



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

c/o ENVIRONMENT SERVICES, PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL,
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BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Minutes of Meeting - 3 December 2002

Present:	Catherine Lloyd	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Coral Bell	Perth & Kinross Council Educ. Dept.
	Uwe Stoneman	Scottish Wildlife Trust
	Jane Pritchard	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
	Jillian Galbraith	Dundee Botanic Gardens
	David Johnson	Dundee City Council Education Dept.
	George Potts	Dundee Ranger Service
	Alistair Godfrey	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
	Daniele Muir	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
	Tom McGrath	Angus Council Ranger Service
	Lesley Wood	Angus Council Ranger Service
	Gill Lawrie	Angus Countryside Initiative (ACI)
	Shona Medford	Perth & Kinross Countryside Initiative
	Meg Mearns	Angus College
	Ann Lolley	Broughty Ferry Environment Project

1. Apologies

David Mitchell, SNH; Hilary Thomson, ACI; Deirdre Stewart, Perth & Kinross Countryside Initiative; Carrie Lindsay, Angus Council Education Dept.

2. Welcome and introduction to the biodiversity process in Tayside

The Biodiversity Education Sub-Group is the latest sub-group to be set up to progress biodiversity within Tayside. It's main purpose will be to promote biodiversity themes and issues within the community and education sectors, ensuring that appropriate actions listed in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (1st Tranche) are highlighted to the general public.

CL hoped the sub-group would act as a network in its own right, and asked for comments on the proposed Remit, previously circulated, so that more formalised Aims and Objectives could be agreed at the Partnership's Steering Group meeting in January.

ACTION: comments on the Remit to CL by 20 January 2003

3. Sub-Group structure

A draft 'contacts list' was circulated showing 30 people who could become involved in the sub-group. CL asked for comments on the list, together with any alterations needed to correct the information.

ACTION: alterations/comments to CL by 20 January 2003

A sub-group leader will be required in due course. Anyone able to take on this task, please contact CL direct. In the meantime she will continue to act as temporary leader.

ACTION: nominations to CL by 20 January 2003

4. Round-the-table introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and talked about how they were involved with environmental education and biodiversity.

5. Integrating Biodiversity into the School Curriculum – Perth & Kinross Case Studies

CB explained P&K Council's environmental education framework with examples of projects at eco-school Goodlyburn PS. DJ confirmed that Dundee City Council were re-writing their environmental studies to include local issues.

It was agreed that most teachers are interested in environmental education training but that there is a need for environmental resources to be easily available. It is also important to involve head teachers. GL proposed that Student Teachers' Training should be linked to biodiversity issues; the ACI were involving local schools with their resource boxes and teacher training. JP reminded everyone of the SNH Sharing Good Practice Programme.

ACTION: JP to keep Education sub-group informed of appropriate courses in the Programme

There was general discussion regarding the range of health and safety issues / risk assessments and the importance of getting children into the outdoors, as well as spreading their visit over the entire year. The high cost of bus travel and the need for simplifying and extending the life span of grant applications was discussed.

ACTION: SNH/DCC/AC/P&KC to look into simplified travel grants system for biodiversity visits

US suggested instigating a similar system to that run by SWT in Inverness some years ago – a "Schools Outpack" with a variety of generic risk assessments for such activities as pond dipping, sketching, etc.; with lists of sites with parking and toilet facilities; hospital information, links with the curriculum – and links to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).

ACTION: SWT/TBP to consider possibilities for similar system in Tayside

6. Celebrating Biodiversity – National Backyard Biodiversity Day

CL circulated information about this event and confirmed that from being a southern-based initiative (set up by the charity Action for Biology in Education), it had spread to various LBAP areas in Scotland last year. The Scottish Biodiversity Forum had proposed that it should be a nationally celebrated day in 2003. It was agreed that events could be held on any day around midsummer, although the official Backyard Biodiversity Day would be Friday, 20th June 2003.

CL asked if the Education sub-group would be willing to 'adopt' the event and to plan a programme of events within Tayside to raise awareness of biodiversity and education. CL will be reporting ideas back to the Partnership Steering Group at the end of January.

ACTION: ALL – all ideas for BBD to CL by 20 January 2003

7. Sub-Group Remit.

It was agreed that once a programme of events had been agreed for BBD, a working group from within the sub-group would take the matter forward.

There was also discussion regarding the possible splitting of the sub-group into formal and informal environmental education groups. Further discussion will be required.

ACTION: ALL – comments on the way forward to CL by 20 January 2003

8. Any Other Business.

TMcG explained the Angus Rangers' involvement in preparing the "Hospitals, Sheltered Housing and Nursing Homes Habitat Action Plan" and their leading on the pilot project arising from it. Each burgh in Angus will have a chosen nursing home that will have bird feeding stations and nestboxes provided, together with ID material to interest the residents, staff and visitors. The Ranger Service is taking this project forward and it is hoped to widen the idea out to all of Tayside in due course.

AL gave examples of community projects the Broughty Ferry Environment Project is leading on and how some of them are linking directly with LBAP actions and targets.

CL demonstrated the plethora and variety of environmental education publications available and confirmed she would be pleased to act as an 'information point' for circulating appropriate biodiversity information. For instance, illustrated leaflets are available from the RSPB, SWT, Scottish Biodiversity Forum, Forestry Commission, Quarry Products Association (restoration projects), British Trust for Ornithology, Young Batworkers, Forest Education Initiative (to be re-launched in Tayside early next year), "Tapestry of Life" (secondary English & Communication resource - available from the Scottish Executive), etc.

Further discussion confirmed the importance of involving the whole community and the value of all age groups taking part in biodiversity activities.

CL took the opportunity to thank Jillian Galbraith for hosting the first meeting of the sub-group at the Dundee Botanic Gardens and Daniele Muir for agreeing to take the minutes.

9. Next Meeting

It was agreed the sub-group would meet on an ad hoc basis in the future. The next meeting would be to take forward plans for celebrating Backyard Biodiversity Day in Tayside.

Date: Tuesday, 28 Jan 2003 at 9.30am, Dundee Botanic Gardens