



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

c/o Perth & Kinross Council, The Environment Service,
 Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth. PH1 5GD
 Telephone: 01738 475373; E-mail: caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk
 Website: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

URBAN WORKING-GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday, 4th October 2012

Hillcrest Housing Association, Explorer Road, Dundee

Present:	Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN), Joint Leader Fergus Cook (FC) David Williamson (DW) Victoria Deschampsneufs (VD) Carolyn Deasley (CD) Kate Baird (KB) Ian Ford (IF) Ron Downing (RD) Forbes Brown (FB) Catherine Lloyd (CL)	Perth & Kinross Council; Perth & Kinross Ranger Service; Perth & Kinross Council; Arocha and Perth Lade Group; Scottish Natural Heritage; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Naturalist Naturalist Broughty Ferry Environmental Project; Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
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	Heading	Narrative	Action
1	Welcome and apologies	ERN welcomed all. Attendees introduced themselves. Apologies have been received from Craig Borland (Joint Leader), Amanda Wilson, Daniele Muir, Ann Lolley, Diane Cassidy & Greig Norman ERN circulated copies of her notes from the previous meeting for information.	
2	Year of Natural Scotland 2013	CD confirmed that SNH is the Lead Agency for the Scottish Government on this; VisitScotland will be undertaking marketing/festivals. Picking up on theme of "marketing Scotland's assets" CL is working with Ewen Cameron (SNH) and Rose Toney (N.E Scotland LBAP) to bring joint projects together - Small Blue (St Cyrus); Nature on Track leaflet and events; 2020VISION - possibly at Perth Concert Hall, Festival Theatre (Pitlochry), Dundee Sensation; launch of Tayside Teachers' Biodiversity Guide - at a New Year education seminar. ERN mentioned that the PKC Planning Department is considering a Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) project (on a leaf theme); she is not sure of the progress with this idea. CL said the Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens had expressed an interest in getting involved in planning a tree trail in/around Perth/Kinnoull Hill.	
3	TBP Forum Seminar "Putting the Buzz into Biodiversity" - 1 st December 2012	The People & Communications Group is taking this forward - however: 45 people have booked so far (there is capacity for 70+). It is hoped the workshops will help steer the LBAP Review in 2013. CL asked the Group to consider potential questions for the Urban workshop: CD suggested a "place-making and quality of space" theme (home, work, play). Other suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Nature is important in its own right and should be supported - do you agree?" • "How can we safeguard and improve our urban places for nature?" • FC suggested focussing on what's good; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IF: "In an urban environment, what's your best wildlife moment?" • "What would you most like to change in the urban environment?" • "List 3 good things and 3 bad things in your local urban environment". <p>CL will work with the workshop leaders (DW and Ann Lolley) to finalise the questions. The programme and booking form is on the Events section of www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk; everyone is asked to publicise the seminar as widely as possible.</p>	CL/DW /AL All
4	PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES	<p>Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little progress on community garden projects per se. However, CL liaising with both Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership and the Tay Landscape Partnership to include orchard plantings and working with Perth & Kinross Council to include biodiversity into allotment schemes; CL will be running 2+ training sessions next year in Perth for the PKC • 60 School Orchards have now been planted in Angus and the TBP has contributed to the maintenance leaflet the Woodland Officer has compiled • CL is working with Grounds for Learning, Forth Valley Orchard Initiative and the Carse of Gowrie Historic Orchard Forum - offering training, orchard packs, making larger links such as the setting up of a Scrumpers' Group (social inclusion and setting criteria/permissions for accessing fruit in private ownership). CL will be reporting on Tayside progress to the UK Steering Group for Traditional Orchards HAP later this month. <p>Urban Grassland Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DW has prepared a PKC committee report which has a great deal of background information on the successes and costs of urban grassland in other local authority areas • In Angus the Council has set up a Working Group to take forward grassland and graveyard management ideas; the Ranger Service is working with Community Groups to set up wildflower meadows (e.g. Monifieth). <p>Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CL took part in the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust's Living Churchyards conference last month which brought together professionals and community groups from both cultural and natural heritage fields; such was the enthusiasm to work together in the future that a steering group and further events have been proposed. • CL arranged for a lichen ID workshop to follow the conference; 15 people attended the day at Kirkton of Collace (which was funded primarily by SITA TBAF Promotions Funding). • DW reported on the ongoing progress of the Perth & Kinross Council graveyard projects, plus the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust churchyard/biodiversity projects. The soil in many churchyards proved too rich, so low-growing wildflowers have grown too high and looked very weedy. Liaison with Scotia Seeds to re-consider the seed mix should sort this out in 2013. • Craig Borland had planned to take forward some pilot projects in Angus - this has been deferred to 2013; however CL has been working with three churches (Arbroath, Monifieth and Carnoustie) to improve their surroundings <p>Invasive Species Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KB said that funding was available from SEPA but had to be used in projects involving co-operation with local fisheries trusts. <p>Green/Living Roofs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CL attended a workshop recently to discuss rain gardens, SUDS management and green roofs - there is an urgent need to update and publicise the SNH/SEPA-run Scottish Green Roofs Forum. Rain gardens are used extensively in America and are beginning to be used in England. With our uncertain weather patterns (and flash flooding) it would be good to consider their use in Scotland. An example of a road-side rain garden is 	All to note

		<p>shown here - http://reset-development.org/#/rain-garden-guide/4566549025. The new UK Rain Garden Guide has also just been published - http://raingardens.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/UK-Rain-Garden-Guide.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW confirmed that there is beginning to be some good examples of green roofs in Tayside (Invergowrie primary school being one). It would be good to know of more. <p>Sand Martins in Tayside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to re-start the Interest Group and revitalise the survey and advice to developers, quarry owners, etc. It was decided not to merge the Swift and Sand Martin Groups as the species are too dissimilar. <p>Tayside Swift Survey/Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Swift Interest Group had met this morning and a presentation given to Hillcrest and members of both the Interest Group and the Urban Working Group. This was to acknowledge the funding given to DM to attend the International Swift Conservation Conference in Berlin this April. Hillcrest Housing Association, Perth & Kinross Ranger Service and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership part-funded DM's attendance. A link to the conference report would be put on the TBP website in due course. The morning's meeting had discussed how to improve the online surveys and how to better engage with the public. Greater use of the two sets of swift display banners was also planned in 2013 - please contact DM or CL if you have any suggestions on venues for the banners. Specific projects throughout Tayside were discussed, together with the publication of an advice note on Loft Insulation. <p>Angus School Bats Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred to 2013 owing to CB's long-term sick leave <p>Urban Watercourse Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dighty - no report from AL The Perth Lade - VD reported that the weir had now been repaired and work on the lade itself would be started in due course. There is now a Management Plan to work to. The Perth Lade Action Group is currently in transition after the resignation of its chairperson. <p>Sheltered Housing, Care Homes & Hospitals Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL is awaiting news of a University student 30 hour module to help pull together an advisory leaflet and undertake a large-scale mailing. There is potential for further hospital biodiversity projects in Angus and P&K following the great success of the Ninewells Woodland Project (led by the Forestry Commission and NHS). 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>CL/IF</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DM/CL</p>
	<p>New or Revised Projects</p>	<p>ZOOMIn2 Time Lapse Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL confirmed that it was hoped to re-launch this popular project at the Seminar on 1st December, although it would be possible to delay the re-launch until 2013 if it was preferred to link into the Year of Natural Scotland publicity. Funding has been ring-fenced in the Urban budget for an updated A3 poster/leaflet - or it could all be web-based. CB looked into App, but this was not appropriate for our scale of project. The revised project would rely on digital photographs being uploaded onto a new section of the TBP website; no recyclable cameras would be used this time, nor would there be a free pack of goodies. CD suggested the SNH Facebook project could be link into and confirmed she would look into this. We would need to remove the request for personal portrait photos if uploaded online (this was part of the original project). <p>ZOOMIn3 Hirundine postcard/poster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The postcards proved too popular for their artwork and too few were returned with survey information. The Swift Interest Group is taking this 	<p>CD</p> <p>CL</p>

		<p>project forward with a view to launching the revised survey/project a few weeks before the sand martins return next spring - using the same artwork, the Group will be re-designing the postcard into a poster for wide dissemination.</p> <p>ZOOM4Bees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It had been previously agreed to continue with this project and CL had gained the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's confirmation that they would continue to endorse it and take the resulting survey data. The Group discussed if we should reprint any of the existing Bumblebee Survey or information leaflets/posters. The latter were particularly popular. Propose launch for Easter 2013. CD suggested running BBCT events in Tayside; funding? • DW to look into the BeeTag App. [subsequently, DW has reported back that the App is free - http://www.beetagg.com/en/generator-pricing/; if all we want is a link to the survey then it wouldn't need to cost anything. If we would want to analyse the number of hits, for example, there would be a small charge <p>ERN said she had heard from Amanda Wilson who has been given O2 funding for a Think Bigger project (for under 25s). Urban Safaris (2 x visits to each school/community group). CL agreed to find out more details and to offer contacts, links to TBP projects if relevant, etc. ERN to send copy of information from Amanda to CD</p>	<p>DW/CL</p> <p>CD</p> <p>DW</p> <p>CL ERN</p>
5	BARS update	<p>BARS Update - the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System has recently been relaunched and will now be map-based. The TBP has at least 140 projects already listed on the system. All the old information is now archived. There is a need to transfer and update all project proforma to BARS2 and to add the mapping information. This task is planned for the coming autumn/winter. All Urban priority project proforma will need to be updated as soon as possible to be included.</p>	All
6	Any other business	<p>CD suggested Tayside made up its own Big 5 to complement SNH's Big 5 species list - which will be used in the Year of Natural Scotland.</p> <p>CL passed round the new 2020VISION book, recently published now that the 2020V project has finished. Mark Hamblin of 2020V will be showing the multi-media film at the biodiversity seminar on 1st December.</p>	
10	Date of next meeting	<p>Thurs. 31 Jan, 10.30am - provisionally at Jamesfield, by Abernethy. CL to check nearer the time that this will be possible.</p> <p>ERN thanked Hillcrest Housing Association for hosting today's meeting and Fergus Cook for taking the minutes.</p>	CL