



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

c/o ENVIRONMENT SERVICES, PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL,
PULLAR HOUSE, 35 KINNOULL STREET, PERTH. PH1 5GD

Telephone: 01738 476481 e-mail: tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net

BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Minutes of Meeting - 11 November 2003

Present: Catherine Lloyd Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Daniele Muir Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
Lesley Wood Angus Council Ranger Service
Ann Lolley Broughty Ferry Environment Project
Alasdair Hood Dundee Botanic Gardens
Gill Lawrie REHT Angus Countryside Initiative

Susan Dunbar and Debbie Gorslon: "Whatever" Environmental Youth Magazine

Apologies

Merrill Smith, Dundee City Council (and TBP Chairman); George Potts, DCC; Sue Warbrick, Scottish Natural Heritage; David Mitchell, SNH; Hilary Thomson, ACI; Rob Bushby, John Muir Trust; Shona Medford, RHET Perth & Kinross Countryside Initiative.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

SWT was not involved in the Schools BBD 2003. AL distributed 15 John Muir Award details to various groups who were interested.

ACI Supporters Newsletter – would like input from J M Trust and TBP.
(CL has since provided a small article for the Newsletter)

GL/RB/
CL

Around the Table Introductions

CL welcomed Susan Dunbar, the Editor of "Whatever! Magazine". This youth magazine covers the Dundee – Moray area; it is published in Aberdeen. There are plans to go Scotland-wide in April 2004. It already includes Angus and Dundee; Perth and Kinross are planned for inclusion in 2004.

2. Sub-Group Projects 2004

Backyard Biodiversity Day (BBD)

DM talked about plans for a Schools BBD on 18th June 2004 at Battleby – similar to last year but also hoping to do guided walks on Saturday 19th to encourage families to take part too. DM to contact all Ranger Services.

DM

Local Patch Project

LW said that survey forms had been sent to WRI Groups in Angus and Dundee, but there had been little response so far. CL suggested contacting The University of The 3rd Age as they very keen to join in. GL suggested contacting Fiona Hislop in Angus Council's Education Department to get responses back from schools. CL suggested carrying out LPP projects with a few specific schools and ensuring a few upbeat press release as an encouragement to other schools. LW said she was

ALL

thinking of inviting schools to Crombie on 18th June, similar to above.

March 8th: Science Fair

Different activities focused on weather, various schools invited. Anyone interested to joining the Fair should contact LW at Crombie in the first instance.

Wildlife Crime Project

Angus, P&KC and NTS Rangers covering 30 schools – bat leaflet

School Wildlife Gardens

Angus involved in a number of wildlife gardening projects. Liff Primary School, Dundee; trees given. Other projects being discussed. CL asked for a list of 'gardening for wildlife' project ideas from across Tayside from everyone.

ALL

Sheltered Housing Biodiversity Project

Angus Rangers also involved in gardening project: donation of binoculars and making bird tables and feeders for a number of Sheltered Housing complexes.

ALL

The Sheltered Housing Biodiversity Project was a pilot project being run in Angus; it would be a case study for the forthcoming "Hospitals, Sheltered Housing and Nursing Homes" HAP. CL hoped that Tom McGrath's future report would encourage similar projects in the DCC and PKC areas.

Scottish Homes

Community Scotland's SCARF (Scottish Community Action Research Fund) enables communities to get involved in research. AL put in bid for reminiscence work and will be taking the project to the Whitfield, Douglas and Broughty Ferry areas, together with biodiversity monitoring. CL said she would like to find out more about the Fund.

CL

AL said that the Friends of the Botanic Gardens would qualify. They would need to put forward a list of questions to find out about, then find £1,500 to work with mentor.

AL/AH

Schools Biodiversity Calendar

Quote from Perth and Kinross Council is £2 per copy – too expensive. Idea of one month per organisation. AL suggested each group involved contributes £100 for a particular month. CL to e-mail copies of calendar to everyone.

CL

AH suggested making an 18 month version to catch the whole of the school year starting August 2004, or possibly earlier. LW suggested an A5 wallchart calendar instead. CL asked for feedback from the group.

ALL

GL suggested aiming the calendar at classes studying minibeasts – targeting the appropriate person. GL to look at Education Strategy in Angus per curriculum guidelines.

GL

SD said that teachers would need guidance on how the calendar could be used and ages identified so that that each project will fit into curriculum guidelines. Career Scotland seconds teachers and can take these projects on. CL to look into.

CL

Continuing Professional Development for teachers – scope in that teachers can incorporate into "Using the Outdoors as a Classroom". GL pointed out that the ACI run Twilight Teachers' Evenings as part of their CPD.

Go Wild in the Garden

CL to look into production of print runs.

CL

Nestbox Pilot Project

Many groups involved in different guises. It was discussed as to whether we should concentrate on specific habitats or species - Sand martins, Tree sparrows, Swifts, Barn owls, etc. We wondered if it would be possible to put them all under an umbrella project for 'ease' of funding or to leave as individual projects for the time being. It was agreed to leave the individual projects as they were for the time being.

Logo Landscape – AL reported that 50 cameras had come back out of the 60 issued; 30 were usable for the proposed time lapse film loop video which should be ready in December. Also images of the biodiversity footprint logos. The cost totalled £12 per camera. Images on disk can be used.

The Silvery Threads displays could be included in the 2004 Biodiversity Exhibition at Perth Museum. AL suggested that the video could be used as a support showing what else children have done. AL to contact Mark Simmons.

AL

Red Squirrel Project

Dundee's Red Squirrel Project was underway and a video planned.

Salmon in the Classroom Project

CL confirmed that the pilot project for a Scotland-wide project would start in Angus with four schools involved. The TBP's Water and Wetland sub-group was taking this project forward.

Sand Martin Project – fits into 'urban sub group'. AL confirmed that the BFEP will be making an artificial sandbank on the beach with schools and groups, plus interpretation. SCARF might also fit into urban group as well as biodiversity education.

3. ***Presentation on 'Whatever!' Children's Magazine***

Susan and Debbie of 'Whatever!' outlined the background to the magazine: 67,000 children across 5 Local Authorities are involved at present. There are links to education, parents, children, ranger groups. The Councils distribute. Five pages of 'Ology' are highly relevant, e.g. waste management and biodiversity. There are many constraints with advertising – but working closely with the Education Departments.

The biggest problem is getting through to the right person in the school, as well as families. Ties into 5-14, works by communicating, can monitor feedback, promote various issues. The issues come out 10 months per year so can focus on such items as Spring, nesting, etc. and can also put in activities such as minibeasts, making bird feeders, etc. Ranger Service guided walks have been included previously.

By April 2004 all Local Authorities will be distributing the magazine. But funding needed. Councils have a responsibility of passing information on to the public and this is one way of doing it. Angus and Dundee distribution: 20,000 children. A page per issue would cost £600. Another way is through sponsorship – Grampian Country Food and RNCI last year. The costs work out cheaper than an actual photocopy of the same information per child!

Background – set up working from home. Limited Company with Business Advisory Board (and soon to an Education Advisory Board). The next project will include a "Whatever Next!" magazine which will be piloted in December; sponsored by Tallsman Oil.

GL commented that the content appeared to be based very loosely on the curriculum and that the articles didn't go into much depth. SD replied that little depth could be given due to lack of space but the magazine can be used as a starting point for discussions and other activities.

SD was asked what the source of articles were as no one was credited for them. She said that there was not enough space for names, but that the articles come from recognised sources - contributors have to show they are unbiased and based on government policy.

SD confirmed that she would email CL with costs. CL thanked both Susan and Debbie for travelling from Aberdeen to meet the Education sub-group. SD

4. **Next Meeting** – January 16th at 10.00 am at the Botanic Gardens.

CL thanked DM for taking the minutes.