



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Minutes of Meeting - 19 March 2003

Present: Catherine Lloyd Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Sue Warbrick Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Daniele Muir Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
Lesley Wood Angus Council Ranger Service
Ann Lolley Broughty Ferry Environment Project

1. Apologies

David Johnson, Dundee City Council Education Dept.; David Mitchell, SNH; Hilary Thomson, ACI; Jillian Galbraith, Dundee Botanic Gardens; Gill Lawrie, REHT Angus Countryside Initiative; Shona Medford, RHET Perth & Kinross Countryside Initiative; Penny Martin, Grounds for Learning; Uwe Stoneman, Scottish Wildlife Trust.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

SW pointed out that the proposed simplification of the travel grants system for biodiversity visits is not likely to happen as it is not an SNH priority. She suggested there might be scope for such grants within the 'Quality of Life Trust' in Perth & Kinross.

ACTION: DM to investigate

SW also said that the action point about setting a target for school ground improvements grants in Tayside eco-schools was not appropriate; SNH has block grant schemes in place for the different local authority areas. SW additionally confirmed that SNH does not have plans to compile an environmental education contacts list. Taking these three points into consideration, the previous minutes were accepted as read.

3. Sub-Group Remit

The revised Remit had been circulated previously; CL had not received any further feedback. DM asked when the biodiversity website would be set up. CL said the matter would be discussed again at the next Steering Group meeting and there was a possibility the website would be launched in the autumn.

CL proposed the final draft Remit be taken to the Steering Group for approval.

ACTION: CL to put the final version of the Remit to the next Steering Group meeting

4. "Into Schools" – Relaunch of the Local Patch Project (LPP)

LW updated the sub-group on progress made for the Angus Rangers to add their own education and community slant to the Local Patch Project. She circulated the new Angus 'wrap-around' leaflet with its additional information leaflets; these were very well received. SW suggested adding an additional leaflet encouraging schools to apply for Grounds for Learning grants; she said the Angus idea fitted well with the curriculum.

ACTION: SW to supply A5 leaflet template to LW to be added to the "Into Schools" Local Patch pack

LW said she had sent the new pack to 80 schools in Angus and the differently worded community leaflet to 30 community groups in Angus.

AL commented it was excellent to adapt something already in existence rather than reinventing the wheel. LW said it was good to have the initial focus of the Local Patch Project to link into and confirmed she would be pleased to share her design details to anyone wishing to use the new information leaflets. AL suggested they could be modified to use in a number of different sectors. CL thanked LW for her innovative adaptation of the Project.

**ACTIONS: DW to see if P&KC would like to use them;
LW will ask if DCC would like to adapt them;
LW to forward copies to SW for Clackmannanshire LBAP;
CL to ask Tom McGrath if same system could be used in Nursing Home Project.**

AL said that BFEP were currently involved in a mapping project where habitats and species are being put on a large-scale map in the libraries. She will now add a Local Patch Project slant to the project. Wildflower seed rolls (home-made paper sheets of seeds wrapped in a colourful information leaflet) were being made available to take away and plant; AL would be pleased to give further details so that other organisations could do the same thing.

ACTION: Anyone wanting further information to contact AL direct

CL reminded everyone that the completed survey forms should be returned either to the Ranger Service (and then forwarded to her) or to her direct.

ACTION: All completed LPP survey forms to be returned to CL for acknowledgement

5. Celebrating Biodiversity – Backyard Biodiversity Day (Friday, 20th June)

CL circulated the newly printed National Backyard Biodiversity Day leaflet which features the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership as key partners in the event. She confirmed that the Scottish Biodiversity Forum will be publicising the national event on a Scotland-wide basis and CL will be drawing up a 'programme of events' taking place within Tayside to advertise on the BBD National website.

CL would be circulating a copy of the leaflet to all schools within Tayside, and copies will be available to all the Ranger Services, libraries and museums. Further supplies of the leaflet can be obtained direct from the organiser, Virginia Purchon (virginia@purchon.net); postage costs will apply.

SW asked if the organisation running this event (Action for Biology in Education) was separate to the LBAP Groups. CL confirmed that it was a totally separate organisation focussing on the 9-14 age group (schools, teachers, families and club leaders).

AL asked for further details of the Action Kit; CL had privately purchased a copy some time ago so said she would send information to AL. The kit is available from ABE, Glebe House, Ashby Road, Ticknall, Derby, DE73 1JJ (£6.50 – cheque payable to ABE); sample pages can be viewed on www.biodiversityday.org.

Schools BBD

DM gave details of the Schools Backyard Biodiversity event planned to take place at Battleby on 20 June. The event will bring together a number of schools; National Trust for Scotland, Atholl Rangers, Forest Enterprise, Perth & Kinross Council and possibly the Scottish Wildlife Trust will all be involved.

ACTION: CL to forward details to ABE to publicise on their BBD website

“Logo Landscapes” - Linking Biodiversity and Art

AL reminded the sub-group that the idea for this project was to encourage people to take photographs anywhere in the landscape - be it their own local patch or somewhere special to them within Tayside. She had trialled the idea with a group of both adults and children and passed round the resulting photographs showing the biodiversity “footprints” logos as A4-size

cutouts within the landscape. She felt it was important to link the increasingly recognised national footprint logos to local biodiversity issues. SW also said that the project would highlight the value people (both residents and visitors) place on their surroundings.

CL confirmed that the results may possibly be utilised in the forthcoming Biodiversity Exhibition at Perth Museum (between April and September 2004), but if this proved impossible numerous other venues had already been suggested. There was also scope for adapting the resulting montage into postcards, posters, etc. and for local sections of the montage to be exhibited in schools, community halls, etc.

AL said she was awaiting feedback from Uwe Stoneman, but had heard nothing. She had taken the project brief forward herself, but would need further assistance with the final design and distribution ideas if US could no longer help.

ACTION: AL to check that US is still able to offer input into the project

SW said she would take the idea back to SNH and liaise with AL as to whether it will be possible to progress the project. She suggested there might be a possibility of linking the idea with Lorne Gill's Wildlife Crime Exhibition at Battleby on 7 May when approximately 100 teachers, parents and children will be present.

ACTION: SW to liaise with AL

AL said that the project idea still needs finalising, but would e-mail the draft project details to SW and CL initially for comment. The launch date was still proposed to be Backyard Biodiversity Day (i.e. midsummer 2003) with perhaps a closing date of Easter 2004 to enable photographs to be taken in a number of different seasons.

ACTION: ALL – offers of help to AL please

AL suggested that a ballpark figure of £2k-£3k would be needed to design, print and distribute the footprint logos. DM suggested that Quality of Life funding might be appropriate for the Perth and Kinross section of such a project.

ACTION: DM to make enquiries and report back to AL

AL asked for feedback from everyone on what they think of the project. CL said it would be important to ask why the place, species or specific habitat is of importance to the entrant (the entry form would be on the back of the actual logo); people could be encouraged to write a sentence or brief poem about their chosen place. SW said that it would be essential to foster a feeling for the local/favourite place. Such feedback could be very useful in learning how to interpret the LBAP to the general public in the future.

ACTION: All as soon as possible

6. Round-the-Table Project Updates

Making Friends with the Environment Event (20 and 21 May) – SW said that SNH may be taking a stand of its own. DM said that P&KC were not involved; AL confirmed that she would be taking part with her Silvery Threads Project (intertwining the cultural and natural history around the silvery Tay).

CL suggested the TBP could take its own stand, but AL warned that planned activities would have to take place throughout the two days and that staffing may be a problem; at least 3 people would be needed for both days. DM said it may be possible for P&KC to assist for a half day. CL pointed out that she would be attending a conference on 21 May and would only be available to set up on 19 May and for one day of the event only.

After the meeting, ACI expressed initial interest, but again the question of staffing arose. CL suggests that unless the issue can be addressed it may be best not to have a presence this year, but to plan a Partnership stand next year on a specific theme.

ACTION: ALL - comments regarding a possible biodiversity presence at the 2003 and 2004 MFWE events to CL as soon as possible

Silvery Threads Project - AL said that she had been given funding (only one of 3 grants awarded in Scotland) from Kidscape's 'curiosity and imagination' fund. She explained that in the past many more people were linked to the Tay through their skills – knot-tying, fishing-net making, basket weaving, rush work, creel making, etc. She will be running local workshops this summer so that 40 children can learn these skills. Funds from the Scottish Book Trust will also enable a poet to work with them; the Discovery, Broughty Ferry Castle and Verdant Works may also be involved.

Tern Project – AL recently assisted Anne Murray of SNH in preparing a display in Broughty Ferry library about the Barry Buddon Project. CL confirmed that the official launch of the Tern Project would be taking place on 21 March at Barry Buddon; local schools and the Dundee Ranger Service would be involved.

Salmon in the Classroom Project – plans for this project were progressing well; CL will be able to send out a project brief when finalised by the Water and Wetlands Sub-Group. Funding had been proposed from the Crown Estate; the Water and Wetland sub-group was now taking this forward.

ACTION: Anyone wanting further information to contact CL in the first instance

National Moth Night – CL will be promoting this mid-April event at the Dundee Spring Flower Show, linking in with gardening for bats. Further details will be circulated when available from Butterfly Conservation. SW said that Stewart Pritchard was the bat contact at SNH if up-to-date information is required.

Angus Red Squirrel Survey – LW said that the rangers had been carrying out transect surveys for the past 8 years. CL suggested this information should be fed into the forthcoming Red Squirrel SAP and project ideas elsewhere in Tayside.

ACTION: LW to send information to CL

Red Squirrel Interest Group – CL confirmed that it was likely such a group would be set up later this year to bring together the various projects and groups already operating in Tayside. This would include the Blair Atholl rangers, Dundee City Rangers, Alan Ross in Angus and the Dundee Botanic Garden survey.

ACTION: Further information available from CL

Biodiversity Mosaic – AL confirmed that this would be officially opened at an evening event at Broughty Ferry library on 2 April. Such was the success of the mosaic that a separate Mosaic Group may be set up to carry out similar projects elsewhere. There is potential for pavement art to take off and AL is currently researching suitable funding for this. The current biodiversity mosaic, 180sq. ft. in extent, involved over 100 local people. The project focussed on a biodiversity theme, but also involved recycling as old tiles were used. A professional photographer will take a panoramic photograph of it.

Tayside Barn Owl Survey – the survey was officially launched during National Nestbox Week in mid-February. Karl Munday, NTS, designed an A4 poster which is being made available to anyone who wishes to display it. Individual organisations are acting as contact points, although CL will take note of any sightings and pass them on to the appropriate person. Karl Munday is the contact point in the Pitlochry/Perthshire Highlands area; Carol Littlewood of Angus FWAG is the contact for Angus and the Angus Glens. Schools will be involved in this area in the making and siting of nestboxes. If anyone else is able to act as a contact or would like further information, please contact CL.

ACTION: Posters available from CL

SW asked if the survey is part of a national survey. CL replied that although there is a national target to meet for Barn Owl, the survey is a stand-alone one that will ultimately link into survey work being carried out elsewhere by the Hawk and Owl Trust and British Trust for Ornithology.

School Biodiversity Calendar – CL circulated the Clackmannanshire biodiversity calendar. 800 copies (on recycled paper) have been produced by the Clacks LBAP Officer to distribute to the 580 teachers in Clackmannanshire. The design work was undertaken within the local authority and the print run cost £790. CL will take the calendar to the next Steering Group meeting, but in the meantime asked the Education sub-group as to whether this idea would be worth replicating in Tayside – and perhaps widened out to include Rangers, etc.

ACTION: Comments to CL by 22 April

LW said that a similar idea could be considered as per a wall planner. CL confirmed that N.E. Scotland LBAP had printed one this year which was proving particularly popular. Again, she would take this idea to the Steering Group meeting.

ACTION: Funding ideas for an educational calendar or wall planner to CL by 22 April

Agricultural Calendar – CL passed round the Scottish Biodiversity Forum's calendar that will be distributed by SEERAD to 22,500 farmers and landowners throughout Scotland. The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership had contributed photographs and text (conservation tips for barn owl and their habitat requirements). Because of the calendar, CL had already been contacted by an estate owner in Perthshire seeking advice on managing his land for barn owls.

7. Any Other Business

CL once again thanked the Dundee Botanic Gardens for their hospitality, and Daniele Muir for taking the minutes.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 19 May at 9.30am, Dundee Botanic Gardens (provisional)