

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY
THE VARIETY OF LIFE

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URBAN WORKING-GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Friday, 28th June 2013
Murton Country Park, Forfar

Present: Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN) Chair (Perth & Kinross Council)
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator
David Williamson (DW) Perth & Kinross Council
Kelly-Ann Dempsey (KD) Angus Council
Carolyn Deasley (CD) Scottish Natural Heritage

	Heading	Narrative	Action
1	Welcome and apologies	ERN welcomed everyone. Apologies had been received Danielle Muir (DM), Sandra Stewart (SS), Fergus Cook (FC) and Craig Borland (CB). ERN had circulated the minutes from the last meeting for information, and these were accepted as an accurate record (apart from a typing error on page 2 which should have referred to Andrew <i>Driver</i> , not Andrew <i>Coulter</i> under the Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative). All matters arising would be covered by the agenda.	
2	Priority Projects updates	Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Consultation from Scottish Government on allotments on changing legislation- response was sent by CL on time.▪ CL was invited to Cultybraggan on 5th May where 200 fruit trees were planted. The community orchard there could ultimately be quite profitable.▪ Proposed Community Orchard at Monifieth- application to be submitted to the Angus Environment Trust for funding.▪ The papers presented by CL to the Pear Conference (2 yrs ago in November) have now been published. Urban Grassland Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The talk at St John's School in Muirton, and bug walk took place as planned	

		<p>on 2 May, wildflower planting undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buglife is to deliver a training session on Brownfield sites on 1 August at North Inch Community campus, together with a visit to the “Muirton’s Buzzing” site. ▪ CL is to meet with Hillcrest Housing to discuss a big list of small sites where something similar to Muirton wildflowers might be undertaken (mostly in PKC area) ▪ CD reminded CL that Glenisla nursery is a good source for plants for hedging etc (Chris Williamson is contact) <p>Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DW reported that the PKC GGI has stalled at present but may be re-instated through the landscape partnership- awaiting funding application results. ▪ Eco-congregation have said they will pay CL to re-jig the biodiversity module for eco-congregation, CL has no capacity to do this at an early date, however, this may have potential to generate a small income perhaps for some other GGY projects (maybe Aug/Sept) ▪ CL has also had the chance to write for the Historic churches journal which should help to raise the profile of the work done to date. <p>Green/Living Roofs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The shed at Forfar loch (2.3sq metres) of sedum/gravel has reported as now being home to an oystercatcher raising 3 chicks!! <p>Sand Martins in Tayside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Green space in Blairgowrie are to install sand martin tubes into the River Ercht retaining wall which is currently being re-pointed (at their own expense). <p>Tayside Swift Survey/Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The launch of the Carse Swift Project took place in early May - they put up 2 nest boxes. A few people came out especially for the event (& the press). Errol, Inchture, St Madoes, Abernethy & Longforgan have all been involved in the swift project over the summer term, there have been guided walks, and some sites for nest boxes have been identified on some schools, these will be put up in the autumn, some schools will also be making nest boxes. ▪ Once the schools are off DM will be concentrating on business & community groups with 2 guided walks coming up in Errol & Inchture. DM to meet with PKC conservation dept, Redford Construction, & Mackies Crisps in the next few weeks & is waiting to hear from Scotherbs, Caledonian Housing & various community groups ▪ DM also doing swift walk in Blairgowrie ▪ CL has had no update from wind farm group ▪ ERN to ask DM if any tags are being done on swifts in Tayside ACTION: ERN to ask DM ▪ Some discussion was held regarding the possibility of a Sharing good Practice local event for next year- CD wondered if a more appropriate way forward was to go for a “wildlife friendly buildings” approach. ACTION: CD to speak to Clive Mitchell to see if he has any contacts & to see if the sustainable construction forum (A&J Stephen/GS Brown & etc) is still up & running, and also to ascertain if SNH have people who interact with industry. ▪ Swift webcam? Through Springwatch maybe? ACTION: CD to speak to programme manager to see if this might be a 	<p>DW</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM</p> <p>ERN</p> <p>CD</p> <p>CD</p>
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	<p>possibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Meyer visit is now looking like November this year to talk to Angus- CL to ask if he could add on a day to also do a talk in PKC, ACTION: CL to confirm when known <p>Angus School Bats Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In hand for August 2013 , trials in schools- European Bat night end August <p>Urban Watercourse Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dighty - no report from AL The Perth Lade -ACTION : CL to contact Councillor Gillies for update A walk took place 14th May which included litter picking along the Lade at the same time 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>Sheltered Housing, Care Homes & Hospitals Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL has arranged Trellis event- have already done dementia gardening. Ochil care home doing biodiversity action plan (with CL), now need volunteers to run it- anticipated timing, end Aug/beginning Sept. Once we have this template it could be rolled out elsewhere 	<p>CL</p> <p>CB</p> <p>BG/CL</p> <p>CL</p>
New or Revised Projects	<p>ZOOMIn2 Time Lapse Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now up and running could be launched- launch in both PKC & Angus Suggest Lade in Perth, Forfar Loch in Angus? ACTION: CL to speak to BG+ Angus Rangers Hope to launch ASAP,(July?) possibly involve photographic clubs- CL to try and co-ordinate Leaflets- seafest, Dundee flower show, CD to take some to Battleby, perhaps connect to Muirton & other projects? Community Councils/Youth groups? School intranet? Could we get a commitment from press to publish the “best” picture every month? DW to ask Felicity Martin if she can publish pictures on “Perthshire Daily” Any other contacts/group ideas to be passed to ERN who will give info to CL <p>Zoom 4 bees/bee wild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee wild leaflet now ready to go to print (CL) Bumblebee conservation trust have also been updating their information which is expected to be out in around a month’s time, and will be available for community groups/schools etc. <p>Tay Amphibian and Reptile Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group has been set up, to be launched 31 August in Blairgowrie- trying to get volunteers for Gullypot surveys. There are also 50 pond dipping kits from Rose Toney for surveys of ponds, these two projects will have interlinks. 8 kits have already been requested- predominantly urban slant SUDS audit has been done, CL to chase through Susan Veitch to get copy 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>ALL/CL</p> <p>DW ALL/ERN</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL/DM</p>

		<p>Froglife/Toads on Roads project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project also to be progressed <p>Secret Life of Lichens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an exhibition available from the British lichen society- CL has had a student look to see who might be interested and our input will be to try and tie this to events and trainings- to encourage better identification skills <p>Angus Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KD to consider who else in Angus may be able to assist with information on Angus Urban projects <p>Squirrels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PKC have, according to an article in the PA declared themselves as “big red squirrel County”- looking at monitoring squirrels in Crieff, Blairgowrie/Perth/Alyth Volunteers from P&K red squirrel group to do monitoring. Ken Neil (Red Squirrel Officer) is dealing with DW on this- DW is doing committee report later this year on how the council is to handle management of grey squirrels on Council land £200 has been given to group for feeders + hair traps 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>KD</p> <p>DW</p>
5	BARS update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update 	
6	Any other business	<p>Review of LBAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 review to be used to inform the LBAP review- all to read. We need draft LBAP by end March 2014, which can then be taken to the Forum Each HAP to be reviewed, each working group to divide up the task of doing this We need ecosystem statement for each set of habitats In Urban we have 3 published HAPS, and 6 reviewed HAPS Good project plan required to try and keep on track Ecosystem statement must be made to match up with Scottish ecosystem statements Top priorities for delivery required Perhaps a template or example of how to do this/approach the task would encourage easier updating, and make contributors realise it’s (hopefully) not unduly onerous Meeting in September with all Working Groups to tease out methodology/project plan/priorities May be discussed by management group in July <p>North & East Green Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping Report done by CL for this, another meeting scheduled for November 	ALL
10	Date of next meeting	<p>ERN thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was agreed to next meet 10.30am Tuesday 1st October, (this being prior to the working groups get together provisionally arranged for 4th October) at Mercure Inn (City Mills) Perth. Bill Giggs to be asked if able to give a talk about the Lade project.</p>	ERN/CL /BG

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