

Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) Meeting
1 May 2008
14:00-16:00hrs
Fountain's boardroom, York St. John University

Attendees

Adrian Dixon – Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) Branch, PSD – Chair
Grant Stark – PEP Branch, PSD
Tracey Ware – PEP Branch, PSD
Elaine Close – Pesticides Registration Policy (PREP) Branch, PSD
Rosie Mitchell – PREP Branch, PSD
Sue Rambridge – PEP Branch, PSD – Minutes Secretary
Cathy Ferguson – PEP Branch, PSD – Minutes Secretary
Libby Barnett – Central Science Laboratory (CSL)
Dr Jennifer Best – Natural England (NE)
Colin Booty – The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Prof. Alan Buckle – Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)
Hazel Doonan – Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
Dorothy Fairburn – Country Land & Business Association (CLA)
Patrick Goldsworthy – Goldsworthy Associates Consortium
Rob Griffiths – Welsh Assembly Government
Steve Higginbotham – Bayer Cropscience Ltd (representing CPA)
Peter Karner – Natural England
James Leonard – The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Guy Shorrocks – RSPB
Jennifer McGilvray – HSE Help Desk Press Office (attending in place of Jacqueline Noble)
Elizabeth Sharp – Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA)
Mike Swan – Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

Apologies:

PC Graham Bilton – North Yorkshire Police
Alan Blackmore – Countryside Alliance
Dr Nigel Clark – British Trust for Ornithology
Richard Dodd – Countryside Alliance
Alan Edwards – NGO – National Gamekeepers Association
Jane Eliot-Malpass – Partnership Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Secretariat
Alison Glennon – National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)
Prof. Lorraine Maltby – Environmental Panel
Jacqueline Noble – HSE Help Desk Press Office
Gemma Regniez – Defra CD
Stewart Scull – British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
Colin Shawyer – The Hawk & Owl Trust

Deborah Snow – Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspections
Directorate (SGRPID)
Dr Michael Taylor – SASA
Deborah Traynor – Health & Safety Executive
Martin Ward – Director Policy PSD

1 Introduction

1.1 Adrian welcomed everyone to the meeting. He confirmed that PSD would review the list of Campaign organisations removing those members who were no longer active.

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 27 June 2007

2.1 None

3. Matters arising

3.1 Action point 3.2: Tracey stated that CPA had said that the ‘Surefill’ container was first introduced in 1997, and migration from boxes to ‘Surefill’ would have taken place up to 2000.

3.2 Action point 3.6: Tracey said that no ideas for information that could be included in a newsletter circulated between meetings had been received. However, if anyone has any ideas they can still be sent to PSD.

3.3 Action point 3.7: Tracey noted that SEERAD (now Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID)) is still to forward information of any Scottish prosecutions. A paper produced for England cases was circulated at the meeting. There were none for Wales.

3.4 Action point 3.8: Tracey reported that PSD contacted Ian West, Chair of the PAW publicity sub-group, regarding getting successful prosecution messages across to the public. This work will be incorporated into the new Campaign.

3.5 Action point 3.9: Tracey reported that PSD had contacted SGRPID regarding writing generically to PAW, seeking to set up a list of journals and publications to target relevant audiences. This work would also be incorporated into the new Campaign.

3.6 Action point 6.4: Tracey noted that Defra had circulated a pre-consultation letter on the Possession of Pesticides Order for England and Wales that included the list of proposed pesticides which it would be illegal to hold without good reason. This Order may come into force in late 2009. It was agreed that when the formal public consultation starts PSD will alert Campaign organisations.

Action: PSD

3.7 Action point 7.1.1: Tracey reported that ADAS had produced two articles, which were published in 'Wildlife Extra'. ADAS sent copies of the articles to Government News Network (GNN), Institute of Ecology and Environment Management (IEEM), BASC, two PR companies and government agency magazines.

3.8 Action point 9.1: Tracey reported that leaflets and posters were still available to Campaign organisations. Goldsworthy Associates Consortium took over promoting the Campaign from 1 April 2008 and new material will be produced. Most of the existing material has been sent to Michael Woodhouse of FWAG, to be given out at shows, etc.

3.9 Action point 10.1: Tracey noted that PSD had alerted members by e-mail to the invitation to tender when it was published on the PSD website on 23 August. PSD had also advised that the specification did not include the budget.

3.10 Action point 11.1: Tracey stated that she had discussed adding an enforcement summary to the annual report with appropriate PSD colleagues. It had been agreed that the information would be added to the 2007 report.

3.11 Action point 12.1: Tracey noted that PSD had tried to discover how a link could be made between the importations of illegal pesticides and using the Plant Health message 'if in doubt leave it out'. However this message, which is aimed at stopping people bringing food and plants into the country, was probably not going to deter those attempting to bring pesticides in illegally. It was agreed that PSD would investigate further.

Action: PSD

4 Update from Wales

4.1 Rob Griffiths reported that the poisoning campaign had been run by ADAS until 2006 which mirroring what was going on in England. Since 2006 it had been delivered by an 'in house' team. The work was currently out to tender and WAG planned to buy in new expertise as part of wider package of work. The expectation was that the new contract will begin in July 2008.

5. Update from RSPB

5.1 Guy Shorrocks provided an update on the work of the Partnership Against Wildlife (PAW), including the work of the forensics, poisons and publicity groups.

On 22 April the RSPB launched a Birds of Prey Campaign. It will run for three years and hopes to reduce levels of raptor persecution by raising awareness, promoting good practice and encouraging more enforcement action by the statutory agencies. The publicity side of the campaign will also use incidents involving persecution of raptors, or prosecution of individuals, to help raise

awareness of the issues. There should hopefully be opportunities to link this in with some of the work of CAIP.

5.2 An RSPB report called 'Birds of Prey in the UK – On a wing and a prayer', endorsed by a range of other agencies, will be launched in May. This document and information on the campaign are available on the RSPB website at: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/birdsofprey/index.asp>

6 Update from Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)

6.1 Mike Swan reported that he was a member of the Goldsworthy Consortium. His involvement with CAIP was to train gamekeepers and work with CRRU to ensure less risk from the use of rodenticides. There had been a couple of articles published in the shooting times over the past year.

7. Update from Agricultural Industries Confederation

7.1 Hazel Doonan stated that the content of the operator road shows had focussed on the safe use of slug pellets. It had become evident that some users were not taking sufficient care when storing or using slug pellets. The course also gave advice on alternative controls, such as using wire mesh. On estimate there were fourteen thousand operators across the UK, and ten thousand of these have been through the training. It is planned that slug pellets training will be re-visited next year to see what lessons were learned.

8. Update from the RSPCA

8.1 Colin Booty reported that during the year RSPCA inspectors had attended training courses run by Natural England. The RSPCA had also been involved with WIIS incidents and in areas of work listed in the NE paper tabled at the meeting. Previously their involvement with CAIP had been on efforts run by ADAS, including the companion animal shows.

9 Update from Natural England (NE)

9.1 Peter Karner referred to his paper tabled at the meeting which listed NE activity throughout the previous year. NE continued to deal with WIIS enquiries and pursued links with the police, PAW, RSPCA, and BASC. He suggested that more work was needed to develop stronger links with vets, though literature continued to be provided for practices. Other NE activity included:

- Input to wildlife crime officer foundation courses at MoD Wethersfield
- Input to Staffordshire and Sussex rural crime officer training
- Input to new event training courses at RSPCA HQ
- PAW conference Poisoning Workshop Isle of Man

- Exhibit and liaison at PAW Open Seminar, London Zoo and BASC liaison
- Presentation at the Pesticides Forum
- Press articles

9.2 Jennifer Best reported that she is project manager of the Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme which deals with sub-lethal levels of poisoning. A workshop for those involved with WIIS was held in March 2008 and the next meeting will be held in June 2008. All Campaign organisations will receive an invite.

10 Update from the Campaign for the Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)

10.1 Alan Buckle noted his involvement with CRRU. They are particularly concerned with the low-level residues in wildlife caused by the way rodenticides are used. 2007 was the second year of campaign activity. Other activities included:

- Delivering training to pesticide users;
- 'Think Wildlife' logo on all products and website;
- Seven point good use code in rural areas;
- 2006 Academy in 'Farmer's Weekly' – 2 page spread;
- In 2007 planned event went out on TV's 'Farming Sunday';
- Raising awareness - DVD and notes available to all (copies available from Alan Buckle);
- Thirty second advert to raise awareness of CRRU;
- Sparsholt College training course have 5 modules offering advice to land based colleges on the use of rodenticides in rural settings to minimise wildlife impacts. These will be used in colleges from 2008 onwards;
- Shorter 3 – 4 hour course available to pest control practitioners;
- CRRU's supporters club will have the company name on their website, and vice versa.

11 Update from CSL

11.1 Libby Barnett reported that there had been a WIIS incident involving endrin (which has not been approved for some time) in 2007. CSL was also carrying out a review of WIIS data in England and Wales. Adrian confirmed that the draft report is still to be signed off but will be available in the next few weeks. It was agreed that the web link will be circulated to Campaign organisations.

Action: PSD

12. Feedback on the Quarterly Reports

12.1 Adrian asked for feedback on the quarterly reports. Guy Shorrocks said he found them very useful and others agreed. If anyone wanted to send in comments, these should be forwarded to Tracey.

Action: All

13. 2008-11 Campaign Outline (Goldsworthy Associates Consortium)

13.1 Adrian confirmed that the Goldsworthy Associates consortium had won the tender for the Campaign and was awarded the contract with effect from 1 April 2008. The contract was to run for three years, from 2008 to 2011.

13.2 Patrick gave a presentation [[link to Pdf file here](#)].

- Colin Booty asked how the market research would link into developing campaign initiatives. Patrick said that it was important to have a better idea of why people do things and to discover what their present level of awareness was. It would form a basis to build on and provide a better understanding of who to target.
- Libby asked how farmers and gamekeepers would be selected for the market research. Patrick said that dmrkynetec (who are carrying out the market research) have a screening mechanism in place. They have a pool of farmers they already use and there would be a county spread of those selected. When screening countryside users it was important to include those who regularly spend more than two or three hours in the countryside.
- Steve Higginbotham suggested that the Campaign seemed to be diverted towards misuse rather than abuse. Patrick noted that abusers were a difficult audience to reach but anticipated that some of the messages would reach offenders and deter them from committing the offence, particularly highlighting the consequences by publishing fines and prosecutions.
- Guy Shorrocks said that there were some interesting case studies and it was important to have a mechanism in place for getting the messages out to target audiences. This could be done via articles in farmers' magazines such as the shooting times etc., by persuading these publications to educate their readership. It was also important to capture vets' associations, as every year WIIS loses cases through vets not being aware of the scheme.
- Dorothy Fairburn wondered whether the incentive for users to attend training courses was strong enough. And furthermore whether the title ('Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning') would discourage attendance. She

noted that the CLA had been running courses for operators through the farm crisis network. She noted that the Rural Development Agency (RDA) has money available for training farmers and extra funding had been made available for LANTRA in Yorkshire.

- Patrick said the training modules would be available to launch at the 2008 regional operator roadshows.

13.3 Guy Shorrocks noted that police were under a duty to take action against offenders and police cautions could include having to attend a training course. Peter Karner agreed and said that enforcement notices should recommend training with penalties for failing to pass.

13.4 Adrian asked organisations for ideas on events and literature to target relevant audiences and asked for them to be forwarded to Tracey within two weeks of the meeting.

Action: All

14. 2007 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report.

14.1 Tracey noted that the report appendices had been put together and circulated to other countries for comments. The final document would be cleared by the Environmental Panel before publication. It was hoped that the report would be published in June 2008.

15. Enforcement

15.1 Rosie Mitchell reported that details of the latest prosecution had been published on the PSD website. This referred to a pest control treatment of bendiocarb that had been carried out on feral bees. As a result a neighbour's honeybees had been killed. Four offences had been committed and a £200 fine was imposed for each of these with a further £200 towards costs. Those carrying out the treatment had failed to take all reasonable precautions such as appropriate training and use of proper protective equipment.

15.2 Rosie also circulated a summary of successful prosecutions. Adrian noted the importance of getting the effective enforcement message across. Educational peer pressure through training was important and creating a fear of getting caught.

16 AOB

16.1 Dorothy Fairburn mentioned the recent 'Archers' storyline involving illegal poisoning. It was noted that no-one from the Campaign had been consulted.

16.2 Peter Karner asked whether the new Campaign would be utilising the old ADAS static display stands. Tracey reported that PSD would not be seeking their return as the Campaign was looking to move forward in a fresh way.

17 Date of next meeting

17.1 Adrian said that the next meeting could be held at the same time next year. PSD will continue to involve organisations as much as possible depending on the programme of activities. Another meeting could be held in the autumn to discuss outcome of the market research. It was agreed that PSD will advise Campaign organisations accordingly.

Action: PSD

Other Campaign Stakeholders

Martin Brown – the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
John Cousins – the Wildlife Trusts Partnership
Deborah Currie – DARD NI
Charles Nodder – National Game Keepers Organisation (NGO)
Martin Gillibrand – the Moorland Association
Tony Harman – British Pest Control Association (BPCA)
Mr Chris Kaufman – Rural Agricultural & Allied Workers' Trade Group of the
Transport & General Workers' Union (RAAW/TGWU)
Sam Littlechilds – Youth Hostels Association (YHA)
Anita Lockyer – Rentokil Initial plc
Jackie McCreery – Scottish Rural Property & Business Association (SRPBA)
Dr Roslyn McKendry – Pesticide Action Network (PAN UK)
Farah Nazeer – National Federation of Women's Institutes
Laurie Norris – National Farmers Union
Rhian Nowell-Phillips – Farmers Union of Wales
Peter Sanguinetti – Crop Protection Association
Rob Simpson – BASIS Ltd
WPC Sally Smart – West Yorkshire Police
Dr David Stroud – UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Tom Wheelwright – the Moorland Association
Dave Wootton – Defra Wildlife Species Conservation Division