



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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URBAN SUB-GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held at 2pm on Monday 29th September 2008
at Tayside House, Dundee

PRESENT: Alison Anderson (AA) Dundee City Council
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Ann Lolley (AL) BFEP
Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ER-N) Perth and Kinross Council
George Potts (GP) Dundee CRS
Pam Coutts (PC) Angus Council

Item	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies none John Whyman (JW) - Dundee CRS, Carolyn Deasley (CD) - SNH, Kate Baird (KB) - SEPA, Tom McGrath - Angus CRS,	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting were agreed. Matters Arising a) ZOOM Project - CL reported that all packs now distributed, so if anyone has any left lying about then she would appreciate them back. AA / CL both agreed that follow-up was necessary as only a few survey sheets had been returned. CL to organise. AL reported that the BFEP Nature Nutters (aged 13-17) are about to launch a piece of street art about BBs (with funding from the Rotary / Planning Dept and Youth Development Fund). They have also been involved in BB computer games, surveys, making papier mache BBs and have also crocheted yellow and black bands for tying around lampposts. AL reported that she had heard that the Pest Control officers had rescued a BB nest from a garden and relocated it safely. (AA has since confirmed this with the officers who said that it was a common unwritten practice amongst them. AA passed on the group's thanks) b) Dighty Habitat Enhancement Initiative - AA reported that JW had sent an update which she would include with the minute (AA has lost it!! so needs replacement). AL updated the group on the work she is doing with Leisure and Communities as a result of the seminar held in May. BFEP have applied to the Volunteer Action Fund for £35k per year for two years for a project concentrating on the cultural and environmental identity of the Dighty. Result of application will be known in December. PC reported that the section 75 agreement for Baldovan House is still under discussion. The applicants had put forward a management plan for the Giant Hogweed which was not sufficient. It may be that the application is taken back to committee for refusal if the management plan is not considered satisfactory.	CL
3.	Project for next year In December 2006 the group decided that it would try and target single species for surveying under the Local Patch banner, to raise awareness in surveying and biodiversity in general with the public. At the time bumblebees / sparrows and bats were identified. As a result of this, the group has very successfully developed ZOOM in 2008, with fantastic support from SNH. With this in mind the group discussed a species approach for the next project. Initial thoughts on a (tree/house) sparrow project had been suggested, but CL had been in contact with BTO who thought that the project would not have much use as they were already involved in something similar. After a lengthy discussion about what species to target, it was decided to investigate the feasibility of developing a project carried out by BFEP (Still Changes) which looked at a favourite space over a period of time using a disposable camera every month for a year. This project could build in links to phenology / climate change and adaptation of the environment, as well as having outputs which could be used in a variety of imaginative ways (time lapse photos /animation). Also links into Breathing Places	

etc

AL offered to dig out her information for the next meeting so the group could discuss the idea further.

AL

4. Priority Actions- updates

The group decided to leave this item for a future meeting. CL confirmed that the updated actions had not been included on the BARS reporting, due to AA sending information late and to the wrong e-mail address. However, there is an opportunity for the actions to be updated in December when Stephanie will return for a couple of weeks.

5. Matters arising from the Steering Group - September 2008

AA reported that no matters arising for the Urban Group from the Steering Group meeting in September.

6. AOCB

AL updated the group on a Wildflower Meadow Maintenance Course which she had tried to organise at Dudhope Park, Dundee. She was concerned that whilst senior management were supportive of the course and workers on the ground keen to attend, one officer in the Leisure and Communities Department had effectively scuppered the event. The group were obviously concerned that this had happened.

7. Date of next meeting

10am, 12th December at Jamesfield Organic Farm near Newburgh.