

# Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



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## Education Sub-Group Remit

### Aim

To support the implementation of practical biodiversity actions to the wider local community through education - by means of both formal education and informal lifelong learning



## BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

3rd December 2008

Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present:	Catherine Lloyd (CL) (Chair)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Martyn Jamieson (MJ)	Kindrogan Field Studies Centre
	Sandra Penman (SP)	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Ann Lolley (AL)	Broughty Ferry Environment Project
	Daniele Muir (DM)	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
	Mark Simmons (MS)	Perth & Kinross Museum Service
	Kathy Longmuir (KL)	Dundee Ranger Service
	Julie Campbell (JC)	Dundee City Council McManus Collections
	Neil Paterson (NP)	Dundee Botanic Gardens
	Iain Ballantyne (IB)	Dundee University Student
	Louise Ross (LR) (Minute Taker)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Apologies:	Lesley Wood	Angus Ranger Service
	Morag Cooney	Dundee City Council Education Department
	Gill Lawrie	RHET Angus Countryside Initiative
	Theresa Lynn	Dundee City Council

Also circulated to: Mike Flinn, Forest Education Initiative; Jane Wilkinson, FEI; Fiona Davidson, Historic Scotland (Stanley Mills); Ian Mason, Perth & Kinross Council Education Service; Richard Burton, Angus College; Ben Notley, National Trust for Scotland; Bruce Anderson, RSPB; Stuart Downie, Perth College; Fiona Thackeray, Trellis; Linda Winskill, Loch Lomond & Trossachs Ranger Service; Sharon Neilson, SCRI; Serge Merone, Perth & Kinross Schools in Action (Eco-schools); Alistair Seaman, Grounds for Learning; Elley Petrie, Murton Trust.

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

CL welcomed everyone to the meeting and round-the-table introductions were given. Apologies as above. CL advised that this sub-group meeting would primarily focus on the plans for the Tayside Biodiversity Festival 2009.

#### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (2nd September 2008) and Matters Arising

CL advised of Steering Group meeting on 9th December 2008 and reminded project leaders that a very brief update on the proforma was required: Sheltered Housing & Hospitals Biodiversity Project; Mammal Atlas (no report due); Countryside on Wheels (no report due); Geodiversity Trails.

**ACTION: DM/MS - SEND UPDATE TO CL ASAP**

CL confirmed that Scottish Biodiversity Week will be going ahead in 2009 and will be the week beginning 16th May 2009. This will coincide with 'International Biodiversity Day' on 22nd May. In effect this would enable awareness of biodiversity to be raised throughout much of the month of May. SP advised that the theme for Scottish Biodiversity Week has been confirmed as 'Invasive Alien Species'.

SP advised that vegetable seeds will be the key 'freebies' of the Scottish Biodiversity Week. The idea behind this is to link with the drive towards encouraging children to grow and cook their own food. CL asked that the bunting for the events is generic (not including dates of event) to ensure that it can be re-used at a later date/event.

### 3. Carse of Gowrie Orchard Festival 2008: Update - Catherine Lloyd (CL)

CL circulated leaflets regarding the Carse of Gowrie Orchard Festival 2008 which took place between 18th and 26th October. She advised that the event was a great success.

Glendoick Garden Centre hosted an Apple Weekend event during the 1st weekend which included expert fruit ID, a display of local apples, a cookery demonstration by Christopher Trotter, fruit tree sales, apple juicing demonstrations and a book sale. The event attracted around 2000-3000 people. The event was busy all weekend. The volunteers worked extremely hard during the event. Two Cider-making courses were also held over the same weekend and proved very popular. CL advised that the training courses could have been extended over additional days due to the demand.

The following weekend Historic Scotland hosted the Elcho Castle Family Fruit Weekend; the Partnership and Historic Orchard Forum were involved on the second day with the Children's Orchard Project. Despite poor weather over 140 visitors attended the event which was well-received. Historic Scotland is now on-board as a partner and a meeting has subsequently been held at Stanley Mills to discuss future projects.

Three Carse of Gowrie schools were involved in the Orchard Festival - Longforgan planted a row of 14 trees near their school, Abernyste planted 15 trees in their grounds, and St Madoes planted 6 trees at Megginch Castle Orchard and will be invited back to visit their trees at blossom time.

The Errol community fruit tree planting event also had a good turnout, despite atrocious weather. A total of 23 trees were planted in 2 hours, which was far more than expected. There are now 35 trees planted as an avenue down the Gas Brae as the community added to the original 12 trees. There were 7 trees left over from the event. Errol School advised that they would like to take them, however were not ready for them straight away as building work is underway. CL contacted Stewart Milne House Builders who agreed to plant the trees along the edge of their local development site so that the trees are visible to the local community. Stewart Milne further agreed to donate the same number of trees to Errol School when they are ready to plant them.

There was good media coverage for the Festival with Felicity Martin writing a page for the Perthshire Advertiser and the events being covered by the Courier and PA over ten days. CL was interviewed for the "Out of Doors" BBC Radio Scotland programme and took part in a Radio Tay "Country Matters" programme. She contributed to articles for Scotland on Sunday (2.5 page coverage) and the Sunday Times. Due to the success and popularity of the 2008 Festival, there may be another Orchards Festival in the future. Details from the 2008 event will be displayed on the Tayside Biodiversity website in due course. CL advised that the help of the volunteers made the event such a success.

### 4. Tayside Biodiversity Festival (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009)

#### Update on Progress - Iain Ballantyne (IB)

IB advised that the Festival plans were still at an early stage. Emails and letters have been sent to a large number of people and organisations regarding their potential involvement in the event. There has been a great deal of interest across the board with people looking to get involved. Angus Council have advised that they already have things in place and suggest that the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership link in with their existing plans. There will be venues across Angus, including Glen Esk.

IB advised that the Festival needs further support and information to move forward. CL confirmed that the programme needs to be finalised by February as the deadline to send to print is the end of February.

#### "Biodiversity: What on Earth is it" Exhibition, TBP/Dundee Science Centre - Catherine Lloyd (CL)

CL advised that Dundee Sensation has secured funding to bring this key national exhibition to Tayside. The

exhibition will open around Easter time and remain open until June so that it coincides with the Tayside Biodiversity Festival. The exhibition is scientific orientated with a lot of interactive activities making it very child-friendly. There are currently negotiations taking place to also take the exhibition to Aberdeen. CL suggested contacting a scientist to open the exhibition - suggestions would be welcome. Professor Martin Price, the Partnership's Chairman, has already confirmed an interest in using the venue for a reception to officially launch the Festival.

As Dundee Sensation are keen to utilise the venue in the best way possible for the Festival, CL advised that she is liaising with David Boag, Niall Benvie and Lorne Gill (wildlife photographers) to undertake a series of talks/workshops at the Tayside Biodiversity Festival.

CL advised that ideas are needed for other locations to avoid a Dundee focus. Suggests possibly having different themes for different towns - the theme does not need to be the same throughout Tayside. Work is underway to publicise book promotions or to run a small Book Fair. Ideas and funding proposals are also being mooted as regards Film & Art.

**ACTION: ALL - ADVISE IB WHAT YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE, HOW YOU WILL DO IT AND WHEN?**

MS - Perth Museum is hosting a 'Return of the Native' Exhibition, which focuses on animals which have previously faced extinction but are now present in this area. The exhibition will be open until early 2010. MS advised that the programme of events for the Tayside Biodiversity Festival should contain details of the exhibition. The main partners involved in this event are Scottish Wildlife Trust and RSPB.

**ACTION: MS TO PROVIDE DETAILS TO IB**

MS advised of a "Show Scotland" events weekend for museums to be held on 2nd May 2009. This event will link with the 'Return of the Native' Exhibition. Events will be held in and around Perth Museum, including the North Inch area. This will include a falconry display. The main partners of this event are Perth & Kinross Rangers and the Arts & Development Service. MS advised that there has been interest from multiple organisations keen to run activities at the event. MS confirmed that a grant application has been submitted for funding for this event. If the funding is not secured, then the event may not go ahead as planned. The budget for the event is approx. £2000. CL discussed launching the Tayside Biodiversity Festival at the event on 2nd May 2009.

MS advised that 'Tooth and Claw' - wildlife photographers have been approached regarding running a children's 'Tooth and Claw' show at the event. Tooth and Claw have advised that they would need more time to develop this, however they are happy to do their original show in the morning of the event. MS advised that a meeting will be arranged for the end of January 2009 with regards to the event to be held on 2nd May 2009.

SP provided an update from the meeting she and CL had with Perth Youth Theatre. SP advised that a Puppet Show (children's event) has been scheduled to run on 2nd May 2009. Two outdoor plays have also been scheduled - 'The Last Tree Standing' and The Ceilidh Tree. CL is undertaking a search for funding. She advised that various parks in Perth & Kinross have been targeted in order to have a series of events running on different days across the different locations. SP suggested checking the availability of Cherrybank Gardens for this purpose.

**ACTION: ALL - SEND FUNDING IDEAS TO CL ASAP.**

CL advised that Rachael Higgins has been asked to produce a logo for the Tayside Biodiversity Festival.

**ACTION: CL TO FOLLOW UP PROGRESS WITH RH.**

### **Drawing up of Events Programme**

NP suggested setting up self-guided tours and guided walks of the Dundee Botanic Gardens during Scottish Biodiversity Week - Wednesday 20th May 2009. These walks and tours will link with the 'Invasive Species' theme. NP advised that the guided walks are restricted to a maximum group size of 18 people.

NP suggested a 'Scottish Mountains to Sand Dunes' event and a British Native Garden walk for the Tayside Biodiversity Festival. This would include guided walks and self-guided tours. NP suggested that this should take place on 6th May 2009.

AL - Provided an update on the BFEP bathing hut. AL advised that a mobile bathing hut was currently being built as a marine education centre which will have multiple purposes. The bathing hut should be built after Christmas. The bathing hut will then be painted by artists. The hut includes a drop down section which can be used as a display area. AL is happy to launch the bathing hut during the Tayside event, with a focus on art.

**ACTION: ALL SEND DETAILS OF ARTISTS (MARINE EDUCATION RESOURCE MATERIALS) TO AL**

NP offered to hold a seaweed talk to link into all this, but advised that they needed a suitable venue. AL

suggested using the mobile bathing hut.

**ACTION: ALL - SEND IDEAS TO ALL OF LOCATIONS FOR THE BATHING HUT (SIZE OF HUT 6X4).  
ACTION: AL AND NP TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL FOR SEAWEED TALK**

AL advised funding has been secured to work on the cultural and environmental side of 'the Dighty'. AL suggested that it might be a good idea to launch this project in May. CL suggested officially launching the project during the Tayside Biodiversity Festival and running an event or practical event during Scottish Biodiversity Week to pick up on the national theme.

AL advised that there are still funds available to promote vegetable and own food growing.

AL discussed the progress and activities of the Broughty Ferry Eco Poetry Group and the Nature Nutters group. AL discussed the bumble bee street mural done by the Nature Nutters and circulated a picture of the painting.

KL advised that there will be a Red Alert Red Squirrel event on both 10th and 24th May, plus a Den o'Mains walk. There will also be an event at Historic Scotland's Broughty Castle in early May and a Gardening for Wildlife event at Duntrune Gardens.

JC said that the McManus Collections Unit is planning a Friday/Saturday event with possibly two tours a day - a general tour and a more specialised tour. There might be a Migration Theme as this would fit in with the Tayside Swift and Tern Projects.

MJ circulated information about the Field Studies Council and the 2009 programme for Kindrogan. There will be many links to both the Scottish Biodiversity Week and the Tayside Biodiversity Festival. There is likely to be an Open Day for the local community at Kindrogan in May 2009.

CL advised the 'Blossom Days' will be held in the first weekend of May 2009: 2 or 3 orchards will hopefully be open to the public.

SP asked if the sub-group are going to be visiting the Little Tern project and it was agreed that this could coincide with an Education sub-group meeting held in Montrose in the summer.

**ACTION: SP TO LIAISE WITH OFFICER TO ARRANGE VISIT FOR THE GROUP.**

DM discussed activities and plans for International Biodiversity Day. There will be another Loch Leven 'Discovery Day' at Kinross; the Partnership will be present. Blairgowrie Old Folks Home has arranged an open day as they are keen to improve the biodiversity of their gardens. There will be training sessions in Crieff and Blairgowrie - 'Squirrel Hoppers' and 'Moth Trap' (perhaps a bit early for moths in May?), plus a "Bumble Bee Bonanza" at Blairgowrie Library. DM advised that they are awaiting information with regards to working with eco schools and from the tree wardens.

In summary, IB will use all the information given at the meeting to start pulling together a draft Programme. He will then circulate it so that details can be finalised and new events added.

**ACTION: IB.**

#### **Publicity (programme of events, website, media)**

SP asked about CL's progress in regards to getting Lorraine Kelly. Also suggested contacting Clive Anderson, president of the Woodland Trust.

**ACTION: CL TO FOLLOW UP LORRAINE KELLY & CONTACT CLIVE ANDERSON.**

CL suggested asking Professor Martin Price to launch the 'What on Earth' Exhibition, but would appreciate other ideas as Professor Price may not be available.

CL advised that leaflets, programmes and press releases will be produced and visits from 'famous faces' will be arranged. All input from sub-group members would be welcome, including contact details.

**ACTION: CL TO CONTACT JOURNALISTS IN JAN 2009.**

CL advised that the deadline for programme details is the end of January 2009. Only basic information is needed for the programme (venue, prices, etc).

**ACTION: ALL - COMPLETE FORM WITH EVENT DETAILS AND SEND TO IB.**

#### **Other Awareness-Raising**

CL confirmed that the next issue of the 'Summit to Sands' Newsletter will be produced in time to launch it

during the Festival.

**ACTION: ALL - SEND INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER TO CL BY FEB 2009.**

CL advised that another Riparian Seminar will be held on 29th January 2009 at the Birnam Institute. The Water and Wetland sub-group (especially the SEPA Lead) are taking this forward.

CL advised that a second Accommodating Wildlife Seminar will be held on 20th February 2009 in Forfar on the subject of "Greenspace and Biodiversity", with workshops for green roofs and swift nest conservation also taking place either side of it.

#### 6. Any Other Business

CL advised that there is still SITA TBAF funding available; the next deadline will be 15th January 2009. Further details available from [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk) (including downloadable application form and guidance note).

CL - The publicising of the Tayside Ponds Project needs to be discussed at a future meeting. CL advised that the Water and Wetland sub-group are looking into using appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage ponds for community pond projects in Perthshire. The aim of the projects is to raise awareness and increase community involvement. This project needs to be launched next year if at all possible.

#### 7. Date & Format of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 26th February 2009, 10.00 am at Tayside House.

A future meeting will take place at Stanley Mills, Stanley, courtesy of Historic Scotland. The summer meeting will hopefully take place in Montrose.

CL thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and Louise Ross for taking the minutes.

**ACTION: LR - BOOK MEETING ROOM.**

DRAFT