

Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee

Implementation Group Meeting held in Room 935, Dundonald House on Wednesday 18 May 2011 at 10.30am

Present: Seamus Hughes, Farm Policy Branch, DARD
Paula Magill, Farm Policy Branch, DARD
Jim Crummie, Quality Assurance Branch, DARD
David Gillespie, Countryside Management Delivery, DARD
Diane Taylor, CAFRE
Archie Murchie, AFBI
Sam Clawson, AFBI
Michael Young MBE, INIB
Tom Canning, INIB
David Wright, UBKA
Susie Turner, UBKA
Sonya Verschuur, Farm Policy Branch, DARD

Apologies: Tom Williamson, Quality Assurance Branch, DARD
Kevin O'Donnell, CAFRE

1. Welcome

Seamus Hughes welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Implementation Group to take forward the Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee.

2. Role, membership and work timetable of sub groups

Seamus Hughes thanked INIB and UBKA for providing nominations for the sub groups. DARD and AFBI representatives would be agreed today. It was confirmed that sub groups are to be kept small with additional people being co-opted on as necessary.

It was suggested that INIB and UBKA could chair two sub groups each and rotate on an annual basis if preferred.

An alternative proposal tabled was that each sub group should elect Chairs based on the best person for the role, regardless of which association they represented.

It was agreed that Chairs did not necessarily have to be the most experienced or expert beekeepers; rather Chairs should be the best people to guide the activity of the sub groups.

Following discussion it was agreed that sub groups would discuss/agree Chairs at their first meetings. If agreement could not be reached on the issue it would be brought back to the Implementation Group to determine, but the general view was that this is unlikely to be necessary.

The nominations for each sub group are –

- **Communications and Relationships**

Paula Magill – Farm Policy Branch, DARD
Sheridan Hillis – INIB
James Crawford – INIB
Susie Turner – UBKA
Michael Palframan – UBKA

- **Risks from Pests, Diseases and Undesirable Species**

Tom Williamson – Quality Assurance Branch, DARD
Sam Clawson – AFBI
Michael Young MBE – INIB
Robert Ditty – INIB
John Hill – UBKA
Noel McAllister – UBKA

- **Competency Development**

AN Other – CAFRE
Tom Canning – INIB
Lyndon Wortley – INIB
David Wright – UBKA
Ethel Irvine – UBKA

- **Sound Science and Evidence Base**

David Gillespie – Countryside Management Delivery, DARD
Archie Murchie – AFBI
Julian Henderson – INIB
Clifford Barnes – INIB
Mervyn Eddie – UBKA
William Blakely – UBKA

The first sub group meetings should take place by end of June 2011. It was agreed that Paula Magill would organise the first meeting of each sub group. Michael Young and David Wright should provide Paula Magill with contact points as soon as possible.

It was agreed that someone from DARD would attend the first meeting of each sub group to explain the Strategy document, to set out the background and to explain what it was hoped to achieve.

DARD would provide secretarial support for each sub group.

DARD can provide venues, such as Dundonald House, Greenmount College, Loughrey College, etc for meetings of sub groups.

It was agreed that as travelling could be an issue as much business / meetings as was practicable would be done by e-mail / video conferencing.

It was agreed that Paula Magill would set up user groups for e-mails for each sub group.

3. Communications / NI Direct

Seamus Hughes explained that information about bees currently on the NI Direct website has come from a number of sources.

While NI Direct is a Government website it was felt that there would be merit in beekeepers putting forward information, aimed at beekeepers and the general public, that they would like included on NI Direct.

It was agreed that the communications sub group could be tasked with considering the bee content pages on NI Direct with a view to updating and suggesting additional material.

4. Next steps

It was agreed that it was key to get the first meetings of the sub groups set up, Chairs determined and initial thoughts about issues established.

It was agreed that the outcomes of the first meetings of the sub groups would be discussed at the next Implementation Group meeting in August 2011.

It was confirmed that Chairs of sub groups should put forward proposals to the Implements Group for consideration / approval before moving forward. It was also stressed that it was important to set out to each sub group the overall structure and reporting structures.

5. AOB

None.

6. Next meeting

Next meeting of the Implementation Group to take place in 11th Floor Conference Room, Dundonald House on Wednesday 3 August 2011 at 10.30am.