



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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URBAN SUB-GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 31st May 2007
at Camperdown Country Park, Dundee

PRESENT: Alison Anderson (AA) Dundee City Council
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Pam Coutts (PC) Angus Council
Carolyn Deasley (CD) SNH
Ann Lolley (AL) BFEP
Kate Baird (KB) SEPA
John Whyman (JW) Dundee Countryside Rangers

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ER-N) - Perth and Kinross Council, Ian Ford (IF) - Broughty Ferry Environmental Project, George Potts (GP) - Dundee Ranger Service, Craig Borland (CB) - Angus Countryside Rangers	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting were agreed. Matters Arising a) Dundee Bat Project - CL reported that the training sessions organised had gone well. There are further training sessions being planned for later in the year.	
3.	Priority Actions- updates	
i)	USG1 – Urban Red Squirrel Initiative AA updated the group on the proposal from the Forestry Commission to support a Tayside Red Squirrel Project. FCS has approached the Dundee Red Squirrel Project to discuss widening the existing project out to cover Tayside. The project would be up and running as soon as possible to support existing work and partnerships, with the aim of encouraging additional action for red squirrel conservation. The group asked that those already involved in squirrel work in P+K and Angus be consulted before the project progressed. AA assured the group that this would happen and Ken Neil from Dundee would be contacting relevant people.	AA
ii)	USG2 – Acoustic Ecology AL is organising 6/7 afternoon sessions for late June. The project will be very process orientated with representatives from a diverse range of groups (Art Angel / Naturalists / Scientists / Audio Artists / Poets / Bat Project etc) taking part. The Nature Nutters will be participating during the first week of July. A public event is planned for 12th August.	AL
iii)	USG3 – Greenspace, Community Gardens and Allotments CL will be drafting a booklet on the Glasgow version in August / September. P+K and Angus Councils and SNH will be contributing to the leaflet. The group agreed that the draft should be sent out for consultation with local groups and that CL would also send it to Gordon Robbie.	CL
iv)	USG4 – Urban Grassland Management CL reported that there are two courses on grassland management in Tayside. a) Flora Locale - 21st June - Scotia Seeds - Brechin b) TBP at the Living Field Study Centre, SCRI - 26th June The group recognised the importance of 'people on the ground' attending the event and encouraged CL to 'twist arms'. The group discussed locations for trial management areas. AA was keen to see demonstration / trial plots in Dundee, JW suggested Trottick Ponds / AA Dawson Park. Also likely that a demonstration area will be set up at Forfar Loch.	CL

v) **USG5 – Invasive Species Project**

Baldovan House - PC reported that the planning application for the development of part of the Baldovan House had been approved. A section 75 agreement will cover the invasive species contained within the planning application site (which is only a proportion of the whole site). The section 75 agreement covers surveying the extent of Giant Hogweed / Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed and their ongoing control.

Control of invasive species on the remainder of the site also needs to be addressed. The Esmee Fairbairn Trust may fund this type of project.

PC also reported sightings of GH at Broughty Ferry dunes. AA to contact DCC Leisure and Communities

AA

AA

vi) **USG6 – Green/Living Roofs**

No update

vii) **USG7 – Local Patch Project**

No update

USG7a - ZOOM / Bumblebees

AA/AL met to discuss project. Proposal to base approach around ZOOM. General public encouraged to report sightings of bumblebees in Tayside.

- a) postcards distributed via shows / events / libraries / countryside rangers etc. Freepost address.
- b) return postcard to receive Bumblebee pack (therefore will have address of respondent for later follow-up)
- c) Bumblebee pack will have free gift of eg candle, beeswax lip balm etc as well as information / id guide / survey sheet etc. CD offered 500 of SNH Bumblebee book for pack.
- d) Bumblebee pack also distributed to existing groups etc eg Allotment Organisation / Barnhill Rock Garden.
- e) participants send back survey sheet / put info on net etc
- f) follow-up if necessary

Costs: Postcards approx £700 for design / printing / freepost licence for 2,500 postcards. Bumblebee packs approx. £3.50 - £5.00 per pack. Sources of funding to be investigated.

Timing: organise for next spring 2008.

Management: AL reported that BFEP would be willing to manage the project, but would have to gain agreement from BFEP management group. AL to investigate.

AL

viii) **USG8 – Sand Martins in Tayside**

There will be an initial meeting on 29th June and there will be a virtual group is set up with information on each project being gathered. Group is currently considering website / link on TBP site to post information on where sites are, sand martins and the law etc.

There will be an online survey for sand martins arranged on the biodiversity website.

ix) **USG9 – Urban Watercourse Initiative**

AA to e-mail draft around group for final comment by 22nd June 2007.

AA

All

x) **USG10 – Tayside Town Swift Project**

CL informed that group that all the nest boxes have been allocated. The swift newsletter has been published and circulated. The survey forms are available on the website and have also been sent out. A press release will be done in June to encourage people to report sightings / nest sites.

CL

CL held a swift day in Auchterarder.

AA to approach Education Dept in Dundee with intention of investigating suitable nest box sites on PPP schools.

AA

xi) **USG11 – Green Kirk and Graveyard Initiative**

AL reported that the application to Breathing Places was not successful. However, BFEP were working with St Aidan's to progress a scaled down version of the project.

AL

The group agreed with CL, who suggested postponing the training days until September. Likely to be 1 training session in each LA area. It was agreed to distribute the green graveyard leaflet once the dates for the training sessions were known.

CL

4. **SNH Promotions budget**

CD encouraged the group to think about using SNH's promotions budget for projects. Usual spend would be about £500 (maybe £1000). CD also urged the group to complete projects before the end of

the financial year, rather than waiting until the last moment.

6. AOCB

CD requested that the Zoom in on Bumblebees project be the first agenda item for the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

10am, Tuesday 21st August, Jamesfield Farm Shop and Restaurant, nr Newburgh