

**THE HEALTHY BEES PLAN (HBP)  
HUSBANDRY AND EDUCATION GROUP (HEG)  
SUMMARY NOTE OF 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING ON 6 OCTOBER 2011**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Liz McIntosh (Fera)(Chair for 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting only)	Richard Ball (NBU)	Ken Basterfield	Chris Deaves
Kim Chadwick (Fera) Secretary	Ken Edwards	Serena Watts	Selwyn Wilkins (NBU)

**Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions**

1. Liz McIntosh welcomed everyone to the fifth meeting of the group and explained that she was chairing the meeting pending the appointment of a new permanent Chair. A Chair from within the group had been sought and Ken Edwards had agreed to take on this role and would chair the next meeting. Liz noted that although this was the first meeting of the group for nearly a year due to deciding on the future governance of the Healthy Bees Plan, a number of initiatives had been progressing and these would be reported on later in the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Ged Marshall, Graham Royle, Roger Lacey and Geoff Hopkinson.

**Agenda item 2 - HBP Workplan for 2011/12 (PMB 15/2); funding; governance**

2. Liz updated the group on the HBP workplan for 2011/12 – the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Phase 2. The Project Management Board had agreed that the workplan would capture all the activities of the Board and the 3 working groups and considered that this would be an improvement on the approach taken in Phase 1 when 3 workplans had been in place. The Board would review progress with the workplan at its meetings. The governance arrangements for Phase 2 would be the same as in Phase 1 i.e., the Board and the same 3 working groups.
3. Defra had approved funding for this 1<sup>st</sup> year of Phase 2 based on a business case which covered 4 years up to 2014/15. Defra would decide on whether to fund the remaining 3 years subject to further information to strengthen the business case to be produced by Fera by the end of 2011/12. This would include evidence on how well the trainers, new Course in a Case (CiC) training materials and courses which Defra had co-funded with the BBKA and NDB during 2010/11 were embedded and working at a local level in the associations. Fera would look to HEG to help provide that evidence (to be discussed further later in the meeting).

**Agenda item 3 - Summary and actions from last meeting**

4. Liz introduced the notes from the last meeting and went through each action:
  - (i) Charging for training. This issue had not been included in the PSP study of beekeeping practices funded by Defra in 2009/10.

(ii) Indicators for HBP implementation (PMB 15/7 rev1). These were the indicators and associated metrics developed during Phase 1 as the basis for reviewing progress with implementation of the HBP and have been circulated to HEG for information. Following PMB's views and comments, they have been developed further and were signed-off at the last PMB meeting. Chris Deaves commented that one of the metrics - 'Intermediate Theory Certificate' under the 'measures of outcomes' – needed to be updated to reflect the current status of this qualification.

**ACTION:** Indicators to be revised in line with Chris Deaves' advice.

(iii) Best Practice Templates. Chris Deaves explained that these had not been incorporated into the CICs but this would be considered, along with other changes to the material, at the next BBKA project board meeting. Richard Ball provided an update on the current and proposed templates and highlighted problems in the review process which had led to some delays in publication. Liz agreed to discuss this issue with CWG. The distribution of the templates was discussed and Ken Basterfield suggested that it would be useful to produce A5 laminated cards which showed the succinct actions from the templates. The group considered this was a good proposal -possibly a master copy could be published on BeeBase for download by Bee Associations or IBRA could be approached as they already produce laminated advice cards for beekeepers.

**ACTION:** Liz to discuss with CWG how to formalise the peer review process for the templates and also the preparation and distribution of laminated A5 cards, possibly by IBRA.

(iv) Accreditation of beekeeping courses and trainers. This would be discussed later in the meeting but Liz noted that although accreditation had some support in PMB, there were some concerns, including funding, and therefore the subject had not been revisited.

#### **Agenda item 4 - BBKA Training**

##### Course in a case

5. Chris reported that the Yellow CIC was still being distributed in small quantities – 200 in total had been sent out. The Red and Green CIC were in final preparation; the text had been agreed and the slides and pictures were being worked on. These would be launched at the Honey Show at the end of October. The cost would be £50 each and this included a £10 discount for a refractometer. Updates would be free.
  
6. Other members of HEG expressed concern that the Red and Green CICs would be incomplete when they were launched due to the unavailability of some video clips and other visual material. They suggested that the new CiCs could be launched as prototypes at the Honey Show instead and would need to include a clear statement that additional material would be made available and by when. They also emphasised that it was important to ensure that the authors were content with the material being prepared for these CICs. Liz reported that progress on the Red and Green CiCs had been discussed at the September meeting of the BBKA-chaired Delivering

Education Group at which she had asked for a workplan for finalising the CiCs. She agreed to discuss the issues raised by HEG on the Red and Green CiCs with Martin Smith.

**ACTION:** Liz to discuss workplan to finalise the Red and Green cases with Martin Smith, including how to ensure that the case authors were content with the video and audio materials being prepared for these cases.

7. Chris assured the group that there would be a clear statement on the completeness of the CiCs when they were issued in October and a BBKA Board meeting would be held shortly to discuss the updates to the CiCs that would be needed next year. Ken Basterfield suggested that the Yellow and White CiCs needed to be reviewed in particular as regards the delivery as there were some concerns about the competency of the tutors – more depth of knowledge was necessary. This was being addressed by Ivor Davis. It was important that those who were using the CiCs prepared adequately – many trainers had their own style of delivery and were unwilling to change. Chris explained that the BBKA had little control over the delivery but could offer more on train the trainer advice and training. Bill Cadmore would be asked to reinforce the message to trainers that the CiCs provide a framework for training courses and that trainers still need to plan and prepare their training courses using the CiCs as source material.

**ACTION:** Liz to contact Bill Cadmore about reinforcing the message to trainers that the CiCs provide a framework for training courses and that trainers still need to plan and prepare their training courses using the CiCs as source material.

8. Turning to feedback from HEG members about uptake of the CiCs at local level, Liz emphasised again that it would be important to provide evidence that the new materials and courses were being well used at local level as part of the case to Defra to provide funding for years 2 to 4 of Phase 2 of HBP. HEG reported a mixed uptake of the White and Yellow CiCs at local level and were aware of potential demand for the Red and Green cases to help nurture and grow maturing beginners. HEG also recommended that further promotion of the CiCs was necessary to engage local associations and to enhance education and training programmes.
9. As regards the issue of how best to embed use of CiCs and enhanced training programmes at local level, HEG considered the proposal by Ken Basterfield and Pete Sutcliffe for a BBKA National Education Coordinator, which had been raised at the BBKA's Delivering Education Group and was currently being considered by the BBKA trustees. The aim of the proposal was to improve the local delivery of education via a national level coordinator who would engage with local associations and harness the enthusiasm and commitment of those who had attended the Fera/BBKA training days.
10. HEG agreed that, in order to progress this proposal, the PMB Chair should write on behalf of HEG to the BBKA trustees (before their next meeting in November) to press them to recruit a national education coordinator to support education delivery by local associations, including embedding the use of the CiCs at local level.

**ACTION:** Liz and Kim Chadwick to identify process for gathering evidence, including through HEG, on how well CiCs are being used by trainers at local level, given the need to provide evidence to Defra that their investment in these training materials in 2010/11 had been worthwhile. Liz to prepare letter for the PMB Chair to send to the BBKA regarding the appointment of a National Education Coordinator.

#### Summer and winter programmes

11. Chris updated the group on the co-funded Fera/BBKA summer 2011 and winter 2011/12 training programmes. The summer events had been well attended and received although Ken Edwards was aware of problems and lessons about the organisation and admin of these events which were being addressed in planning the winter events. HEG members had been working with Bill Cadmore in developing the winter programme which was to include modules and study groups, train the trainer and mentoring. HEG considered that the programme was good and asked Liz to provide Bill with feedback from the group. Chris noted that the BBKA had learnt a number of valuable lessons over the year about the CiCs and delivery and had recognised the need for a more systematic and structured approach to delivering education. Hence the trustees were considering how best to address this need, including the proposed national education coordinator. Liz commented that, in her view, beekeeping education had made good progress over the last 1-2 years and was moving in the right direction.

**ACTION:** Liz McIntosh to provide feedback to Bill Cadmore that HEG was content with the planned winter training programme.

#### LANTRA

12. Chris reported that the BBKA had worked, at their expense, with LANTRA to develop an accredited course. This was below the BBKA Basic (level 1 in QCF) and was targeted at students taking a range of land-based courses which would also offer beekeeping as a module. It was now up to colleges to offer to students. College-based assessors would be expected to hold the BBKA's general husbandry qualification and LANTRA's ongoing role would be to provide quality assurance which the BBKA would monitor. Ken Basterfield, supported by others in HEG, expressed concern about quality control about delivery by colleges. Chris emphasised that LANTRA did have a duty of quality of assurance which provided the BBKA with a mechanism to return to them if this was an issue. Chris would keep the group up to date on developments with the course, particularly on quality assurance of delivery.

**ACTION:** Chris to provide an update to HEG on the development of the LANTRA course.

#### **Agenda item 5 - NDB courses**

13. Ken Basterfield reported that the NDB short courses, which had been co-funded with Fera in 2010/11 were going well although there had been some difficulties due to delays in communications between the BBKA and County and Local level. Two courses had to be cancelled as they were undersubscribed. Two courses been delivered so far on Nutrition and Pollen and Microscopy. Courses for the remainder of the year included Adult Bee Diseases, Anatomy and Dissection and training beekeeping tutors. There were plans for several other

courses to be developed in 2012. There had been some unwillingness by beekeepers to pay for the courses – the winter 2010/11 courses had been subsidised by Fera but the current and planned courses were not. Liz explained that there was provisional funding for the NDB short courses next year but, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, Fera would need a convincing case that the existing courses were well attended, effective and improving beekeeping skills.

#### **Agenda item 6 - Fera Training – C&G 7303 training**

14. Kim presented a summary of Fera's train the trainer initiative. Since the initiative started in January 2010, 55 beekeepers from 37 beekeeping associations had attended courses. Fera had provided the funding for the beekeepers to attend the courses and the expenditure to date was around £15k. The initiative had been extended until the end of March 2012 and beekeeping associations who had not previously nominated a representative had recently been targeted and invited to participate. However, so far, only 1 nomination had been received and HEG members were asked for their suggestions on how to secure more nominations. Because of the structure of local associations, HEG suggested that the Chairs and Treasurers should be contacted in addition to the Secretaries. Also, an article in BBKA news promoting the initiative could be productive.
15. To assess the effectiveness of the initiative, the 42 beekeepers that completed courses last year had been contacted and asked for their feedback on how effective the course had been to the delivery of their training courses. Twenty responses were received. These showed that around half of the trainers were delivering more courses than previously and over 300 more beekeepers had been trained; the trainers felt more confident and aware of different learning styles; and their courses were more structured, focussed, better planned and more interactive. Overall the C&G course was considered to be very good and recommended for beekeeper trainers.
16. Provisional funding of £5k had been allocated for the next three years of the HBP and HEG agreed that this funding should continue.

**ACTION:** HEG to consider an article in BBKA news to promote the initiative. Kim to consider HEG's suggestion that the recent invitation from Fera for next round of trainers should also be sent to the Chairs and Treasurers of local associations

#### NBU Training

17. Selwyn Wilkins provided a summary of the NBU courses that had taken place this season. So far over 650 courses attended by over 20,000 beekeepers had been held in England.

#### **AOB**

18. Liz updated the group on the policy review on disease control which was underway. The review was considering the results from the 2 year Random Apiary Survey, amongst other things, to examine whether the programme was focussing on the right risks and priorities and to ensure that we are getting best value from the budget. Updates were being provided to SEAG and PMB

and a workshop of wider stakeholders was being considered for early next year to which HEG and CWG would be invited. The review would conclude in July 2012.

**Next Meeting**

19. The next meeting would be held at the end of January/beginning of February in London.

**ACTION:** Kim to circulate a Doodle Poll.