

# 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

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010  
Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee

Present:	Catherine Lloyd (CL) (Chair) Martyn Jamieson (MJ) Gill Lawrie (GL) Daniele Muir (DM) Sandra Penman (SP) Lesley Wood (LW) Iain Campbell (IC) (Minute Taker)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Kindrogan Field Studies Centre RHET Angus Countryside Initiative Perth & Kinross Ranger Service Scottish Natural Heritage Angus Ranger Service Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Apologies:	Morag Cooney Norman Greig Ann Lolley Kathy Longmuir Mark Simmons	Dundee City Council Education Department Angus Ranger Service Broughty Ferry Environment Project Dundee City Council Ranger Service Perth & Kinross Museum Service

### 1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

CL welcomed everyone to the meeting and round-the-table introductions were given. Apologies as above.

### 2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting (1st September 2009) and Matters Arising**

CL - a provisional yes to hosting Big Buzz, pending funding. No DCC funding for BioBlitz, TBP to fund and administer - Hillcrest Housing Association keen to get involved, have offered up to £750 for a flyer. Meeting with BBC Breathing Places SpringWatch upcoming - hoping to get involved. All details will be put in writing soon; further discussion in section 3.

MJ - what are the consequences after Prof Martin Price's stepping down, DCC leaving partnership?

CL - Dennis Dick will be replacing Martin Price, and will be meeting with DCC regarding the possibility of it pulling out of the partnership. PKC have agreed to three further years' funding, Angus to one year's further funding. High level meeting soon - could look to funding for specific projects. Regarding DCC's future activities - Dundee ponds project likely to go forward after meeting with Kathy Longmuir. The project would include fourteen ponds; major potential.

### 3. **Tayside Biodiversity Festival and International Year of Biodiversity 2010**

CL - c120 events for the festival, with more coming. LEADER application for around £15,000 has been made. Result will be known at the beginning of March. International Year of Biodiversity being taken as a chance to do something major.

**SP** - The Tree - a 20 minute long outdoor play (cut down from the previously performed two hour version), performed by Perth Youth Theatre, taking place in parks across Perth & Kinross - Coupar Angus, Kinross, Crieff, Perth North Inch - linked in to Perth 800 celebrations. The events will be publicised on websites. There may be a possibility to expand - idea to perform at Fortingall or Birnam Oak; **CL** keen to add these venues to link directly with the International Year of Biodiversity. **DM** - Rangers involved in all parks events. **CL** will look into status of Mark Simmons' Nature Day. As LEADER funding will not be known until early/mid-March, there is still an opportunity to add events to the Programme.

**LW** - any bumblebee events taking place? **CL** - yes, there will be a Bumblebee Conservation Trust bumblebee ID course at Killiecrankie, plus one or two Pollination Days led by Margaret Lear of Plants with Purpose. Pending funding, wildlife photographer, David Boag, will tour Tayside for ten days over the Festival. **MJ** - Kindrogan now has otter pipe - will be installed when snow is gone. **CL** - the International Otter Survival Fund "Otterly Mad Week" coincides with the end of the Festival which could link into another open day: otter and other mammal walks. The official launch for the Festival will take place at the Tulloch Lade Eco-Exhibition event - Provost to be in attendance. It is hoped similar area launches can take place in Dundee and Angus.

Any possible BioBlitz school grounds link in Angus? **LW** - Pam Coutts in touch with Tom McGrath - will be looking at school minibeast projects and related, but likely to be very low key. **CL** - BBC Scotland has confirmed that SpringWatch will be taking place at end of May / start of June - the BBC is looking to cover the east (and get 10,000 people involved) - would be useful to try to keep track of numbers across events. **CL** has £500 requested for the Dundee BioBlitz and more funding for the Dundee Sensation event earlier in the month. **GL** - all ACI events linked to specific schools based on requests - probably not anything specific it can do, but possible links to 20th May estate day. **MJ** - could link in event with kids visiting Kindrogan. **CL** - it might be possible to bill numerous small projects as overarching Tayside Schools BioBlitz leading to final Dundee event. It would be good to link to Breathing Places. It would also give a good lead into National Insect Week in June - perhaps plan a specific Bees & Butterflies BioBlitz, linking recordings to National Biodiversity Network. **GL** - would be good to get speaker on bees and butterflies at estate day. **CL** - Craig Macadam at Buglife possible, but would likely have to charge, or Bob Dawson from Bumblebee Conservation Trust. **DM** - can send e-mail around schools asking if there is interest in bug workshops etc. **CL** - LEADER funding for two page schools update - possible to advertise kids' BioBlitz as such.

Name change necessary due to LEADER funding, can keep Tayside Biodiversity Festival, but only as secondary - suggestion of 'Go Wild Tayside' - **SP** - 'Go Wild' possibly copyrighted to SNH - **GL** - Wildlife Tayside - Biodiversity for All?, **DM** - Wildfest? **CL** will go back to LEADER to request retention of original title.

International Year of Biodiversity - **CL** - website is [www.biodiversityislife.net](http://www.biodiversityislife.net). The IYB has been officially launched at Edinburgh Botanics' John Hope Gateway - official video available on website (and [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk)). To use IYB logo, interested parties must sign up with the Natural History Museum (via the IYB website): Dundee Sensation, local museum services and others are already doing so.

#### 4. Brief Priority Project Updates

##### Sheltered Housing and Hospitals Project

**DM** - Kincarrathie a success - swift nest boxes have been made and sited; Perthshire Advertiser is covering the story. Servite Housing in Alyth are keen to get involved - proposal to be put forward at committee soon; interest in Dunkeld also. **LW** - involved with four projects - two follow ups; two brand new. Return this year not as good - bird feeders set up in Edzell, but not well maintained - also people having problems with droppings etc. No extra funding available, current work being done with excess wood etc. Events often have low turnout proportionally, but good interest from those who do attend. **MJ** - £40 nestboxes available during National Nestbox Week, with cameras included. **CL** - Hospitals project - Ninewells involved with DCC, Forestry Commission etc. - being used as a pilot. Involves footpaths through woodland, biodiversity schemes etc. It is planned to roll similar projects out across Tayside (with the potential for NHSS to take Scotland-wide ultimately).

##### Mammal Atlas and Tayside Recorders' Forum

**CL** - no progress; **MS** to report back at next meeting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tayside Recorders' Forum meeting will take place in Forfar mid-March; bookings going well.

### ZOOM In2 Project

CL - into the final phase with two more newsletters to come, then looking to start getting cameras back over the summer, with a closing date of mid-August. Sixty films will be chosen from across the areas, with a social event around November. CL to follow up Alison Anderson and Ann Lolley re linking in to Battleby photographic event in September.

**ACTION: CL to contact AA and AL**

### Building Better Biodiversity Programme of Training Events

CL - shortlist put together, looking to include lunchtime seminars in festival - trying to get one at Stanley. Planning workshops on mosses / lichens in Angus, with three lichenologists keen to get involved.

### Orchard Festival

CL - the Festival will cover the fortnight from the 9th to the 24th of October - the 21st being National Apple Day. Will, for the first time, now be covering Tayside and Fife, rather than just the Carse of Gowrie. It would be good to link in with any school orchard projects. Angus Council is taking forward a school orchard project (60 school orchards); more happening too in the Carse.

**ACTION: ALL - ideas for Orchard Festival events to CL**

LW - who reports back on orchards? CL - there is now a Carse of Gowrie project officer - much going on, looking at produce side of things; at least one orchard nursery being set up. Progress being made in Perth and Kinross; working with Grounds for Learning and potentially the new Scottish Orchards forum. Cairn o'Mohr Winery has doubled its cider bottling, but still not producing enough to go commercial.

## 5. New Projects to Consider for 2010-13

DM - Amphibians in Drains, possible 'adopt a drain' scheme to have individuals keeping an eye on individual drains. Would work with Roads Department, get in touch with Trevor Rose - GL - similar scheme in Canada, will look into.

CL - Nature on Track - Niall Lobley taking forward, draft leaflet is in the pipeline - to be handed out on train journeys between Perth and Montrose during May. CL is looking into funding for a children's activity pack for the train.

MJ - still looking to move forward with walled garden project - now getting schools involved.

## 6. Other Biodiversity Awareness-Raising

CL - website has been fully revised and is added to regularly. Now features full information on Tayside Recorders', Tayside Geodiversity, events etc.

**ACTION: ALL to continue contributing comments/ideas for website**

## 7. Any Other Business

GL - Carol Littlewood has been named as the new RHET ACI project co-ordinator.

## 8. Date and Format of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 29th June, Kindrogan, afternoon - details TBC.