



**TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Thursday, 29th July 2010

Perth & Kinross Council, Pullar House, Kinnoull Street, Perth

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Present:

Dennis Dick (DD)	Chair
Pam Coutts (PC)	Angus Council
Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN)	Perth & Kinross Council
Carolyn Deasley (CD)	Scottish Natural Heritage
Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Douglas Calderwood (DC)	Perth Quality of Life Trust
Evelyn Kerr (EK)	Perth Quality of Life Trust

Apologies:

Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council
Chris Stark	Forestry Commission Scotland

		Action
1	<p><u>Introduction and Apologies</u> Apologies as above.</p>	
2	<p><u>SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund</u> a) <u>Project Assessment Panel</u> Of the three applications received for this Round, only two were considered. The third (Ref. 10307), from SWT for Phase 2 of the Osprey Officer post, will not be considered until SITA TBAF funding has been confirmed for the next financial year (the Phase 2 project requires funding for 3 years from 2011).</p> <p>CD pointed out that there is still c£40k available in the SITA TBAF and suggested that the fund could be publicised in the autumn to attract new community groups. She had also visited Montrose Basin Visitor Centre and seen the tern raft in use. She confirmed 150 Arctic tern chicks had been on the raft (of which some had been ringed this year); a second raft was being considered and could perhaps be a TBAF application. PC added that the TBAF had supported the protection/wardening of Little Terns on the beach in front of Glaxo for some time, but no Little tern chicks survived last year and no Little terns have nested on the beach this year.</p> <p><u>10296. Towards the Management of Upland Woodlands and Heaths for Breeding Whinchats: A Study in Glen Devon</u> CL noted that the Whinchat is neither listed in the UKBAP, nor the Scottish List. It has, however, been recently added to the IUCN Red List because of its sharply declining population. There is a collaborative project underway in Wiltshire researching the last stronghold of whinchats in lowland England; the Tayside project would be its upland counterpart.</p> <p>DC pointed out that the bird survey had already been funded by Forest Research so “phase 2” of the project is essentially the habitat survey, proposed for this winter, together with the analysis and reporting next spring at a cost of £3,530. As there was no in-kind or cash contribution from the BTO it was proposed that just £2,000 be recommended, with the analysis/reporting aspect being met by the BTO itself. CD requested that the BTO be asked to make the data public and for the subsequent paper to be sent to the Partnership.</p> <p>Recommendation: MEDIUM priority; £2,000.</p>	DC

	<p><u>10327. Fairmount Terrace Greenspace Improvement</u> CL asked if a map and plan/or photographs would be available to clarify the area proposed. DD pointed out that the NTS does not own the actual land, but there is an agreement with the local residents. Perth & Kinross Council maintain the site. Wide-ranging discussion led to the conclusion that (a) the Assessment Panel needs sight of the residents' agreement, (b) confirmation of ownership; (c) details of the PKC maintenance contract. It was also confirmed that the costs would need revision as they seemed excessive for what has been proposed.</p> <p>Recommendation: Deferred - pending further information and site map.</p> <p><i>Douglas Calderwood, Evelyn Kerr and Carolyn Deasley then left the meeting.</i></p>	DC
3	<p><u>Minutes of Last Management Team Meeting</u></p> <p>The group passed the minutes.</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising, including Future of Partnership</u> DD said that the Chief Executive of Dundee City Council had not replied to the letter sent by the Partnership requesting an additional input of £4,068 to bring DCC in line with that of the two other Councils. However he had heard from Merril Smith that the matter had been discussed by DCC. There remains a shortfall of funds given by DCC to ensure the Partnership can function until the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Although DCC may choose to opt out of the Partnership from January 2011, CL pointed out that there were a number of organisations in Dundee who would not want to lose contact – i.e. Dundee University, Dundee Sensation, Broughty Ferry Environment Project, etc. PC confirmed that she looked upon Angus Council's contribution to the Partnership as including the community aspect. The matter would need to be discussed at the end of the year.</p> <p>DD also confirmed that Government spending was on a rapid downturn for the next four years. He would be involved in the Scottish Biodiversity Committee's Biodiversity Breakfast being held on 22 September at the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. This would give a chance to influence businesses in the eco-system approach (as against the existing habitat and species approach).</p> <p>He discussed the possibility of the Partnership going down the business route, perhaps approaching Stagecoach, Scottish & Southern Energy and Aviva for core funding (at £50k per year for 3 years). DD felt that the Partnership needs to sell biodiversity as a community responsibility, not just a local authority matter. The local authorities may be leading the biodiversity process, but they are not "the Partnership". It would be important to highlight this in the future.</p> <p>It was proposed adding all the Partners' logos on new headed paper (and this could be replicated on the website).</p> <p>DD outlined the 20:20 Group – set up by top businesses in Scotland aiming to meet government targets in climate change. They have a focus on green energy and an attempt was to be made to get them to widen their interest and remit to include biodiversity.. Stagecoach and Scottish & Southern Energy are part of this group.</p> <p>DD confirmed that a business plan for 2010-13 would be needed before we approach any business for funds and tasked CL with preparing the draft as soon as possible (to take to the Steering Group meeting at the end of August).</p> <p>Postscript: there is an excellent publication, recently made available online: http://www.futerra.co.uk/downloads/Branding_Biodiversity.pdf. It was agreed to set up a 'business and biodiversity' section on the TBP website and include this link.</p>	CL CL

5	<p>Finances</p> <p>No financial report had been forwarded from DCC. CL circulated the Festival budget print out and confirmed that she was preparing the first claim for LEADER funding (due 13th August). The Administrator at LEADER had confirmed that they would prefer to reimburse Perth & Kinross Council in the first instance as there would be another claim in the autumn and it would muddle things if two local authorities were named. It was confirmed that PKC would therefore reimburse DCC for all the invoices paid so far against the Festival budget. CL pointed out that there were a few invoices still extant that would be paid by PKC.</p> <p>DD proposed that DCC should provide the Partnership with last year's audited accounts (2009-10) and asked ERN to request further details from DCC.</p>	ERN
6	<p>Work Programme / Co-ordinator's Report</p> <p>DD thanked CL for running a very successful Biodiversity Festival. Because of the uncertainties concerning 2011 it was agreed not to repeat the Festival, but to keep options open for future years. CL confirmed that there should still be the Scottish Biodiversity Week to link into during May 2011. DD proposed running a biodiversity symposium during 2011, probably in the autumn, to showcase the work undertaken by the Partnership. There will be a need to pick up on the International Year of the Forest.</p> <p>The symposium could be the event at which a Tayside Biodiversity wall map be launched: DD said that at present the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework and the Perth and Kinross Woodland and Forestry Strategy were being prepared. Both perhaps could provide the groundwork for a map to include biodiversity hotspots, show where the problems lie and to show key/iconic species and habitats. Food security issues could be highlighted, as could climate change information. Although actions per se would not be put on the map, the reverse side could list these, perhaps? The map would be predominately for the public and business, perhaps to accompany the proposed Tayside LBAP Review (if core funding can be found to undertake this during 2011).</p> <p>Following PC's suggestion at the last meeting to simplify the work programme, CL had deleted the columns detailing "time taken". The rest of the programme had been left but a review proposed towards the end of the year.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the carry forward holidays listed in the 1st Quarter report would be honoured, but as agreed with PKC, on a day-to-day basis with CL aiming to work mostly a 4 day week until the time had been used up. She had already agreed to delete the "overtime" accrued from working long hours over the Festival period, but had taken all the TOIL due (in June) from working weekends during May.</p> <p>ERN reminded CL to update the TBP website with new contact details.</p>	CL
7	<p>Steering Group Membership</p> <p>DD confirmed that Rab Potter covered too large an area for the SWT (Moray Firth to the Forth) to become involved on behalf of the SWT; he proposed asking someone from the SWT Dundee and Angus Members' Centre to attend instead.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the NFU(S) and NTS have not attended Steering Group meetings in the past few years, but that most other Partners have tried to send a representative to most meetings. CL was asked to write to some members asking if they could suggest an alternative representative. CL also suggested that in the autumn all sub-group members could be asked if they would like to be considered for membership of the Steering Group.</p>	DD CL CL
8	<p>AOCB</p> <p>ERN asked if the Steering Group meeting date could be changed. It was agreed to cancel 16th December in preference to Monday, 20th December. CL to ask Alison Anderson, DCC, if it would be possible to change arrangements. There was no other business.</p>	CL
10	<p>Date and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p>The group agreed to meet at 10am on Wednesday 27th October in Pullar House, with ERN to make booking arrangements.</p>	ERN