



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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URBAN SUB-GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20th March 2007
at Cromie Country Park, Angus

PRESENT:	Alison Anderson (AA)	Dundee City Council
	Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
	Pam Coutts (PC)	Angus Council
	Ian Ford (IF)	Broughty Ferry Environmental Project
	Carolyn Warwick (CW)	SNH
	George Potts (GP)	Dundee Ranger Service
	Ann Lolley (AL)	BFEP
	Tom McGrath (TMcG)	Angus Ranger Service
	Norman Greg (NG)	Angus Ranger Service
	Ben	Angus Ranger Service

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ER-N) - Perth and Kinross Council, Kate Baird (KB) - SEPA	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting were agreed. Matters Arising None.	
3.	Priority Actions CL sent out updated proformas, based on discussions from 14th December.	
i)	USG1 – Urban Red Squirrel Initiative No update. PC reported that rope bridge at Arbroath had been erected. AA reported that Dundee project was seeking funding for Project Officer for October.	
ii)	USG2 – Acoustic Ecology AL - update. Project likely to start in summer 2007. £10k from Breathing Places and £1k from Part It. Event in August 2007.	AL
iii)	USG3 – Greenspace, Community Gardens and Allotments CL - update. Tayside has OK to use Glasgow Allotment Booklet and adapt to local area. Need to explore link with Local Patch project. Possible use of SNH promotions budget to finance. Gordon Robbie is local contact for allotments in Dundee. (The Bungalow, Pitermo Farm, Lundie DD2 5NU. Tel: (01382)581552 Email: wullrobbie@yahoo.com.uk) Timing: Summer 2007.	CL
iv)	USG4 – Urban Grassland Management CL to approach key contacts in the three local authorities and arrange a preliminary meeting in the spring. After this, CW to possibly approach Richard Scott, Landlife, for potential input to the training event. CL reported that there is likely to be a field day in Angus in mid June. Also Grassland Management course at Lochore Meadows 5th/6th July.	CL
v)	USG5 – Invasive Species Project Baldovan House - PC reported that although it may be possible to organise a section 75 agreement for Hogweed control on the small development site, it was unlikely to have much of an impact as the rest of the area is 'hoaching' with the stuff. AA suggested that the Esmee Fairbairn Trust may provide funding for the project. CW mentioned that some Local Authorities, like Stirling, already have an active Hogweed control plan. AA to e-mail AL with Hogweed photos	AA

- vi) **USG6 – Green/Living Roofs**
AA and CL to visit Gordon Crowl - Dundee College.
Green roof at St Andrews University **AA/CL**
- vii) **USG7 – Local Patch Project**
Local Patch - CL to look at again **CL**
- USG7a - ZOOM / Bumblebees**
AA and AL to meet to discuss costs for Bumblebee bags/packs and ideas for distribution **AL/AA**
CW to investigate inclusion of SNH's bumblebee booklet. **CW**
Target of summer '07
Need to look at implementation plan (postcard with questions) **AA**
- viii) **USG8 – Sand Martins in Tayside**
IF reported that a virtual group is being set up with information on each project being gathered. Group is currently considering website / link on TBP site to post information on where sites are, sand martins and the law etc.
Booklet has been produced by BFEP - volunteers including IF
Any sightings to IF **ALL**
- ix) **USG9 – Urban Watercourse Initiative**
No update
- x) **USG10 – Tayside Town Swift Project**
Nest box trials - CL and Clare Darleston (CD) seeking range of partners and sites / locations for 11 boxes. CW suggested that CL, CD and herself meet to discuss and agree final list of sites. Boxes to be distributed in April. **CW/CL**
CW proposed that one of the aims would be to raise the profile of swifts on back of trials and raise awareness through the media. CW suggested that press release be worked up asap by CL. **CL**
PC reported that Angus Council will be expanding the swift survey this year.
CL reported that a swift day in Dundee had been proposed during Biodiversity Week and the Swift newsletter had been produced.
- xi) **USG11 – Green Kirk and Graveyard Initiative**
AL reported that she is working with St Aidans (Broughty Ferry) on 10 commitments for Green Graveyards to raise awareness.
There is also a Churches training event in Perth on June 9th. There will also be events in Dundee and Angus during 2007.
4. **Local Patch - rolling out ZOOM**
See 3vii above for minute.
5. **Report from Steering Group**
- a) SNH promotions budget and sub-group budget. Possible funding for projects (£500) from SNH for help with production of leaflets etc. CW stressed that if ideas come up don't wait for the end of the financial year to implement them. There is also an additional £200 for the sub-group to use.
 - b) Sites for swift boxes - see item 3x above.
 - c) Biodiversity Week - all relevant events to CL.
 - d) Second Tranche Plans - KB to neaten up Urban Water HAP
- ALL
KB**
6. **AOCB**
IF raised concerns about shredding / chipping of wood into planting. Usually left in piles not spread. Not good for biodiversity. Wood should be left - far better for biodiversity.
CL raised Bats in Dundee project which is being supported by Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund. There is a training / taster session for interested volunteers at the end of March at the Mill's Observatory.
7. **Date of next meeting**
10am, Thursday 31st May, Camperdown Country Park