

Avon BAP Steering Group Meeting
 6th December 2005, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
 BRERC Ashton Court Visitors Centre
 Chair: Kate Jeffries (EN)
 Minutes: Lucy Rogers



Item	Actions
<p>1. Introductions & apologies Present: Kate Jeffries (EN), Michael Legg (JSPTU), Sam Jarvis (NSC), Alison Slade (B&NES), Tim Corner (BRERC), Helen Hall (BCC), Rachel Sharp (AWT), Melissa Clarkson (EA), Neil Maddison (Bristol Zoo), Lucy Rogers (Avon Biodiversity Partnership), Rachel Fickweiler (SW Biodiversity Partnership). Apologies: Allan Davies (JSPTU), John Martin (RDA), Susan Stangroom (NSC), David Willis (SGC), Rob Spence (FC). Karen Renshaw (B&NES).</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaction - Avon BAP bird list – LR to investigate and report back at next steering group meeting. • Avon BAP update newsletter – The first update written and circulated by LR, decided that should be produced twice per year – June and December. Can be disseminated widely and put on the website. The December issue could be produced as an annual review. • Reaction - MC will contact group members to ask if they are still interested in attending the meetings. • Reaction - JM will circulate list of people who want training, so group can add their names if they want. • Funding Lucys post – MOA with EN successfully negotiated and SLA with Bristol Zoo currently being negotiated ‘ Avon Wildlife Champions project’. Letters have been sent to UA’s, BW and the Dutchy to request £500, and the possibility of increasing the amount. • BCC have agreed to fund Birdwatch again in 2006. 	<p>LR</p> <p>MC</p> <p>JM</p>
<p>3. Update on Focus groups</p> <p>Two focus groups have met since the last steering group meeting:</p> <p>Communication group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communications group discussed the possibility of increasing the appeal and use of website for general public, e.g. by putting in more articles about the BAP, what partnership is doing, and habitat and species information. • Also discussed approaching the business sector for money to produce an annual 	

<p>review of Avon BAP Partnership achievements and plans. Each organisation in the Partnership could write their own sections and be acknowledged in their own right, but come under the umbrella of the Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering group discussed remit of communications group. Who is the audience? If the communications group approach business sector what are we asking for? Sponsorship, Advising on land management, awareness raising, data. Concluded that should continue with website and annual review as suggested, and also advise on Avon BAP events. C&M group are planning to approach business sector as part of their work (see below). <p>Coastal and Marine Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed Estuary leaflet – (We have £600 from EN for leaflet, 50% of that to come via SGlos council) and the idea of approaching local businesses and working with them using ‘biodiversity by design’. RS to follow up regional marine meeting and get minutes and circulate to Avon C&M group. 	RS
<p>4. Progress with Grassland project bid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SITA bid due in on 20th December. Bid circulated to Steering group, comments welcome. 	
<p>5. Progress with Pond project bid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLF bid almost complete. Will finish next week. Bid circulated to Steering group, comments welcome. 	
<p>6. BARS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avon BAP has completed questions necessary for 2005 reporting round. Lucy still waiting for training before entering data onto BARS. Lucy will ask Partnership who wants training and investigate strategies for all organisations to use BARS. 	LR
<p>7. Data Access and planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ML raised issue of Regional planners needing local data. For example Regional Assembly consultants ask JSPTU for local data, but are not prepared to pay for it. Instead they use National data which ignores important local information such as SNCI. JSPTU and BRERC are working to resolve this important issue for the future. Planning issues moving very fast at present. LR to put together briefing paper on planning. All to send details to LR. Should there be a response to Greater Bristol Transport study from this group? RSS working well. Avon BAP should be on consultation list. 	LR ALL
<p>8. Updates round the table</p> <p>Neil Maddison Involved in Community Owls project with Hawk and Owl Trust and monitoring water voles at 2 release sites at Portbury.</p> <p>Tim Corner RSS targets, Nature Map etc.</p> <p>Alison Slade SGlos have produced Biodiversity Planning Guidance document for developers. BAP being written and circulated for comments. Dormouse on Doorstep project has started. 3 year part-time project to cover B&NES and SGlos. B&NES BAP published soon. 2 White-clawed crayfish surveys completed.</p>	

Sam Jarvis Reporting N Somerset BAP onto BARS. Running a woodland workshop in April, with business involvement. Attended SW BIP meeting. Parish wardens running wildlife roadshows. Producing Planning Guidance. Organised road closure for important toad crossing point. Dowlase farm – Flagship site for N Somerset council.

Rachel Sharp Consultation on Bristol airport. Biodiversity by design for Radstock and Hengrove schools. WW money for St Catherines Valley. Mapping work for Rebuilding biodiversity project. Aggregate Levy money for veteran tree work in S Glos, and bat grilles in N Somerset. Also Mendip bat and dormouse project, batscapes and Folly Farm.

Melissa Clarkson EA have taken on extra water courses. WC Crayfish were unexpectedly found in Hambrook in N Bristol, so EA keen to look at other water courses in Avon.

Lucy Rogers Main focus at present is Pondways and Grassland bids, and Bat grill project in N Somerset. Also BARS, dormice, and actions from focus groups.

Kate Jeffries New SSSI notification in N Somerset – Burlidge Meadows. Should link in with Grasslands project. Also working on Green infrastructure.

Helen Hall Bristol BAP progressing. Working with RS at AWT and Colin studholm at GWT on Avon water vole strategy.

8. AOB

- **Funding Lucys post** – Budget in same position as last year. Half funding from UA's and half from project work. LR will be involved in monitoring project work to see how successful projects are. Projects will be measured against BAP targets.
- **SW Targets** – SJ concerned about figures. SJ will discuss with TC. LR will circulate latest figures and methodology.

**SJ/TC
LR**

9. Next meeting date

April 11th 10.00 - 1.00pm at Brerc