

Name of Meeting: **Biodiversity Steering Group**

Date **08/02/11** Time: **10.00**

Venue: **4th Floor Meeting Room**

Present: Bill Waller, Naomi Perry, Paul Candlin (Natural England), Andrew Crawford (EA)
Apologies: Karen Davies, Kathryn Edwards (EA), Ali Glaisher (SCC) Kate Dewey (SWT),

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1. Welcome	AC new to the group, standing in for KE.	
2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising	AC wished to be kept informed of any River Sow protocol AC to liaise with BW over sign location at Astonfields, to avoid heavy machinery.	BW to contact
3. Planning	BW advised that the largest planning interest was the Network Rail plans for a new high-speed route at Norton Junction. AC was interested in the preferred option route. BW said Development Control are becoming more familiar with Natural England Standing Advice. Still liaising with them over this and also providing advice for Forward Planners who are undertaking Planning Apps.	
4. Biodiversity Update	A new guide to SBC's Local Nature Reserves is being prepared. This will be a colourful leaflet with plenty of information on our sites. BW showed a sample of the draft. PC was pleased to confirm that Stone Meadows would be ready for HLS application when the current CSS agreement runs out in September. It was agreed to measure nutrient levels. BW to meet <i>Froglife</i> to discuss possible pond locations at LNRs. Astonfields and Kingston Pool Covert would both need permission from the EA.	BW to liaise with PC
5. Biodiversity Toolkit	The toolkit is slowly taking shape and will include elements of a Biodiversity Strategy. AC advised it is important to include risk management.	



6. Dates and Events	BW giving a talk to the North Staffordshire Geographical Society at Stafford University – 9/2/11	
7. Any other business	Government plans to sell off Forestry Commission lands were discussed. AC enquired if it was possible to use the CCTV to record the River Sow for signs of otter. Otter have been present in town for several years and it would be good to have records of their movements	BW to investigate
8. Date of next meeting	Wednesday 11th May	