as regards 2008 and 2009 (bats and house sparrows). CW asked if Ann Lolley (AL) could cost 500 and 1000 Bumblebee Zoom packs (some could be distributed at the Dundee Flower Show). The surveys would be publicised on the website, as well as via the media.

AL

This project would be fully discussed with AL at the next meeting.

viii) USG8 – Sand Martins in Tayside

IF confirmed that he would be approaching potential members of the proposed Interest Group in the New Year and a meeting held to discuss collation of existing records, the potential for a survey of sand martin nesting areas, sites where new nesting sites could be encouraged, and the dissemination of information to developers and planners to safeguard nesting sites. KB said she would look into the availability of SEPA habitat survey information where Sand martins were concerned.

IF

KB

Add:

- BFEP to Lead Partner.
- AC, DCC, PKC, SEPA to Partners
- Costings – IF to collate any potential project costings and send to CL at the end of January.
- Local Involvement – Tay Ringing Group, Murton Trust, SWT (Montrose)

IF

ix) USG9 – Urban Watercourse Initiative

- No changes to the proforma proposed.

PC to supply Giant Hogweed photographs to KB, if possible, for the HAP.

PC/KB

x) USG10 – Tayside Town Swift Project

Add:

- Costings – add costings from all projects in Tayside, including the proposed Tayside section of the Concern for Swifts Scotland Best Practice Guidelines. CW mentioned SNH promotional grant aid up to 50%; also TBAF grants also available.
- Targets – name specific projects, i.e. Church Swifts (Eco Congregation to take forward); School Swifts (local authorities to take forward, including potential webcam project).
- 2nd bullet point: “work in partnership to secure good practice demonstration projects with developers, architects, local authorities and public bodies” – add “housing associations”.

ALL to
CL

GP

George Potts (GP) asked if anyone had been touch with Errol Bricks regarding the proposed swift brick. CL said Clare Darlston of Concern for Swifts Scotland was going to follow this up. It was agreed that GP would approach Errol Bricks too.

CL

GP also highlighted the potential issue of avian flu and CL said she would check with Edward Mayer of London Swifts as he has extensive experience of working with developers and local authorities.

xi) USG11 – Green Kirk and Graveyard Initiative

- Delete 3rd bullet point (Year 1) regarding the desk-top audit.
- Add:
- Costing – leaflet costs, a baseline survey (and follow up survey) of key sites, training workshops (“Getting to Know Your Graveyard”).
- Local Involvement – Charter for the Bereaved (DCC)
- Key Species – cut and paste information from the Burial Grounds HAP

CL

5. Logos

The logos for the Green Graveyard Initiative and the Tayside Ponds Initiative were discussed. It was agreed that the example circulated for the Graveyard Initiative would be used, and the Ponds Initiative should include the frog photograph. The font needs to be changed on the latter. Both logos need an additional strapline “Tayside Biodiversity Partnership” and either (or both) the e-mail and website details.

CL

6. AOCB

None

7. Date of next meeting

10am, Tuesday, 20th March 2007 at Crombie Country Park, Angus.

PC to
confirm