



The UK Man and the Biosphere Committee Urban Forum

Minutes of the UK MAB Urban Forum meeting held 25 May 2004 at the Environment and Heritage Service's Commonwealth House, Belfast

Present

Ian Angus	(IA)	SNH
John Box	(JB)	Atkins Environment (Chair)
Peter Cush	(PC)	Environment & Heritage Service
Ian Douglas	(ID)	Manchester University
Pete Frost	(PF)	CCW
Alan Scott	(AS)	Consultant
Matt Fry	(MJF)	CEH Wallingford (Secretary)

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies

Moira Anderson	(MA)	Peter Jarvis	(PJ)
Gerald Dawe	(GD)	Graham Leeks	(GJLL)
Mathew Frith	(MF)	Grant Luscombe	(GL)
Chris Gordon	(CG)	Peter Morgan	(PM)
John Handley	(JH)	David Nicholson-Lord	(DNL)
Carolyn Harrison	(CH)	Peter Shirley	(PS)

JB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Peter Cush and EHS for hosting it.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the February 2004 meeting were signed by JB as an accurate record

3. Urban Wildlife Award for Excellence

The recent developments with the Award for Excellence and new award recipients were detailed:

Vol. 3 of Landlife's Wildflowers Work has been assessed by ID and received the award. It has now been published and displays the MAB logo.

Action 3.1. MJF to send letter and certificate to Landlife

Two Landlife sites, Stockton and Northwood, are also being assessed by ID.

Two sites in Wales also received the award, Cwmtalwg and Dingle / Nant Y Pandy.

Action 3.2. MJF to send certificate to Welsh sites and find requirements for presentation of plaque, etc.

Bog Meadows in Belfast also received the award, with a presentation made after the meeting.

Action 3.3. MJF to send letter to Bog Meadows site.

A certificate and plaque were developed for award sites, these were displayed and discussed.

Action 3.4. MJF to edit wording on plaque and certificate for future recipients

Peter Dogse approved the use of the UNESCO logo on the certificate and plaque.

Action 3.5. MJF to notify Peter Dogse of Bog Meadows presentation and find potential for future UNESCO involvement

After much discussion it was decided that there was not a need for the full reassessment of all existing award sites, as previously agreed. Decision made to contact sites and ask for information for new Award web pages.

Action 3.6. MJF to write letter to existing award sites to gain information for improved Award for Excellence website and assess the need for further Award publicity.

The potential for nominating people as well as sites was discussed, with Phil Castieaux and George Barker suggested.

Action 3.7. PF to get back to DK concerning nomination of Phil Castieaux.

Action 3.8. PC to collate information for nomination of George Barker

4. Possible Memorandum of Agreement for bodies associated with the Urban Forum

The forum discussed the possibility of moving from the current situation of annual requests for funding from CCW and EN to a Memorandum of Agreement to which the Urban Forum and sponsoring organisations signed up for, say, a 3- or 5-year period. It was hoped that this could make funding more secure and encourage input from SNH and E&HS. The potential for formalising a set of actions each year was also mentioned. ID suggested it would be most effective to have one MoA with CCW, EN, SNH and E&HS and possible MoAs with other organisations, e.g. EA, CABE, etc., in future

Action 4.1. PF to discuss MoA with DK for full discussion at February meeting.

5. Urban Forum Website

MJF explained that work on the website had not progressed significantly but that there was potential for a major input into an Award for Excellence area of the website over the summer. Those attending agreed that this should take priority over general changes to the look and feel of the website.

6. Matters Arising from February 2004 minutes

IA mentioned that work had been done in Glasgow on Greenspace Mapping and that details of this work would appear in a forthcoming newsletter.

ID displayed the CABE Space manifesto and can distribute further copies to forum members.

7. Any Other Business

ID mentioned that his document on the Response of Urban Pest Species to Climate Change required careful and considered dissemination.

JB mentioned that there was some Special projects money available, perhaps for a future conference. PF suggested a use for it within the Change in Biodiversity in relation to Climate Change project. For example, a short conference could obtain available climate change predictions for urban areas and allow, say, 4 or so experts to consider the effects of this climate change on different aspects of biodiversity. A workshop would subsequently allow attendees to discuss the results and their implications

8. Dates of Next Meetings

- 15 September 2004 - Edinburgh
- 7 December 2004 - Birmingham
- 23 February 2005 - Manchester
- 24 May 2005 - Wales

Outstanding Actions

Review of Outstanding Actions from February 2003 meeting:	
Incomplete:	
No outstanding actions	