

# Isle of Wight Biodiversity Partnership



Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 10.30 am Enterprise House, Newport

**Present:** Matthew Chatfield - Parks & Countryside Manager, IWC  
Fiona Hanna – AONB Lead Officer  
Colin Pope – Senior Ecology Officer, IWC  
Jay Doyle - Forestry Commission  
Richard Grogan - Head of Conservation, Hants & IW Wildlife Trust  
Claire Hamilton – Fisheries & Biodiversity Officer, Environment Agency  
Peter Taylor – IW Catchment Co-ordinator, Environment Agency  
Les Street - RSPB

Apologies: Belinda Walters, Richard Black, Sonia Lorenzo-Martin, Tony Tutton, Ian Boyd, Mark Larter

## **SG12/25 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

## **SG12/26 Matters arising from the minutes (other than agenda items)**

a) Revision to Ancient Woodland Inventory A contract for the first stage of the project is shortly to be let.

b) Grey Squirrel sightings There have now been three independent alleged grey squirrel sightings in the Osborne area; staff at Osborne House estate have not seen anything. Helen Butler is setting out hair tubes at Osborne estate and the golf course.

c) Deer control Jay reported that the Forestry Commission is continuing to remain vigilant regarding deer sightings at and around Cridmore and has been talking to neighbouring landowners.

## **SG12/27 Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)**

Richard provided an update on progress of the LNP. The Wildlife Trust organised an LNP workshop at Winchester Guildhall on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The feedback report is attached with these minutes. Work is currently directed towards setting up a Board and Working Groups.

Debbie Tann gave a presentation on the LNP at the AONB Open Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> September. There was some discussion regarding the need to hold a consultation workshop locally to identify Island priorities for the LNP

**Action: RG to set up a consultation meeting at an appropriate time in early 2013.**

## **SG12/28 Bioblitz 2013**

Next year's Bioblitz event is scheduled for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May on The Green at Yarmouth. Because the planning for this is taking place well in advance, it is hoped that there can be a focus from participating organisations on recording with both specialists and the wider public.

**Action: All to consider recording activities they can promote at Bioblitz 2013**

## **SG12/29 East Wight Landscape Partnership update**

.Fiona explained that the schedule for submissions has been put back from February to May, allowing further time to reconsider the application. The focus of the revised application will be on water courses and the 'Motkin boundary', particularly landscape features.

## **SG12/30 Local Records Centre Report**

The quarterly report for July to September was presented and will be circulated with the minutes.

## **SG12/31 Any Other Business**

## **Future direction of the Biodiversity Partnership**

There was a discussion on the future of the Biodiversity Steering Group in the light of changing national priorities and Natural England's Designation Strategy for the next five years (attached). In the light of continuing uncertainty of the role and function of Local Nature Partnerships and the need to provide a local forum focussed on biodiversity issues there was general support for the Partnership group to continue to meet in its current form. It was felt that it would be useful for groups represented around the table to give a regular short updates of the work to which they have been or are anticipating being involved.

#### **Non-native species LAG**

Claire brought to the attention of the group the project to tackle non-native invasive species on watercourses on the Island. The first steering group meeting had been called by Natural Enterprise and took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Further information can be obtained from Claire.

**Winter Walks programme** Richard said that the Winter Walks programme has now been published and copies were available from him.

**Ash Die-back Disease** Jay brought our attention to the latest disease affecting native trees. There have been no instances from the Island but details of any suspected trees should be submitted to Forest Research.

**AONB Celebrations** Fiona said that 2013 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Isle of Wight AONB designation and the AONB Unit are planning to organise a year of celebrations.

**Landscape Change Conference** Jay drew our attention to a forthcoming conference (September 2013)  
<http://www.iale2013.eu/>

**Dates of meetings for the next year were set. These are:**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**