



Minutes of a meeting of the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Stakeholder Partnership Group (UBIOM SPG) held on Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 14:00 in the King Orry Room, Government Offices, Douglas

Present:

Hon H Quayle MHK	Chief Minister – Chair	CM
Hon G Boot MHK	Minister, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture	GB
Dr Fiona Gell	Head of Climate Change, DEFA	FG
Dr Richard Selman	Head of Ecosystem Policy, DEFA	RS
Miss Jo Overty	Biosphere Project Officer, DEFA	JO
Miss Rowan Henthorn	Ecosystem Officer, DEFA - <i>minutes</i>	RH
Mrs Muriel Garland	Chair, EcoVannin	MG
Dr Tim Graham	CEO, Manx Wildlife Trust	TG
Mr Steve Taggart	Recycling and Waste Officer, Department of Infrastructure	ST
Ms Liz Aelberry	Head of Communications, Cabinet Office	LA
Mr Andrew Cooper	General Secretary, Manx NFU	AC
Mr Edmund Southworth	Director, Manx National Heritage	ES
Mr Chris Martin	Operations Manager, The Children’s Centre	CMa
Mr Jon Holden	Workplace Operations Manager, TSG Interactive Services Ltd	JH
Mrs Angela Byrne	Head of Tourism, Visit Isle of Man	AB
Mr Paul Fletcher	IoM Farming, Wildlife and Advisory Group	PF
Dr Breesha Maddrell	Director, Culture Vannin	BM

Apologies:

Mr Richard Lole	DEFA CEO	RL
Mrs Karen McHarg	DEFA Director of Environment	KM
Mr Andrew Lees	DEFA	AL
	DEFA	
	TSG Interactive Services Ltd	
	Council of Voluntary Organisations	
	Council of Voluntary Organisations	
	Manx NFU	
	Manx Wildlife Trust	
	University College Isle of Man	
	Department of Education, Sport and Culture	
	Beach Buddies Isle of Man	

1/19/1	Chief Minister’s welcome and opening remarks	Action
	<p>CM welcomed everyone to the sixth meeting of the Stakeholder Partnership Group.</p> <p>He said it was back to a ‘business as usual’ meetings after an extremely busy year, which had seen meetings with high-profile UNESCO visitors and workshops to inform a local vision and strategy.</p> <p>The Island remains the only entire nation Biosphere in the world, a position it must maximise to bring about sustainable development, conservation and education.</p> <p>Biosphere connects people with nature, celebrates our sense of place and will lead us to a more sustainable future.</p>	

The Programme for Government promises we'll be a sustainable Island and the review of that, published in spring 2019, noted that we have the opportunity to align our policy-making with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals that are so central to Biospheres globally.

Since the last SPG meeting, the Government had promised legislation to tackle climate change and set up a Climate Emergency Consultative Transformation Team, CM said.

It had also published the second part of its plan to reduce single-use plastics – the Single Use Plastic Reduction Plan for the Isle of Man Community – with bold measures that will reduce both consumption of plastic and the impact it has on the environment.

The Chief Minister said he was pleased to have announced a major new tree-planting initiative. Over the next five years, 85,000 trees will be planted – one for each resident of the Island. A further 1,000 trees will be planted in urban areas. Not only will this mean that we have more woodland on the Island than we have had for over a generation, it will also help to offset carbon emissions and will create recreational space which will include cycling, walking and horse-riding routes.

The year has seen a step change in Biosphere-related activity and in people's understanding of what our Biosphere status means to us.

Particular highlights have been our involvement in EuroMAB in Dublin, at which the Isle of Man was, at times, centre stage; being able to host influential young naturalist Dara McAnulty in May to inspire the next generation; our inaugural lecture, in June, possibly a Biosphere 'world first', and the visit, for Tynwald Day, of the global director, who will share the story of our Biosphere within the organisation globally. But lots more is happening.

1/19/2 Meeting apologies

Recorded above.

1/19/3 Minutes of previous meetings: July 2018, October 2018, November 2018

No amendments. Signed off.

1/19/4 Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

1/19/5 Matters arising

July 2018 minutes:

Action: JO to add the minutes of the SPG to Biosphere website.

Outcome: JO added member organisations to website, minutes to be added to website from this meeting.

October 2018 Minutes:

No matters arising.

November 2018 Minutes:

Action: JO to explore the potential for international funding for projects.
Outcome: Ongoing discussion regarding international funding, however noted Isle of Man likely not to be applicable for certain international funding and grants.

1/19/6

Progress report – paper and verbal update by JO

Staffing

In addition to a full-time project officer, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man now has a 0.5 of week limited-term administrative assistant (AO) working on Biosphere until the end of October 2019.

Budget for 2019/20

Update later in meeting.

Island Community Fund

A £250,000 fund was launched by the Manx Lottery Trust in April 2019 to support community projects that are in line with the Biosphere status. The first funding round was June and two grants have been approved. No further details are available to DEFA until the annual report. Application dates and details are on the MLT website and we encourage SPG members to promote the fund so it is used.

Vision and strategy

Update later in meeting.

UNESCO visits

Since the last routine meeting, we have hosted Dr Meriem Bouamrane, Programme Specialist with the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (October 2018); Professor Dr Enny Sudarmonowati, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) (November 2018); Professor Peter Bridgewater, former global director and now member of the ICC (June 2019) and Dr Miguel Clusener-Godt, global Director of MAB (July 2019). Their successful visits have given us good context on the priorities of the programme globally and have put the Isle of Man 'on the map' within UNESCO.

Attendance at UNESCO events

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man played an important role in EuroMAB in Dublin from 1st to 5th April. A #ProudtoShare video was screened and Dr Richard Selman appeared on stage to talk about our Biosphere during the plenary and we helped to deliver four of the 19 workshops. The video will appear on UNESCO MAB's website. Isle of Man Creamery cheese was sent over for display/sampling at a cultural evening. Dr Bouamrane commented: 'The Isle of Man is everywhere at this event.' UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man also attended the six monthly meeting of the UK Man and the Biosphere Committee, held in Dublin to coincide with EuroMAB. It was unable to attend the meeting held in the Isle of Wight in October 2019 as that coincided with Dr Bouamrane's visit. The Isle of

Man has offered to host the spring 2020 meeting of UK MAB (decision by UK MAB pending).

World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man joined this network in the summer of 2018 and is among Biospheres contributing to the first phase of its Zero Plastics initiative, along with Archipelago Sea Area, Blekinge archipelago, Cat Ba archipelago, the Commander Islands, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, La Selle, Lanzarote, Menorca, Ometepe, Península de Guanahacabibes, Terres de l'Ebre and Urdaibai.

Tourism

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man attended Destinations: the Holiday and Travel Show at Olympia, London, in January/February 2019 with Visit Isle of Man, to promote Biosphere. It attended Visit Isle of Man Tourism Day at the Villa Marina in February and three of the four Visit Isle of Man tourism networking events in the Island's regions, engaging with potential new partners within the accommodation and attractions sectors. A training evening was held for the Guild of Manx Registered Tour Guides, who are now armed with Biosphere messaging (this will be repeated in September 2019). Similar training will shortly be delivered for staff of the Isle of Man Welcome Centre. Officers also attended a recent meeting with Visit IoM over increasing ecotourism.

Business

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man engages with business and commerce at various levels. The Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce is a committed partner and we will be working closely with it, in coming months, on a number of initiatives, not yet public. Following a presentation by the Biosphere Project Officer, the Isle of Man Business Network has become a new partner and is keen to engage with our Biosphere to deliver events on sustainability in business. Another large company is discussing with us what will be an exciting sustainability event. We gave a talk to the Business Agency of the Department for Enterprise in March 2019. A meeting is planned in coming weeks with KPMG, which carried out a global audit of business sustainability. Employers large and small continue to sign up as business Partners.

Food and drink

The sector is a strong supporter of the Biosphere, with many partners coming from that sector. The Government's Food Matters strategy, which promotes and develops the local food and drink industry, is strongly synergistic with Biosphere and cross-promotional opportunities are being taken advantage of. A representative of Biosphere helped to judge the Food, Farming and Fisheries Awards this month.

Community

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man engages with community initiatives where they share the ethos of Biospheres globally. A number of community initiatives are Biosphere Partners.

Education

Update later in meeting.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man was part of the inaugural Isle of Man Research Festival (19th July 2019) and the global chair, Professor Dr Enny Sudarmonowati opened the event by Skype. The Isle of Man is joining the Sustainable Development Goals Book Club and, each month for 17 months, will purchase for all primary schools books on the SDGs. Ballakermeen High School has appointed a 'Biosphere prefect' and the project is working with him. UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man hosts international, UCM and secondary school students on work experience throughout the year.

Awards

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Awards were held for the first time in 2018, with categories for environment, energy, education/public awareness and sustainability. They attracted 30 entries. The awards are repeated in 2019 and the closing date is August 30th 2019. To date, there have been six entries.

Projects and collaborations

Refill Isle of Man: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has been licensed to deliver the nationwide Refill scheme since January 2019. The scheme will reduce plastic consumption and litter. Prior to launch, seven Refill Isle of Man premises had signed up independently. Refill has proved popular and we have since recruited a further 123 Refill Stations, Island-wide, including shops, cafes, restaurants, museums, libraries and tourism attractions. Administering the scheme is a sizeable part of the 1.5 officers' workload. Biosphere social media channels carry a Refill Station of the Week feature.

'Biosphere Badge': UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man launched a 'Biosphere Badge' for Girlguiding Isle of Man in January. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers gain the badge by fulfilling two or more actions relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Isle of Man Scouting is shortly adopting the badge and another UK Biosphere is considering replicating the badge there.

Design an Ad: With Year of Our Island, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man sponsored a challenge for primary and secondary school students to design advertisements discouraging use of plastic and plastic littering. The brief had four winners.

Family Library Summer Reading Scheme: The scheme has an 'ocean' theme and Biosphere will read related stories to children and has provided Marine Nature Reserve spotter sheets and leaflets for signing-up packs.

Festival of Trees: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man and Manx Wildlife Trust entered a 'plastics awareness' Christmas tree into the Save the Children Festival of Trees, held at Isle of Man Airport in December 2018/January 2019.

Mother Language Day: UNESCO marked the day (21st February 2019) with a project to share readings of The Little Prince in different languages and Culture Vannin submitted a recording.

Poetry Map: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is collaborating with the Manx Bard and Culture Vannin to create a Poetry Map of the Island, in line with the ethos of connecting people with nature. With two weeks to the deadline, 99 poems have been submitted. The Map will provide a lasting resource for visitors and locals.

Visit Laxey Valley: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is collaborating with the charity Visit Laxey Valley, which will tell the story of the village 'from sea to summit'. The project meets all three central aims of Biospheres: sustainable development, conservation and education.

World Biodiversity Day – 8th May: UNESCO MAB marked this by requesting recipes, which will appear in a global Biosphere cookbook. The Isle of Man submitted recipes for its 'national dish, queenies, and bonnag.

Other:

- UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is delivering training sessions (August 2019) to guides who will lead visitors on Walk the Isle of Man (October 2019).
- Discover Diving's Splash-In 2019 underwater photo and video competition will showcase UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.
- The Isle of Man Film Festival worked with Biosphere over it being a topic of the environment-themed festival in 2019 but the event has been postponed. However, a short film competition, Green Shoots, was run with schools via Biosphere.
- Mannin Quilters are producing work telling the Biosphere story from the perspective of the Island's six sheadings and this will go on public display.

Events

Manx Wildlife Week – 4th-12th May: DEFA delivered walks and talks and UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man 'Voice For Our Future', an event delivered by and aimed at inspiring young people, with the keynote speech by well-known young nature ambassador Dara McAnulty.

Inaugural Biosphere Lecture – 12th June: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man staged a lecture, delivered by Professor Peter Bridgewater and sponsored by Zurich International. Professor Bridgewater, a former global director of the Man and the Biosphere Programme and Australia's delegate to the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Council, said he believed it was a 'world first'. The following week, at the ICC meeting in Paris, he described the Isle of Man as: 'A very new and modern Biosphere, which, I am sure, will be a significant contributor to the world network in the years to come.'

Festivals: Festivals have run within the ethos of, and in partnership with,

Biosphere including: The Great Manx Shindig, Mindful Mann and Dark Horse Festival. As part of this, they have used reusable cups and become temporary Refill Stations.

Other: UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man/Ecosystem Policy Team had a stand at the Environment Festival (3rd/4th May) and will be at the Southern Agricultural Show (27th/28th July), Royal Manx Agricultural Show (9th/10th August), Our Island; Our World Festival (31st August) and Isle of Man Food & Drink Festival (15th/16th September).

Partners

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man has 187 Partners across the categories of Government, community, education, business and environment/culture. Interest is high and Partners frequently wish to meet ahead of participating. Administering the scheme and record-keeping is a sizeable part of officers' workload.

Talks

We have delivered talks to, and taken part in panels for, community clubs, charities, organisations, businesses, schools/UCM and arms of Government.

Website

We have made improvements to our website www.biosphere.im including new sliding banners highlighting topical matters; entry forms for the Biosphere Awards and Poetry Map and an easier to read and search directory of Partners. The Biosphere Project Officer is, when time permits, updating the text. A Department for Enterprise STEP scheme student is contacting all Partners' to update their website entries to ensure they accurately reflect their current activity.

Marketing/publicity

Via Department for Enterprise, we continue to work with Lansons and Hope and Glory to promote the Island internationally and they pitch messages to media as appropriate.

- National Geographic is visiting from 4-6th August to focus on Biosphere/green credentials.
- The Department for Enterprise is considering an 18-month 'Natural Choice' international branding campaign that will complement the Biosphere messaging.
- New Nature magazine for the under-30s recently featured four pages on the Island following an approach by UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.
- The programme for the L'orient Festival (2-11th August) will contain a full-page on Biosphere courtesy of Visit Isle of Man.
- The Manx Life #MyBiosphere feature, originally scheduled to end after 12 editions in April 2019, has been extended because it is popular with readers. New authors are always sought.
- We have content in each edition of Go Green, a quarterly supplement

on the environment produced by Isle of Man Newspapers.

Social media: We continue to update three social media channels – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – seven days a week and sometimes more than once a day, sharing our own news and that of Partners and other compatible groups.

Newsletter: We continue to produce a monthly newsletter, containing a curated combination of our own and relevant Isle of Man Government news and that of Partners and other groups and initiatives. Production of a newsletter is encouraged under the global Biosphere Lima reporting framework.

Advertising/marketing

- We have advertising at Isle of Man Airport and at the Sea Terminal.
- We belong to a new forum for those who market the Isle of Man, along with Visit IoM, Isle of Man Food and Drink, Manx National Heritage, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, Isle of Man Bus and Rail and the Curragh's Wildlife Park.

DEFA #BeMoreBiosphere

We have launched a campaign within DEFA to encourage staff to align their work with our Biosphere status and promote the status externally.

Youth forum

The Youth Forum – convened when DEFA advertised for three young people to represent the Isle of Man at the World MAB Youth Forum in Italy in September 2017 – continues to meet but participation has dwindled and we plan to re-form the group with specific aims and purposes. A Department for Enterprise STEP scheme student is assisting the project officers on this.

One representative from UK/Ireland MABs can attend the 2019 MAB global Youth Forum at Changbaishan Biosphere, China, from 15th to 18th September and we have invited applications from within our Youth Forum.

Future plans

There are lots of plans in the pipeline (a rolling delivery plan was produced) but among highlights are: a Bikers for Biosphere scheme for TT 2020, collaborating with the Isle of Man Flower Festival and Manx LitFest; participating in an Inter-Island Public Health conference the Island is hosting.

ES said Manx Wildlife Week has now been embedded into the MNH programme and the organisations aim to repeat events next year. He noted the success of the Biosphere event 'Voices for our Future'.

1/19/7

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man local Vision and Strategy – verbal update from RS

RS noted that, following the workshops, RH would be working on the

strategy.

RS said feedback from other Biospheres and visitors has suggested that our work as a Biosphere is on the right track and noted that we have been described as a modern biosphere.

1/19/8 Biosphere Budget – paper and verbal update by JO

JO advised that £50,000 had been allocated to Biosphere in 2019/20.

She advised that although DEFA had set budget headings, SPG may steer spending as required for Biosphere projects.

The allocation of budget for UNESCO MAB Youth Forum in China was questioned. It was noted that if an Isle of Man candidate were selected, it would be a good opportunity for development, connection and learning.

Members of the Biosphere Youth Forum would be invited to apply for the event, and that there would be a requirement for the attendee to feedback to both the Isle of Man and UK MAB forums.

It was noted that the importance of research was highlighted during Dr Enny Sudarmonowati's visit to the Island in 2018. It was suggested that a budget for research should be examined for the 2020/21 budget.

It was noted that DEFA fund and conduct research already and perhaps this should be highlighted more.

The #BeMoreBiosphere campaign to encourage engagement among DEFA staff was highlighted as a potential avenue to promote ongoing work within Government.

It was suggested that citizen science research could be done on a relatively small budget.

It was suggested that the SPG made research a standing agenda item for future meetings.

It was asked whether funding had been secured for staffing as well as capital funding. It was noted that nothing had been finalised at this time.

Action: Research to be a regular agenda item, with DEFA, MWT, MNH leading on this.

JO ES TG/VD

1/19/9 Climate Action Plan – verbal update from FG, Climate Emergency Consultative Transformation Team:

Professor James Curran has been appointed as independent chair. He is a climate scientist and has conducted similar projects in Glasgow. Representatives from all Government Departments will be writing reports covering all sectors of the Island, contributing towards a Climate Change

Bill set for introduction in 2020.

FG invited all SPG members to a meeting on Thursday 1st August to meet Professor Curran, noting that a high level of input from Biosphere was key. Regarding EuroMAB, FG noted that the global Biosphere network is key for climate change, in terms of knowledge-sharing, etc.

CM noted that he has met the head UK climate advisor, Lord Randall, who offered his assistance. Similarly, Mayor of Manchester Andy Burnham had suggested possibilities to promote green technology and opportunities for young people to assist the Island in a future green transition.

CM noted there would be no political/Government interference in the independent report being written by Professor Curran, which would ensure an unbiased report.

1/19/10 Education and Biosphere – verbal update from JO in absence of JC and GC

Update from JC

Isle of Man schools are all registering/encouraged to register as Eco Schools. A new GCSE is being introduced from autumn 2019: Global Perspectives.

Individual schools have initiatives that complement our Biosphere aims. JC will visit all schools in 2019/20 to raise awareness.

Schools took part in the 11th DEFA/DESC Trees for Life initiative in 2019, planting a further 240 trees.

All schools are aware of the Single Use Plastic Reduction Plan for the Isle of Man Government. All DESC premises have completed plastic audits for DEFA. DESC/DEFA are running staff workshops for staff on sustainability issues.

The DESC-run Manx Folk Awards was a single-use plastic-free event for the first time in 2019 and the Music Centre was offering vegware cups and planned environment-themed events.

At DESC headquarters, Hamilton House, similar training sessions are planned. Staff already have access to drinking water, recycle all glass, plastic and cans and are aware that catered events should not use single-use plastics.

Update from GC

Students at UCM are acting as single-use plastics champions and working with management to reduce plastic use. They travelled to Arran with Beach Buddies to clean beaches.

HE students at UCM will participate in a business sustainability game in October.

A Research Festival on 19th July will launch Research Vannin. It will be opened by Professor Enny Sudarmonowati, Chair of UNESCO Biosphere, and themes include environment and Biosphere.

As the Isle of Man Government embarks on a tender process for its HE partner, embedding sustainability within the business curricula will be a key discussion.

It was noted that education is key – single use plastics work must include education to promote and achieve change.

In relation to Single Use Plastics, it was asked whether there will be more work to educate the general public, and what form that might take.

It was highlighted that key groups were being identified and then there would be a targeted approach to educate and influence homes, businesses, and schools etc. identifying key campaigns going forward.

1/19/11 Recycling - verbal update and discussion from ST at request of CMa

It was highlighted that, as an Island, we need to determine what the greenest solutions are regarding recycling.

CMa said The Children's Centre would like to help educate and raise awareness across the younger generation on what happens to the Island's waste.

It was stated that what can be recycled on/off Island needs to be clearer to the Isle of Man public, and that includes assessing when recycling is the best option versus generating energy at the EfW plant.

ST highlighted work with Zero Waste Scotland to develop a carbon matrix, which highlights the benefits of recycling the likes of plastic bottles but noted other mixed plastics were less clear.

It was suggested that acting as a responsible Island, it is better to know specifically where our waste goes, rather than exporting it to developing countries where it is less clear. The Isle of Man has never exported waste to developing countries and knows specifically where its waste is going.

ST noted that there are various bodies collecting recycling in different schemes across the Island, some kerbside and some bring banks. Different materials are collected and there are different streams for waste. It was noted that there are 17 waste collection authorities, and it is their responsibility to take recycling out of the waste stream, which make the process difficult to streamline.

It was suggested that we should be championing the right model and moving towards this.

ST noted that the Climate Change Bill could be a vehicle for promoting this change.

It was suggested that one of the issues regarding recycling is the fact that it is market-led. As such, a material may go for a higher price elsewhere which may change its end route to market.

It was noted that we should be ideally focusing on refusing and reducing single use plastic rather than focusing solely on recycling as the option going forward.

It was asked whether there was something we can do to promote local authorities to be more responsible and promote kerbside collection. It was suggested that there is ongoing work to do this within the DoI and it should perhaps be a Biosphere priority.

It was noted the DoI and DEFA are committed to resolving this issue.

It was suggested that the Community Plastics Plan and the Climate Change Emergency is pushing this forward.

A question arose as to whether the Island receives a financial return from recycled materials and it was noted that this depends on the material – paper has a good return, glass recycling must be paid for and plastic bottle recycling works out even once they have gone off-Island for processing.

It was suggested that waste recycling needs a holistic approach – reviewing the whole waste collection system. Anaerobic digesters for green energy production should also be considered.

It was suggested that the Creamery should be applauded for green initiatives. It was however, noted, that the company is facing issues in terms of recycling the sugar-based carton, and recycling off-Island is potentially less green than sending to the Energy from Waste plant. It was asked whether historic landfill sites pose an issue and noted that these historic sites are potentially better left where they are as the pollution from these is minimal and, as technology develops, these sites can be managed more effectively.

1/19/12

Provision of Biosphere glass decanters for eateries – paper from MG

MG proposed that glass decanters be provided to eateries to promote Isle of Man water, using the Manx for water, ushtey, and reduce plastic bottle sales.

It was estimated that there were over 270 sit-in eating establishments on the Island and that there would likely be a high cost associated with

production, storage and administration of the project. It was noted that DEFA would be unlikely to be able to fund the project. Environmental health standards would also require logos etc to be engraved onto decanters, which may be an additional cost.

It was noted that Manx Utilities is not promoting the word 'ushtey' in its branding. However, it was suggested that 'ushtey' is a Manx word that should be promoted for purposes of Manx culture and heritage.

It was suggested that despite the potential costs of the project this was a good idea, and potentially a good way of promoting Biosphere. A pilot scheme was suggested, where the decanters were sold as a desirable item for Manx people to have and use.

ES noted that Manx National Heritage could potentially price and give some options in terms of selling in gift shops, corporations etc.

Action: ES to investigate pricing and potential outlets for distributing the decanters via MNH outlets

ES

1/19/13 Proposal for Big Lunch event – paper from MG

MG suggested an event to promote social sustainability, along the lines of the Eden Project's The Big Lunch – where people bring their own food and the event organisers provide tablecloths and plates etc. It was suggested that potentially WI could organise, but would need to be a local event.

It was noted that other similar events have been organised – such as The Curry Club, and although there is potentially a lot of work involved, a toolkit could be produced which could act as a 'go to guide' and wouldn't require too many resources.

The group supported the idea of a toolkit and reinforced the idea that the events should be community-led.

It was agreed such an event could connect people with nature and enjoyment of the outdoors and help promote local produce, too.

It was noted that loneliness is a growing issue within the community and this could potentially help.

It was noted that insurance issues may need to be considered.

It was suggested that the event be called something along the lines of 'The Big Biosphere Bash', where the community were encouraged to enjoy local areas and local produce, enjoying the islands green space.

Action: JO to take forward next year.

JO

1/19/14

Proposal for empty premises at Villa Marina to be used as Biosphere Centre – paper from MG

MG suggested the former Sayle Gallery could be used as a town centre Biosphere Centre.

It was suggested that the costs associated with renting and fitting out the Sayle Gallery may be considerable and that there would likely be staffing issues, noting that the project officer works at DEFA and is required to be there for meetings and to work as part of Ecosystem Policy Team.

It was also noted that DESC has plans for the gallery.

It was noted that Biosphere has a good presence at events across the Island. Groups requiring it could have access to Biosphere promotional material and roadshows.

It was suggested that changes at the airport may allow for incorporation of Biosphere promotion.

It was also noted that there may be an opportunity to fill some blank spaces at the Sea Terminal in relation to Biosphere promotion.

1/19/15 Be the Spark– paper from MG

MG attended a talk at UCM about Be The Spark, a Welsh initiative to link up entrepreneurs, academics, government and capital in a connected ecosystem throughout Wales. She asked what would happen as a result of the talk, as it seemed to be a good model.

It was noted that the talk and campaign had no links with Biosphere. However, as the item had been tabled for the Biosphere meeting, JO advised she had done some research and found that that the Chamber of Commerce had brought over someone from Wales relating to the project as part of the 'Network of Entrepreneurs', the outcome of which would be known in the autumn.

It was also noted that UCM would be holding a research festival called 'Research Vannin' and it was hoped that Gail Corrin from UCM would be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

Action: GC to provide an update.

GC

1/19/16 Any other business

Verbal update from PF

Isle of Man FWAG is involved with the FWAG UK and joint farm competitions that commend good environmental practice in commercial farming.

IoM FWAG represented the Island at an open day in the UK held at Castletown Estates Farm, Carlisle, the winner of the 2018 Silver Lapwing Award.

From 2020, the holder of the Manx Chough Award will go forward as a finalist for the Silver Lapwing Award. IoM FWAG is looking to host judges and is looking for a new sponsor. The awards celebrate good environmental practice, supporting wildlife within commercial agriculture.

PF and GB are coordinating the visit of 40 farmers from the Association of Flying Farmers in May 2020.

Other

- Manx Wildlife Trust is applying to the Island Community Fund to carry out peatland surveys and promote citizen science and a wild wellbeing pilot scheme.
- A property at Sartfell which is promoting sustainability and Biosphere is shortlisted for a RIBA award.
- Culture Vannin and the Arts Council are working together on a number of projects, including a graduate intern for a Biosphere project, Biosphere-themed art and a structure in Conrhenny Plantation.
- A question arose into whether the Island could be classified as a 'Dark Skies Nation' as a way of promoting it and the Biosphere. It was noted the Department of Enterprise was looking into it and it was suggested that DforE needs to further understand the costs and mechanisms behind it, including the potential impacts on planning. DforE has requested more information on this.

Action: AB to provide update on the 'Dark Skies Nation' accreditation for next meeting.

AB


- JO noted that Zoe Russell, a PhD student from Sterling University would visit (September 2019) to carry out research on the Isle of Man Biosphere and advised that the Stakeholder Partnership Group may be approached as part of the research.
- The Isle of Man hopes to host the next biannual meeting of UK and Irish Biospheres.
- A request was made by JO to anyone who may have suggestions for next year's Biosphere Lecture.

1/19/17 Date of next meeting

This was discussed outside of the meeting and 29th January 2020 was decided upon.

Approval:

Hon Howard Quayle MHK, Chief Minister



Signature:

Date: 29th January 2020

After they are formalised, the minutes will appear on www.biosphere.im