

**Pollinators Taskforce Meeting
Newtown
17 June 2014**

Attendees	Apologies
Alan Michie – RDP Monmouthshire	Angie Polkey - (previously) Denmark Farm Conservation Centre
Alison Heal – Ceredigion County Council	Ann Jones – NFWI
Bleddyn Lake – FoE Cymru	Anna Williams - NWWT
Caryn Le Roux (Chair) – WG	Claire Dinham - Buglife
Cath Shelswell - Plantlife	Claudia Howard – NWLP
Deborah Procter - JNCC	Davey Martyn - WG
Dickson Biryomumaisho – Uganda BKA	Jane Rees - Anglesey Verges
Francis Gellatly - FERA	Jill Jackson – NMWTRA
Gareth Baker – Wye Valley Apiaries	John Warren – Aberystwyth University
Gemma Light (Secretariat) - WG	Jonathan Cryer – RSPB Cymru
Helen Ovens - FUW	Julian Rees – Pollen8 Cymru
Holly Pinkney - NBCW	Maria Golightly – Kew Gardens
James Byrne – WTW	Michelle Delafield - NMWTRA
Jan Miller - NWWT	Natasha De Vere – NBGW
Jenny Shaw - WBKA	Rachel Palmer – Keep Wales Tidy
John Ridgwell – Green Space Wales	Rachel Lewis-Davies - NFU
John Watkins – WG	Richard Watkins - Defra
Katherine Baldock – Insect Pollinators Initiative	Russel Hobson – Butterfly Conservation Wales
Len Wyatt – WG Network Management	Tracey Lovering - NRW
Louise Mount – Defra NPS	
Marc Carlton - Wildlife Gardening Forum	
Mike Howe - NRW	
Nicola Bradbear – Bees for Development	
Rob Bailey – WG NRM	
Ruth Shin – Defra NPS	
Sarah Slater – Flintshire County Council	
Sinead Lynch – Bumblebee Conservation Trust	
Steve Rose - BIBBA	

Welcome and Introductions

Caryn Le Roux introduced the meeting stressing that the Pollinators Taskforce is made up of any organisation wanting to make a positive impact on pollinators and working to the four objectives in the Action Plan for Pollinators. Acknowledgement that all the stakeholders present are achieving many things already that contributes to the APP's objectives.

Caryn referred to the LWEC leaflet with recommendations for policy leads: What is causing the decline in pollinating insects? <http://www.lwec.org.uk/publications/what-causing-decline-pollinating-insects>

Updates from actions

- **Roadside Verge Management Seminars** – to share best practice, presentations, information and raising awareness higher up in the LA's.

Feedback and some of the points raised:

- more involvement and information with contractors needed
- road verges is only part of the answer
- white triangles on roads in Denbighshire marking beginning and end to Conservation Zones has been very effective and should be implemented across Wales
- clearer guidance needed from WG
- need to pick out clear points that can be achieved
- "what does a good road verge look like?"
- would be beneficial to link to field margins and corners.

Action 1. Report from the Seminars to be circulated as soon as it is completed by WERH

- **Glastir** – A response to the Glastir Review Consultation was submitted by the taskforce with input from NRW, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Plantlife, and FUW.

Action 2. Gemma to post this consultation response online

Sinead also pointed out that many NGOs already have leaflets for landowners and farmers on biodiversity and supporting pollinators.

- **Evidence** - The Welsh Government is participating in a Defra led project to design and test a **National Pollinator and Pollination Monitoring Scheme** to provide the scientific evidence base for assessing changes in UK pollinator populations (abundance, diversity, composition and distribution) and pollination services to crops. The work has only just got underway. See <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=19259&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=CEH&GridPage=3&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>
- **Pollinators Map** – Information on behalf of Davey Martyn was presented to the meeting. Any queries to david.martyn@wales.gsi.gov.uk
- **Pollinators App** – information presented on behalf of Davey who has been working with colleagues in WG and Environment Systems. Query raised – what's the app called and who can use it?

Action 3. More info on the app to be circulated by Davey

- **Welsh Beekeepers Association** – Jenny Shaw updated the meeting on progress including a bilingual booklet they have produced for members on how to increase their own colonies which is downloadable from www.wbka.com. They have also delivered training and lectures to a third of members.

Steve Rose from BIBBA stressed the distinction between wild and managed bees is an issue and support is needed.

- **Bee Friendly Monmouthshire** – Alan Michie – BFM began in April 2013, successful in lobbying Monmouthshire County Council who have now adopted a roadside verge policy, including marginal cuts, 31 beds pollinating with signs up, 60 members, 95% of schools in the county have had visits from BFM, leaflet "10 Ways to Bee Friendly" will be launched in August, seeds, pollinator areas, educating youths, liaison events, nurseries, working with Towns in Bloom committees looking at different pollinators, farming community, award scheme proposal and Kate Humble is now patron.

- **Communications** – website continues to be updated by Gemma (and Sean at WBP), articles have featured in Gwlad magazine, a ‘one-year-on’ report is being compiled – thank you to all those who have sent in updates for this. Any additions or amendments to be sent to Gemma.

All present agreed for a large logo type badge to be displayed by stakeholders at the RWS. Jan Miller and Marc Carlton stressed that WG and NRW’s stands at the RWS must have plants on them. The Wildlife Gardening Forum have published a bilingual leaflet on Perfect for Pollinators which is downloadable off the RHS website.

Action 4. Shorter list of plants for pollinators to be compiled by Jan Miller and Marc Carlton

Action 5. Gemma to action large logo “Supporting Pollinators in Wales”.

Action 6. Gemma to action a flyer with brief explanation of the taskforce for people to hand out at the stands.

Action 7. All to send in updates for the ‘one year on’ report, and to copy the WG Biodiversity Policy Team into any new relevant updates or projects which contribute to the delivery of the APP.

Defra – National Pollinator Strategy

Presentation by Louise Mount and Ruth Shin from Defra on England’s National Pollinator Strategy. Their consultation generated 335 responses with 70% of stakeholders agreeing with the NPS. Worth noting that there is currently nothing specifically on road verges in the NPS with them agreeing that they need to work more with LA’s in England.

Plants for Bugs Conference

Katherine Baldock updated the meeting on this conference. It was organised by the Wildlife Gardening Forum with speakers from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Action 8. Links to more info will be posted on the webpages.

Lunch

Next Year’s work programme – John Watkins

Discussion was held to explore what the Taskforce believed to be the priority activities for the coming year: both what needs to happen to better support pollinators and deliver the Action Plan, and what activities the Taskforce and its members should undertake. The following long-list of themes and activities emerged:

- **Agriculture** – explore the development of pollinator friendly seed mixes that don’t compromise the productivity of agricultural land; develop funding support for small holders along the lines of the Monmouthshire Natural Assets Programme and provide access to quality advice on management approaches; explore the market for wildflower hay such as for pets and other animals; capture and disseminate good practice on grazing and hay meadow management; explore the constraints and opportunities for introducing or maintaining mixed farming in areas such as the Gower, Llyn Peninsula, and Pembrokeshire, pursue targeted action for Shril Carder Bee; explore the feasibility and potential impact of extending the Long Forest approach for community engagement in land management; find ‘ambassador’ farmers across Wales who can demonstrate pollinator friendly practices to their peers.
- **Public land** – provide support and advice to community housing associations on managing land for wildflowers and introducing bee hotels; build on the road verges seminars to

consolidate guidance and good practice on roadside verge management; securing appropriate mitigation measures for developments such as the new prison in Wrexham (and produce and disseminate guidance for developers on how to incorporate biodiversity and/or provide mitigation); introduce pollinator friendly management on linear routes such as the National Cycle Network, the Canal and Rivers Trust estate, the Wales Coast Path, and on the National Trails; support local government to audit their areas and to produce green infrastructure plans for their estate/area; Welsh Government to demonstrate leadership in good practice on its estate (Natural Resources Wales estate, offices, business parks etc).

- **Education** – review and consolidate advice and packs for teachers; provide schools with direct support (advice and resources) to ‘plant for pollinators’ on school grounds; maintain and build links with Eco Schools.
- **Standards** – produce and/or consolidate pollinator friendly standards for different audiences – local authorities, park managers etc; consolidate pollinator friendly plant list that is evidence based and favours native species; introduce an accreditation scheme to quality assure ‘pollinator friendly’ claims and raise standards – a ‘Bee Flag’ for campsites, hotels, golf courses etc; ensure emphasise on pollinator habitat and wildflowers within Green Flag Award and Green Flag Community Award for parks and green spaces.
- **Communication and events** – explore ways of giving Wales a strong identity on its action for pollinators as the first country in the UK to produce an action plan; target measures to raise awareness of issues and actions amongst the general public; promote a ‘pollinator week’ to raise awareness and encourage participation in citizen science activity (connecting to and learning from Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count and BRC’s iRecord Ladybirds); capture and communicate the key points for a ‘call to action’ across priority audiences; create a “natural buzz” campaign with practical demonstration projects in schools, hospitals, business parks etc.
- **Urban** – introduce an Urban Pollinator Initiative to coordinate and consolidate pollinator activities in urban areas; support community and town councils to provide pollinator friendly planters and planting.
- **Beekeeping** – support an increase in sustainable honey bee production within Wales by all beekeeping sectors; look to establish a native honey bee reserve approach (such as that on Colonsay and Oronsay in Scotland); provide support for training to new and existing beekeepers to include the rearing of their own stock.
- **Horticulture** – provide training and support for garden centre staff on planting for pollinators; support an increase in the suppliers of Welsh native seed producers.
- **Policy ask** – green infrastructure plans for all towns and cities; green infrastructure technical advice notes and supplementary planning guidance; a statutory requirement for pollinator action introduced via the Environment or Future Generation Bills.
- **Research** – to explore and capture what a “landscape that is good for pollinators” would look like in Wales, and generate map layer/s of areas of current high value and with the greatest potential for improvement (taking account of trade-offs with other ecosystem services and building in connectivity etc); to establish key baseline and monitoring data on population and distribution of key pollinator species and the extent and distribution of pollinator supporting habitat.
- **International** – to ensure that activity in Wales recognises the international dimension and consequences of the decline in pollinators, and the potential role for beekeeping in developing countries; to build and maintain links with central government and the devolved administrations on taking forward the Action Plan for Pollinators.

Action 9. John Watkins to make revisions to the APP Implementation Plan to reflect the discussion, to draft a work programme for the Taskforce, and to request nominations for working groups to progress the Taskforce Actions.

Welsh Government Roadside Verges for Wildflowers Initiative

Len Wyatt, Head of Environmental Coordination & Advice Team, Transport Network Management, set out detail of this Initiative. It will build on work previously carried out for the benefit of wildlife on the motorway and trunk road network. The programme of work will include the creation and protection of new and existing wildflower verges as well as improving conditions for wildflowers through appropriate maintenance. This work will be taken forward in a five year programme.

Nature Fund

- The Nature Fund is about tackling decline in biodiversity in a way that recognises the critical relationship with our communities and local economies. Mike Howe questioned the need to have to have 'economic gain' in relation to biodiversity. Clarity needed. Cath Shelswell also stressed that reporting for any funding received should not be onerous. Rob acknowledged all points raised and will take them back to the Nature Fund team for consideration.
- The Frequently Asked Questions are continually being updated and will be shared with the Task and Finish Group. The Nature Fund team are also liaising with many members of the Group to allow them to submit proposals to the Fund. The team will also provide an update at the next meeting.
- Workshop - The meeting then split into small groups to discuss and come up with suggestions for proposals for the Nature Fund.

Several ideas were developed:

- 'Natural Buzz' Keep Wales Tidy developing a proposal to provide more specific information and demonstration events to tailored audiences, including school and hospital grounds.
- Public Estate – to create NHS forests in each Nature Action Zone for ecotherapy, could be a partnership between Wildlife Trusts, NRW, NHS trusts, cancer charities
- Local Authorities – to reduce the 'boring-ness factor' of amenity grassland, and create 'pollinator havens'. Could be a partnership between LAs, NRW, conservation organisations and Local biodiversity partnerships.
- Farming advice and support – to roll out good practice from Bumblebee Conservation Trust scheme in Pembrokeshire across all action zones: Pembrokeshire farmers to act as ambassadors. Advice and activity to be geographically specific, provided from farmer friendly expertise, targeting farmers for bee open days linked to production and pollination services. Partnership between National Parks staff, Local bee associations, Farming Unions, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Plantlife, Farmers, Farm Advisors, Smallholders, Research Bodies, Agronomists. Could be delivered by Farming Connect.

Action 10. Keep Wales Tidy will lead on a bid to the Nature Fund about a pollinator campaign, incorporating demonstration projects, and involving local government and the private sector.

AOB

- Research – budget in WG is currently held by Defra. Need to continue to work together. There is already a lot of science being done in this area.
- The Welsh Government have launched a consultation on changes to Cross Compliance from 2015. The consultation document is available from the following link and the consultation closes on the 18th July 2014.
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/cap-cross-compliance-proposals/?skip=1&lang=en>

Action 11. KWT's report from Wild Weekend in Wales to be circulated to all

	Action	Lead	Partners	Target date (if possible to assign)
1	Report from the Seminars to be circulated as soon as it is completed by WERH	Gemma	Caryn / Shaun Russell	Aug 1 st
2	Glastir Review Consultation response to be posted online	Gemma	Sean McHugh	July 18 th
3	More info on the mobile app to be circulated i.e. what's the app called? Who can use it?	Davey	Colin Chapman	July 18 th
4	Shorter list of plants for pollinators to be compiled	Jan Miller	Marc Carlton	Aug 1 st
5	Supporting Pollinators in Wales logo badge to display on stands at RWS	Gemma	Caryn / John	July 21 st
6	Gemma to action a flyer with brief explanation of the taskforce for people to hand out at the stands.	Gemma	WG Design team	July 21 st
7	Updates for the 'one year on' report, and to copy the WG Biodiversity Policy Team into any new relevant updates or projects which contribute to the delivery of the APP.	All Taskforce members	Gemma / John	July 4 th
8	Links to Transition Movement and Plants for Bugs Conference to be posted online	Gemma		July 18 th
9	Revisions to the APP Implementation Plan to reflect the discussion, to draft a work programme for the Taskforce, and to request nominations for working groups to progress the Taskforce Actions.	John Watkins	Caryn / Gemma	Next meeting
10	Keep Wales Tidy will lead on a bid to the Nature Fund about a pollinator campaign, incorporating demonstration projects, and involving local government and the private sector	Rob Owen	John Watkins	
11	Keep Wales Tidy Wild Weekend for Wales report to be circulated to all	Gemma	Louise Tambini / Gareth Davies	Aug 1 st