

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 & BUILT ENVIRONMENT WORKING-GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Friday, 29th November 2013

City Mills, Mercure Inn, West Mill Street, Perth

Present: Esther Rogers-Nicoll (ERN) Chair (Perth & Kinross Council)
Catherine Lloyd (CL) Tayside Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator
David Williamson (DW) Perth & Kinross Council
Bill Grigg (BG) Perth Lade Group
Janice Fraser (JF) Hillcrest Housing Association
Fergus Cook (FC) PKC Greenspace
Ann Lolley (AL) Dightly Connect

	Heading	Narrative	Action
1. & 2.	Welcome and apologies	ERN welcomed everyone. Apologies had been received Danielle Muir (DM), Sandra Stewart (SS), Carolyn Deasley (CD), Ian Ford (IF), Kelly-Ann Dempsey (KAD) and Craig Borland (CB). (DM & CB have provided written updates by email to ERN) ERN 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.	
3.	Priority Projects updates	Community Gardens, Orchards and Allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CL attended Harrogate Pear and Orchards projects PTES (People's trust for end species).▪ A web based heritage pear survey is to take place across Scotland, once this has been completed over the next 2 years it's hoped a project will come out of this.▪ CL hoping that Flora Locale will run an orchard training day event in the Carse of Gowrie- possibly Sept/Oct 2014 (national event). Forth Environment group also appear keen to get involved, CL also hoping to tie	CL

Chairman: Dennis Dick Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator: Catherine Lloyd

TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP,

c/o Perth & Kinross Council, Environment Service, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD

Tel. 01738 475373 E-mail: caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk Website: www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

		<p>this in with the Tay Landscape Project. AL commented that there are a lot of old pear trees alongside the river in Cupar.</p> <p>Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scottish Consultation now published <p>Urban Grassland Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The follow-up walk at school in Muirton on 1st August was really wet! ▪ CL has met with Hillcrest and they are going to put swift boxes & etc. at Jeanfield and Alexander drive, Bridge of Earn, & the plot beside Struan's, maybe later. Buglife may get involved in advance of this. ▪ Gift Aid bids are in- JF will find out of this has been successful (DW Muirton cost a couple of thousand + extra for bringing in soil = £7000 total). CL commented it would be useful to have a map of Perth & show the various sites, and to see the overall size of areas involved. ▪ SUSTRANS are doing various survey works but not in PKC area at the moment- BG is involved and will update us at the next meeting. <p>Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CL is re-writing the eco-congregation module- it's taking a while but she is getting paid for it and it's a good advert for Green Graveyards- probably be published 2014. ▪ GG not progressing terribly well, DW to look at existing management plans and include different projects, early in 2014. FC commented that the communities' team should be trying to encourage community involvement, DW to let FC know the result of the above action and FC will then try to take it forward. ▪ There is a big new cemetery in Angus, or is it Dundee- on Drumsturdy road- Kelly Ann may be able to advise? CL to ask her. If the cemetery is in Dundee, AL maybe able progress a project there. ▪ AL is doing work in the old fisherman's graveyard in Broughty Ferry- biodiversity work/interpretation in a little mausoleum there. <p>Urban Watercourses Initiative/Urban Invasive Species/Dighty Connect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AL gave a very comprehensive report on the work being undertaken along the Dighty Burn. Most of the work is alongside housing estates- she also gave out many hand-outs- the focus being on environmental education, a new newsletter has also been produced. There is a Facebook page and web page- dightyconnect.org. The variety of projects are diverse - from mosaic way markers, a food for free book (about to be done), heritage trail - featuring different families who lived along the Burn- including archaeology; Geodiversity is also covered- AL attended an archaeological event in Birnam- where she discovered there used to be as many as 60+ mills along the Dighty Burn, but none are listed, so she is getting a survey done to try and get good records of what exists. A survey has also been done on flooding because the course of the Burn has been altered- this being done by working with students. ▪ AL explained that phase 1 & 2 habitat surveys have been done etc. etc.- lots of work- she has 3 other people working with her- Nickii (local volunteer does outdoor art), Jane Wilkinson- runs a conservation group(currently creating several ponds and working with froglife), and Sarah Griffiths who does newsletter/website/publicity work, but also some artistic and helps with mosaics etc. 	<p>CL/JF</p> <p>DW</p> <p>BG</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DW/FC</p> <p>KAD/CL AL</p> <p>AL</p>
--	--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AL stated she is starting to run out of money- currently funded by SNH + 2 years of lottery money- but has to find match funding - is hoping local businesses may help+ a trust fund. ▪ A lot of lobbying of Dundee Council has resulted in 3x per year spraying of the Hogweed, but AL says it's not as efficient as it might be. She is now working with Michelin who have it in their management plan to do lots of biodiversity work. ▪ AL is prepared to use imaginative and innovative ideas including meditation to try and alter the negative influences which exist, she stated she always starts with local people's ideas and passions, and builds on that. ▪ DW reported that Forth Fisheries Trust are working on invasives on the Forth side of PKC area- DW will report back if there is anything which can be brought forward for the Urban working group. ▪ AL said there appear to be Crayfish in the Dighty, AL to confirm? <p>Perth Lade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a possibility that there is also Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam on the Perth lade- BG to advise? ▪ BG reported that the Charitable Trust they had hoped to set up has not happened as several of the potential trust members withdrew. He is now trying to build up interest again. Litter picks have been done. Early in 2014 it is hoped to have a new programme, with lots of different ideas- historical and archaeological and biodiversity all covered- SSElectric have indicated they may be willing to help. Archaeological survey has been done for the whole length of the lade- an archaeological project looks possible, however, BG's time is limited, so someone is needed to lead such a venture- many ideas, but uncertain how to take forward. ▪ Giraffe café may be interested in helping, perhaps with some planting to encourage bees etc. Maybe possibility of a leaflet on walking the lade ▪ Group has been consulted on the new footbridge which will be constructed when the flyover is constructed. ▪ The group has a Facebook page- perhaps this could be used as a medium for ideas- there is an IT person interested in possibly helping ▪ CL suggested a meeting early in 2014 to try and focus ideas- BG and CL to liaise & co-ordinate a date, AL and FC also happy to assist. ▪ CL to forward list of suggestions for 2014 events to BG <p>Green/Living Roofs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DW advised that Invergowrie primary school should now be finished- he will check, and the new primary school in Crieff is to have a sedum roof. <p>Zoom in 2 Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch has not happened- CL reported that some people had been unable to load webmaster. CL/DW to sort with Claire over the Christmas period to try and iron out these problems. ▪ Launch - aim for early March, perhaps in conjunction with an event in association with Perth Lade, in Perth; and in Angus, perhaps through the Dighty- maybe in relation to some of the waymarking works? CL to liaise with BG and AL. <p>Zoom in 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postcards- we wanted poster rather than postcard- zoom in 3 didn't 	<p>AL</p> <p>AL</p> <p>DW</p> <p>AL</p> <p>BG</p> <p>BG/CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>DW</p> <p>CL/DW</p> <p>CL/BG/AL</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>happen as we didn't have originals. AL may have contact details for John Gill who may have artwork- to let CL know. Might it be possible to link into one world centre in Dundee?</p> <p>Zoom in4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Again, didn't happen as we didn't have original artwork. SNH may have original artwork for this? CD will be back early in 2014; CL to ask her if this is available. <p>Sand Martins in Tayside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sand martins have returned to bank at Broughty Ferry, there is new netting on top of the bank ▪ Murton bank and Montrose basin also doing well ▪ Unclear what the situation is at Forfar Loch ▪ CL to see if there is any information regarding Crombie ▪ DM reported that there is a quarry near Blairgowrie (Cleaves on the Essendy road) where it would be "great to have a field trip"- she advised the owners leaves a bank for the birds to nest in every year and they are apparently very keen on them <p>Tayside Swift Survey/Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DM has more or less finished the Carse of Gowrie project, CL to circulate the report. There was some difficulty finishing the churches and schools part of the project, and she has requested a 2 month extension to progress this aspect. ▪ Ed Meyer is coming to Scotland at the end of February to launch the Kirrimuir project- hope to include a workshop etc. and coincide with the end of the Carse of Gowrie project. ▪ DM has been in touch with a school in Malawi to try and get twinning with them, CB would like to widen this aspect of the project to Angus ▪ Swift group held a mapping day to update information ▪ AL has a few spare books on sand martins, also "screamer the swift"- children's book is coming out- has information about where swifts go- CL has been in touch with the author and is hopeful we will be able to get a 30% discount on these books, (making them £7 each) it's hoped to get them to the schools in Africa- BBC has also shown an interest, AL wondered if it might be possible to tie this in with "Mary's meals"- AL happy to follow up with schools along the Dighty Burn (class 6/7Primary) <p>Angus School Bats Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postponed until 2015 ▪ Hillcrest did some surveys and put the information on bat map <p>Sheltered Housing, Care Homes & Hospitals Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CL is still preparing the BAP for Ochil. A relatives and activities group has been set up- hoping to get a case study which could then be rolled out elsewhere. ▪ Trellis event arranged (@ their conference) for March at Perth Concert Hall ▪ Hillcrest have teamed up with Ninewells to try and get more engagement- currently nothing in PKC. 	<p>AL</p> <p>CL/CD</p> <p>CL DM</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL/AL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>JF</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>Zoom 4 bees/bee wild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly ‘on the back burner’, with leaflets currently not happening <p>Tay Amphibian and Reptile Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TayARG has been set up and is running- amphibians in drains project to be taken forward by volunteers. Councils need to work with Roads colleagues on where works are being done, to get a survey + then if necessary put in amphibian road kerbs & drains- this will take a long time to become standard practice. Urban areas are the worst problem areas- There is a new idea coming forward from the Netherlands which uses mesh on drains- waiting to see if this method proves to be successful. AL expressed an interest in this project, DW to liaise with her on this 	<p>CL</p> <p>DW/AL</p>
4.	New Projects	<p>Damselflies and Dragonflies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DM wondered whether it might be possible to have a Tayside dragonfly/damselfly project- she will need clearance from her line manager- she is running 2 day’s training at Crombie Country Park in August- 1 for staff who will train others eg rangers/SWT/SNH staff (8th August) and 1 for the public on 9th August- The aim is to get more people involved with dragonflies and recording. <p>Ryder Cup Green Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL advised about the work she has been undertaking with the Scottish Environmental Group and the launch of the Ryder Cup Green Initiative, which is providing £40,000 for golf course biodiversity projects (PKC only). CL was at the launch of this with SNH who are looking perhaps for this to be used as a pilot which might be rolled out elsewhere. There is a £2,500 limit on projects, but individual golf courses can apply for more than one. CL and DW are assisting with assessment of projects. Sandra Penman is setting up a sharing good practice event in April to help golf courses get involved. <p>Tree Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth & Kinross Tree wardens are setting up a Tree Trail- there will be a leaflet <p>Red Squirrels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PKC Committee Report approved; New project of feeders and traps to analyse which squirrels are where, there will then be a follow up report to Committee to see if PKC are going to ‘control’ on their land. Results expected from survey in around 6 months <p>Hedgehog Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CB reported that his colleague Mhairi Kimmet at Forfar is developing a school grounds hedgehog project which should be ‘ready to go’ early in the New Year. Similar in scope to the postponed bat project, which will join in 	<p>DM</p> <p>CL/DW</p> <p>DW</p>

		at some point. Hedgehog awareness, hedgehog year, tracks and signs, habitats within pupils' homes/gardens/around built environment, habitat improvements etc. Going for the "cute" option, as well as what's good for hedgehogs is also good for a host of less popular creatures- full details in the New Year.	CB
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"> The Working Group Leaders' meeting decided that we need to re-write the LBAP- the aim to produce a much smaller 2nd edition, with a précis of each section. Water & Wetland and Coasts & Estuaries have started. Species pulled together to form 1 list. Some things can come out of each section and go to the main body of the report Student to be employed 1 day per week until March The case studies part is still largely accurate, but we will be looking for some new/more up to date ones, maps also need updating Argyle & Bute have done a new LBAP, as have Cairngorms (nice & short) It would be good to have the draft for the Forum meeting, so that they can give feedback, with a second draft around April/May Possibly publish and consult on draft in summer, and publish finalised LBAP by end of year- timetable is ambitious CL/DW/ERN to meet early in year to try and progress <p>Perth academy tree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL reported on the loss of the Perth academy tree. ☹ ERN that the Reporter's recommendations for the PKC LDP on policy NE2A refers to protection of trees of high natural, historic and cultural heritage value- so it is hoped instances such as this will not occur in the future, ERN to send exact wording to CL. 	CL/DW/ERN ERN
7.	Date of next meeting	ERN thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was agreed to next meet 10.30am 7 th February 2014, at Hillcrest offices, Dundee; lunch will be provided- JF to confirm time and date to ERN for circulation.	JF/ERN