



## **APP Pollinators Taskforce – Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn – next steps**

**25 November 2016 at WG offices, Newtown**

### Attendees:

Bleddyn Lake (BL)	-	FoE Cymru
Bob Griffiths (BG)	-	OPAL
Jan Miller (JM) (by phone)	-	Bionet
Jenny Shaw (JS)	-	WBKA
Nicola Bradbear (NB)	-	Bees for Development Trust/ Bee Friendly Monmouthshire
Andrew Lucas (AL)	-	NRW
Sarah Slater (SS)	-	Flintshire CC
Maria Golightly (MG)	-	Grow Wild / Kew Gardens
Simon Bilsborough (SB)	-	WG
Leasa Fielding (LF)	-	WG

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

BG provided an update on the OPAL project. Additional funding has been awarded which will allow the project to be extended from the end of 2016 for a further 9-12 months. The new funding will involve less direct community engagement, instead focussing more on training educators. Looking to develop a potential OPAL Cymru project.

SB provided an update on the UK Pollinators Monitoring Programme to which WG will be contributing. A query was raised regarding the funding available for the monitoring programme and funding for Bee Friendly. SB explained money was available in the WG research budget to contribute towards the monitoring programme to meet one of the objectives of the APP (work at a UK level on the collection of data) but unfortunately no WG funding was available for Bee Friendly beyond design and printing.

### **2. Role of BF Champions**

The agenda included a list outlining the role of BF Champions – set out below - with agreed amendments.

## Role of Bee Friendly Champions

- Actively engage with communities and organisations in their area, and explain and promote Bee-friendly / Caru Gwenyn
- Offer advice and support to communities and organisations on the action that they can take to help pollinators
- Provide constructive feedback to communities and organisations on draft applications for Bee-friendly / Caru Gwenyn
- Notify the [natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk) mailbox of any expressions of interest in the Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn scheme
- Review final applications for Bee-friendly / Caru Gwenyn from communities and organisations in their area and circulate to the Bee Friendly email group for confirmation and sharing of good examples\*.
- Signpost communities and organisations and other Bee Friendly Champions to different sources of funding\*\* Put Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn communities and organisations in touch with each other to share experiences and learning, and identify and pass on best practice
- Encourage Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn communities and organisations to publicise their work through social media and local press
- Support Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn communities and organisations to build on and expand their projects in subsequent years, to maintain Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn status
- Report back to the Action Plan for Pollinators Task Force

\* Should the Bee Friendly Champion consider the information is sensitive and it is not appropriate to share with the email group they can pass to one other Champion for confirmation

\*\* The NRW [Funding Update](#) gives an overview of money available from various sources to groups and charities for environmental projects and causes – see <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/funding/?lang=en>

## Actions

- SB to add SS to the list of Bee Friendly Champions and ask WBP to add updated list to WBP website.
- SB to circulate updated list to all Bee Friendly Champions
- SB to re-circulate link to WBP website to Bee Friendly Champions to access documents

## 3. Process of assessing applications and awarding certificates

Following some discussion the consensus was that the process for assessing and awarding certificates should be as follows;

- proposed actions discussed with local Bee Friendly Champion

- interest in the scheme notified to [NatureConservation@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK](mailto:NatureConservation@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK) by the Bee Friendly Champion
- final applications submitted to [NatureConservation@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK](mailto:NatureConservation@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK)
- WG to log application, acknowledge receipt of application and forward to relevant Bee Friendly Champion
- Local Bee Friendly Champion to assess the final application and circulate to the Bee Friendly email group for confirmation and sharing of good examples\*
- Bee Friendly Champion to notify WG if they feel the application is successful or provide feedback to the applicant where further action is needed.
- WG to issue congratulation letter, certificate and logo.

\* Should the Bee Friendly Champion consider the information is sensitive and it is not appropriate to share with the email group they can pass to one other Champion for confirmation

#### **4. Current applications**

LF informed the group of 3 applications received; Hay School, Bron Afon Housing Association and Conway CBC. The group felt acknowledgement of applications etc should be issued by WG to add gravitas to the scheme. LF circulated draft template letters (acknowledgement, successful application and unsuccessful application). The group commented on the templates. BG asked if the Bee Friendly logo could be added to the templates.

The group reviewed the Hay School and Bron Afon Housing Association applications and agreed these organisations had completed the necessary actions and should be issued with the certificate and logo asap.

JM raised some concerns about circulating applications to all Bee Friendly Champions in case of sensitive information. It was agreed to address this issue by the Bee Friendly Champion using their discretion to decide whether any applications did contain sensitive data and only share those with one other BF Champion.

Discussion took place as to the level of commitment it was appropriate for a larger organisation to take before being awarded BF status. The group agreed for organisations such as Local Authorities it would be helpful if assurance could be gained, that the organisation as a whole was signed up to the Bee Friendly scheme rather than one part of it, before certification was given. The group agreed to ask JM if she would discuss with the Conway contact whether it would be possible to gain Cabinet support for the scheme.

#### **Actions**

- LF to write to Hay School and Bron Afon to inform them they have been successful and issue certificate and logo.
- JM to discuss with Conway CBC contact the possibility of seeking and gaining Cabinet support to the scheme prior to approval

- LF to investigate possibility of adding BF logo to WG template letters – DONE (it is not possible due to WG branding guidelines).

## **5. Project management and reporting**

SB explained that WG would like to promote the use of the OPAL Polli:nation survey pack as a means of it leading to monitoring and reporting activity taking place and achieving consistency in monitoring.

BG offered to be Wales contact for advice on monitoring and surveying aspects of Bee Friendly

BG asked if the Polli:nation link was available on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) website. LF confirmed that it was provided in the Action Guide but did not think it was within the main links on the APP page of the WBP website

BG also explained the OPAL survey data already submitted will be fully available and searchable by next spring. It is hoped this will generate more interest in monitoring and updating results.

### **Actions**

- LF to ask WBP to add OPAL Polli:nation link to Bee Friendly information on WBP website – DONE
- All to refer any queries regarding surveying and monitoring to BG
- BG to send link to test searchable data to LF

## **6. Funding Opportunities**

Funding opportunities were discussed as part of agenda item 2. It was suggested the NRW funding update is a useful source of information that Bee Friendly Champions could use to signpost to communities and organisations (available on <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/funding/?lang=en> ). It was also suggested that Bee Friendly Champions could circulate details of any local schemes they became aware of that may be useful for other Bee Friendly Champions.

## **7. Communications and engagement**

Discussion took place on opportunities for publicity and expanding the scheme now and in the future.

The following points were covered;

Television coverage – there was some discussion on the benefits gained from television coverage. MG explained she felt that the benefit gained from the work required to set this up was relatively low. The group agreed to keep this under review and take opportunities if they arose.

'Firsts' – the group agreed it would be a good opportunity to increase awareness by having some coverage of the first school to gain Bee Friendly status, first Local

Authority etc. It was also agreed that although Hay School and Bron Afon will be awarded their certificates shortly it may be better to wait until spring for publicity opportunities.

Online coverage – it was suggested all taskforce organisations ideally will ensure links to the Bee Friendly information on the WBP website on their own website and facebook pages etc.

Case studies – it was agreed that as the scheme develops it will be useful to include on a website a case study for each type of organisation e.g.: school, local authority, housing association. The organisation in the case study could also be asked to nominate a Bee Friendly Champion.

Stand-alone website – it was agreed that in the future it would be helpful to have a stand-alone Bee Friendly website. This would help with the issue of storage of information and accessibility.

Press Pack and communications Strategy – it was agreed that it would be useful for a communications strategy to be drafted and a standardised press pack. MG offered to provide press lines etc that she uses for Grow Wild that could be amended for Bee Friendly.

Bee Champions – it was agreed it would be helpful to have more Bee Friendly Champions

Promoting Bee Friendly – it was agreed that each Bee Friendly Champion would aim to attain three expressions of interest in the scheme by Christmas.

### **Actions**

- SB to investigate the possibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs presenting certificates in the spring.
- All to explore possibility of including links to the Bee Friendly information on the WBP website to their own website and facebook pages etc.
- All to consider how a stand alone Bee Friendly website might be taken forward
- MG to send Grow Wild press pack to SB
- SB to draft comms strategy and press pack for sign-off by group.
- All to encourage relevant contacts to become Bee Friendly Champions
- All to aim to attain three expressions of interest in the scheme by Christmas.

### **8. Round up – agreed way forward and next steps**

NB highlighted the issue that the Bee Friendly Monmouthshire scheme faces in light of the new Bee Friendly national scheme, as BF Monmouthshire was already well developed and understood within the county. The group felt that a positive approach to take would be to encourage Bee Friendly Monmouthshire recipients to apply for Bee Friendly status on the basis that they have already achieved much of what is required and will be able to demonstrate how well Monmouthshire is doing.

NB informed the group that former Towns in Blooms committees were currently preparing proposals for next year's applications. This would provide a good opportunity for BF Champions to discuss the scheme with Towns in Blooms contacts and suggest they may wish to consider including actions to meet the scheme's criteria within their proposals.

SS suggested it would be helpful if a standard PowerPoint presentation could be provided as an online resource for community groups/leads in organisations and schools to “sell” the idea to local town councils or heads etc.

to BF Champions to help them promote the scheme. BL offered to circulate a presentation he has developed. SS also suggested it would be useful to develop a Bee Friendly education pack for schools. LF explained that Keep Wales Tidy were considering this as part of their Eco-schools work.

LF provided a round-up of the meeting – see all actions

DONM – tbc; May or June 2017 – usual taskforce meeting

### **Actions**

- All to consider how to assist Bee Friendly Monmouthshire promote the benefits of both schemes.
- NB to circulate list of Towns in Blooms contacts
- BL circulate Bee Friendly presentation to group
- SB to discuss Bee Friendly education pack with WG Eco-schools lead.