



Action Plan for Pollinators

Minutes of meeting held on 17 June 2016 at WG offices, Newtown

Attendees:

Ann Jones	-	NFWI-Wales
Bleddyn Lake (by phone)	-	FoE Cymru
Bob Griffiths	-	OPAL
Clare Dinham	-	Buglife
Dave Heath	-	WG
James Byrne	-	Wildlife Trusts Wales
Jan Miller	-	Bionet
Jane Jones	-	WG
Jenny Shaw	-	WBKA
Julian Rees	-	Pollen8cymru
Leasa Fielding	-	WG
Marc Carlton	-	Wildlife Gardening Forum
Natasha De-Vere	-	National Botanic Garden of Wales
Nigel Leaworthy	-	Monmouthshire CC
Pete Frost	-	NRW
Simon Bilsborough	-	WG
Steven Rose	-	BIBBA

1. Presentation – Pollinator work at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. N DeVere.

TF members felt the results of the research would provide good evidence to prioritise species on the Welsh pollinators list.

Action

- NDV to provide taskforce with further information/results of the work outlined in the presentation as soon as it is available.
- WG to circulate electronic copies of all presentation to TF members

2. Presentation – Buglife in Wales

Action

- CD to provide taskforce members with further information about B-Lines in Wales as the project develops
- WG to highlight to the WG team leading on the Sustainable Management Scheme that any successful SMS applications relating to pollinators in south Wales should link to B-Line project.
- WG to circulate electronic copies of all presentation to TF members

3. Presentation – Pollinator friendly policy in Monmouthshire County Council

TF members felt a presentation of the development of the Monmouthshire CC pollinator policy would be a useful case study at a future managing public estate land seminar.

Action

- NL and WG to consider best ways to disseminate Monmouthshire policy to other Local Authorities.
- WG to circulate electronic copies of all presentation to TF members

4. Developing an education resource pack – meeting the needs of the national curriculum

Examples of education resource packs were provided relating to the 2016 Euros – see <http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/> and Welsh baccalaureate approved projects <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-baccalaureate/welsh-bacc-from-2015/ks4-national-foundation/>. TF members were asked to consider the development of pollinator resource packs and pollinator projects that could be submitted for approval under the Global Citizenship or Community strand of the Welsh baccalaureate (this may be along the line of the Bee Friendly Standard). TF members were reminded that in developing a project for the Welsh bacc it is important to focus on developing the necessary skills required by the qualification rather than a specific focus on learning about a specific project (eg: pollinators).

Action

- Small task and finish group to take forward progression of education resource pack and pollinator projects for the Welsh bacc. JM, JR and AJ expressed wish to be part of an email working group for this.

5. Bee Friendly Wales standard

BL and SB provided an update on progress with developing this Taskforce Initiative. It has been agreed that the standard is designed as an engagement tool to reach out to people and communities not normally involved in work to support pollinators. A task and finish group met in April to discuss the documentation developed to date. After much debate the T&F group agreed that 'Bee Friendly Wales' was preferred (for various reasons) to 'Love Pollinators'. On further discussion about translation the latest proposed campaign title is 'Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly'. This was accepted by taskforce members with the caveat that any images must include a variety of pollinator types to reinforce the message that bees are not the only pollinators. SB has investigated the possibility of a stand alone website hosting the Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly documentation. If the Standard is to be launched in

September (at the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) biodiversity conference) it will not be possible to have a standalone website but the documents could be hosted on the WBP website for the time being.

TF members agreed that the design of a “bronze, silver and gold” standard would be too much to take on in the short-term and a trial of a ‘basic’ self-certification Standard was required before rolling out a more complicated model. A shared-learning event next year could help inform the development of a future tiered scheme.

TF members also agreed that the Standard would promote the Wales planting for pollinators list developed by MC and JM.

Points to note for future tiered scheme – panel members should be local bee friendly champions who have received some form of training to standardise approach and who have a horticultural background.

A generic presentation should also be developed with TF members could present to local groups to help raise the profile of the Standard.

Timetable to progress the Standard

By end of June – feedback on documentation received

Mid July - all alterations finished and final text agreed

Late July / early Aug - Translation

Mid / late August - web pages and other materials finalised

September - launch at WBP conference

Action

All TF members to provide;

- feedback to BL and SB on Bee Friendly documentation by end June
- example case studies of pollinator projects
- good images of pollinators for use in documentation and on webpages
- suggested FAQs and responses

All TF members to;

- Think of local groups that could be encouraged to sign up for the Standard
- MC to add re-arrange wales planting for pollinators list by season

6. Pollinator–friendly management for the public estate (NRW paper for consideration)

Suggestions from TF members that PF could present the paper at the public estate land seminars later this year. The paper could usefully include an example specification for contractors to promote the concept that external contracts should include the key principles within the guidance in order to manage public estate land appropriately.

Action

- PF to include additional images e.g.: shed with green roof / fences used as trellises to highlight green infrastructure.

- PF to de-NR Wise Maesyffynnon land contract for inclusion in guidance
- JB to explore opportunity for guidance to be promoted by WBFG Commissioner
- PF to consider opportunity to provide similar guidance for private land eg: supermarkets

7. Papers to note

Update on CAP reform and greening - update (paper)

Bee health – update (paper)

Pollinator monitoring at a UK level – update (paper)

Action

- TF members to email comments to JB on CAP reform. He is drafting a paper for submission to EU on behalf of WTW WTUK

8. AOB and date of next meeting

BG gave a brief update on the launch of the OPAL Polli:Nation survey packs and its availability and uptake at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint. BG also handed out Polli:Nation survey packs and Species Quest cards to TF members.

SB thanked BL and MC respectively for their hard work on the Caru Gwenyn / Bee Friendly Standard and Wales plants for pollinators list.

PF gave a brief update on road management in the WGWE – NRW have begun implementing cutting back of road edge trees to quite some distance to prevent damage to road surface. This has had the beneficial advantage of increasing shrubby plants along the road edges which has been good for insects.

NRW are intending to run a Love Pollinators campaign at the end of the summer. PF to send details to SB for circulation.

Y Plas Pili Pala / The tropical butterfly house is opening at the NBGW on 25 July.

Wales Environment Link (WEL) launched it's Species Champion campaign on 15 June at Ty Hywel in Cardiff.

The Wildlife Gardening Forum's next Conference called "Educating a generation of wildlife gardeners" is happening on Wednesday 29 June in Crewe. Spaces available. Please visit www.wlgf.org to register

Next meeting

- Newtown late Nov or early December;
- Russel Hobson to be asked to chair
- Task and Finish group to meet before November to plan Public estate land management seminars