

Halt the Invasion!

Avon Invasive Weed Forum - AIWF

2nd Forum Core Group Meeting 13 May 2008

Minutes

Present:

Guy Pluckwell - Environment Agency
Arthur Barker - Shirehampton Greens
Paula Speirs - The Avon and Frome Partnership
Lydia Robbins - Avon Wildlife Trust
Caroline Hollies - Parks, Bristol City Council
Ed Hall - Bristol Ferries Company

Apologies

Helen Davies - BRERC
Sue Douglas - Network Rail
Kathy Derrick - Bristol Living Rivers / Bristol City Council
Matt Hamilton - Avon Wildlife Trust

1. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes were agreed

2. 2007 Survey data

The 2007 survey data has now been digitised and will hopefully be put on the website on an interactive map if possible.

3. Website update

- GP went through the text that has been provided to BRERC to be added to the website.

- LR suggested that there should be info about legislation on the website.

ACTION: GP to add information about legislation to the website.

- The website address will be www.aiwf.org.uk. A holding page will go on the web in the near future saying that the site is under construction.

4. DEFRA's strategy for GB launch

- The Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain is being released on 28 May. A link to this will be on the website.

5. AIWF Launch and publicity

- Hoping to do a joint demonstration with the EA on a patch of weed in a prominent place which we could use as a launch event.
- Hopefully get press interest via a press release.
- Email all stakeholders when the website is up and running (to include: Planners, Housing Officers, Parks Offices, Large Construction Companies and other orgs).

- GP and KD attending the Non-Native Species Secretariat's 5th Non-Native Species Stakeholder Forum at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on 29 May.
- GP attending the 2 day Keeping up with invasive species workshop event at Leicester University on 10 and 11 of June.

ACTION: ALL to advertise the existence of the forum and its website at every opportunity by sending emails, placing articles in newsletters, mentioning at meetings and in any other way.

6. N. Somerset DC's involvement

- GP has contacted NSDC on 3 occasions. They were enthusiastic but have been non committal in putting forward a representative to attend our meetings.

ACTION: GP will continue to press NSDC for a representative to attend core group meetings.

- PS is happy to represent Banes and S. Glos and has mentioned to them that she is doing this.

7. Forum's Vision, aims and objectives

- The vision was approved.
- There were a couple of alterations suggested for the Aims and objectives.
 1. Identify and record existence should be linked to Co-ordinate the control.
 2. *Provide clear up to date information on NNIW should have **and lobby for improved legislation** attached to it.*

8. Gaining support from other organisations

- A different style of pledge should be designed for corporate and public organisations.

ACTION: GP to write a generic pledge with an additional corporate statement. Send out to other core group members for agreement.

9. Finding a Chairman for the forum

- The core group agreed that there should be a specification written for the chairpersons role so that any interested party can have more of an idea of what would be expected of them. Suggestions included:
 1. Champion the forum
 2. Chair the meetings, summarising main points, run to time, keep focus, make sure everyone has there say
 3. Make sure actions are completed
 4. Encourage forum members to attend meetings
- The Chair will be supported by GP in his Bristol Living Rivers role and should preferably be a non-statutory representative.
- AB stated that he may be interested in the role but feels it should be opened up to others first.
- It was agreed that GP continue to do it on a temporary basis until a Chairperson is found.

ACTION: GP to write a specification.

10. Finding volunteers

- This will be advertised on the website when it is up and running.
- All community groups should be emailed when the website is up and running.

11. Research

- PS is currently working with a student from Bath Uni

- How we should form a partnership with the universities should be discussed further at a later date.

12. Attending events

- Hopefully the forum can hold a launch event in partnership with the EA.

ACTION: GP to write a business plan to try and gain agreement from the EA to fund a PR event / commit to a programme to eradicate an invasive weed from a prominent area.

- the meeting suggested Baton Hill end of the Feeder Canal or under Castle Park as potential places to hold event.
- Events season has just started so events that the forum could attend to raise awareness should be identified and ways to gain entry without funding examined.

ACTION: ALL to identify events that we think would be good for the forum to attend.

- It was pointed out that once we have decided to go to an event we will have to find enough volunteers to cover it.

13 Funding

- We need to try and find minimal funding to start with for:

1. Stand entry into events
2. Leaflet printing

- LR suggested that she had heard about a funding stream that where providing small amounts of money which was also quite easy to apply for.

ACTION: LR to find out about funding she has heard about

14 What next? What should we aim to achieve before the next meeting?

- Identify and attend events
- Publicity through a launch event and the website
- Funding
- Volunteer - Advertise for through email and the website
- Find potential Chairperson

15 NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2008
10:00 TO 13:00
LOCATION TBA.**