

LINK Members' Bulletin July 2009

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LINK News

Chief Officer, Jen Anderson

WNE Bill: the LINK workshop held on 2 July agreed the basis of a joint response to the current consultation. This is a combination of inputs from the Deer and Biodiversity taskforces and other areas. Our final response will be available for members' sign-up during mid August.

More details from [Jen](#).

Sustainable Land Use: a telecon is being arranged for the end of August to plan for a workshop for members in the autumn to pull together our thinking, and which would aim to establish the principles of a sustainable land use strategy for Scotland. Members and taskforces agree that the eNGO sector must get its thinking together and be ready to influence, inform and cajole government who are planning to report on the subject in November.

More details from [Jen](#).

SOAs: the steering group met on 3 July and there is LINK-wide support for some monitoring/scrutiny of SOAs, first prioritised in our forward planning meeting in October 2008. There are serious concerns in other sectors as well as ourselves in the environment sector about the chances of effective delivery of national outcomes in this way.

Capacity in our steering group is limited and we have now drawn up a draft brief to commission someone to pull the information together into a document that we can use centrally, and as individual organisations, to lobby for delivery at the local level, to form the basis of discussions with SNH, SSN and others, and to promote with national government in relation to environmental objectives to which it is committed.

More details from [Jen](#).

Health and Well-being: please response to Jen's email requesting a summary of your organisation's work and activities in this area. On 26 May a meeting of LINK members agreed to map what is already happening in the LINK network and take this to a meeting with other players in autumn.

AGM and Network meeting: at the LINK AGM on 25 June, Ian McCall succeeded as the LINK Chair from John Mayhew, and Deborah Long continues as vice-chair and David Downie as treasurer. We gave John a landscape print by contemporary colourist John Lowrie Morrison to thank him for all his work both as Chair and as a Trustee. Ian's contact details are i.mccall@sky.com and mobile 07553 408550

SEPA Liaison: the high level liaison meeting is now being arranged for late September.

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Parliamentary Officer, Andy Myles

LINK Parliamentary Training Day: Wednesday 29 July, Edinburgh 10am-4pm.

Includes the 'Advocacy Toolkit'. Book your place with [Andy](#).

National Planning Policy: the Planning Taskforce has responded to the consultation on Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), and are trying to engage Government in our serious concerns about the SPP Draft.

National Conversation: As discussed at the June Board and Network meeting we are setting up a LINK meeting to discuss constitutional issues.

Marine: we have written to the Calman Commission Steering Group to ask for the powers over marine conservation in Scottish waters to be devolved immediately in the context of the Marine Bill currently before both Westminster and Holyrood.

Climate Change: with the **Bill passing Stage 3 on 24 June**. We are now proceeding to the stage of implementation and members are giving input by attending various stakeholder meetings.

LINK Parliamentary Forum: work is beginning on the LINK manifesto in preparation for next year's UK elections.

Liaison with UK Links: we will be meeting with the other three UK Links in September to discuss next year's UK elections.

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Other News

Summer Cabinet programme: As well as the formal Cabinet Meeting, Ministers will take part in National Conversation public meetings, host Homecoming receptions, and undertake visits and engagements around each visit. The schedule is:

28-29 June - Dundee

27-28 July - Melrose

3-4 August 3 and 4 - Stornoway

17-18 August - Aberdeen

31 August-1 September - Glasgow

Although these schedules have been confirmed, sometimes engagements change and if members wish to suggest other events for the ministerial team to draw upon, please email the details to **Jen** as soon as possible.

Wales Environment Link (WEL) Quarterly News

News of WEL's written evidence on the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill, response to the River Basin Planning consultation and meetings with ministers and other agencies.

Northern Ireland Environment LINK (NIEL) July Bulletin

A wide range of reports on the NI Assembly reshuffle, policy updates and members' news.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) Quarterly News

News of WCL's work on the UK Marine Bill, the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill, and ministerial meeting.

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Consultations

You can sign up to **seConsult**, the Scottish Government weekly email alert service.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations:

UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines

Forestry Commission

The new UK Forestry Standard will continue to define governments' requirements for sustainable forest management and will link directly to the Guidelines for greater detail on the key areas.

Consultation Papers

Closing date is 30 October.

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LINK Diary

October 22 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.

November 19-20 LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning

December 16 Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.

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Other Seminars and Conferences		
17-18 September Perth Concert Hall	SNH and partners	Environmental change across the land, water and seas: Scotland on the threshold of a new decade. An international conference for everyone with an interest in a healthy environment. Details

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Publications Received

**SEARS: Investigating customers' early
experiences and needs**

Also summary of the **research findings**:

Survey-based research exploring land managers' experiences of SEARS (Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services) over the first six months of its operation and areas for further development. Published 26 June 2009.



IUCN Pulse Newsletter June 2009

A range of climate change, biodiversity and community news from around the world.

Also various points of action and an appeal to IUCN members to engage the lead up to **UNFCCC COP 15** meeting in Copenhagen.



Great Places Great Cities

Reports of the Greenspace Scotland Conference held in Glasgow in early June

conference 2009 > conference home

welcome to the website for the Great Places Great Cities conference

The conference took place on 4-5 June 2009 in Glasgow, Scotland and attracted an international and home audience of senior practitioners, policy makers and politicians.

The conference website has now been updated to reflect the conference outcomes and speakers' biographies, presentations and abstracts is available for download on the pages below.

[download the conference programme here](#)

[you can view presentations, speakers' biographies and links to further information by following the links below](#)

[presentations](#) | [key notes](#) | [presentations - day 1](#) | [presentations - day 2](#) | [abstracts & posters](#) | [speakers biographies](#) | [partners](#) | [the conference continues...](#)