

Inverness and Nairn LBAP meeting.

Waterside Hotel.

23rd January 2008. 10am.

Attending.

Keith Williams	Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust.
Ben Leyshon	SNH.
Rebecca O'Hara	SNH.
Gillian McKnight	SAC.
Dan Puplett	Trees for Life.
Mick Drury.	Trees for Life
Susan Campbell	SEPA.
Debbie Maguire	Greeninverness.
Elisa Pflug	Placement student - Greeninverness.
Katy Martin	Highland Council.
Jonathan Willet	Highland Council.
Stuart Benn	RSPB.
Nikki Gilbert	PRIN.

Apologies.

Murdo MacDonald	Highland Biological Recording Group.
Jenny Sleeman	BTCV – Scotland.
John Parrott	Scottish Native Woods.
Margaret Davidson	Councillor.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

Katy Martin was not included on the attendees list of these minutes. There were no other corrections to these so they were agreed by those attending.

2. Action Points from 21.11.07.

AP1. JW. Greeninverness may not be in existence beyond March 2008 so they cannot confirm hosting the Project Scotland Volunteer that would run the Community Biological Recording events. BTCV – Scotland expressed interest and SWT was mentioned as a potential partner. JW to investigate this further. **Ongoing.**

AP2. JW to find out how the treatment of the Auldearn Burn for Giant Hogweed has been going and report back. **Discharged, see below.**

I spoke to Craig Forster at Bowls and the spraying of the whole length of the burn from Boath House (the source of the Giant Hogweed) happened in summer 2006, spring 2007 and is scheduled to continue this year. The costs to the farmers/ land managers is around £100 per annum.

Seemingly it has had a big impact. Elsewhere in the area Cawdor Estates sprays the Giant Hogweed on its Ground and there is some local control, by Highland Council near paths within Nairn.

The Highland Council ranger, John Orr, has used GPS to map hogweed on west bank of River Nairn. The resultant map gives a good indication of the extent and density of the giant hogweed on Kilravock Estate. The quotation for chemical spraying provided by Mitchwood Forestry Services (£1500-1800). This contractor is employed by Cawdor Estate for the same purpose and is recommended by them. John is awaiting to hear from factor of Kilravock if they are willing to pay to have work carried out this April/May 2008.

AP3. JW to find out the value of Highland Council's landfill tax fund and circulate the approved projects list, as of November 2007, to those attending the meeting. **Discharged, see below.**

The fund is valued annual to be around £50-60,000 per annum, but it depends on how much waste Highland Council sends to landfill and the value of the landfill tax.

AP4. All. Date and venue of LBAP launch event to be decided at the next meeting. **Dealt with on Agenda item 6.**

AP5. JW to circulate the text of the LBAP. **Discharged.**

AP6. All. Suggestions and justifications for the selection of local priority species and habitats to be sought. JW to circulate this via email. **Ongoing.**

AP7. Those assigned. Draft text and actions to be sent to JW by Noon, 9th January, 2008. JW to circulate these to all for comment prior to the meeting. **Discharged.**

AP8. JW to ask all on the I&N email circulation list to submit information on local projects. A summary including project title, objective and outcome. **Done but no replies, to be addressed at this meeting.**

AP9. JW. All CC's to be invited to attend the next meeting. **JW did not contact CCs due to lack of time, it is proposed that they are involved when the consultation takes place.**

AP10. All. Any suggestions about the format of the next meeting to be forwarded to JW ASAP. **Discharged.**

3. Action Points to carry forward.

AP1. JW to investigate who could house the volunteer for the Community Biological Recording Project, if Greeninverness are unable to do so.

AP2. All. Suggestions and justifications for the selection of local priority species and habitats to be sought.

4. Discuss a vision for the I&NBAP, split into what it would like to see for I&N in general and also what specifically we would like the plan to achieve.

JW discussed ideas for a vision for the plan. It was suggested that this should tie in with national and regional policy visions, such as the redrafted natural Heritage Futures, already written, so as not to “reinvent the wheel”.

A 3 year vision for each of the chapters was agreed, this would highlight what the actions contained in that chapter would achieve by the end of the plan. An overall 3 year vision for what the I&NBAP and other policies would achieve would also be detailed.

BL suggested that there should be a section on climate change in the introduction as is becoming a key issue, with biodiversity mainly being considered as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

5. Discuss and agree on the actions contained in the 6 chapters.

The group split into two sub-groups, discussing the actions contained in 3 chapters of the BAP. They came back together after 2 hours of discussion and presented their findings. Any further editing of these actions will take place via email.

AP3. It was suggested that there could be a suite of suggested projects that communities could take forward at the end of each of the chapter. These could be linked to the Priority Species for Local Action lists that the STAG group produced. All to suggest actions.

AP4. Scribes from the workshops to send the agreed actions to JW by Tuesday the 29th Jan.

AP5. JW to redo text and circulate by the second week in February.

The action tables for the various broad habitats are attached to this minute as separate files.

6. Decide on a future work programme for the group (events etc.) and a timetable for consultation/ production the I&NBAP.

JW suggested that the timetable should be:

April to June –	Draft I&NBAP out for consultation.
June to September -	Re-draft and print I&NBAP.
October -	Launch of I&NBAP with event during Autumn watch.

The launch would highlight the previous projects that the members of the LBAP Group have taken forward and all the work that has happened for biodiversity in Inverness and Nairn since 2004.

7. AOCB.

AP6. JW to find out about the landscaping plan fro the Highland Housing fair site.

AP7. JW to devise a consultation event to involve community groups and councils during the April to June consultation period.

AP8. JW. The issue of Core Paths and their potential for benefiting biodiversity was mentioned and this should be detailed in the introduction or elsewhere in the I&NBAP.

8. DONM.

2pm, 11th March. Highland Council HQ. Planning Meeting Room.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm and lunch was enjoyed by all.