



## APP Pollinators Taskforce – Bee Friendly / Caru Gwenyn

June 16 2017 Ladywell House, Newtown

### Attendees:

Bleddyn Lake (BL)	-	FoE Cymru
Bob Griffiths (BG)	-	OPAL
Clare Dinham (CD)	-	Buglife Cymru
Peter Frost (PF)	-	NRW
Sinead Lynch (SL)	-	Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Stephen Rose (SR)	-	BIBBA
Natasha de Vere (ND)	-	National Botanic Gardens Wales
Anna Williams (AW)	-	NWWT
Russel Hobson (RH)	-	Butterfly Conservation Wales
Alison Heal (AH)	-	Ceredigion County Council
Francis Gellatly (FG)	-	APHA
Jane Jones (JJ)	-	WG
Marc Carlton (MC)	-	WLGf
Peter Elvis (PE)	-	Welsh Beekeepers Association
Alison Howard (AH)	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Desree Mansfield (AH)	-	Monmouthshire County Council
Angus Garbutt (AG)	-	CEH
Les Baillie (LB)	-	Cardiff University
Simon Bilsborough (SB)	-	WG
Maureen Pritchard (MP)	-	WG
Paul McCullough (PM)	-	WG

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

#### 2. Presentation - Pharma Bees Project (Cardiff University)

LB gave a comprehensive presentation to the members on the project which aims to identify plant-derived drugs which could be used to treat antibiotic resistant hospital pathogens. LB also spoke on the Cardiff Urban Honeybee Project.

#### 3. BEES Project (Monmouthshire County Council)

AH and DW gave a presentation on the BEES project, which was established to bring together beekeepers from across South East Wales to explore and develop a local/regional Queen Bee breeding programme, raise awareness of bees, beekeeping and its importance to biological systems and diversity with

organisations, schools and the general public and to work co-operatively to facilitate the sharing of skills, ideas and best practice between beekeepers.

The project has worked in partnership with between the three Local Action Groups of Vale of Usk, Cwm a Mynydd and Rural Action MRCT.

#### **4. Asian Hornet Outbreak 2017 (Regional Bee Inspectorate Wales)**

FG gave an update on the 2016 Asian Hornet incursion in Gloucestershire, lessons learnt and the contingency measures in place to prevent any further potential outbreaks. FG also went into detail on the work being done by APHA on the Small Hive Beetle.

#### **5. National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Update**

AG from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology presented a paper on the UK Pollinator monitoring work that CEH has been commissioned to do by Defra (with WG part funding).

#### **6. Bee Friendly/Caru Gwenyn**

PM from Welsh Government gave an update on the Bee Friendly including the latest organisations to have secured accreditation. The members also discussed the current structure of the scheme and opened the floor to the Task Force to gather their thoughts on the merits of the introduction of a bronze, silver and gold standard for Bee Friendly.

It was reiterated that the successful operation and delivery of a more sophisticated standard would require greater support and engagement from the wider number of Task Force members as Welsh Government did not have the resources to do so.

#### **7. Welsh Government Bee Health Policy - Update**

JJ gave an update on the EU Apiculture Programme for 2017-2019, which has been agreed and budgets set. In Wales this will mean a continuation of the current programme i.e. services of the Bee Inspectorate including inspections and education, access to Beebase etc.

The members also heard on the work being done to prevent Asian Hornet presence in Wales. This included putting funding in place to extend the work of the Seasonal Bee Inspectors for a further two weeks at the end of the annual season.

#### **8. Action Plan for Pollinators – Refresh and Update**

PM outlined number of proposals to refresh the current Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales. A small Task and Finish group is to be established to undertake the stocktake with the aim of presenting this to the main Pollinators Task Force and ultimately, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs.

The members were also asked to each present one example of work which had been done in the three-year period since the APP had been launched and to consider any future activities. Templates for this work will be circulated in due course by WG.

## 9. Glastir Paper

PM gave a brief update on the Welsh Government Glastir agri-environment scheme on behalf of Glastir colleagues. There was some frustration at the lack of pollinator-specific options for landowners to choose from which would benefit pollinators. SB and PM to raise the concerns of the group with Glastir policy officials.

## 10. Cardiff Urban Buzz – Buglife

CD from Buglife gave a presentation on the work being done in Cardiff in bringing together urban communities to create pollinator-friendly habitats. The project has created and enhanced 57 sites for pollinators, creating over 20 hectares of habitat.

## 11. Bee Watch Project – Aberdeen University

BG gave a presentation on Bee Watch, a project from the Aberdeen University, in conjunction with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, are working on an online identification tool BeeWatch.

## Actions

- LB to provide taskforce with further information/results of the work outlined in the presentation as soon as it is available.
- Monmouthshire Bees project to follow up discussions with Steven Rose from BIBBA.
- All to consider membership of APP Task and Finish review group. Further information to be circulated to group by PM. This would involve asking members to contribute to the review of APP in terms of actions over last 3 years and any proposed future actions and/or activities.
- All to consider previous APP Advice on Glastir and to update this advice in context of post Brexit agenda – WG to circulate initial Glastir advice.
- WG to invite CAP officials to next meeting.
- All to consider use of Aberdeen University Bee Watch package.
- All to consider if their websites could provide links to Bee Friendly.
- Date of Next Meeting - **December 1 Newtown**