



## Minutes of the UK MAB Urban Forum meeting held 4 December 2007 at CEH, Lancaster.

### Present

Gerald Dawe	(GD)	Independent consultant (Chair)
Ian Douglas	(ID)	(Manchester University)
Peter Frost	(PF)	CCW
Nick Jackson	(NJ)	CEH Wallingford (Secretary)
Eilidh Johnston	(EJ)	Greenspace Scotland
Grant Luscombe	(GL)	Landlife
Alison Millward	(AM)	Environmental Consultant

### 1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies have been received from:

Ian Angus, John Box, Peter Cush, Matthew Frith, David Goode, John Handley, Peter Jarvis, David Knight, Graham Leeks, Peter Morgan, Joe Ravetz and Alan Scott and Judy Ling-Wong.

- Clarification: CABE – key health worker has moved on.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Approved as true and accurate record, subject to postscripts from the Chair.

### 3. Matters arising

- A1 – nothing usable as assessment form but report on Guidance Framework on Audits and Strategy on Greenspace soon available. EJ will send to NJ (to circulate) this once it has been finalised. **A1**
- Publications – NJ to finish this by next meeting. Email group to ask for pubs. **A2**
- Logging system – not yet done. GD to do this. **A3**
- Handbook of Urban ecology: No feedback on previous reviews from UF members. ID has drawn up chapter list. Interest from publishers. Agreed we should incorporate contributions from across the world. Possible authors identified for 25 of these. ID will feed back to publishers that it has been supported by UF following meeting. Authors shouldn't just describe physical situation as it stands but consider socio-economic implications as well. Need to pick up on maintenance issues as well as planning. Perhaps need prologue and epilogue setting urban ecology in global climate change context. ID will make a few changes to document before Xmas and will send to PF to circulate to MaB International Forum for comment. **A4** All others to feed back to ID with comments and suggestions for authors. **A5**
- NJ to chase David Goode regarding the outstanding RCEP papers. **A6**
- SNH funding directed at specific publication/conference topic – to be discussed at future UF meeting. NJ to add as an agenda item. **A7** GD to contact IA and Peter Cush regarding meetings in Scotland and NI. **A8**
- Maidstone Prison as possible award site – not followed up yet.
- NJ to recirculate Excel version of spreadsheet version of Work Programme. **A9**
- GD to send copy of Jarvis paper to NJ on greenspace urban habitat mapping. **A10**
- Shirley paper close to finishing. AM will chase Pete and let NJ know to add to website when complete. **A11**

- Conference on Human Ecology in Manchester: UF is down to deliver one part of this. ID to circulate contact and other material to UF members when ready. [A12](#)
- PZ to send to NJ details of US research on feelings of security related to different environments – ongoing. Check at next Forum meeting
- New BDAP habitat action plan – PF still to circulate this to UF members. [A13](#)
- CABA space - GD to contact Matthew Frith. [A14](#)
- Financial stability – DK needs funding application (as do CCW). NJ has drafted both of these ready to sign.
- ‘Urban Biosphere Reserves’ – PF to chair small sub-group for IUCN applying biosphere approach to urban environments. ID tabled paper on ‘Urban Biosphere Reserves’.
- 2010 conference – linked to previous item.
- EJ paper – she will make presentation to next UF meeting. NJ will add to agenda. [A15](#)
- ‘Why nature is good for you’ – in abeyance until future meeting.
- Work programme – PF and GD to discuss after Conf. Proceedings completed.

#### **4. Progress on ‘Statins and Greenspaces’ conference proceedings**

- Another three papers in. Another two are going to submit.
- 64 pages. Size (download) limit is a consideration.
- Illustrations have been commissioned. Will cost £350 – agreed. GD will scan these and circulate to forum. [A16](#)
- GD and NJ to discuss standardising the figures and diagrams for final draft. [A17](#)
- Conclusions: Pete Shirley’s summing up, followed by conclusions and then a summing up ‘where do we go from here’. Common themes beginning to emerge.
- Connections between RCEP report and the Conference proceedings.
- Forward research agenda needs to be mapped out – e.g. how to help an individual identify what they perceive as barriers to engaging with greenspace? Could take approach ... recommendations for specific users.
- Pre-print PDF version should be available end January. NJ will look at what the costs would be to produce. [A18](#)
- NJ to add up all conference invitees to estimate number of copies required. [A19](#)

#### **5. Retendering of the Urban Forum Secretariat**

- CEH will not be able to retender for this.
- GD has not been able to discuss this issue with David Knight.
- PF suggests following Natural England’s tendering process.
- London Wildlife Trusts, Greenspace and Groundwork suggested as possibilities.
- NJ to circulate UF members if they would like to recommend capable groups who might be called to tender for secretariat – minutes, admin, conference, website. [A20](#)
- GD, PF and DK to review tenders when they come in. [A21](#)

#### **6. Deferment of 2008 Conference**

- Agreed.

#### **7. Membership of the Urban Forum: new applications**

- Ambra Burls has put in an application.
- Very impressive papers and CV.
- Brings in a good health professional background to the UF.
- The meeting decided to formally invite her onto the forum GD to write.

## 8. Financial report

- Call 'special projects from CCW' 'unrestricted funds from CCW'.
- NJ has recorded time against general funds.

## 9. Funding for 2007-2008

- Already dealt with – NJ to expand.

## 10. Work Programme and Sub-groups

- Need to wait to arrange sub-groups to discuss until after Conference proceedings concluded.

## 11. MaB Urban Forum Awards – new contenders for awards

- 'Meanwhile Gardens' and 'Roots & Shoots'.
- GD to visit Meanwhile Gardens. [A22](#)
- GL mentioned Landlife publication that could be considered for award. ID to check for assessment form and send to NJ. [A23](#) GD/David Goode will consider publication for an award. [A24](#)
- Retrospective assessment of previous awards given – ID to produce paper for next UF meeting. [A25](#)

## 12. AOB

### *Madrid Feb 2008 meeting:*

- Papers now on UNESCO MaB website.

### *Call for proposals - EU FP 7*

- PF to introduce?
- Use this to bring in funds for an all-singing-and-dancing urban greenspace toolkit that dealt with everything from human health, hydrology to climate change...
- NJ to circulate call to UF members. [A26](#)

### *Conference*

- NJ to forward CO<sub>2</sub> audit to GD for inclusion in Conference Proceedings. [A27](#)

### *Dates for 2008 UF meetings:*

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Manchester University
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – CEH Bangor or CCW?
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – SNH, Edinburgh?
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Belfast, Northern Ireland – inc. Black Mountains trip? Bob Meadows as contact.
- Dates agreed – NJ to finalise venues and inform UF members. [A28](#)

## 13. Date of next meeting

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Manchester University