

## Task Force Work Areas – Updates and Looking Forward

Highlights from the task force spring updates at the networking meeting held in March in Edinburgh are given below. There will be more detailed news of task force activities in the next bulletin.

### **Access**, Ian McCall

The Access task force met with SNH regarding 'Enjoying the Outdoors' and gave input to the Cairngorms Access Strategy.

### **Agriculture**, Mandy Gloyer and Carey Coombs

**SRDP:** The ATF has increased its influence on the likely level of funding that will be available to deliver the SRDP and the need for modulation to supplement the budgets; this is a critical area

**LMCs:** The ATF is concerned about the level of planning and advice that will accompany LMCs. Work is on-going to create regional input to the LMC delivery process.

**SEERAD Agri-environment Review:** ATF members have contributed to the review, in the hope it will form the first stage of a more fundamental review.

**Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plans:** the ATF has been working through the Rural Working Group and sub-group to improve the next SBS Rural Implementation Plan.

**LFASS:** Despite much work and wide sign-up to the LINK position, the ATF was largely unsuccessful in terms of influencing the design of the interim scheme for LFASS 2007-2010 to address cattle retention and environmental issues. The obstacle was SEERAD's unwillingness to accept administrative resource required. Work has begun on setting objectives for the LFASS scheme post 2010.

### **Biodiversity**, Deborah Long

The BTF will be holding a LINK seminar on the ecosystem approach, to develop a common understanding among LINK members on 29 May.

A protocols paper has been produced to give guidance to the working groups in preparing new implementation plans. The TF has been pushing for a programme for delivery of cross cutting issues, supporting the Biodiversity Implementation Team in trying to get SBC to take more responsibility, and encountering resistance.

### **Climate**, Clifton Bain and Richard Dixon

The CTF is working towards a briefing for the anticipated debate in the next Parliament on the Scottish Climate Change Programme which was published in March. Notes on the LINK Climate Change and Land Use seminar held in Perth in March are available on the members pages of the LINK website.

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### **Deer**, Duncan Orr-Ewing

We are awaiting the Deer Commission Scotland Future Strategy document; expected late 2007.

### **Freshwater**, Andrea Johnstonova

The FTF continued its engagement in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It continued involvement in the development of river basin management planning and advisory groups.

### **Landscape**, Helen McDade

The LTF has been very active on the Scottish Landscape Forum and reported to Deputy Minister for Environment at the end of March. The Forum pro-actively sought its continuation to enable key landscape issues to be considered in depth.

### **Marine**, Calum Duncan and Kara Brydson

The MTF received project funding for marine bill advocacy, and under LINK auspices, has recruited two new posts of Marine Research Officer, (Alan Wells, to be based with WWFS in Dunkeld) and Marine Campaigns Officer, (Ylva Haglund to be based with RSPB in Edinburgh). Both start in late June and both will be line managed by Calum Duncan.

Continued input to the AGMACS process. The NIMAs report is almost ready for printing.

### **Planning**, Anne McCall

The PTF will be involved in the drafting of the National Planning Framework 2 and sought to have a place on the NPPG 14 Natural Heritage steering group.

### **SEFF**, Steven Gardner

The Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum (SEFF) met in May with a further meeting with speakers planned for September.

## LINK News

### Chief Officer's Report, Jen Anderson

#### April 2007 Board Meeting

A number of shortlisted individuals are being approached about the role of president and wider canvassing for names is on-going. An interregnum following is likely as Fred stands down in June although the Board hopes to identify and appoint a President Designate by the end of 2007.

The Board also:

- approved final recommendations from its funding subgroup on future subscriptions policy, concluding the dialogue on subscriptions opened last autumn with members. David Downie will be in touch with members to summarise the outcomes
- noted end of year finances and the project funding likely to be available for 2007/08
- noted preparations for LINK's AGM, Reception and Ceilidh. The Board is supporting this work and aware of the workload implications, including fundraising, implications for staff.
- agreed to harness members' contributions to the review of campaigning via a workshop on 5 July in Edinburgh to be chaired by Francoise van Buuren.

#### LINK Membership

The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) is now a full member of LINK, bringing membership to 34 organisations. Reforesting Scotland, BRISC and BTCV have withdrawn in the last year. Buglife and SAGS are newly admitted. Meantime, the Scottish Community Recycling Network and British Bumblebee Conservation have expressed interest in LINK.

#### Marine Bill Advocacy

The Board reviewed the proposed role of LINK in employing the two marine bill advocacy posts, agreeing that this support is an appropriate response to the TF's request for LINK support in order to support the collective goals of the group. Management of the project and the posts will be the responsibility of the MTF and subject to a management agreement signed off by the Board in April.

#### LINK's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A LINK 2020 steering group is developing plans including:

- reception and ceilidh – 15 June, 6pm onwards, at the Falkland Festival of Stewardship.
- A report on LINK's first twenty years and what this can tell us about our future role, commissioned from Michael Scott, will be circulated shortly to members. A summary in preparation for wider audiences.

The group is also exploring scope for other events and will report again at the end of June. Further details are available from Jen Anderson or Alice Walsh.

#### Staffing

LINK will advertise shortly in the Big Issue for an Admin Officer (Edinburgh) to take over from Alex Hopkinson who leaves in August to do a Masters in Environmental Science. Alex has good things to say about her work with LINK, and we are sorry to be losing her. Ylva Haglund's role as Campaign Co-ordinator ends on 11 June, giving her a breathing-space before starting in the new marine campaigns role.

#### LINK's Forward Planning Process

Following requests from TF Convenors, a one page Pdf of the [forward planning process](#) is available on the LINK website. Any questions, please speak with Alice or Adean.

#### Joint Links Liaison

The Joint Links six-monthly meeting is in Edinburgh on 14 June with dinner during that evening. Any members interested in joining the Links staff, please tell [Adean](#) before Monday 11 June.

#### Next Meeting – 28 June, Perth

A reminder to Convenors, or their deputies, of the Board and Convenors Networking and the Forward Planning Process meeting at the LINK offices on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Please come or send your rep!

### Parliamentary Officer's Report, Jane Herbstritt

Following the elections on 3 May, we are waiting to see the developments unfold. Briefings to new MSPs on the marine bill, climate and energy have been sent. The currently on-going debates and developments are being monitored, and from that an analysis of the new programme for governance is being prepared.

Earlier in spring, at the SNP conference in April, the Everyone fringe event on 'green networks' was not very enthusiastically attended, although Richard Lochhead MSP and his researcher took many notes. In March, the Everyone 'end of term report' was published and is available at <http://www.everyonecan.org/watching.html>.

### Campaign Officer's Report, Ylva Haglund

Following the elections on 3 May and the busy period leading up to it with the Big Green Debate, other hustings, and the footprint petition event at the Scottish Science Centre Glasgow, Ylva is preparing an evaluation report of this year's campaign. A hand over of the highly coloured petition with over 1500 footprints to the new government is planned for mid-end June and will include students from the Firr Hill High School, Edinburgh.

### Administration Officer's Report, Hugh Green

**Perth Meeting Room:** apart from the bookings already confirmed, the meeting room at LINK's offices in Perth will not be available from June to mid July. This is for health and safety reasons due to maintenance work on the fire alarm systems in LINK's Perth offices. We will let everyone know if the work is finished sooner.

**Treading sustainably:** LINK's Corporate Strategy commits the network to acting sustainably. Alex is currently researching examples of best practice that could inform a set of guidelines for the LINK network. This includes energy, travel and procurement. Please get in touch with **Alex** if your organisation already has a set of guidelines that you could share, or if you know of any useful sources of information.

**Melting Pot, Edinburgh:** This is a new social innovation workspace opening in September at 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh where a meeting room or work space with resources and services can be hired by the hour, day or month. It may be a useful meeting place for LINK. For more information see [www.themeltingpotedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.themeltingpotedinburgh.org.uk)

## LINK 2007 Meetings

<b>June</b>	<b>15</b>	AGM and 20th Anniversary Ceilidh, Falkland, Fife
	<b>28</b>	Board and Convenors' Networking meeting
<b>October</b>	<b>25</b>	Board meeting Perth
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Annual Review and Forward Planning meeting
<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>	Media Networking and drinks, organized by FoES
	<b>13</b>	Christmas Evening Reception, Edinburgh

## Other Events

<b>June</b>	<b>12</b>	Planning in Scotland <a href="http://www.holyrood.com">www.holyrood.com</a>	Glasgow
	<b>13</b>	Water, Climate and Environment <a href="http://www.ciewm.org">www.ciewm.org</a>	London
	<b>19</b>	Energy Efficiency and Micro Generation <a href="http://www.mackayhannah.com">www.mackayhannah.com</a>	Edinburgh
	<b>21/22</b>	Scottish Planning and Environmental Law Conference <a href="http://www.IDOXplc.com">http://www.IDOXplc.com</a>	Dunfermline
	<b>22</b>	Climate Change in Scotland: Global to Local <a href="http://www.holyrood.com">www.holyrood.com</a>	Edinburgh
<b>October</b>	<b>29/31</b>	Institute of Fundraising Conference <a href="http://www.scottishconference.org.uk">www.scottishconference.org.uk</a>	Glasgow

## Consultations

You can sign up to **seConsult**, the Executive weekly email alert service for new consultations. In addition, the following consultations have been received:

Visit Scotland Draft Corporate Plan 2007-10 <a href="http://www.visitscotland.org/environmental_report">http://www.visitscotland.org/environmental_report</a>	Visit Scotland	18 June
Restrictions on Marketing and Use of PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonates) <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/pfos2007/index.htm">http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/pfos2007/index.htm</a>	EC Directive 2006/122/EC	28 June
Investment in Archaeology and Ancient Monuments <a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/consultations/currentconsultations.htm">http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/consultations/currentconsultations.htm</a>	Historic Scotland	30 June
Future of Scotland's Hill and Island Areas <b>RSE Inquiry</b> . Views and opinions are invited by the chair, Professor Gavin McCrone.	Royal Society Edinburgh	20 August

## Publications Received

<b>Planning Advice Note on Community Engagement PAN 81</b>	Scottish Executive Planning Division
<b>Draft Scottish Planning Policy 6: Renewable Energy</b> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2007/03/22084213/0">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2007/03/22084213/0</a>	Scottish Executive Planning Division
<b>Summary Report of Responses to Consultation on CMNP</b> <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2007/02/28143406/0">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2007/02/28143406/0</a>	S E Marine Management Division
<b>Scotland's Historic Environment Policy 1</b> <a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/sheps.html">http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/sheps.html</a>	Historic Scotland
<b>SSN Newsletter May 2007</b> <a href="http://www.sustainable-scotland.net">http://www.sustainable-scotland.net</a>	Sustainable Scotland Network

These and other publications such as annual reports and corporate plans are also available in the LINK Perth office.