

Press Release.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010- 2015 consultation

The Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership have been working with RPS Consultants to review the current Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) which has delivered many benefits to protect and enhance our habitats and species. The LBAP involved many partners in its delivery and highlighted the work of community groups who took up the challenge of the Community Action for Biodiversity initiatives.

The raising awareness information events served to promote the integration of biodiversity into many land, freshwater, and marine and coastal management activities. The Local Biodiversity Action plan has influenced Agricultural Environment Schemes, River basin and Catchment management plans, protected marine and coastal habitats and species and encouraged people to be more proactive in their community.

The draft consultation Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan Tranche II focuses on the habitats and species that are under threat through adopting the ecosystem approach, which is a nationally accepted policy as a means of ensuring cohesive conservation activities. There are six work programmes and these are Freshwater and Wetland, Marine and Coastal, Lowland and Farmland, Woodland, Upland and the Built Environment Work Programmes. Each programme contains a number of habitats and associated species of which projects will be developed to ensure their sustainability.

As this is International Year of Biodiversity 2010, it is fortunate that we are carrying out a review of the Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan and publishing a new set of actions to be delivered over the next five years. It is essential for the success of the latest LBAP that we encourage people to get involved in our new approach to delivering biodiversity benefits. We are very fortunate in Argyll and Bute to have the accolade of having some of the best examples of biodiversity in Britain and we encourage people (individuals and community groups) to become part of this process.

The work programme takes account of climate change and our ever-changing economy. The effort we put in now not only in the role of lead partners but community groups too, will reap great benefits to ensure that what is important to Argyll and Bute is protected and enhanced for the future.

The consultation ran from **20 September 2010 to 29 October 2010** and could be viewed by following the link:

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/planning/environment/localbiodiversity>

Hard copies of the Ecosystem Plans were placed in local libraries. Responses were sent directly to RPS Consultants, Simon Zisman.

The revised LBAP will be launched on 30 November 2010 at Hunter Quay Holiday Park, Dunoon. We hope to get the Minister for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham MEP to officially the Plan. The programme for the launch includes:

- A national project that is hosted by Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership- Atlantic Hazel Woods- Hazel Gloves fungus- Gordon Gray Stephens
- Rural Priorities success for Marsh Fritillary Butterfly- Tom Prescott
- Putting Biodiversity in the Picture- Lochgilphead High School Project
- Poster session followed by light lunch.

The choice of venue is based on business and biodiversity connections and illustrates the value Argyll Holidays put on the habitats and species they manage.

The revised LBAP will be available on line, link to be agreed.

End.

For further information:

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