



## **Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2001 at the Greater London Authority, London.**

### **Present**

John Archer	Greater London Authority
Corinna Bailie	(Secretary) CEH Wallingford
Mathew Frith	English Nature (at the presentations only)
Pete Frost	CCW
David Goode	Greater London Authority (at his presentation only)
John Handley	CURE, University of Manchester
Carolyn Harrison	(Acting Chair) University College London
John Ingram	CEH Wallingford
Darren Johnson	Leader of the Green Group, Greater London Assembly (at his presentation only)
Graham Leeks	CEH Wallingford
David Nicholson-Lord	Independent Consultant
Stephan Pauleit	CURE, University of Manchester (at morning presentations)
Emyr Poole	English Partnerships (at his presentation only)
Paul Slinn	CURE, University of Manchester (at morning presentations)

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Ian Angus  
George Barker  
John Box  
Gerald Dawe  
Dave Dawson  
Ian Douglas  
Chris Gordon  
Peter Jarvis  
Grant Luscombe  
Peter Shirley  
Celia Spouncer  
Matthew Thomas

Welcome to Corinna Bailie of CEH Wallingford. Corinna replaces Helen Shaw in the Urban Forum Secretariat.

### **2. Presentation on Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards by John Handley, Stephan Pauleit and Paul Slinn (CURE)**

Presentation attached.

**3. Presentation on English Partnerships by Emyr Poole (English Partnerships)**

Presentation attached.

Emyr has given the Urban Forum a copy of the following English Partnerships Publications:

Urban Design Compendium	English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation, August 2000.
Space for Growth	English Partnerships.
A growing partnership (Booklet)	English Partnerships, Forestry Commission.
Smart Development – Climate Change & the Built Environment (Booklet)	English Partnerships, produced for SMART Development, a major national conference, 31 May 2001.
ep Outlook – Sustainable Development	English Partnerships Magazine, Summer 2001
ep Outlook – Building Better Communities	English Partnerships Magazine, Winter 2001

If you wish to receive a copy of any of the above publications for your own keeping, please request these from Emyr:

Emyr Poole, English Partnerships, 110 Buckingham Road, London, SW1 W9SB.

e-mail: [emyrpoole@englishpartnerships.co.uk](mailto:emyrpoole@englishpartnerships.co.uk).

**Action 3.1** John Box to send a letter of appreciation to Emyr Poole for his talk and presentation on English Partnerships.

**4. Presentation by David Goode (Greater London Authority) and Darren Johnson (Leader of the Green Group, Greater London Assembly)**

Presentation attached.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting**

Corinna Bailie reported on behalf of John Box with regards to the funding of the Urban Forum:

CEH Wallingford has received the £2000 from the Wildlife Trusts that was provided by CCW as a contribution to the work of the Urban Forum for 2000/2001.

CEH Wallingford has also received £5091.28 from English Nature as a contribution to the work of the Urban Forum for 2001/2002.

After further consultation with Pete Frost, the CCW contribution of £2000 for 2001/2002 can be claimed now (ideally this should be claimed before March 2002). CCW will be provided with a general report on the activities of the Urban Forum and its work programme for 2001/2002 and an accompanying invoice from CEH Wallingford to initiate payment.

**Action 5.1** John Box to provide a report on the Urban Forum to enable payment from CCW for expenditure in 2001/2002.

Pete Frost stated that the Forum should bid for 2002/2003 funds from CCW now.

**Action 5.2**     **John Box** to place a bid with CCW for 2002/2003.

John Handley proposed that the Forum should approach SNH for funding as our bids have been a success with them in the past. He suggested that a possible contact in SNH is Rachel Hellings. The meeting endorsed this proposed action.

**Action 5.3**     **John Box** to approach SNH with regards to funding for 2002/2003. [Note added after the meeting: Rachel Hellings was the alternate for Susan Davies (Head of Land & Water Management) during 2000/01. Ian Angus currently represents SNH on the Urban Forum]

John Ingram reported that the MAB 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lecture was very successful and greatly appreciated by Peter Bridgewater (MAB Executive Secretary). He has written a thank you letter to Tony Bradshaw, on behalf of UK MAB, for his presentation.

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

## **6. Progress on Work Programme 2001/2002**

The Work Programme updated as of November 2001 was circulated.

### **Topic 4: Review of social and community criteria for selection of Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation**

Pete Frost reported on his paper entitled "Social community criteria for selection of Local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation". It is in relation to the Government review of SSSIs. Local Sites need "Consistency Criteria" designated. Kevin Charman of English Nature has used the Ratcliffe criteria to incorporate a basis for a Local Sites System. Stakeholders have not been involved in this. A categorisation of sites needs to be produced to fit into Biosphere Reserves. Wales are currently working on their own framework, although it would be beneficial for others to be involved in this. Local Site systems must be defensible and need Social criteria to be added in to their systems. Assistance needs to be provided by the Urban Forum to inform them of how to do this.

**Action 6.1**     **Urban Forum** to propose to Agencies that action must be taken in providing framework for their Local Sites systems.

Pete Frost proposed that a Seminar or Conference should be arranged to inform Local Sites of what is proposed and to recommend a way to move forward. The meeting agreed that the Urban Forum should go ahead with this.

Pete Frost enquired if the Forum would be able to provide money towards the cost of providing the Seminar or Conference if needed. John Ingram confirmed that the Forum would be able to contribute up to a maximum of £500 although sponsorship should be sought. He also confirmed that the Urban Forum Secretariat is available to help arrange the event.

**Action 6.2** All members to provide comments on how to take the Seminar or Conference forward.

**Action 6.3** **Pete Frost** to suggest possible dates and venue for the Seminar / Conference and what role the Urban Forum should play.

### **Topic 6: Urban Parks and Semi-natural Open Spaces**

Peter Shirley and Chris Gordon's paper entitled "All things to all people – Parks and Semi-Natural Open Spaces in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain" was reviewed.

It was proposed that:

- (i) a Policy recommendation should be developed once the paper has been tightened and sharpened
- (ii) that the paper should be published on the website for information
- (iii) that Alan Barber of the Urban Parks Forum (supported by the Local Authority and ILAM) should be forwarded the paper to help encourage publication, as they have a strong interest in the subject concerned.

The paper would be a valuable informant for the Urban Greenspaces Task Force in the DTLR, following up the Urban White paper (publication for April 2002).

Carolyn Harrison suggested that the paper be taken forward, but drew attention to Section 6 of the paper "Recommendations" as the main purpose of the paper, so this section needs to be sharpened and circulated to other members for their comments.

**Action 6.4** **Corinna Bailie** to obtain permission from Chris Gordon and Peter Shirley to circulate Section 6 to all members of the Urban Forum for comment.

### **Topic 1: Development of the MAB Urban Wildlife Award for Excellence**

Chris Gordon had informed Corinna Bailie prior to the meeting that: The Contract has been sent to Graham Turnbull of London Wildlife Trust to consider the future and possible funding of the award. The contract was valued at £500 plus VAT from the Urban Forum plus £500 in kind from LWT (time). [Note added after the meeting: Payment to LWT will be subject to approval of the outputs by Chris Gordon as Topic Leader and confirmation either by a meeting of the Urban Forum or by John Box as Chair of the Forum if there is no timely meeting of the Forum].

### **Topic 8: Development of Urban Forum website:**

The Urban Forum website was launched successfully by Helen Shaw. The maintenance of the site has now been taken over by Corinna Bailie.

## **Topic 12: Integrating biodiversity into new developments**

Matthew Thomas had informed Corinna Bailie prior to the meeting that: The first draft of the pamphlet on “Artificial Swift nesting structures” was produced in September 2001. The second draft is in preparation in consultation with Graham Roberts at West Sussex County Council and other Swift experts.

### **7. Planning the Work Programme for 2002/2003**

David Nicholson-Lord reported that he is currently working on a ‘Pocket Book’ in relation to Green Cities as part of the Work Programme. He is currently editing the series of books and requested that everyone look out for new subjects for these. The books cover “broad brush” topics of public debate. Carolyn Harrison along with other members viewed this as a good contribution to the dissemination work.

**Action 7.1**     **David Nicholson-Lord** to bring examples of the ‘Pocket Books’ to the next meeting.

Corinna Bailie reported for John Box with regards to this Agenda item: All members should look at the existing report and programme. There are half a dozen reserve projects to consider. A draft work programme will be circulated in early February in time for the next meeting.

**Action 7.2**     **All** members to think of what they could contribute in the 2002/2003 work programme and inform John Box or Corinna Bailie before the next meeting.

**Action 7.3**     **All** members to come up with suggestions of how to make the planning process efficient for the next meeting.

**Action 7.4**     **John Box** and **Corinna Bailie** to canvas members for further information for the 2002 / 2003 work programme.

### **8. URGENT Annual Meeting 2002**

Graham Leeks reported that URGENT includes 41 projects instigated since 1997. The URGENT Annual Meeting is used to report on their progress and will have both UK orientated workshops and a European dimension. The meeting will be held through the week starting on 8 April 2002.

The Urban Forum could use the meeting to raise national awareness of urban science in general and of the work of the Urban Forum in particular.

In consideration of the European component, John Handley supported the idea for a link to be established into Framework 6 through DG Research.

It was suggested that John Handley, John Box and George Barker would have active roles in the URGENT 2002 Annual Meeting, supported by the URGENT and Urban Forum Secretariats.

David Nicholson-Lord reported that it would be worthwhile to involve people who are working on the Mental Health area. A contact for this area is John Ashton of the Health and Cities Network. Graham Leeks said that he would try to add this area into the planned meeting.

Pete Frost suggested that the UK Nature Conservation Agencies meetings should coincide as they would have a strong interest in the subject.

**Action 8.1 John Archer** to inform the Greater London Authority to suggest names for the URGENT AGM.

## 9. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

Action 3.2 **Topic leaders** to consider Groundwork relevance and invite help from Groundwork to broaden topics.

**Carried Forward.**

Action 3.3 **Richard Sharland and Peter Morgan** to name possible groundwork employees who could contribute, and to suggest new topics for the Urban Forum Work Programme.

**John Handley** to chase. Carried forward.

Action 5.7 **All Work Topic Leaders** to send updates on progress to John Box by January.

**Corinna Bailie** to send a further reminder to the Topic Leaders who have not responded.

Action 5.8 **Matthew Thomas** to take the Information papers for planners idea forward with caution. Firstly provide a copy of the current example for inclusion on the web site. Then publicise and tell champions about the information, and think carefully about house builders and who to involve.

**Matthew Thomas** to report at next Urban Forum meeting (26 February 2002).

Action 5.10 **Topic leaders** to provide topic content for the web if they have not done so already.

**Corinna Bailie** to chase Topic Leaders who have not responded.

Action 6.13 **John Box** to work with **John Handley** to develop better linkages and integration between the Urban Forum and CURE.

The meeting today has been very successful in relation to building on developing better linkages and integration between the Urban Forum and CURE.

Action 6.15 **John Box** to consider asking Chris Baines to a future meeting.

**John Box** to take forward.

Corinna Bailie reported for John Box:

Action 7.16 **All** to check criteria for membership paper from Carolyn Harrison and notify John Box of any concerns.

The membership criteria proposed by Carolyn Harrison were circulated in September 2001. Carolyn Harrison and John Box have agreed that the four membership 'bullet points' will be added to the existing text on Membership in the Operational Methods section of the combined Work Programme & Annual Report.

Action 7.17 **Peter Jarvis** to propose Penny Angold as a new member in time for the December meeting.

Peter Jarvis has proposed Penny Angold. Penny's membership has been seconded by Carolyn Harrison.

**Action 9.1 Corinna Bailie** to send Penny Angold a membership acceptance letter.

Peter Shirley has proposed Alan Scott who is the ex-Chair of Urban Wildlife Partnership.

**Action 9.2 Corinna Bailie** to obtain and circulate Alan Scott's membership application.

Christine Bradley has also been suggested as a possible member of the Forum, proposed by John Handley and seconded by Pete Frost.

**Action 9.3 Corinna Bailie** to obtain and circulate Christine Bradley's membership application.

## 10. Any Other Business

### **COST Action C11 – Greenstructures and Urban Planning** (10 May 2000 – 9 May 2004)

Carolyn Harrison is a UK member of the COST C11 Management Committee. She reported that the comparative approach for the above is Green Planning in Europe. The ongoing National Research that stems from this overlaps various ESF countries.

The UK Management Committee contact is Anne Beer:

e-mail: [anne@arbeer.demon.co.uk](mailto:anne@arbeer.demon.co.uk)

The address for the COST Action C11 webpage is:

[http://cost.cordis.lu/src/action\\_detail.cfm?action=C11](http://cost.cordis.lu/src/action_detail.cfm?action=C11)).

**Action 10.1 Carolyn Harrison** to inform the Urban Forum of the initiatives for COST Action C11.

### **Millennium Assessment**

John Ingram informed the Forum of the UNU/IAS, WHO, UNESCO/MAB Workshop book “Urban Ecosystems Potential Contribution to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) – Overcoming Definition, Scale and Methods Challenges” held in Tokyo, Japan, 20-22 September 2001.

### **UK MAB Secretariat move**

Following a review by NERC of NERC’s role as sponsor of the UK MAB Committee, John Ingram reported that DEFRA will assume the UK MAB Secretariat duties with effect from early 2002.

The move **will not** affect the Urban Forum, the Secretariat of which will continue to be hosted by CEH Wallingford, and closely linked to URGENT.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Thanks were expressed to David Goode and the Greater London Authority for hosting this meeting of the Urban Forum.

## **13. Dates of the next meeting**

26 February 2002\* (Carr’s Lane Church Centre, Birmingham)  
15 May 2002\*\* (National Wildflower Centre, Liverpool)  
17 September 2002 (Location to be arranged)  
11 December 2002 (Location to be arranged)

\* Please note that the Draft Work Programme 2002/03 will be the main agenda item.

\*\* Please note that at this meeting the following is to be agreed:

- Annual Report for 2001/02
- Work Programme for 2002/03.

If possible, an external speaker is to be arranged as well.