



BETTER WOODLANDS FOR WALES STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5th meeting on 1st May 2009 Broneirion, Llandinam, Powys

1. Present

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Andrew Bronwin | CLA |
| Meriel Robson | WEL |
| Dr Kathryn Roberts | CADW |
| Hilary Miller | CCW |
| Phil Johnson | CONFOR |
| David Edwards | ICF |
| David Jenkins | Coed Cymru |
| Richard Siddons | FC Wales |
| Rachel Chamberlain | FC Wales |
| Kevin Taylor | FC Wales |
| Alison Evans | FC Wales |

2. Apologies

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Spencer Conlon | FDD |
| Rosie Carmichael | WLGA |
| Daniel Rowland | SRD-PRD |
| Kay Davies | WAG, SRD, RPD |

3. Minutes/ Actions arising from the last meeting:

GIS fees

Fees to encourage Management planners to provide spatial data from their own GIS, have been extended.

AB said that the fee was too low. **Action MP (Martyn Potton)** to review fees by looking at time taken by MPs to do mapping and savings to FCW. Quality of mapping has to be good to be of value to FCW. MP will report to Stakeholders **(August)**.

Charter times and turnaround times

Charter times are published in the 'Approach to Management Planning' document, page 3. **Action RC** to review and publish revised times (July).

Turnaround times **Action RC** these will be published quarterly (two weeks after end of each quarter).



Stakeholder minutes May 2009

GLOS downtime

AB reported problems with uploads of complex or large amounts of data onto the system. **Action RC** to raise issue with IT Development Team

Technical group

AE has published Technical group minutes on the BWW web site. A link has also been added to the Management Planners external discussion forum.

Historic environment

KR has requested that the independent buffer around SAMs should be 500 metres. **Action RC** to check with Martyn Potton on the planned work programme for this change. To report back to CADW

CADW & Interpretation of data

CADW want to be sent less information or know which data is relevant when a SAM comes up in the constraints check. Request slot at next Management Planner update training and/or Woodland Officer meeting. **Action RC** to arrange slot at next suitable training event (likely to be before November but depends on training plan). **KR** also requested that Constraints maps are included in the contract reports, as the maps provided don't show SAMs. **Action MP** to request that contract and constraints map are included as part of the GLOS mapping changes

Invasive species

Action AW to work with CADW to produce revised guidance documentation which reflects the specific requirements of woodlands in an historic park or garden. **AE** will inform Management Planners and Stakeholders when it is published.

4. Operational issues

Staff update

RS introduced Kevin Taylor to the Stakeholders group. Kevin joined FCW's Grants and Regulations team on the 1 April as Business and Projects Manager. He is on a three year secondment from the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Payments Division (RPD) – Scheme Management branch.

Following Andy J Wright's move to England and the arrival of a new Woodland Officer in Llandovery, Andy Wills, we have taken the opportunity to restructure the team to ensure support to both woodland officers and management planners - particularly in South Wales. We are also carrying out a recruitment exercise for Andy Wright's post which we expect to fill before July.

Stakeholder minutes May 2009

- Becky Hares has taken over as WO for the Brecon Beacons & Monmouthshire on temporary promotion for the next 6 months.
- We are currently recruiting a contractor to carry out Becky's inspection work.
- Andy Best is on temporary promotion to Assistant Operations Manager covering North Wales in order to allow Patrick Green to concentrate on supporting Becky, Andy Wills and the new recruit WO when they arrive.

G&R Communications plan

The G&R Communications plan is being revised to align with the FCW Communications Strategy(Corporate plan) and the revised Woodland Strategy. The four communications themes are:

Responding to climate change

Woodlands for people

Developing an integrated and competitive forest sector

Improving environmental quality

When promoting BWW we will aim to promote one or more of these themes. Over the coming months BWW will be promoted through 'Gwlad', BWW Owners newsletter (next issue before RWS), Smallholders Show at Builth Wells 16/17th May and RWS 20-23rd July. BWW was also promoted with a stand at the Welsh Woodland Strategy launch

BWW operational update

Approved cases and summary of committed funds up to 2011/12

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of Approved Cases | 503 (49 @ DCT, 454 @: APR) |
| Total Number of Cases | 1264 (1042 mapped) |
| Area of Approved Cases | 16218 ha (ave = 32.24 ha) |
| Total Area | 45470 ha (ave = 43.63 ha) |

| | Budget | Committed | Committed | Paid | Paid |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|------|
| 09/10 | £3,060,000 | £3,603,490 | 118% | £100,123 | 3% |
| 10/11 | £3,240,000 | £1,585,074 | 49% | | |
| 11/12 | £3,280,000 | £1,114,956 | 34.00% | | |

RC gave an update presentation (**attached**) which showed financial commitments for BWW up to 2011/12. Asked Management Planners to provide information to FCW in good time regarding which work will and will not be going ahead in 2009/10 so that funds can be re-allocated. **AB** surprised that FCW couldn't have given more notice to Management Planners. **DE** asked if there would be a financial incentive to hand back

Stakeholder minutes May 2009

work? **RS** replied that this was not possible. Re-allocated funds would go back into the general pot, rather than re re-assigned to individual Management Planner. There are no prioritisation rules, 'first come, first served'. **DE** raised problem of grant for public access. If owner can't claim grant for 2009/10, will only be able to get 4 years funding, instead of 5 years. **Action RS/RC** to provide rules and guidance. MPs to be kept informed quarterly of budget forecast in Technical newsletter.

CCW Habitat regulations (external)

Ongoing discussions between FCW and CCW. Internal guidance produced for FCW Wales staff. Is it published on the external web-site? **Action AE** to publish on Management Planner reference page (June)

Interrogation tools

The Policy and Programme team are working on improvements to the interrogation tools in GLOS. Action AE to publish changes in the bi-monthly BWW Technical newsletter

Assistants to Management Planners

Training for 10 assistants to MPs took place in February and March

Land registration

AW is updating the guidance notes. FCW are still working with GIS division of WAG on the cross-checking process. **Action AE** to keep stakeholders informed of published updates.

Inspections and penalties

Updated information is now published in document AT22 'Approach to grant claims and inspections' in BWW reference library

Mid-term review with Archaeological Trusts

MP will continue with current contracts. Next time contracts will be subject to new FCW procurement rules.

CRN

FCW met with RPD to improve process for CRN. Working with Daniel Rowland so that our guidance matches that of RPD **Action** Guidance to be published (end of June) and **AE** to circulate to all Management Planners. Document will include contacts at front offices.

5. GLOS developments in 2009

RC Presentation (attached) on updates due in 2009/10

6. Changes to BWW in 2009: Phytophthora and BWW Smallwoods

Stakeholder minutes May 2009

Presentation (**attached**) given by **RC** on extra £100,000 funding to prevent spread of Phytophthora in certain areas of Wales and on **BWW Smallwoods**, a simplified BWW scheme for total woodland holdings up to 20 ha which is to be launched at the end of May.

7. First Steps

Presentation (**attached**) by **RS**. Kevin Taylor will be developing this project. The budget for this annual challenge fund is to be negotiated.

8. AOB

AB raised the issue of variable responses from CCW to BWW consultation. Examples given: Dormice and Habitat regulations and working in SSIs. **Action, HM** couldn't comment on individual cases without investigation, but would follow up before next Stakeholder meeting.

9. Date of next meetings

6 November 2009

7 May 2010