

**Avon BAP Communications Group Meeting**  
**16th April 2008, 10.00am – 12.30 am**  
**Avon Wildlife Trust**



**Chair: Matt Hamilton**  
**Minutes: Emma Hook**

Item	Actions
<p><b>1. Introductions &amp; apologies</b>  <b>Present:</b> Matt Hamilton (ABP), Kate Baxter (Oldbury Power Station), Helen Adshead (South Bristol Riverscapes), Sally Oldfield (BCC), Emma Hook (AWT volunteer), Richard Bland (BNS), Paula Spiers (Avon Valley Partnership), Ruth Lyon (Oldbury Power Station)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Neil Maddison (Bristol Zoo), Mandy Leivers (Avon Gorge and Downs Project), Len Wyatt (local ecologist), Susan Stangroom (NSC), Anne Dyke (Astra Zeneca), Jane Briggs (B&amp;NES), Anne Wyatt (AWT Consultancy), Sian Parry (AWT planning)</p>	
<p><b>2. NERC Act - part 1- Review of event for Local Authorities on April 4th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 25 non-ecology related council employees and councillors attended representing three local authorities, however no attendees from BCC. Mike Oxford and Helen Hall are looking to hold a repeat event in Bristol around June - this should benefit from word-of-mouth publicity from those who attended the first event.</li> <li>• Mike Oxford presented the risks of not complying with the NERC Act for LAs and offered examples on how they could carry out their obligations towards biodiversity. This was interspersed with case studies from different councils. This format worked well.</li> <li>• Legislative information was presented in an interesting and clear manner, and appeared to be successfully understood by all - good feedback received from those attending</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. NERC Act - part 2- ABP event for public bodies that are not local authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date</b> - As there is not sufficient time to organise an event for June, it was decided to hold the event in the first 2 weeks of September, specifically suggested the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th or 11th of September (to avoid Mondays and Fridays). These dates would avoid overlap with the Bristol BAP launch, which is to be held on the 17th September, but will aid in publicising it.</li> <li>• <b>Location</b> - Suggested venues include; Ashton Court estate (SO to investigate), Create centre (HA to investigate), Oldbury Power Station (KB/RL to investigate), AWT Folly Farm (MH to investigate), BAWA centre (MH to investigate).</li> <li>• Venue would need to be reasonably priced, capable of housing up to a hundred people (ideally with some smaller rooms for break out groups) and have the facilities to either provide or serve lunch. <b>It was agreed to investigate venues and let MH know by the 30th April.</b></li> <li>• <b>Underwriting of costs</b> - The event should easily cover it's costs as delegates are being charged to attend, but some expenses will be incurred before the delegates fees are collected, therefore an organisation able to underwrite the event will be required. MH to investigate AWT underwriting of costs for</li> </ul>	<p><b>SO/HA/K          B/RL/MH</b></p>

<p>invitations, postage etc. SO to investigate underwriting by BCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speakers</b> - Suggested key speakers include; David Bellamy, Chris Banes, MH to investigate AWT trustee links. All to continue to investigate suitable key note speakers.</li> <li>• <b>Case studies</b> - Suggested case studies include; Oldbury BAP, Wessex Water, Network Rail, Highways Agency, School Grounds Project, Leyhill Prison, Waterways Trust. MH suggested that invitations to public bodies should include requests for case studies and if a surplus of examples occurs then this information could be presented on stands at the event.</li> <li>• <b>Invitation List</b> - MH reported that AWT volunteers had drawn up a list of public bodies to invite and had tracked down appropriate contact points within these companies. MH requested the groups help with highlighting any known good contacts within the organisations invited. MH to circulate invite list and all to add/amend contact details by 30th April.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MH/SO</b> <b>ALL</b>          <b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>4. Estuaries and Rivers week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As discussed at the last meeting, the group discussed the running of an estuaries and rivers week, where each organisation runs an event to do with estuaries or rivers and they are publicised collectively under one banner by the Avon BAP</li> <li>• <b>Date</b> - it was decided to go for a fortnight event running from the 4th - 19th October 2008.</li> <li>• <b>Events</b> - the following possible events were suggested; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diurnal migration of birds at the Severn estuary (15th/16th October)</li> <li>- Avon Valley Walk (5th October)</li> <li>- Increased interpretation boards along the Severn Way, (Oldbury have some funding for this - MH to arrange meeting between KB and AWT)</li> <li>- Ramblers, walks</li> <li>- New Cut walks (Ben Barker)</li> <li>- Avon Gorge (Mandy Leivers)</li> <li>- Sailing Club at Thornbury (Ruth Lyon has contacts there)</li> <li>- Severn Area Rescue Association, SARA, Oldbury's charity of the year</li> <li>- Boat/ ferry trips along the rivers</li> <li>- Weston hovercraft</li> <li>- BNS event</li> <li>- AWT event at Blake's pools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MH to e-mail the partnership about the fortnight and ask for/collate events</li> <li>• <b>Publicity</b> - It was decided to brand the event 'WILD WATERS - Celebrating our Rivers and Estuaries'. MH reported that we may also be able to use the 'Severn Wonders' brand that the Severn Estuary Partnership use where appropriate. MH to produce a leaflet for the event that can be printed off in either black and white or colour.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RB</b> <b>SO</b>  <b>MH/KB</b>          <b>MH</b>          <b>MH</b></p>
<p><b>5. Chair of the group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group nominated MH to be chair</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Avon BAP Bulletin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good feedback on fortnightly BAP Bulletins - found to be a successful method of distributing information around the BAP partners.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Avon Biodiversity Partnership newsletter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABP Newsletter acts as a review of the past year, the first edition looking back on 2007. Unfortunately the first edition has been delayed but should be published by the end of May.</li> <li>• MH to include a small advert for WILD WATERS fortnight into the newsletter.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MH</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next edition deadline aims to be January 2009 in order to ensure it is distributed slightly earlier, thus Matt welcomes any new articles relating to 2008.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Festival of Nature and ABP Display</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH asked whether a higher quality display board than the current ABP one would be useful to represent ABP at events such as the Festival of Nature.</li> <li>• It was suggested that these displays are extremely expensive and would need sufficient funding.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the current display board, if used with large and interesting pictures attached and positioned with the new ABP newsletter would be adequate and more cost-effective as well as enabling the display to be changed without great expense.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SO reported the launching of 3 new LNRs in Bristol on the 24th April</li> <li>• MH commented that the Severn Tidings newsletter would welcome articles on biodiversity related matters and that he would try and advertise Wild Waters in it</li> </ul>	<b>MH</b>
<p><b>10. Date of next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 17th June, 10am-12.30pm, Avon Wildlife Trust</li> </ul>	