

## Feedback from Worksops

### Workshop 2 – Spreading the biodiversity message beyond the ‘usual suspects’

**Usual suspects** – Environmental organisations, schools,

**Beyond the usual suspects** – Everyone, policy makers, planning depts, businesses,

#### What messages do we want to get across?

Food, health, BAP, use of allotments, Gardening, food production, local pride, curiosity/pride.

#### Methods to try

- Identify a point of self interest and make it fun with a ‘hook’.
- Identify a group (targeting a specific message) add targeted resources and make relevant links.

#### How can the LBAP officer help?

- Improve network between organisations
- Bring together Council Depts
- County Champions???

### Workshop 3 - Normal working practices:

#### What do we mean by ‘normal working practices’

- **Planning and development**
- **Policy making**
- **Health and safety**
- **Grounds maintenance**
  
- Simple management of sites (SSSI has constraints)
- Guidance given from ‘above’ – is it always correct?
- Targets given – not always for biodiversity
- Best value performance indicators – are they always realistic?
- Plan produced so ‘job done’ – not always follow-up work
- Health and safety issues
- Not always enough staff hours

#### Incorporating Biodiversity –

- ISO 14001
- Make sure there is follow-up work including in plans etc.
- Grass verges
- Biodiversity doesn’t have to cost anymore except time – need to prove this to ‘above’
- Training needs to be given to **everyone**
- Health and safety has strong influence on what can be achieved for biodiversity.
- Targets and performance indicators

#### How can the LBAP Officer help?

- Where is ‘knowledge available (who is best person to speak to about ....)

- Information needs to be easily found and in laymans terms
- LBAP meetings for different working areas
- Annual forum summarising whats going on 'focussed'
- Summary for what each person/dept is responsible for re biodiversity and what they can contribute to.

#### **Workshop 4 – Partnerships**

The workshop was interesting and was helped enormously by the input from Irene and her experiences.

Feedback from the workshop:

#### **What advantages are gained from partnerships?**

Money, sharing of information, skills, expertise and resources. The coordination of these.

Capturing new people from different disciplines.

Makes life easier.

We all look for the added value.

**How do we influence LSPs?** We discussed the problem that LSPs struggle to engage with biodiversity and the need to encourage the theme as a cross-cutting issue.

- \* Go to the lead person
- \* Engage through all three levels ie personal, professional and political...requires team work!
- \* Link biodiversity to other topics eg waste
- \* Use a strategic head that makes new connections for biodiversity
- \* Sit on the partnership
- \* Follow the developments in the way the Partnerships are delivered and keep in touch with changes.

#### **What can the LBAP Officer do?**

- \* Support other who are sitting within LSPs as part of the biodiversity network.
- \* Keep on board with developments in the way that LSPs are delivered to ensure the network, be they working on ground level (community), in the partnerships or other, can respond with the same message.

There was a mixed response to the subject area. Some feeling that it was another tier of responsibility and confused the issue! We did share the potential for LSPs to be very powerful, the limitation at the moment being their newness and lack of single direction.

We also stressed the importance again of targeting at all three levels of interest, ie community, professional and political, before the message will be heard, within any of these levels of engagement and that everyone had a part to play.

#### **Workshop 5 – Biodiversity and the mineral industry**

#### **How can the mineral industry become engaged in biodiversity?**

- Site ownership – active and non-active sites
- Having a BAP and site management plans/BAPs

### **What can the mineral industry become involved in biodiversity above and beyond planning conditions?**

- Have opportunities to do large-scale schemes with large benefits
- Links to landscape character
- The opportunity to plan ahead
- In recent years there have been better restoration schemes with better techniques and research.
- Consider long-term management/ownership of these sites
- Minimal aftercare restoration is the easy option.
- Creating wetland brings back the 'wetness' to an area ie restoring rivers with their river floodplains etc.
- There is an issues of grazing both in type, timing and appropriateness.
- **Constraints** – CAA, Short of in-fill, land not in mineral company's ownership.

### **How can communities become involved on newly restored sites out of aftercare period?**

- Aggregate Ind work with BTCV and local communities to carry out work
- Have community participation at the start
- Local Nature Reserves
- Giving land away but also giving land with a dowry!
- Estates dept are often looking for return on land.
- **Issues-** Health and Safety, community liaison groups, need to keep communities updated, having 'sacrificial' areas of land.

### **How can other partners help the mineral industry to achieve biodiversity achievement on its sites?**

- Conservation bodies need to be more pro-active about talking to mineral companies
- Need to link with strategies and LBAPs
- Research techniques
- Trying to strike a balance between what a site is restored for/
- Big schemes can potentially deliver big BAP gains (so long as they are within landscape character!)

### **How can the LBAP co-ordinator help to achieve this?**

- Host a regional Biodiversity and mineral forum
- Disseminate good practice
- Use website
- Get involved in Countryside Partnerships
- Build relationships between local groups/ special interest groups and mineral companies for advice and imparting info.