

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



c/o Dundee City Council, Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee. DD1 3RA
Telephone: 01382 433042; e-mail: tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

URBAN SUB-GROUP 10:00am, Wednesday 18th November 2009 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Alison Anderson (AA) Dundee City Council
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Ann Lolley (AL) Broughty Ferry Environment Project
Pam Coutts (PC) Angus Council
Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN) Perth & Kinross Council
Carolyn Deasley (CD) SNH
Norman Greig (NG) Angus Council Ranger Service

1. Apologies

George Potts (GP) Dundee Ranger Service; Kate Baird (KB) SEPA;

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (25th August 2009) and Matters Arising

All matters arising were covered by the agenda.

3. ZOOM in 3 - Ideas for next year

After considering a range of species including butterflies and sparrows the group decided that ZOOM in 3 would concentrate on Swifts for 2010 (along with other hirundines). This decision was, in part, influenced by the fact that 2010 is International Year of Biodiversity and the migration of the swift. Links also to phenology and BFEP swift booklet.

The group brainstormed ideas including

- tracking Tayside swifts
- twinning with communities along migration routes possibly twin towns eg Dundee / Nablus
- links with travel companies / airlines
- links with business eg Swift Insurance / Hirondelle wine / Bird's Eye
- having a Hirundine trail around Tayside Hotspots for Swifts eg Loch Leven / Fofar Loch / Kinnordy
- using twitter
- promotion of nest cups for House Martins

Also events already planned - 25th May - Angus Rangers.

AA to write brief asap.

ACTION: AA to write brief.

Funding: possible SNH funding (£1,000 2009/10).

4. Priority Action Updates

USG1 **Red Squirrel Project** - SWT Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels - now have gamekeeper in place, in addition to Project Officer, for Grey Control in Northern Perthshire. Dundee likely to join Perth Group in application to Red Squirrel Survival Trust for Grey Control in Dundee and Perth. Grey control funding for Dundee has finished. CL has suggested that AA apply to TBAF as a phase II project.

USG2 **Community Gardens / Orchards and Allotments** - Booklet still as popular as ever and being regularly requested by individuals and small community groups. CL working with Hillcrest Housing Association (and their subsidiary company Gowrie Homes) to help identify potential brownfield sites owned by the Association for community use (allotments, community gardens). School and community orchards across Tayside continue to be discussed. The Angus Council School Orchard Project has been officially launched,

a community committee set up and funding sought to plant 800 fruit trees on Perth greenspace.

- USG4 **Urban Grassland Management** - Angus Council grounds maintenance staff involved in further grassland management training. CL will distribute road verge management questionnaire received from Sheffield University. Information will be useful for Tayside.
- USG5 **Invasive Species** - Dundee City Council, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and SEPA will be discussing a potential application to the River Restoration Scheme for the Dighty for the control of Giant Hogweed and other invasive species.
- USG6 **Living Roof** - CL attended the inaugural Scottish Green Roof Forum seminar in Glasgow. The Partnership has since been asked to join the core group running the Forum to help roll out seminars and awareness-raising events across Scotland. There is a possibility of a key green roof seminar being held at Dundee University in 2010. Dundee Sensation promoting Dundee as one of ten cities to British Science Association who are working with them to establish green roofs as part of IYB.
- USG7a **ZOOM** - The ZOOM bumblebee survey forms have never materialised and the survey had to be conducted online for the 2009 season.
- USG7b **ZOOM in 2** - Cameras continue to be distributed as part of the ZOOM in 2 project. About 100 cameras left. A third 'reminder' newsletter is about to be sent to participants. Others have been sent over the summer, each with a prize draw to retain participant's interest. Possible use of extra cameras by Angus Countryside Rangers for project with Primary Schools. CL/AA/AL to meet to discuss possible prize ideas in early 2010.
- USG8 **Sand Martins** - Sand Martin Group providing information on building Sand Martin Nesting Bank to McCrosty Park in Crieff.
- USG9 **Urban Watercourse** - Perth Lade - Tulloch Net, the new community group taking forward lade projects in the Tulloch area, are seeking funds for a project officer. Perth and Kinross Council now has funds to repair the medieval weir: this should take place in 2010 and help kick-start other biodiversity projects on the lade. Dundee Connect going well with over 40 volunteers involved in a variety of projects which range from access/walking, cultural, drama, mosaics, and biodiversity including woodland maintenance / wildflower plugs / mammal survey.
- USG10 **Swifts** - The swift interest group met in October. BFEP's swift booklet may not be published in time for the Tayside Biodiversity Festival, but may still be launched during the 'swift season' ie before the beginning of August. CL has met with the PKC Ranger Service to draw up a project brief for a part-time, temporary Swift Project Officer post for across Tayside. Funding would enable the Concern for Swifts Handbook for Developers and Planners to be edited and published (there would be a Tayside section), the Tayside Swift Nestbox Trial Project to be improved and widened and awareness-raising with a wide range of audiences during 2010. SITA TBAF and SNH funding is hoped for.
- USG11 **Green Kirk and Graveyard** - No update but still ongoing.
- Other** - Perth Bat Project - a report is now being compiled on the successful 2009 project.
6. **AOCB**
None.
7. **Date and Format of Next Meeting**
Tuesday, 10am on 19th January 2010, Pullar House. Perth. I think lunch is on offer too!