



# The UK Man and the Biosphere Committee Urban Forum

## Draft minutes of the UK MAB Urban Forum meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Scottish National Heritage, Edinburgh

### 1. Present

Gerald Dawe	(GD)	Independent consultant (Chair)
Ian Angus	(IA)	Scottish National Heritage
Peter Cush	(PC)	Environment & Heritage Service, Northern Island
Ambra Burls	(AB)	Anglia Ruskin University
Ian Douglas	(ID)	University of Manchester
Peter Frost	(PF)	Countryside Council for Wales
Nigel Lawson	(NL)	University of Manchester (Secretary)
Julie Proctor	(JP)	Greenspace Scotland

### 2. Apologies

John Box, John Handley, Peter Jarvis, Grant Luscombe, Alison Millward, David Nicholson-Lord, Joe Ravetz.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved.

### 4 Matters arising

- Outstanding actions from the last meeting were reviewed:
  - o A1 Greenspace Quality Guide: JP to provide NL with pdf of the for circulation **A1**
  - o A2 Request for publications for the Forum web site: NL to write to members who have not yet responded and to advise them of publications so far been received. Publications received include Drivers and Barriers for Implementing Sustainable Development in Higher Education published by UNESCO with a contribution by GD **A2**
  - o A3 Logging system: GD to attend to this before the next meeting **A3**
  - o A4 RCEP publications : NL to speak to DG regarding these and also about holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 Forum meeting and the planned Street Trees and Sustainability Conference at UCL. **A4**
  - o IA advised that SNH could possibly provide funding for special events. PC suggested making a combined application to the SNH, CCW and EHS-NI inter-agency group. PC to advise NL when to apply. **A5**
  - o A5 The Shirley paper “The Endless Village” and how to apply for the full report is now on the web site.
  - o A 6 Conference on Human Ecology: Dealt with below under item 5 (d).

- A7 New BDAP action plan: PF undertook to provide NL with the Brownfield HAP Action Plan for circulation **A6**
- A8 Cabe Space to host the Forum's December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 meeting: NL to contact MF re this and to advise JP and PF accordingly **A8**
- A9 EJ paper: dealt with by JP's presentation- see below.
- A10 Forum members to provide NL with publications and research reports relevant to urban ecology and to either include them on the web site as a pdf file or to provide a link to where they can be found: see A 2 above.
- A 11 Done. A book signed by Forum members has been sent to NJ
- A 12 Financial report: dealt with below under item 9.
- A 13 Nominations of a Deputy Chair: to be discussed at the next meeting. The Deputy Chair will be expected to contribute actively to the Forum and to stand-in occasionally for the Chair. AB (provisionally) accepted the invitation to stand. GD to provide NL with a list of the basic duties for this unpaid post for circulation to members and invite further nominations before the next meeting. **A9**
- A 14 Circulation of Statins and Greenspaces: NL to send to Alzheimer' Society, TCPA and RTPI and to conferences covering environment and health for health practitioners. JP to provide NL with a trade list of publications for NL to circulate copies. NL to forward this list to GD and AB. It was agreed to distribute remaining copies free of charge. **A10**
- A15 Done
- A16 UK MAB Urban Forum Award for Excellence to *Meanwhile Wildlife Gardens*. GD and AB to attend to and to send them the award citation **A11**
- A 17 and A 18 Conferences: Dealt with below under item 5.
- A 19 Handbook for Urban Ecology: Dealt with below under item 6.
- A 20 Work programme: Dealt with below under item 8.
- A 21 Financial report: Dealt with below under item 9.

## 5 Conferences

### a) Street Trees and Sustainability:

It was agreed to proceed with this conference mid/end March 2009 and NL to request DG to book rooms at UCL. The concern is trees in the urban environment and the purpose of the conference is to change how urban trees are managed. The conference should be controversial and should reflect passion rather than just academic debate. It should have a catchy title such as "Conkers or Cancer". The conference should consider the case for and against street trees and should address issues such as health and well-being, economics, aesthetics, wind throw effects on trees, and insurance. Some recent historic matters (1980s)? such as street tree trenching might also prove relevant. The aim should be to change policy and practice. Participation by a celebrity and/or adaptation by a programme such as the BBC's Spring Watch or the One Show would provide exposure and this might be arranged through DNL's media connections. Speakers proposed/organisation to be contacted included Ted Green (Ancient Tree Forum), James Ogilvie Social Policy Advisor Forest Commission Scotland, the insurance industry, urban planners, Manchester CC Green Team, Red

Rose Forest, Mersey Forest Forum members are requested to suggest speakers. NL to liaise with GD and all Forum members and to coordinate responses **A12**

b) Post-URGENT meeting:

This item requires clarification by Graham Leeks **A13**

c) Greenspace Toolbox.:

Requires a workshop bringing together 18-20 selected practitioners from local government, the development industry, academia and green infrastructure networks. Issues: the need to reach all stakeholders including the private sector; accessible language for community groups; are there too many assessment tools? JP proposed use of the green network in Scotland. JP, ID and PF agreed to draft a one page scoping study. PF to lead and to involve ID and JP **A14**

d) International Conference on Human Ecology at University of Manchester June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009:

The Forum will be organising and taking ownership of a workshop at this conference on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 09.00 to 17.30. GD will deliver a keynote speech. PF proposed participation of George Davies of Cape Town but that he would probably require financial support and ID reported that the conference will be able to offer support to one speaker from a developing country and that hopefully other speakers would be able to self fund and that the day rate is set at £75.00. The Forum agreed to fund up to 5 attendees, costing an estimated £800 - £1000. PF will, if available, facilitate a community and education orientated symposium. Members are requested to identify potential speakers and to advise GD.

GD to take forward with Mathew Frith, PF and PC and provide ID with a synopsis of the workshop by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008. **A15**

## **6 A Handbook of Urban Ecology**

ID reported that the publishers will be Routledge and that David Goode had agreed to be a co-editor. Authors are still required for some chapters and ID has asked Forum members to approach appropriate people. The Handbook will be a publication of UK MAB Urban Forum and will include the Forum logo.

## **7 Julie Proctor**

Julie Proctor presented an overview of Greenspace Scotland's current programmes and guidance documents. The guide to greenspace quality develops a partnership with all stakeholders on how greenspace should be addressed, promoted and developed; it establishes a quality audit and develops a framework for the continuous monitoring and evaluation of greenspace. The guide for Health Impact Assessment of greenspace has been written to help people conduct a health impact assessment (HIA) of greenspace by providing background information on greenspace, a review of research evidence on greenspace and health, suggestions on how to apply the evidence to specific greenspace proposals and how to undertake an HIA. **A16**

## **8 Work programme**

The work programme still requires some updating. NL is awaiting member's updates for some programmes. It was agreed to extend the work programme to include both planned and actual outcomes before October 26<sup>th</sup> in advance of the Parent Committee

meeting in Galloway in November and that the work programme should, in future, be approved by the Parent Committee. GD will try to attend their meetings. **A17**

### **9 Financial report**

The Forum expressed its thanks to the Chair (GD) and to Graham Leeks of CEH for sorting out financial concerns. £8443.99 was transferred into the Forum's new bank account at Royal Bank of Scotland (Manchester Didsbury Branch) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008. After settlement of members outstanding travel expenses and monthly payments to the new Secretariat the balance of funds at 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 is £6581.39. NL to open a deposit account and to present an estimated annual expenditure at the next meeting. **A18**

### **10 Any other business**

- Invitation to Helen Barber to speak to the meeting to be held February 25<sup>th</sup> in Manchester. PF to send NL Helen's contact details and NL to make arrangements **A19**
- Philip James (University of Salford) has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Forum. NL to enquire why he wishes to join and what he can contribute and to request his CV **A20**
- AB informed that she is networking with training providers to develop a BSc in eco-therapy in Scotland. IA and JP to input and to advise AB **A21**
- Brownfield Habitats: Forum to host a sub-group. PF to lead.
- GD expressed the Forum's thanks to IA and SNH for hosting the meeting.

### **12 Dates of future meetings**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2008   | London (location to be confirmed)     |
| • Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2009  | Manchester (University of Manchester) |
| • Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2009       | London (location to be confirmed)     |
| • Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2009 | Location to be confirmed              |