

## **Pollinators Taskforce Teleconference 10 December 2013**

### **List of attendees**

Caryn Le Roux – Chair  
Gemma Light – Secretariat

Andrew Gurney – Farmers’ Union of Wales  
Anne Butler – Conwy County Council  
Claudia Howard – North Wales Libraries Partnership  
Deborah Procter - JNCC

Francis Gellatly – FERA  
Holly Pinkney – National Beekeeping Centre Wales  
Huw Thomas – National Farmers’ Union  
Jenny Shaw – Welsh Bee Keepers’ Association  
Julian Rees – Pollen8 Cymru  
Kathleen Carroll – WG Pesticides Policy  
Maria Golightly – Kew Gardens  
Martin Jones – Bees for Development  
Mike Howe – NRW  
Nicola Bradbear – Bees for Development  
Rachel Palmer – Keep Wales Tidy  
Russel Hobson – Butterfly Conservation Wales  
Tracey Lovering – Wales Biodiversity Partnership  
Richard Watkins - DEFRA  
Wally Shaw - Welsh Bee Keepers’ Association

### **Apologies**

Anna Williams  
Alan Michie – RDP Monmouthshire  
Alison Heal – Ceredigion County Council  
Amy Green – Flintshire County Council

Angie Polkey  
Bleddyn Lake – FoE Cymru

Ioan Evans – National Parks Authority Wales  
James Byrne – Wildlife Trusts Wales  
Marc Carlton – Wildlife Gardening Forum

Simon Potts – Reading University

### **Introduction**

Caryn introduced the meeting and reminded all of the Terms of Reference and reiterated that the taskforce will continue to be action focused. These are currently grouped around topics that arose at the inaugural meeting but can be developed and added to as further ideas arise.

### **Sub-group Updates**

#### **Roadside Verges – Martin Jones**

- Welsh Government in the first instance should tackle the trunk road systems.  
Gemma and Caryn to arrange meeting with Transport policy

- Bee Friendly Monmouthshire a new initiative and example of positive work going on in Monmouthshire County Council.
- Cwm Harry Trust – bio-digester using roadside cuttings
- Need to disseminate best practice of verge management, amenity grassland management and also contract management.
- Spring workshops/seminars for Local Authorities would be a good starting point, and could also produce proceedings as guidance.
- Local Authorities need to be reminded of their duty to have regard

**Wildlife Gardening** – No current lead for this group but a link established with Marc Carlton of the Wildlife Gardening Forum, and Maria Golightly of the Grow Wild funding programme, who could offer support with publicity.

**Sustainable Bees** – Jenny Shaw explained that we can't stop all importations of honeybees or bumblebees but we must aim to make Wales more self-sufficient in this area and limit imports as much as possible. There are basic changes that the large commercial companies could make though there are few of these in Wales.

WBKA is running a campaign with its members to raise awareness of the origin of the queen bee. But we must also reach out to those beekeepers that aren't WBKA members to make them aware of the issues with the importing of pollinator kits and in the longer term to get various beekeepers all over the country to start producing colonies.

Frank Gellatly added that the Bumblebees for commercial greenhouses are a different issue. They are not hugely imported into Wales and that queen bees are legislated. However there is an associated workstream looking into a native supply of bumblebees for this purpose.

Tree Health / Disease – the wider issue of raising awareness of importing non-native trees and bees and where they are coming from needs to be considered.

**Glastir** – Mike Howe presented to the meeting a brief paper on Glastir and pollinators. Dates for cutting in current Glastir options are far too early to benefit wild pollinators. There is a lack of targeted prescriptions for specific species. There will be a consultation period for the Glastir proposals for the next Rural Development Plan starting in January (exact date TBC) and running for 4 weeks.

Huw Thomas and Andrew Gurney added that there are issues with moving the timing of cutting to later due to weather conditions. This could result in hay not being able to be cut at all.

Further suggestion was made for farmers to leave small areas uncut in order to create wildflower habitats.

The issue of LA owned farms as well as Farming Connect demonstration farms was mentioned.

**Evidence** – Richard Watkins updated the taskforce on Defra’s National Pollinator Strategy which will be launched in January 2014. A further evidence statement will be published in May/June 2014.

**Monitoring** – Update from Deborah Procter explaining that there is no specific pollinator monitoring scheme at present though it will be developed to be applicable for the whole of the UK. Also, we must be clear on what question we are asking in regards to monitoring of pollinators.

**Funding** – WG can fund small initiatives by the end of this financial year. All sub-groups to get in touch with the Biodiversity Policy Team in WG (Caryn Le Roux / Gemma Light). A marker for the £6 million will be submitted under the title of “Pollinator Programme”.

**AOB** – Date of next meeting to be early February 2014

**Table of Actions:**

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Lead</b>   | <b>Partners</b>   | <b>Target date (if possible to assign)</b> |
|---|---------------|---|--|
| Workshop / Seminar in the Spring to share best practice, raise awareness  | Gemma         | Caryn   | April 2014                                 |
| To signpost and put recommendations for best practice on road verge management on the resource list                 | Gemma Light   | Sean McHugh   | 17 Dec 2013                                |
| Write to LA’s on direction to take on this tying in with the NERC Duty.   | Caryn Le Roux | Davey Martyn  | Early Jan 2014                             |
| Road verges sub-group to have separate meeting to discuss ideas on recommendations for best practice in more detail | Martin Jones  |   | Next meeting                               |
| Meeting to be arranged with the Sustainable Bees sub-group and Ed Blane from Natural England                        | Gemma Light   | Jenny Shaw<br>Alan Michie<br>Holly Pinkney                | Next meeting                               |
| Comments on Mike Howe’s Glastir paper   | All           |   | Mid-January                                |
| Meeting to be arranged to discuss in more detail the options within Glastir   | Gemma Light   | Caryn Le Roux<br>Mike Howe<br>Andrew Gurney<br>Huw Thomas | Early January                              |
| Co-production of Pollinator App   | Davey Martyn  | Colin Chapman   | Next meeting                               |
| Farming Connect demonstration farms and LA owned farms to be looked into as means of meeting NERC Duty obligations  | Caryn Le Roux | Gemma Light   | Spring 2014                                |

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|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Form a Technical Panel within the Taskforce  | Caryn Le Roux   |               | Spring 2014   |
| Communication – Branding of the taskforce including a logo / strapline and make use of twitter | Gemma Light     |               | Next meeting  |
| Progress with liaising with WG internal policy areas   | Caryn Le Roux   | Gemma Light   | Next meeting  |
| Organise a Seminar / Workshop in Spring 2014   | Gemma Light     | Caryn Le Roux | Spring 2014   |
| Circulate Cavalheiro paper on species which are recovering                                     | Richard Watkins |               | Next meeting  |
| Consult the Taskforce with ideas for monitoring in Wales                                       | Deborah Procter | Caryn Le Roux | Next meeting  |
| Arrange a meeting of the Evidence Sub-group  | Gemma Light     | Caryn Le Roux | Next meeting  |
| Submit paper on the evidence gaps project to the Evidence Sub-group                            | Tracey Lovering |               | Early January |
| Submit a marker to the £6 million Nature Fund for a Pollinators Programme                      | Gemma Light     | Caryn Le Roux | 16 Dec 2014   |
| Arrange next face-to-face meeting  | Gemma Light     | Caryn Le Roux | 19 Dec 2014   |