



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UK Man and the  
Biosphere  
Programme  
Urban Forum

**Minutes of the UK MAB Urban Forum meeting held January  
26<sup>th</sup> 2016 Manchester Town Hall. 2.00pm Committee Room 4.**

## **1. Introduction and Apologies**

Ambra Burls (AB) Bangor University (Vice Chair)  
Ian Douglas (ID) Manchester University  
David Haley (DH) Manchester Metropolitan University  
Prof John Handley (JH) Independent  
Judy Ling Wong (JLW) Black Environment Network (Vice Chair)  
Alison Millward (AM) Independent Consultant  
Kerry Morrison (KM) Independent Artist  
Paul Nolan (PN) Mersey Forest  
Richard Scott (RS) Landlife (Chair)  
Peter Shirley (PS) Independent  
Terry Robinson (TR) Independent  
Joe Ravetz (JR) Manchester University

### **Apologies**

Samantha Davenport, Philip James, Joe Ravetz, , Alan  
Scott , Nick Grayson, Peter Frost, Mathew Frith, Jane  
Houghton.

## **2. Presentations**

Dave Barlow from Manchester City Council, gave a presentation on Manchester's Green Infrastructure Strategy, and the energy this is imparting to the City's bid for progressive and positive environmental change in the City, with an impressive range of environmental partners. This has included participation in the Tale of Two Cities bid, which links Liverpool and Manchester in a combined wildflower and cultural programme, led and delivered by Landlife and the National Wildflower Centre.

Judy Ling Wong gave an update on opportunities at for the Art of Nature Programme, and specifically the exciting opportunity

for an event t the Eden Project in 2017, which she has been discussing with Tony Kendle.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting/ Matters arising Minutes January 26th**

Thanks to **MF** and **AS** for progressing with the Awards. Opportunities for presentations should be made if possible. **RS** to arrange with Mersey Forest.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

### **4. Art of Nature**

As above presentation. **JLW**

Art of Nature, Eden Project has now option to stay with Youth Hostel on the Eden Project site to make venue there much easier, given distance.- suggested date miht correspond with holiday period to give people opportunity to linger and combine with longer break in the area.

**DH** reported he was meeting with James Bady shortly to follow up on SER connections., and an issue in William Jordan III's Journal called Ecological Propsect.

### **5. Conference Ideas Development**

Suggested new themes for Events and discussion. Given the controversy following the of the aftermath of flooding across the UK, Kerry suggested great future topic would be creative responses to Floods and Flooding for a focus point for an event, with a balanced approach for solutions and realism, and reflection on climate change. **KM/ DH/ID/TR**

**DH** referred back to Millennium Floodsof 2003 and the discussion in their aftermath, and it was an appropriate time to reflect on changes and actions since this time

#### **Conference/seminar. Native Alien Species**

**PS.** Reported no response from Linnaean Society re venue for proposed workshop, and it was agreed to proceed with the National Wildflower Centre as venue option., based on idea of Ken Thompson's illuminating book, with and related speakers..

**PS** to follow up in consultation with **RS** / NWC given Ken Thompson's initial interest, and explore other linked speakers. Eg .John Rodwell.

### **6. Lima. Unesco 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Biosphere Reserves: March 14-17th 2016.**

**AB** has generously given the option for attending, this major MaB event, which develops new MaB Action Plan for the future. The programme and inclusion of an Urban Session is still uncertain, but Ambra still willing to try. She will request images from appropriate projects to the group.

**RS./AB** to find out further information to progress presence in urban session, without one not much point in going. Contact via Martin Price and Conference Contacts.

**RS** Attended main MAB Committee in Bristol in November chaired by Martin Price supportive and keen for for us to attend. Though no clear Urban lead at this point in time or guaranteed place for the urban theme as yet, AB still awaiting confirmation.

**RS** met member from the UK National Committee, at the November MAB meeting, namely Beth Taylor, who was eager and interested to promote their later MaB Biosphere report and linkage to other Unesco programme operating in the UK, such as the Creative City and World Memory Project.

As the only MaB Urban Forum all agreed unaminously, it was a good idea for Ambra to proceed and attend the conference and promote the work of the forum and its participants. The group thanked **AB** for her effort and offer to attend on our behalf. . It seemed like an important opportunity to demonstrate the work of the whole group, and make clear the value of an urban perspective amongst the many others being presented.

## **7..Update Limited Company Status**

**AM** has written to James Bridge concerning status of the organisation, adopting Limited Company status , as yet despite a long wait, no reply. No reply as yet.

**ID** pointed out expressed view that we should to go ahead without reference to MAB in our Memorandum and Articles or use of the logo in our correspondence if needs be.

We await formal response. **RS/AM** to follow up.

## **8. Financial Report**

**PS** reported , that he is still awaiting payment for Resource Wales.

**PS** reported balance stands (JAN 26<sup>th</sup> 2016) stands at **£5,350.00**

As it stands Signatures remain **NL** and **ID** remain signatories so, needs updating for **RS/ PS** and **AM** for ease of access, for a branch close to **PS**. Co-op had proved to difficult to action quickly, Group agreed PS proposal to proceed with Barclays, who have been most responsive in terms of ease of new account

etc, and most convenient for PS/AM as two of the signatories. In the future **PS** would like to relinquish Treasurers role.

#### **9. Awards for Excellence - What next?**

Potential future Scottish sites to be assessed might include Jupiter Artland near Edinburgh and the Helix at Falkirk (the park with the Kelpies). Milton Keynes Park Trust.

It was agreed we would not seek create additional sites at current time, and review at next meeting.

Thanks to **AB** for organising Plaques etc.

#### **10. Website**

Website changes made. **PS** looking for someone to take over in the future.

#### **11. Any Other Other Business.**

**JR** Noted UN HABIT 3 meeting and possible linkage to our thinking.

**DH** highlighted possibility of an Eco= art Biennial in Brazil in 2018, and possibly in Manchester in 2020!

Opportunity for future funding: Interregg/NERC with cooperative partner?

Exploration of whether there may be opportunities for collaborative bid, or linked programme to individual members, to add Urban Forum backing etc.

**Date and Time next meetin May 10<sup>th</sup>. Venue to be agreed.**

Amended to May 27<sup>th</sup>-. Atkins Office Birmingham.