

# Minutes of meeting of the Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

## Natural Environment Sub Group

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

Present: Richard Small (Chair) – Liverpool John Moores University  
Tina Iball – WLBC, Environment  
Lindsay Beaton – Wildlife Trust  
Dave Dunlop – Wildlife Trust  
Tim Graham – Wildlife Trust  
Gillian Whitfield - WLBC, Planning Policy

	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. <b><u>Introductions and apologies</u></b></p> <p>RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from:</p> <p>Joanne Hudson – LCC, Environment Steve Kent – WLBC, Countryside and Leisure Dominic Rigby – LCC, Countryside</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record with the exception of the action on purple ramping fumitory. RS was to make contact with a colleague from Martin Mere, not Landlife. Richard is still awaiting an update on this and will report back to the group in due course.</p> <p>Progress updates on other recorded actions from this meeting were provided by group members:</p> <p>TI informed that there is no comeback on developers who have undertaken biodiversity mitigation measures as a condition of a planning approval, which are later found to have been unsuccessful. If this was thought to be a common occurrence monitoring and evidence gathering would need to be undertaken.</p>	RS
<p>3. <b><u>ETG Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>Please see Progress Report November 2010 to February 2011 for details of progress made over this quarter.</p>	

Other issues discussed which require action include:

**Action 1.a – Local Record Centre** The Lancashire Local Records Centre has secured funding until September but funding availability after this time is currently unknown.

**Action 2.b – Mosslands** Planning permission for peat extraction at Simonswood Moss has been approved to allow extraction until 2042. Subsequent applications have been submitted and are currently being dealt with by County planning authority. These relate to storage of the peat on tarmac surface, removing the opportunity to ever restore the Mosslands.

**Action 2.i – Great Crested Newts** RS to determine if a student would be interested in developing a Great Crested Newt management plan for the Pond Close site in Tarleton.

RS

**Action 2.m – Mere Sands Wood** LB informed the group that they are soon to revise the Mere Sands Wood management plan and will be contacting stakeholders for their views in due course. Lindsey to email the consultation document to TI for circulation round the group.

LB/TI

**Action 3.e – Ponds** There is no funding available for pond analysis and it has subsequently been removed from the agenda.

**Action 6.a and 6.b – New and Built Structures** County ecologists provide the Planning authority with information to ensure applicants design developments to help protect biodiversity. It was agreed that this could be strengthened by inclusion in the Council's Preferred Options through the links with green infrastructure and revision of the Urban Biodiversity Action Plans. Tim Graham offered to provide links to helpful websites.

TI/GW/TG

4. **Water Vole Project Update**

Please see Progress Report November 2010 to February 2011 for an update on this project.

5. **Second Homes Fund applications**

The ETG supported two funding bids submitted to the last round of this years Second Homes Fund:

**The Wildlife Trust: Securing the Future for Mere Sands Wood** seeking funding to help with the re-development of the visitor facilities at the nature reserve (submitted by Lindsay Beaton)

**British Waterways: Spark lane Bridge Picnic Area** seeking funding to undertake small scale enhancement works, improve access to waterside recreation and provide a dedicated picnic area (submitted by Dominic Rigby).

The SHF received an unprecedented amount of funding applications this round. The LSP Executive has agreed to set up a working group to develop a clear set of criteria to prioritise the applications.

Funding will be allocated before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

6. **Infrastructure Task and Finish Group**

GW informed the group that an Infrastructure Task and Finish Group is soon to be set up to inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan being developed through the LDF. Gill is looking for a member to inform on the natural environment theme and asked for volunteers. Work will primarily be undertaken by email and will request comments on whether suggested information included in the plan is sound and that actions are deliverable.

Dave Dunlop agreed to co-ordinate a collective response from The Wildlife Trust.

7. **Any other business**

No further items were raised.

8. **Date of next meeting**

TI to arrange electronically for Mid May

TI