

LINK Members' eBulletin January 2009

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Task Force Updates

Agriculture TF: Katrina Marsden, Carey Coombs (Joint Convenors) and **Jonathan Wordsworth**

SRDP: The ATF continues its active involvement in SRDP implementation, and LINK had two representatives at the latest SRDP implementation group which discussed ways to improve the application process to Rural Priorities.

RDCs: A joint BTF-ATF meeting was held to discuss ways in which RDCs delivery for biodiversity could be improved. A letter has been written to the minister and will be sent early in the new year.

Less Favoured Areas (LFA): The ATF submitted a **response** to the Scottish Government consultation, and called for urgent reform of the LFASS Interim.

CAP 'Health Check': The CAP health check outcomes have not been particularly positive for the outcomes LINK is working towards, however, it does present some opportunities for change. ATF will be submitting a response to consultations on health check outcomes held in the new year. ATF continues to promote LINK's vision for the future of CAP funding. A ministerial meeting in November provided an opportunity to highlight it to the Minister.

Upland Livestock Farming: ATF has also continued work on upland livestock farming.

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Biodiversity TF: Deborah Long

The BTF case study report on NGO action to conserve biodiversity was launched by Helen Zealley at LINK's Festive Reception in December. The BTF have had discussions on a possible information note on Biodiversity Indicators for LA Single Outcome Agreement and the proposed Natural Heritage Bill.

Climate TF: Sam Gardner and **Corinne Evans**

Sam Gardner, (WWFS) is the new convenor and the CTF discussed their future priorities at their first meeting in December, including plans for one of the parliamentary seminars for Scottish Environment Week.

Deer TF: Duncan Orr-Ewing

The DTF are preparing for possible new deer legislation, as part of a Natural Heritage Bill 2010. This has involved a number of meetings with DCS.

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Freshwater TF: Andrea Johnstonova and **Mike Donaghy**

Flooding Bill: The FTF provided written and oral evidence to the Environment and Rural Affairs Committee at stage 1 of the Bill. Stage 1 process has now been completed, and we are awaiting the publication of the stage 1 report in January 2009. Stage 2 process is due to start in March 2009.

Water Framework Directive: The FTF has had continuous involvement in the implementation of WFD in Scotland. As members of the National Advisory Group (NAG) we have engaged in the drafting of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), due to be released for consultation at the start of 2009.

Landscape TF: Helen McDade and Jonathan Wordsworth

The LTF has continued to support the Scottish Landscape Forum's Landscape Charter, proposed by Environment Minister Mike Russell MSP as a final action for the SLF and its release to the minister has been deferred until January 2009.

The LTF continues to have concerns over the implementation of the new Planning legislation as it impacts on the Scottish landscape. Recent inquiry decisions such as that in favour of the Meanie Estate development and windfarm consents such as at Lochluichart, continue to emphasise the weakness of landscape protection outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

The LTF also remains concerned that the new single Scottish Planning Policy document will not give sufficient protection to landscape.

The National Parks consultation is also of concern given the proposals to weaken the board structure and the emphasis in both parks in supporting new development, rather than the primary duty 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage'. A joint workshop with BEFS is being held on 23 January at the Quakers Meeting House in Edinburgh to discuss these issues in advance of the end of the consultation period.

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Marine TF: Calum Duncan

Continuation Funding: Joint Links bid to Tubney for funding to extend the S/W/NI contracts for three years and E for 2 years from June 2009.

Marine Ecosystems Objectives: The MTF are preparing their comments on the draft MEO scoping report which will be submitted in January 2009.

UK Marine Bill: The MTF are preparing Written Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs and Environment Committee which will be submitted at the end of January 2009.

RIA and SEA for Scottish Marine Bill: The MTF are preparing their comments which will be submitted at the end of January 2009.

SEW 2009 and Spring Party Conferences: The MTF are making plans for a marine seminar at SEW and gathering together ideas for stalls.

Planning TF: Richard Hill

Richard Hill (JMT) is the new convenor. The PTF held its first meeting in December and has been working on Written Evidence to the Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee to be submitted in early January.

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Scottish Environmental Fundraising Forum (SEFF): Steven Gardner

SEFF continued its format of quarterly meetings and in December 2008 three external speakers Peter Cox & Dr Gareth Jones from WREN & Anna Oliver from BLF gave presentations. The networking opportunities provided by these meetings are very highly rated by SEFF members.

Woodlands TF: Angus Yarwood

The WTF met to discuss the proposals to lease about 25% of the national forest estate, this is intended to generate £200m and the Minister says he wants to use this money for 'climate change actions'. There is no guarantee this will be the case. The WTF will submit a response at the end of January 2009.

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LINK NEWS

Update on SEW 23-27 February 2009

The Scottish Environment Week (SEW) Steering Group continue to make plans, although fundraising has so far had limited success, but this too continues. The themes being covered by members and taskforces this year are agriculture (SRDP), climate, marine, health and fundraising for biodiversity (SEFF). The mid-week reception will be Wednesday 24 February. Contact **Susan** for the latest details.

LINK Ministerial Meeting, rescheduled to 4 February. For more information contact **Jen**.

Joint UK Links liaison

Notes of the telephone conference call of 8 January 2009.

New Delegates

Healthy Environment Network (HEN) Steering Group: Ian McCall (RAS)

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New LINK Outputs

LINK Agriculture Taskforce **Response to Consultation on Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme** in Scotland (2010-2013) calls for urgent reform of the LFASS Interim. 19 December 2008

Evidence from Scottish Environment LINK on Inquiry into the EU Budget Review to the Scottish Parliaments Europe and External Relations Committee. 15 December 2008.

LINK Marine Taskforce Press Release welcomes the UK Marine Bill given in the Queen's Speech to Parliament, and calls for the forthcoming Scottish Marine Bill and the UK Marine Bill fit seamlessly together. 2 December 2008.

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Other News

Law Commission Discussion Paper on Unincorporated Associations

The Law Commission discussion paper on unincorporated associations is available at: www.scotlawcom.gov.uk. The paper identifies several legal issues which may affect voluntary organisations and charities that do not have separate legal identity.

SCVO encourages widespread input into this before 6 March 2009. Any questions should be directed to Nancy.Fancott@scvo.org.uk.

SCVO has organised a series of focus groups in conjunction with the Law Commission and CVS's to discuss the proposals. The three events will be held, register with Jeanette.Syme@scvo.org.uk:

Monday 19 January 2-5 pm in - Edinburgh SCVO, Raeburn Room.

Friday 30 January 1-4 pm in - Glasgow SCVO, Centrum Room.

Tuesday 3 February 2-5 pm - Inverness SCVO, Fairways House.

SEPA Water Environment Restoration Fund

Funding received by SEPA from the Scottish Government to restore the condition of Scotland's water environment will be used by SEPA to support partnership projects with third parties. There is £700,000 available for 2009/2010, and applications should be made by the 1 February 2009. Projects should improve the water environment and this includes restoration of wetland, saltmarshes, riparian woodland and rivers. For further information, contact details and application forms, see http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/restoration_fund.aspx

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Consultations

Sign up to [seConsult](#), the Scottish Government weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.

14 January 2009 SNH Consultation on the [Natural Heritage Futures Update 2008](#) and SEA Environmental Report.

SNH As part of the 2008 Update, for each of the prospectuses a statement has been produced that identifies significant changes in policy drivers or legislative context, new mechanisms or changed priorities and the implications these have for the objectives and actions for the natural heritage.

Please send comments to strategy@snh.gov.uk or by post to Emma Jordan
Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW.

Any queries, please contact Emma Jordan on 01738 458652

27 January 2009 **FC Consultation on the Role of Forests in Climate Change.**

Forestry Commission The consultation relates to legal provisions in the Scottish Climate Change Bill that may be needed to give Ministers the powers to modify certain functions of Forestry Commission Scotland. This would allow new and innovative activities to help tackle climate change.

The consultation also invites suggestions – in the context of a wider option review - on other actions that could be taken to maximise the contribution of the national forest estate

The FC are seeking creative ideas and solutions and would like to hear as many views as possible.

For full details, see www.forestry.gov.uk/fcclimateconsultation. Any queries, contact email [David Henderson-Howat](mailto:David.Henderson-Howat) or telephone 0131 314 6560.

30 January **Stage 3 EIA. Forth Replacement Crossing: Managed Crossing Strategy.**

Comments invited from LINK. More details from www.forthreplacementcrossing.info

Please respond by email to Rebecca.McClenaghan@Jacobs.com.

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LINK Diary 2009

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|-----------------|--------------|--|
| January | 22 | Board Meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members pm. Perth. |
| January | 23 | Proposed joint review of national parks with BEFS. Edinburgh. am. |
| January | 26 | SNH Annual LINK Liaison Meeting. |
| February | 4 | LINK Quarterly Ministerial Liaison Meeting. |
| February | 23-27 | LINK Scottish Environment Week, Parliament. |
| April | 23 | Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. |
| June | 25 | Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. |
| October | 22 | Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. |
| December | 16 | Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh. |

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Events and Seminars

- 19 January** Holyrood Conference on Scotland's Transport Infrastructure.
The Strategic Transport Project Review
Sheraton
Grand Hotel, Edinburgh
More details from www.holyrood.com/STPR
- 27 January** **Scottish Renewables Event Grid Conference 'Plugging it in'**.
The conference will look at the potential legislative and regulatory changes in the future in Scotland and the UK.
Glasgow
More details from info@scottishrenewables.com and www.scottishrenewables.com
- January-March** **'Combating Poverty in a Recession'**.
Eight discussion seminars being held by the Poverty Alliance to look at the role of the new Scottish Government/Cosla anti-poverty framework.
8 dates across Scotland
More details from www.povertyalliance.org or email: poe.mchugh@povertyalliance.org
- 2 February** **Scotland's Natural Wealth: Achieving Sustainable Growth by Investing in our Environment.**
Glasgow Science Centre
Conference organised by RSPB. Speakers include John Swinney MSP, Mike Dilger, BBC's The ONE Show and Jacob Ladenburg, Danish Institute of Governmental Research, and five workshops
For more details, email: scotlandsnaturalwealth@rspb.org.uk or telephone Julia Harrison on 0131-311-6500
- 4 February** **'Inequalities in health and the environment'**.
Healthy Environment Network, Open Network Meeting
Stirling Tollbooth
More details from sheila.beck@health.scot.nhs.uk