

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

Joint Working Group Leaders: Esther Rogers-Nicoll, Planning Officer (Planning & Regeneration), Perth & Kinross Council - tel. 01738 475380; emrogersnicoll@pkc.gov.uk
Craig Borland, Senior Ranger, Angus Council; borlandc@angus.gov.uk

URBAN WORKING-GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Friday, 26th April 2013
Errol Community Hall

Present: Esther Rogers-Nicoll
Catherine Lloyd (CL)
Daniele Muir (DM)
David Williamson (DW)
Bill Griggs (BG)
Carolyn Deasley (CD)

Chair (Perth & Kinross Council)
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Tayside Swifts
Perth & Kinross Council
Perth Lade Group
Scottish Natural Heritage

	Heading	Narrative	Action
1	Welcome and apologies	ERN welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. Apologies had been received from Kelly Ann Dempsey, Diane Cassidy, Sandra Stewart, Tim Castleton, Ian Lorimar (Kate Baird on maternity leave), Craig Borland (who hopes to be back at work for the next meeting) and Fergus Cook. CL had circulated the minutes from the last meeting for information, and these were accepted as an accurate record. All matters arising would be covered by the agenda.	
2	PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES	Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none">New consultation from Scottish Government on allotments on changing legislation.CL will provide relevant link for ERN to circulate to members for responses ACTION: CL will respond on behalf of Partnership (Diane doing response from PKC) Urban Grassland Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">Next week Buglife coming to talk to St John's School in Muirton, and then taking class out to do bug walk etc	CL/ERN DC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daniele going out to Larghan Park (Coupar Angus) with school children to do bumblebee and wild flower survey, approx. 40 children expected to participate- the state of the wildflower meadow at Larghan was discussed- Bumblebee interpretation is being incorporated, also bringing in a wildflower expert- the wildflower meadow was not mowed last year, unclear why this is so; If Council unable to do mowing, could “Pride of Place” undertake this task? ACTION: DW to liaise ▪ Monifieth wildflower meadow still seeking funding ▪ Also wish to plant orchard (about 60 trees) next to meadow <p>Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 last year, so low-growing wildflowers will be grown on this year to remedy this. No progress at the moment as Fiona is not in post at present- we need to see this project on-going. Wildflower mix has been adjusted- ACTION:CL to check with Andrew Driver re progress, and get confirmation that the wildflower mix is now correct ▪ Photos needed, CL still awaiting hearing from Euan Cameron re funding of trial cameras- work to be done by students based in Dundee but may include N Perthshire and part Angus. 10 motion sensitive cameras requested; could cameras be used to record amphibians? (Following on from the article in PA today). Some discussion took place about siting etc of cameras. <p>Green/Living Roofs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No further update <p>Sand Martins in Tayside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No particular progress, but it has been noted there are many sand martins utilising the wall at Montrose <p>Tayside Swift Survey/Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daniele to provide CL with Tayside swift logo for inclusion on TBP website ▪ Any comments on swift poster to please be passed to Daniele; ▪ CD advised she could put up posters at Battleby ▪ Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation pilot project (being run by the CoG Sustainability Group in conjunction with the TBP). DM gave a presentation of the project as approved. ▪ Sharing good Practice local event could perhaps be done next year- ACTION: CD to check & see ▪ Edward Meyer is coming Sept/Oct this year to talk to Angus- CD has asked if he could add on a day to also do a talk in PKC, ACTION: CL to confirm ▪ Business week in PKC- unclear if this is happening (Daniele wondered if this might be later in year than previously?) ACTION: CL to check with Andrew Webster/John McCrone/Serge Merone what is happening and any potential for us to take part for a day? ▪ Daniele to send links for Carse of Gowrie Swift project to CD for her to send round colleagues @ Battleby ▪ DM to look at hirundine postcards to see if any changes needed prior to CL organising a re-print 	<p>DW</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DW/CL ALL CD</p> <p>All</p> <p>CD</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DM/CD</p> <p>DM/CL</p>
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		<p>Angus School Bats Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred to August 2013 owing to CB's long-term sick leave, CB hoping to be back in time for roll out at end of August <p>Urban Watercourse Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dighty - no report from AL The Perth Lade - BG reported that 20 new people came to recent meeting and the group got agreement to become a registered charity, and people were appointed to the board. A very positive meeting adopting a standard constitution, meeting again in June and application to go to OSCR. A walk is planned for 14th May and this may include litter picking along the Lade at the same time. Fergus may do walk, Louis Flood to do pictures, and press release planned for Courier to keep the project in the public eye and up to date There is hope that money can be raised to do interpretive boards along the lade, group to be re-named "Friends of Perth Lade" (Councillor Gillies is vice-chair) Evidence that there are fish in Lade as Merganser seen along upper reaches BG said the group is looking for guidance to make sure they do things "properly", e.g. need to know what constitutes invasive species etc, CL advised that Perth museum has exhibition on invasives which should help, but if the group were to give the Urban Working group a list of actions etc they are planning, we could look at these and see how the Working group maybe able to help or input. <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:BG to liaise and advise CL what actions the Friends of Perth lade would like to undertake , so that possible help from Working group can be given</p> <p>Sheltered Housing, Care Homes & Hospitals Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee wild project, a student is to be looking at this project in a couple of weeks time. 	<p>All</p> <p>DM</p> <p>BG</p>
<p>New or Revised Projects</p>		<p>ZOOMIn2 Time Lapse Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft wording for the website (previously circulated by CL) was discussed and changes suggested <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:CL to update and re-circulate prior to website and sheet going live and being published</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How best to advertise the project was discussed- Radio/TV? Press? Schools, launch with a group? Perhaps a photographic soc? Might it be possible to put on Councils websites and bulletins? Might a natural history group be good for launch? <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: CL to investigate with Mark Simmons if natural history group would like to launch- aim for end of May</p> <p>ZOOM4Bees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing new except the proposed reprinting of the leaflet- link in with Bee watch <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:CL to see about reprinting leaflets</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>

5	BARS update	As previously advised- the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System is now map-based. All the old TBP information is now archived. The need to transfer and update all project proforma to BARS2 has created a huge amount of work as a new proforma had to be designed and tested. There are still problems with it and further advice is being sought. SNH are looking at more training, our new revamped proforma are not working, so need updating. Stephanie Shaw looking at June onwards before this can be looked at	
6	Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recorders forum was very successful ▪ Geodiversity now getting a higher profile, both Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils have adopted the Scottish Geodiversity Charter ▪ Tayside ponds project has an urban aspect. School pond pack for Aberdeen- perhaps could be rolled out in PKC? ▪ What should the focus of our next meeting be? will be able to report back on pilot project, could then consider future project, funding essential element ▪ Any new projects to be reported 	CL? DM ALL
10	Date of next meeting	ERN thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was agreed to next meet 10.30am Friday 28 th June, with a focus on the School Bats project. Venue Forfar, Kelly Ann to book a venue (Perhaps Forfar Lochs or Murton?)	KAD