

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

15th April 2008

Floor 13, Tayside House, Dundee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present:	Catherine Lloyd (CL) (Sub-group leader)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Lesley Wood (LW)	Crombie Country Park Ranger Service
	Julie Campbell (JC)	Dundee City Council McManus Collections
	Sandra Penman (SP)	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Mark Simmons (MS)	Perth & Kinross Museum Service
	Gill Lawrie (GL)	RHET Angus Countryside Initiative
	Theresa Lynn (TL)	DCC Environmental Arts
	Rachael Higgins (RH) (Minute Taker)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Apologies:	Morag Cooney	Dundee City Council Education Department
	David Lampard	Dundee City Council McManus Collections
	Alistair Seaman	Grounds for Learning
	Fiona Meikle	Visit Scotland (Perthshire)
	Martyn Jamieson (MJ)	Kindrogan Field Studies Centre
	Norman Greig (NG)	Monikie Country Park Ranger Service
	Ann Lolley (AL)	Broughty Ferry Environment Project
	George Potts (GP)	Dundee City Council Ranger Service
	Daniele Muir (DM)	Perth & Kinross Ranger Service
	Douglas Paterson (DP)	Freelance Artist

Also circulated to: Mike Flinn, Forest Education Initiative; Ian Mason, Perth & Kinross Council Education Service; Richard Burton, Angus College; Ben Notley, National Trust for Scotland; Bruce Anderson, RSPB; Alasdair Hood, Dundee Botanic Gardens; D. Stewart, Perthshire Countryside Initiative; Fiona Thackeray, Trellis; Linda Winskill, Loch Lomond & Trossachs Ranger Service; Sharon Neilson, SCRI; Serge Merone, Perth & Kinross Schools in Action (Eco-schools); John Muir Award; Murton Trust.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Catherine Lloyd (CL) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (28th January 2008) and Matters Arising

Action Points would be covered under Section 5 - Priority Project Updates. The previous minutes would also be covered by the agenda items.

3. Tayside's Contribution to Scottish Biodiversity Week 2008 - Perth Street Theatre, Sandra Penman

SP reported good news in that £2,000 has been given through the SITA TBAF Fund to go towards the Perth Street Theatre to be held on 17th and 24th May. SP, RH and CL will have a stand to hand out leaflets. It was noted that the Scottish Biodiversity Forum made sure that the Perth Street Theatre was on the top ten list of big events - good national publicity in full colour.

TL mentioned opportunities to overlap various projects for Biodiversity Week. CL agreed there was budget potential from SITA TBAF, for promotional and educational aspects of biodiversity projects. These could go via the Education Subgroup before going to the Assessment panel.

SP - SNH have sourced bee and bird costumes for the event. The theatre will run from Perth High Street (Perth Theatre) and will head all the way along towards the Willie Soutar statue and perhaps beyond. Starting times will be 11am and 2pm on both 17th and 24th May and will run for approximately 30 - 40 minutes. The young performers will be provided with lunch and refreshments. It is planned for the 28th April to hold a rehearsal for all partners to see the whole piece with the producer; there will then be daily / weekly rehearsals from then on. PKC will be hosting the event and there will be stands within St. Johns Shopping Mall open between 11-3pm where leaflets and seeds will be handed out. There will be staff here and in the street including DM, CL & RH. The invoice is still to come through. Publicity will come through the Biodiversity leaflet as well as linking with Perth Festival of the Arts. CL - thinks we should get the national papers involved especially as it is considered one of the top ten national events. Costumes can be used elsewhere. CL thanked SP for all her efforts. CL - the Biodiversity Week Leaflet will be put on the website hopefully by the end of April. We will discuss later.

4. Tayside Biodiversity Festival

CL - showed us the Dumfries and Galloway leaflet for the Wildlife Festival having worked with local authorities, Biodiversity officers and Visit Scotland - looks very nice; if we could come up with something similar. FM - sent her apologies but wants to get involved with this. Unfortunately they keep changing the structure of Visit Scotland officers. Their leaflet covers 3 weeks, but we will only need 1 week - lets produce something similar for the 1st - 10th May (to include one bank holiday). It is all down to timing, and will funding be available? Once the theatre happens, publicity will have expanded. The Festival will encompass Biodiversity Week. TL - agreed the timing was right; we should focus on the long weekend.

CL - thinks we should tap into each Subgroup for ideas and focus on specific projects. ZOOM - hopefully will be a success this year; there will likely be a new theme from SNH for next year. MS - a coloured leaflet would be good, dates and themes will be made well in advance; things can gradually be worked into a theme for next year's festival. LW - the start of the financial year is 1st April. TL - Elaine Milne of Marketing & Design with Dundee Contemporary Arts Centre would have interest in helping out particularly with the festival banners - they are very flexible and all in-house. Also noted that we should take some good photos of this year's Biodiversity Week and use them for banners or posters that can be used by Perth and Dundee to promote next year's festival. This would allow for plenty of notice. MS - suggested that some of the 10k could be allocated to this and then would allow us to plan ahead. LW - suggested something like a short film festival to promote at the DCA or University facilities (the Mountain Film Festival is always successful). MS - agreed, we should target the wider audience, and go beyond the usual staff. TL - awareness could be raised within libraries with book promos? GL - other organisations such as RSPB etc, could be included on the leaflet? CL - agreed that CL/RH/TL would link up with these organisations at a later date when widening out the details; by the autumn things should be more established. JC - suggested keeping it without a theme at first may help decisions.

TL - advised the Spring Garden Show will probably be held next year two weeks before the festival - this could be used as a platform. Suggested getting a PDF version of the leaflet for the festival and circulating it throughout the council. There could be an appendix for the rest of May. CL - agreed that was a good idea, have a basic leaflet for circulation. Two thirds of the work will be within the partnership and one third through things such as film and libraries. MS - Perth Museum will have its exhibition up throughout the time anyway on the theme of the Homecoming (funding through Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Museums & Galleries Big Events money) who will be hosting a big weekend event in May (Scotland wide) MS handed out a few leaflets to all.. RH to note the logo for Gallery & Museum Big Events.

5. Priority Project Updates

Sheltered Housing & Hospitals Project - Lesley Wood & Daniele Muir (apols)

Sheltered Housing - over winter has been successful 2007-2008 and hope to carry it through 2008-2009. LW - would the Active Schools be under this remit? It was noted that the Active Schools Co-ordinator would be getting in touch with the Rangers. GL - noted that they have been recently involved with Health Weeks and schools have been doing walks with the Ranger Service - good links. Still to find out exactly what is going into the new curriculum i.e. food elements. There is so much happening within schools now. LW - agreed that the Rangers Service would like more contact with schools. GL - noted there would be a huge new range of activities incorporated such as "Looking after yourself", and other psychological, health, physical and mental activities on the agenda. Update from DM by email - very little happening as yet with Crieff Hospital - but hopeful of funding and should be getting involved in May. Glencairn House, Auchterarder, DM has made site visit and concludes it has great potential. Glencairn House will be in contact shortly for another meeting with the gardener and seem happy with any biodiversity changes suggested.

CL - noted the planting trees activity for the orchards Project and how there may be a good link there. GL - there is so much going on, unfortunately it is a little piecemeal - there needs more co-ordination. LW - the Rangers will be looking into scout leader and badge work - hoping to find a leader to link in with projects such as the planting trees and management during October to March.

CL - noted the Wildlife Trees Project - about planting, care and associated wildlife, which will be launched soon. GL - mentioned Carol Littlewood of Fwag and the beaver and Treelines Project (upland and lowland) - where scouts can plant tree as part of a badge or John Muir Award. This whole project could be linked up with Fwag and TBP.

Mammal Atlas - Mark Simmons

MS - unfortunately there has been no activity on this as there is just not enough time. If the resourcing can't be done it will have to be delayed until next year. From the PKC perspective, we have a central data base - there is still some data to gather and then we would need a method to publish this on the website. The Tayside dimension is needed - it is a bit of a pilot project which we could extend. We could look into employing someone to help deliver this project. GL - suggested that Leader+ could maybe help fund this as this project ticks boxes such as benefiting communities, tourism and involved partnership. MS - we will need to work out a rough costing and possibilities to take this Tayside - wide, possibilities for funding and working dates for an employee. JC - agreed the project should be Tayside - wide. Dundee has a lot of information in the database since 1999 - she would be happy to help with records and extracting data. CL - would be nice to have this published in time for the Festival in May next year (Mammal Days).

Countryside on Wheels - Gill Lawrie

GL - unfortunately not looking good - would have cost 10-15k. They had thought of forestry and bus idea, but it seemed difficult to access. There were also reservations about health and safety (and the livestock aspect). It was a great idea but it was getting too complicated. On another note, they have got the Estate Day on 1st May which expects 150 kids to turn up on the Angus Estate. Anyone who can give leaflets for the packs welcomed. Would like to highlight farms and schools projects such as pond dipping for the Biodiversity Festival.

Bee Wild and ZOOM Projects - Ann Lolley (apologies)

CL - summarised that we are working on getting together 1000 (with the help of Marion - BFEG Volunteer). There will be postcards sent out and will act as a register of interest. Once Postcards are returned, a bumblebee pack will be sent out. The project will also be publicised in the Courier from May. Hopefully the project will widen out nation-wide while working with Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. The survey will ultimately end up with BBCT. The Bee Wild Project will continue in the background with wildlife gardening.

Building Better Biodiversity Programme of Training Events - Catherine Lloyd

CL confirmed that the Perth & Kinross Planning department has agreed to host two events this year. In the past each local authority has sponsored two events a year, but Dundee and Angus have not been forthcoming for 2008. Dundee City Council has, however, given the meeting room at Tayside House free of charge, but there is no funding available for refreshments/lunches. The programme is proving successful and there have been many suggestions for further training.

The Perth events to be held at Pullar House in Perth will include talks on Verge Management, Mitigation for Badgers, Pollination Day 17th May, Summer Pruning and Grafting in August. Also Dusty Gedge will visit and host a talk on living roofs and SUDs in November (may have a link with the Biodiversity seminar to be held in

Arbroath around then).

6. Other Biodiversity Awareness-Raising (publicity, publications, websites, events)

CL said that the website is updated quarterly, but that it may be becoming cumbersome in its content. It is constantly being added to and getting a bit busy. HAPs need to go on soon and there is cross references. It needs a revamp as there are gaps. She would welcome any suggestions to improve the site.

ACTION: ALL

CL - Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments Booklet - this 32-page booklet, compiled by CL on behalf of the Urban sub-group, has been published and 3000 are now ready for distribution. After obtaining a definitive list of allotments and community gardens in Tayside there will be a mailing to everyone. GL - mentioned that she has been asked by a lot of schools for this information. Would be good to distribute to libraries or resource sections. Gregor Roberstson of Angus Council Education Department is a good contact. There are 60 primary schools in Angus, and 5 high schools. CL - agreed it would be great to get them out to schools.

CL - Showed all the Clackmannanshire Calendar which is very nice. Hope to do something like this - AL looking into an Acoustic Ecology Calendar.

CL - noted that the general newsletter was published - highlighting reports on projects funded through the last 100k and what will happen to the next batch of funding.

CL - the Planning Manual will be published soon - it is hoped that it will be launched next week. Will be distributed throughout including garden centres. Any other ideas for distribution please let us know. GL - queried whether the manual mentions poisonous plants (helpful for schools) CL - advised there was a section in the booklet on this.

7. Any Other Business

CL - noted that the Project Pro Formas need updated as the will need reporting UK wide by the end of this year. This is for BARRS. TBP will circulate proformas to all subgroup members for them to input.

LW - mentioned the NARS project and Recorders Day seminar. Noted that Trevor Rose was part of it and that he would be a good contact to create opportunities with kids and training days with him. His niche is amphibians and reptiles. Unfortunately there was a poor turn out at the last one. CL - agreed we need to push this opportunity further.

TL - mentioned that she was always looking to engage people with links. For example with the Community Gardens and Greenspace projects, valuable connections are there to link up with and be creative for people to connect with their environment. There can be a knock on effect. She has offered to help promote events as she also has a lot of contacts including artists.

JC - mentioned that Dundee still has tours of the collection units with a few speciality tours. The Old Steeple is opening in summer.

CL - Scottish Children's Orchard - the first avenue of fruit trees has been planted at Errol with two local varieties. All are doing well except a couple have been vandalised. This is part of the first ever Orchard Trail. Fred Conacher of Angus Council is also doing his own orchard project to include 20 schools in Angus and lots of trees! Any ideas for potential orchard sites within Tayside let us know.

CL - mentioned tat John Hancox will be coming to Dundee for a talk and promoting a Children's orchard equivalent in Tayside. This will be held on 28th April, 10:30 at Camperdown House, Dundee.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Possibility of a Montrose visit sometime but next meeting to be held on Tuesday 2nd September, 10:30am at Tayside House, Dundee.

9. Close

CL thanked everyone for coming.

Additional Information -

FUNDING NATURAL HERITAGE PROJECTS IN SCOTLAND

Birnam Conference (29th January 2008) - pdf versions of the presentations can be viewed at: HYPERLINK

"<http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/life.asp>"<http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/life.asp>. There are also links to the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, but it is advisable to read the guidance material provided at the European Commission website: HYPERLINK

"http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus/components/component_nat.htm"http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus/components/component_nat.htm before completing any forms. Enquiries about LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity - e-mail SNH at HYPERLINK

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