

Summary of Management Committee Actions October & November

The committee met in September and November and apart from preparing for quarterly members meeting in January have pursued the three objectives of NB as follows:

1. Supporting conservation groups and encouraging new groups

Continued support of **new groups** as appropriate.

Conservation Sites Agreement - the original Sites Agreement document, which is one of the main documents setting out working arrangements with the appropriate local authority, best practice regarding conservation working etc. There are now 3 versions to accommodate the three land ownership/management scenarios relating to sites on which member groups work.

Site management plans – some preliminary work has been done on a number of aspects of this subject including: experience of various software packages.
accumulating the database of existing site plans.
drafting a site plan template.

Advisor panel - this panel now has its first 4 advisors and is operating with success, covering the general subject areas:

- Mixed woodland management
- Flora
- Butterflies and moths
- Amphibians and wet site management

The first **subject working group** has also been set up. A working group is an informal arrangement for those interested in and working on specific habitats to exchange technical knowledge, share experience and explore any possibilities of mutual interest – such as tool acquisition and sharing, joint project resourcing or funding, joint discussion with officers of BDBC etc. The first such group is concerned with **woodland management** and is chaired by Barry Bennett – our woodland management advisor.

2. Working with local authorities and build relationships with other sectors to the benefit of the natural environment.

Contact with Parishes and other local organisations in the 3rd sector engaged with nature conservation. We have contacted parishes in Basingstoke borough as, in the long term, we see mutual benefit in their awareness of NB and our awareness of their role in managing parish land for nature conservation. This is particularly relevant with the current consultation on strategy for green spaces management. We are also in the process of contacting other organisations active in the conservation field within the borough – such as local branches of RSPB etc. Feedback in March 2014.

We have also contacted **The Land Trust**, who have a small presence in Basingstoke now – at Rooksdown - and will be meeting with them further in the New Year.

With regard to BDBC there have been a plethora of **policy and strategy issues** which have arisen and to which we have endeavoured to respond or are in the process of consulting with NB members and discussion with officers:

- Parks Protection Policy
- Strategy for Green Space Management
- Climate Change consultation
- Loddon Catchment water management strategy - Environment Agency
- LNR Woodlands long term management

3. Act as a voice for nature and raise awareness within the borough

NB now has a **website**, some of the links are still to be put in place, and from January 2014 it will be the channel for most communication with member groups as an intranet facility avoiding the circulation of large files and documents.

NB will be acquiring indoor and outdoor **promotional equipment and material** for use at any promotional event in 2014 - display equipment, flags and pop-ups.

Proposed NB 2014 involvement in **borough wide promotional events**:

- a Bio-Blitz at a suitable location - June
- Love Parks Week - July
- Green Week – September

Detailed planning for these will take place in the new year .

NB is also happy to **support local groups at more local events** where the group is not large or well established by providing equipment, activity /display material, additional staffing of stands. Members are asked to let us know where we can help at the earliest opportunity.