

Action Plan for Pollinators

Minutes of meeting held on 3 June 2015 at WG offices, Newtown

Attendees:

Alan Michie	-	RDP Monmouthshire
Alison Heal	-	Ceredigion County Council
Bleddyn Lake	-	FoE Cymru
Claudia Howard	-	North Wales Libraries Partnership
Francis Gellatly	-	APHA
Jenny Shaw	-	WBKA
Maureen Pritchard	-	WG
Marc Carlton	-	Wildlife Gardening Forum
Natasha De-Vere	-	National Botanic Garden of Wales
Richard Phipps	-	KWT
Russel Hobson	-	Butterfly Conservation Wales
Simon Bilsborough	-	WG
Sinead Lynch	-	Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Steve Lloyd	-	WG
Steve Rose	-	Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association
Steve Williams	-	Torfaen CBC

1. KWT Natural Buzz presentation

- WG to approach WG health department to arrange pollinators workshop for an NHS grounds maintenance audience (Natural Buzz project at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr)
- WG to approach WG Housing department to arrange pollinators workshop for Registered Social Landlords (Natural Buzz project with Tai Calon)
- KWT to report back on project feedback on quality of advice (pollinator friendly lists) offered; and on how the issues of ongoing maintenance is to be tackled
- Russell Hobson to circulate grounds maintenance cost savings figures from Butterfly Conservation Trust project at an industrial estate near Wrexham

2. Torfaen BC - Pollinators for Life presentation

- Steve Williams to circulate details of survey work – pollinators on regularly mowed amenity grassland versus sites planted with wildflowers
- WG to follow up – is there any guidance to pest control operatives on sympathetic moving of honeybees in homes

3. Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association presentation

- WG to follow up issue of records of bees imported into England subsequently being moved into Wales, and degree of disease risk this represents
- WG to follow up on issue of does have WG powers to prohibit the import of bees into Wales?

4. Update papers

- WG to explore possibility of Minister writing round to local authorities and Town and Town and Community Councils on road verge management issues, including issues concerning messages to residents
- Produce infogram for WBP conference on road verge management to include evidence (e.g. from Torfaen survey); case study; best practice (e.g. what to do with collected grass); and cost savings

5. Research and evidence

- Strong support for CEH research proposal. WG to follow up on (i) fit with Defra GB-wide pollinator monitoring scheme; and (ii) cross over with Glastir monitoring

6. APP next steps

- Agreed priorities are:
 - Glastir – pollinator guidance for farmers
 - Sustainable bees
 - Monitoring and evidence
 - Pollinator friendly ground management for public sector land, including road verges
 - Community engagement including gardening for wildlife
- Any APP working groups would focus on:
 - Coordination
 - Communication
 - Good practice
- WG to explore option for getting single set of pollinator messages out to schools via eco-schools programmes; and to explore more broadly with WG Department for Education and Skills
- Produce pollinator infograms for WBP conference – themes could be (1) aims and objectives of APP; (2) road verges (as above); (3) what APP has achieved to date
- Task Force members to consider drawing up a vision for a pollinator friendly Wales
- Bee Friendly Monmouthshire and FoE to work up a “charter” for a “pollinator friendly” accreditation mark (e.g. 6 things to do to be pollinator friendly) , based on the Bee Friendly Monmouthshire approach which is self assessed and downloadable; this to be presented for discussion at the pollinator workshop at the WBP conference.

7. Next Meeting

- Next meeting in Newtown in week beginning first week in December;
- James Byrne to be asked to chair
- Meeting to include: update on Environment Bill; presentation on Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.