

Minutes of a meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group (UBIOM SPG) held on Wednesday 14th July 2021, at 14:00 in the King Orry Room, Government Offices, Douglas

Present:

Hon Geoffrey Boot MHK	Environment Minister - Chair	GB
Dr Richard Selman	Head of Ecosystem Policy, DEFA	RS
Miss Jo Overty	Biosphere Project Officer, DEFA	JO
Miss Breeshey Kermodé	Biosphere Project Assistant, DEFA	BK
Miss Niamh Milson	Work Experience Student, DEFA	NM
Mr Leigh Morris	CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust	LM
Dr Breesha Maddrell	Director, Culture Vannin	BM
Mrs Sarah Comish	Manx National Farmers' Union (MNFU)	SC
Mr Tim Johnston	Manx National Farmers' Union	TJ
Ms Yvette Hollows	Visit Isle of Man	YH
Mr Adrian Cowin	IOM Municipal Association	AC
Mr Paul Fletcher	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	PF
Miss Grainney Sheard	Isle of Man Arts Council	GS
Ms Jennifer Houghton	Institute of Directors IoM	JH
Mrs Carol Quine	Municipal Association IoM	CQ
Mrs Ieda Yell	Institute of Directors	IY
Ms Rose Dahlan	Climate Change Transformation Team	RD
Mr Chris Martin	The Children's Centre	CM

Apologies:

Hon H Quayle MHK	Chief Minister
Mark Edwards	CABO Communications
Mrs Marlene Maska MLC	Isle of Man Arts Council
Mrs Jane Corkill	Isle of Man Arts Council
Mrs Rebecca George	Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce
Ms Gail Corrin	Higher Education Manager, UCM
Miss Jo Callister	Advisory Teacher (Manx Curriculum), DESC

2/21/1

Minister's welcome and opening remarks

GB welcomed the group noting new members were attending.

He explained CM had a clashing engagement and sent apologies, noting this would have been the last meeting chaired by CM, who is stepping down from the House of Keys at the September election.

GB said that CM often described the Island achieving Biosphere status as one of his proudest achievements and wished him well, thanked him for all he has done and assuring that Biosphere is in good hands going forward.

UBIOM launched its first ever local vision and strategy, 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future', and a greatly improved website two weeks ago.

Action

The vision and strategy complements the global aims of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme with a local layer of aims and ambitions that will benefit our economy, environment and community and direct the work of UBIOM in coming years.

Our Biosphere status belongs to each and every one of us and when the Island has its review by UNESCO in less than five years' time it will be judged on what has been achieved as an Island.

GB encouraged the Stakeholder Partnership Group to help to deliver this strategy, to promote and contribute to its aims, amplify its messages and ensure organisations embed Biosphere into their thinking.

GB suggested that the SPG can help on a practical basis by offering help at events and such like as it aims to ensure our entire population understands and benefits from being in a UNESCO Biosphere.

2/21/2 Meeting apologies

Recorded above.

2/21/3 Conflicts of interest with items on the agenda

None noted.

2/21/4 Minutes of meeting on 24th February 2021 for approval

No amendments. Minutes agreed and signed.

2/21/5 Matters arising not featured elsewhere on agenda

No comments noted.

2/21/6 Item 6: Progress report from UBIOM Project Officer JO

JO said this is for the period 24/2/2021-30/6/2021 and stated that not all work of UBIOM is covered in this update, only headline items. A rolling spreadsheet of all UBIOM activity is available on request if required.

Local Vision and Strategy and improved website

'Working Together for a Sustainable Future', UBIOM's first local vision and strategy, was published and a greatly improved website went live on 30th June 2021. It complements the global aims of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme with a local layer of aims and ambitions under five headings – economy, education, engagement, enjoyment, environment. It's anticipated UBIOM will partner with other organisations to carry out one major project per 'E' per year, in addition to existing projects. A community rollout will follow.

Technical sub-group of SPG

Update later in meeting (item 10)

UNESCO attendance/involvement

EuroMAB, the biennial conference of European and North American Biospheres, due to be held in Austria in September 2020 and then September 2021, has been put back again to spring 2022. It is hoped UBIOM can play a role and be showcased, as it did in Dublin in 2019.

The UK Man and the Biosphere Committee spring 2021 meeting was held online but it is anticipated that the autumn meeting will be held in person in Scotland in October.

UBIOM Project Officer will attend some online parts of the International Workshop on Participation of the local population and stakeholders in European UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, being held in Germany from 5th-8th July.

The UK Committee submitted a bid for a stand at COP-26 in November but was unsuccessful. The Isle of Man assisted with the bid.

An invitation to Tynwald Day 2021 was again extended to the Secretary-General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, who was to have attended the 2020 Tynwald Day as an official guest until it was pared back. Unfortunately, he was unable to accept the invitation this year.

2021 is the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Two UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man activities, our webinar series with Dublin Bay and Kerry Biospheres and our Young Nature Blogger 2021 challenge, are officially accredited 50th anniversary events.

Staffing

UBIOM continues to have two officers: a project officer and an administrative officer.

Budget for 2021/22

As reported in February 2021, the UBIOM budget has been re-established at £50,000 in 2021/22, from £30,000 in 2020/21. A sizeable sum of this is committed to the new strategy and improved website.

Awards

The UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Awards have been remodelled around the five Es of the new strategy but continue to feature energy, as the current awards grew from the former Department of Enterprise energy awards. They were launched 6th July 2021 with traditional and social media coverage and a video and close on 20th August, with judging on 13th September and an awards ceremony on 4th October. UBIOM SPG members are asked to promote the awards across as many platforms as they can.

Business

Continuing the good work commenced in 2020 by University College Isle of Man (UCM) Business Entrepreneurship Masters student Nikole Cervantes, who undertook a 40-week placement with UBIOM, another UCM Masters student, Emma Sayle, is undertaking a similar placement interviewing

business Partners of UBIOM with a view to establishing a toolkit for engagement with UBIOM and issues around sustainability.

Further to a survey of businesses around their training needs, UBIOM, working with Department for Enterprise, UCM, One World Centre and Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce, launches 'Sustainable Mann', a pilot series of six workshops delivered by public and private sector experts, in September and October 2021. Promotion of this began today, with priority booking offered to survey participants and Biosphere business partners and 'Sustainable Mann' certification/publicity for businesses attending all six workshops. The pilot will be the economy 'E' project for 2021.

Education

A Biosphere Week, originally scheduled to be held in primary schools in summer term 2021 but put back because of Covid and other issues, will now be launched in schools in September 2021 and held in 2022. Schools will be allocated an aspect of our Biosphere to celebrate any way they choose: written work, music, video, assemblies, exhibitions etc. The event will be the education 'E' project for 2021/22.

UBIOM continues to purchase Sustainable Development Goals Book Club titles for 33 primary schools, building a library. UN Publishing has so far published lists of books relating to 13 of the 17 Goals, from which DESC chooses one title for local distribution.

Girlguiding Isle of Man and the Scouting Association of the Isle of Man continue to deliver the Biosphere Badge and Dublin Bay Biosphere has launched a badge based on that of UBIOM.

Nature

A paper on plans for a Nature Recovery Network in collaboration with Manx Wildlife Trust is a separate agenda item at item 7. This will be the environment 'E' project for 2021/22.

UBIOM is again running a Young Nature Blogger challenge in conjunction with Isle of Man Newspapers and Manx Wildlife Trust. This year for the first time, three other UK and Ireland Biospheres are holding the challenge, too, and, as well as local winners, an overall winner will be chosen by award-winning young nature writer Dara McAnulty and UK MAB Committee Chair Professor Martin Price. The challenge has been advertised publicly and to schools and youth groups.

The Henry Bloom Library, part of Biosphere partner Douglas Corporation, is basing its summer reading project around 'nature', with workshops linked to Biosphere aims.

Community

An update on plans for the Biosphere Bee Community Picnic 2022 is a separate agenda item at item 11 and this project will be the engagement 'E' project for 2021/22.

In an initiative with Hospice Compassionate Isle of Man, a 'Biosphere' Sit

and Chat bench has been installed in the grounds of DEFA's building, The Slieau Whallian overlooking a new wildflower area.

The Biosphere Project Officer is booked to deliver several talks to community groups and societies, after Covid interruptions for the past year.

UBIOM will take part in a Junior Achievement-led summer workshop scheme for young people whose education has been affected by Covid.

Culture/arts

Under the title 'Ellyn' (Manx for art), Isle of Man Arts Council is publishing a new collection of Manx contemporary art in book and exhibition form as a Biosphere project, with UBIOM support and input, and this project is the enjoyment 'E' project for 2021.

Island Utopias, the film made by Culture Vannin's Biosphere and Manx culture intern Sarah Mercer, has been selected for the Celtic Media Festival and will compete against films made by broadcasters such as Sky Arts, BBC Alba and S4C for the overall best film in the Arts category.

UBIOM endeavoured to take part in a global art project to mark the 50th anniversary of MAB by sending (as per UNESCO's request) a swatch of local fabric (Laxey Woollen Mills Manx tweed) to the project creator in Brazil and we also took photos and wrote an article but the Post Office advised we could not send animal products to Brazil, so we were thwarted.

Covid has delayed Culture Vannin's project to create a Biosphere shelter at Conrhenny Plantation but this is moving forward again.

UBIOM continues to promote culture/art/creativity via its newsletter.

Tourism

UBIOM continues to work with Visit Isle of Man and will be an important part of Visit's post-Covid-messaging. The UBIOM Project Officer has written a blog on sustainable tourism to promote the Island in off-Island media.

Partners

New Partner applications from organisations wishing to take the Biosphere Pledge and the project now has 280 Partners, with a further seven being progressed.

Refill Isle of Man

Premises offering Refill Isle of Man were instructed not to do so during Covid outbreaks/lockdowns in spring 2021 but are now able to offer it again. There are 137 Refill Isle of Man Stations, a small decrease on the pre-Covid figure as some premises have closed down.

Due to the stop/start nature since March 2020, it is felt the scheme is in need of rejuvenating and a small number of community volunteers have been recruited from Biosphere Buddies to operate in the north, south, east and west to visit existing stations and recruit new Stations. They will attend training by UBIOM in July 2021.

The Isle of Man adopted Refill's 'Refill Refreshed' expansion of the scheme from reusable drinking bottles to include premises offering refills of lunchboxes, groceries, cleaning products etc but there are few premises offering this in the Isle of Man and, despite publicity, so far no new Stations have signed up to advertise that they offer this widened service.

Biosphere Lecture

Ongoing border restrictions mean it hasn't been possible to re-arrange the 2020 lecture, due to have been delivered in person by Natalie Fee, founder of Refill and the charity City Sea. This lecture would have amplified the Government's messages around single-use plastic use. Both speaker and sponsor preferred an in-person event. UBIOM will continue to look to reschedule this.

Events

The tri-webinar series with Dublin Bay and Kerry Biospheres marking the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO MAB Programme has now delivered six of the 12 webinars. While all Biospheres participate in all the webinars, Isle of Man will next be 'hosting' in September with a webinar by Culture Vannin.

Several spring events UBIOM had been scheduled to attend were cancelled.

UBIOM will hold an event during Manx Wildlife Week 2021. 'Nature Through a Lens' at the Manx Museum on 8th July will showcase the work of five leading local photographers, in line with the 'conservation' and 'education' elements of the Man and the Biosphere Programme. It is still hoped to reschedule the event UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man had planned for Manx Wildlife Week 2020, a talk by Dr Clem Fisher, on birds and their place in culture.

UBIOM will be at the Royal Manx Agricultural Show on 13th and 14th August, the Our Island, Our World Festival on 11th September 2021, and the Isle of Man Food & Drink Festival on 18th and 19th September 2021 (where it will promote Biosphere Bee).

Communications

UBIOM updates its three social media channels at least six days a week, delivering our own and stakeholders' and wider Government message and marking significant, Biosphere-related, dates in the calendar (eg: World Environment Day) with educational content.

UBIOM continues to produce a monthly newsletter, a curated mix of its own, Isle of Man Government and Stakeholders/Partners' news, which goes to more than 1,100 recipients globally. It welcomes SPG members' ideas and content.

The UBIOM-curated Manx Life #MyBiosphere feature continues in Business 365 magazine and on its website. Suggestions for new authors are welcome.

GB asked if UBIOM are at the Southern show this year. JO said she is on

leave and did not factor it in. Asked SPG if they could support and volunteer to help.

GS said the Arts Council Biosphere intern may be able to help and it would be a good opportunity to plug the Ellyn project there too.

PF offered assistance.

BM added maybe SPG members who are present at the show can use and promote biosphere literature.

ACTION: JO suggested BK discuss options via mailshot around the shows and how SPG can further support UBIOM.

UBIOM/SPG

2/21/7

Item 7: Establishment of Nature Recovery Network – paper from LM and RS

LM explained the concept of a nature recovery network (NRN) using the table and items like pens and paper to convey the idea of a joined-up system of places important for plants and animals on land and at sea which hopes to inspire people to do nature friendly activities. Living with and experiencing nature is a key part of Manx Wildlife Trust's strategy.

LM added that the nature recovery network would be a Biosphere project, and be the Environment 'E', as well as Engagement 'E' of UBIOM's vision and strategy 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future'. Such a NRN would help to deliver action 17 of 'Managing our Natural Wealth', the Isle of Man Government's biodiversity strategy.

LM and RS met with Biosphere website host to discuss options and develop a plan to bring to the SPG members. The plan consists of three stages:

1. Map existing sites for nature that exist in statute and that are voluntarily created
2. Create a web page showing this map
3. Create a plan for public engagement towards members of the public, organisations, businesses, farmers, land owners, schools creating and/or enhancing more spaces for nature.

Discussions were held around each stage of the plan and the options available for progression. It was noted that this project would entail significant resource considerations in terms of staff time for administration and record keeping of the network map, as well as financial cost for any additional work on the UBIOM website or another involved party's website. Depending on the decided final functionality of the network map, the cost could be several thousand pounds.

RS added that there is a need to discuss finer details with Government Technology Services (GTS) to determine if there is a realistic timescale for Government mapping and APP creation.

CM asked if hedgerow management guidance for the general public would be included in the execution of the NRN. LM said this is somewhat of a hot topic and queries surrounding this come up regularly through MWT. Perhaps sensible guidelines for management of hedgerows and verges could be agreed and utilised by local authorities.

LM said the NRN could be an Island-wide community incentive where different areas would push for their place to be on the map. CM added there should also be more guidance for the construction industry in respect to hedgerows. He was advised that the Manx Nature Conservation Forum is looking in to this.

IY asked if there will be criteria to meet to get on the map. LM said data entry requirements had been discussed and categories of two areas will be defined separately and identified through an entry form.

GB asked who was taking ownership of the project. RS stated it is a joint project with UBIOM and MWT.

GB asked SPG if it was agreed going forward that LM and RS continue their progress of the NRN and update the group at the next SPG meeting. SPG in agreement. No further comments.

ACTION: RS and LM to have discussions with GTS and to determine how the NRN will be created and executed

DEFA/MWT

2/21/8

Item 8: Ecovannin/The Green Centre membership of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group – paper and discussion by Jo Overty

JO explained that Mrs Muriel Garland (MG), who represented Ecovannin on UBIOM SPG, advised that the organisation no longer exists 'having fulfilled its original purpose of promoting sustainability on the Island' and has requested to instead attend the SPG as a representative of The Green Centre.

UBIOM has therefore agreed with Mrs Garland that it would note the withdrawal of Ecovannin from the SPG, with thanks for its input, and put a paper to this meeting over the organisation's replacement with The Green Centre. Ecovannin was removed from the newly published vision and strategy and the SPG section of the improved website following this news.

The Green Centre is run by Zero Waste Mann, The Manx Energy Advice Centre and Isle of Man Friends of the Earth and Mrs Garland is a member of the Zero Waste Mann committee.

GB asked the room for any comment.

PF said Mrs Garland has made valued contributions to the group through

Ecovannin and should be accepted in the new capacity.

GB stated it was his intention to admit The Green Centre to the SPG. SPG agreed.

ACTION: The Green Centre to be admitted as a UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group member.

UBIOM

2/21/9

ITEM 9: Developing Awareness on Climate Change for SMEs – paper from Institute of Directors, discussion led by Ieda Yell

IY stated the Institute of Directors (IoD) is proposing to develop a series of events, in partnership with Government and businesses, to promote climate change awareness for small to medium enterprises. This would involve organising webinars and in-presence sessions.

The IoD is seeking approval from the SPG to develop sessions for training to implement and develop a syllabus to run over a short period later this year and welcomes discussions around how this could be progressed and funded. It had been suggested that the IoD call for sponsors' expression of interest for each individual session, providing an opportunity for co-branding with the IoD and UBIOM.

JO said this project would marry well with UBIOM's circular economy training pilot workshops 'Sustainable Mann'. JO cautioned from experience setting this up that there may be some difficulty involved in securing trainers. She also added that The One World Centre is hosting a course, 'Why your small business should think about climate change and how to adapt', so it may have some helpful insights. Room agreed this is all relevant with the proposed climate bill and committing the country to carbon neutrality by 2050.

CM asked if there was guidance for organisations surrounding the Climate Change Bill. GB stated that phase 1 is being implemented, and phase 2 means plans will be going to public consultation but there is currently no direct guidance. JO added that we have RD from climate change team in the room. RD added that their consultation will go to public in August for comments and she would like to be involved with the training sessions that are being planned.

GB said going forward, is it agreed that the IoD will take ownership of this proposed training working in partnership with UBIOM in terms of securing funding, marketing and executing the event. This is a perfect example of the kind of collaborative work that UBIOM and stakeholders can and should be doing. SPG agreed.

ACTION: IoD to develop a programme of sessions tailored for SMEs and self-employed service providers surrounding climate change awareness, in collaboration with UBIOM by utilising their partnership scheme and branding materials.

IoD/UBIOM

2/21/10

Item 10: Establishment of a technical subgroup, verbal discussion led by Jo Overty

JO reiterated that in February 2021, SPG agreed that a technical subgroup should be created as a means to oversee UBIOM activity as it contributes to the periodic review by UNESCO in 2026.

The group has been successfully formed by volunteers with a good balance of presentation from SPG, comprising:

Peter Reid/Mark Waterhouse, Institute of Directors (who may attend interchangeably)
Gail Corrin, UCM
Leigh Morris, Manx Wildlife Trust
Bill Dale BEM, Beach Buddies.

JO had a pre-meeting with Mr Reid and Mr Waterhouse, as the IoD is a new SPG members and neither had attended a meeting, while the other volunteers are familiar with the purpose of the Man and the Biosphere Programme. This session allowed JO to familiarise the volunteers with some 'Biosphere basics'.

Professor Martin Price, Chair of the UK Man and the Biosphere Committee and the architect of new technical guidelines for Biosphere Reserves, then led a session online for all five volunteers.

The group will begin work in autumn 2021 and will meet prior to each SPG and report to each SPG.

GB said this was good news and feedback has been good so far about how the Island is shaping up in the run up to its reaccreditation in 2026.

CM asked if the group collective was set in stone. JO mentioned that there had been a mailing sent out to seek volunteers and the training had taken place.

GB said there could be a 'reserve' of group members if there was such a demand for it and a need for other bodies. Asked SPG if it was happy for the role of the technical subgroup to continue and in its current format. SPG in agreement.

ACTION: Newly formed technical subgroup of UBIOM comprised of volunteers to commence work in Autumn 2021 and report back to SPG at each biannual meeting.

**UBIOM
technical
subgroup**

2/21/11

Item 11: Biosphere Bee – verbal update by Jo Overty.

JO gave a background to the proposed event that was originally put to the SPG as a paper in July 2019 by Muriel Garland, based on the Eden Project's

'Big Lunch'. The group identified it could also promote nature, spending time outdoors and Manx produce and so it was decided to work up a unique Manx event, known as the Biosphere Bee Community Picnic.

As a result of Covid-19 and lack of availability of Isle of Man Government graphic designer, it was not possible to launch the event in 2020, or in early 2021. At the February 2021 SPG meeting it was resolved to hold a launch event that would assist in promoting the project in summer/autumn 2021, with events themselves to be held in 2022. UBIOM secured a private designer to carry out the associated works so that this could be progressed.

By way of generating publicity to advertise the event, and in line with the ethos of the Biosphere Bee, Minister Boot invited neighbours from St Johns, including schools, sporting clubs and businesses, for afternoon tea with local produce and a photocall on 28th June. This photograph will go out as a press release this month to begin to generate publicity through traditional media, online, in our newsletter and UBIOM will publicise the event at the Isle of Man Food & Drink Festival. There will be a downloadable resource pack made available for organisers on the UBIOM website.

CM asked about dates. JO said the event will run from April – September 2022 and asked for members of the SPG to support the event if possible and try to hold their own Biosphere Bee in 2022.

ACTION: UBIOM to launch and promote the Biosphere Bee Community Picnic 2022 and SPG members to share, promote and hold their own event if possible.

**UBIOM/
SPG**

2/21/12

Item 12: World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves – verbal update by Jo Overty.

The UNESCO MAB Programme is instigating a World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, the purpose of which would be to increase research in mountain biosphere reserves and the applications of scientific and indigenous/local knowledge to improve the management of the sites.

The MAB Programme sees thematic and geographical subgroups emerge via which Biospheres with common areas, challenges etc can collaborate and learn. The Lima Action Plan gives special emphasis to the creation of regional and thematic networks, such as those relating to Biospheres in mountain areas.

The network is just being established and UBIOM has not yet been invited to join, only to show an interest in taking leadership/committee places, which was declined, but membership may open prior to the next SPG meeting and so a decision is sought. There is no suggestion of a fee to join the network.

IY said this could be an opportunity to promote tourism on the island, by joining together with other countries. GB agreed that it can only increase networking opportunities.

CM raised the issue of land agreements and permissions in the Manx uplands. GB said getting a right to roam may be too difficult on the island. CM said he would support single defined tracks in these regions. RS suggested speaking to Graeme Watson, Access and Recreation Officer at DEFA, to liaise over land management and potential issues. SC flagged an issue with certain apps and their accuracy.

GB asked SPG if everyone was content to join the network if the opportunity is presented, and move on to the next agenda item. SPG in agreement.

ACTION: If invited, UBIOM to join the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves.

UBIOM

2/21/13

Item 13: Standing item: Research – verbal updates by:

Jo Overty, Biosphere Isle of Man Project Officer

UBIOM have another Masters student from UCM, Emma Sayle, who is studying sustainability and business and will carry out a research project that involves developing a sustainability toolkit for businesses to utilise.

Gail Corrin, Higher Education Manager, UCM

JO read an update on behalf of Gail Corrin who had sent apologies:

- UCM are hosting their 3rd Annual UCM Research Festival on 24th September 2021. The theme will be sustainability in its broadest sense. There will be a call for presenters and workshops soon.
- UCM's Christa McCartney is presenting one of the 'Sustainable Mann' sessions and was lead on a One World Centre breakfast seminar for business on climate change held on 29th May 2021.
- UCM/DESC's HE Strategy has 'sustainability' as one of its core strategic themes. This means all curricula must include it as a key knowledge and skill and the delivery and pedagogy of courses must reflect a sustainable approach.
- New final year module included in all business degree courses 'Managing Sustainable Business Ventures'.

Leigh Morris, CEO of Manx Wildlife Trust

LM said that the Manx Wildlife Trust is researching different types of land management and conservation.

MWT have started a research strategy for the Calf of Man which involves working closely with Manx National Heritage and engaging with ornithological organisations. The trust has also published 2 papers on peat research and seal research for the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UK OTCF). There is a collection of 11 years of seal data to publish. The bird list through Manx Birdlife is going live soon.

Other updates – round the table

2/21/14

Ieda Gomez Yell, Non-Executive Director, Institute of Directors

The IoD starts its engagement programme on and off-Island, to raise awareness of climate issues to SMEs. A big event held with corporates had proved successful.

Chris Martin, Operations Manager at The Children's Centre

There is a new bee habitat being created by the farm and it has also planted over 400 trees as an orchard, which will complement chilli products growing in poly tunnels. There are numerous partners involved with these incentives – a mead maker in Ramsey, gin manufacturers and ice cream manufacturers. There are more trees to plant in the next four weeks, and 200 trees from the Chief Minister for a conservation area. There is an upcoming event on 5th August planned to show the public the operations of the centre at the sustainable farm. The centre is always looking for partners/stakeholders to help at the farm.

Grainney Sheard, Arts Engagement Officer at IoM Arts Council

The arts graduate internship has been extended by a year allowing Olivia Savage more time to plan and execute Biosphere projects. She is currently working on Ellyn, an exhibition and book that will be a celebration of contemporary art in the Isle of Man. All artworks have been selected and the exhibition is planned for the 24th September. Olivia will then develop a public art trail in the form of an app.

The One World Centre approached IOMAC to promote their SDG Art Competition, this invitation to work with IOMAC was extended to the rest of the SPG should they wish to collaborate.

Mental Health Awareness week in May was themed 'nature' and there was a social media campaign celebrating the relationship between Biosphere, the arts and wellbeing.

GS thanked UBIOM for hosting a video training session that she and the arts graduate intern attended and found very valuable.

Selected pages from the new Biosphere strategy are on the bulletin boards in the Villa Gaiety break room.

Stakeholders were told that a new Manx Bard will be selected in August. There will be a Manx Bard event in August as Zoe Cannell is stepping down so a new bard will be appointed, which celebrates the relationship between biosphere and arts.

There is now a Biosphere category on the IOMAC website to celebrate the partnership.

Grainney also gave an updates on the creative toilets in Ramsey, a Culture Vannin collaboration project celebrating the Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve.

IOMAC's podcast series had featured an episode about sustainability in fashion.

Dr Breesha Maddrell, Director of Culture Vannin

Culture Vannin have just finished Galeg21, a month-long celebration of Manx language.

CV is looking at the next five years of Manx language strategy.

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic gathering starts next month.

Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum:

JO read an update on behalf of Jo Callister:

There is a project in the early stages of planning that will meet the Education 'E' of the UBIOM vision and strategy: a week in all schools in 2022. It is yet to be confirmed when it will take place but it will most likely

happen in the summer term and has currently not been officially named, but is being referred to as the 'Biosphere showcase week'. JC and BK are developing this proposal and will report progress at the next SPG meeting.

Any other business

2/21/15

JO said House of Keys election candidates have been getting in touch and that UBIOM have organised some informative sessions and this seems to be well received.

LM raised the recent St Mark's elm tree planning issue. There were discussions around this and how it was unusual that UBIOM were expected to intervene by the public. It was agreed that the community rollout of the vision and strategy will quash some of these misperceptions about the role of UBIOM. BM stressed the importance of being kind to and supporting one another in difficult times as no one should have to take the backlash of something that is not in their remit.

CQ thanked SPG for allowing her to attend the meeting in the capacity of the Municipal Association and stated she did not know about the volume of work streams headed by UBIOM in her context as a Castletown Commissioner and was very impressed and keen to learn more. BK said they can talk outside of this meeting and try to build a partnership with Castletown Commissioners.

CM said they could host Biosphere talks at the Children's Centre for free if this was something UBIOM wished to look in to.

LM said that Manx Wildlife Week has just ended and the Trust was waiting for figures but it was a good week with successful events including Nature Through a Lens, a UBIOM event.

GB noted that Edmund Southworth has retired as director of Manx National Heritage after a decade in the role and a new director, Connie Lovell, has been appointed.

Date of next meeting

2/21/16

JO stated that depending on circumstances with the ongoing pandemic, we would hope to meet again in person in another six months, and that we may have a new chair at the next meeting. Jo proposed the SPG meet on 26th January 2022, 2pm-4pm, King Orry Room, Central Government Offices, subject to confirmation by new Chief Minister post October 2022.

Approval:

Hon Alfred Cannan MHK, Chair

Signature:

Date: 26th January 2022.

