CUMBRIA ASIAN HORNET TEAM FORUM | Feedback and Summary

Date: **Saturday 7th October 2023** | **Time: 1000 to 1600**
Location: **Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall**

Meeting called by Kendal & South Westmorland Beekeepers' Association

Purpose of Meeting Discussion towards establishing a Cumbria-wide Asian Hornet Action Team

Presenters & Facilitators Martin Hoggard, Julia Pigott, Keith Bartlem, Andrew Brown

Other Attendees: 21

Charles Payne
Claire Woowat
Denis Hudson
Davina Solomon
Dick Smith
Dick Towler
Eleanor Mason
Emma Cowan
Felicity Payne
Jackie Kerr
Karen Hesketh
Kerry Ballard
Margaret Riches
Mark Dasey
Melanie Vincent
Sally Buckley
Sandra Wallace
Steve Doran
Steve Wilkinson
Stewart Beattie
Trish Adcock

BKAs Represented:

Kendal
Keswick
Cockermouth
Penrith
Furness
Carlisle

COVERED TOPICS AND DISCUSSION AREAS

Welcome / Domestics | Conducted by Martin Hoggard & Andrew Brown

Agenda topic Asian Yellow-legged Hornet : Vespa velutina | Presenter Julia Pigott

Presentation of information about AH and its effect since introduction to Europe

Conclusion : It has a significant impact on the environment and human interaction. It's coming to Cumbria within the next few years.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Education teams for AHT would be essential. Feedback from meeting and further meetings to establish names of future presenters	Andrew Brown to coordinate	End of January 2024

Agenda topic Current Track, Trace & Disposal of AH in UK | Presenter Keith Bartlem

First-hand sharing of experience of tracking and tracing AH in the UK to the AH nests and subsequent results, as published. Some training towards T&T procedures and introduction of practical instruction.

Conclusion : There would be a requirement to train for Track & Trace teams with practical field training with observation.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Teams to be established for baiting & observation amongst the volunteers	Andrew Brown to coordinate	Spring 2024
Teams to be established for track & trace amongst the volunteers	Andrew Brown to coordinate	Spring 2024

Agenda topic **Breakout to Discussion Groups – Five Areas of Cumbria AHT Development** | **Facilitator** **Andrew Brown**

Development Group Topics: Communications & Organisation / Finance / Logistics / Education / Legality

Group Summaries :

Communications & Organisation –

- Need for a Pan-Cumbrian AHT
- Coord with NBU/BBKA/BKAs/Local Government/Emergency Services/Pest Controllers
- Planning bait stations and track & trace ops in cooperation with NBU
- Controlled centrally and openly, using commonly used medium (WhatsApp?) and team accessed database (see Legal for GDPR compliance)
- Managing educational groups to community
- Handling logistics and finance

Logistics –

- Equipment needed (bait stations, bait liquid, traps, maps, compasses, first aid kits, etc.)
- Grab Bag kits for T & T activity
- Equipment stores at multiple locations (2 or 3), close to AHT member clusters to minimise travel distances
- Need for ID cards (help with land permissions – see legal land access)

Education –

- All AHT members to have completed BBKA AH Team Exercise online
- Allocated AHT members to engage with effected communities
- Memory sticks with standard presentations for delivery, for briefed presenters
- List and plan appropriate organisations for AHT presentations
- Targeting: Cumbria Wildlife Trust, NBU, Young Farmers, EMERG Services, Woodland & Orchard groups, Outward Bound activity group organisers, Schools etc.
- Local councils and pest controllers to consult

Finance –

- Equipment costs: T&T kits, travel costs, printing and administrative funding.
- Sources: BKAs (via member subs), Trust funding, Fibrus (have history of funding), Rotary Clubs, Donations, local government
- Fund management (non-registered charity account), 5 managing member required

Legality –

- Set up of organisation, formal body for financial accountability
- Strict observance of GDPR with every member having access to AHT member's data formally agreeing to compliance
- Data handling via network security
- Process of legal, consenting access to land
- Authoritative and verifiable form of ID to confirm member status and purpose

All present agreed that there is mor to discuss and decide at a future meeting

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Distribute this forum's summary for all AHT's and Committees of all Cumbrian BKAs with special attention to the discussion group summaries.	Andrew Brown	within the month

Agenda topic Summary and Close | Presenter Andrew Brown

The forum events were summarised and appreciation and thanks were given to organisers Julia and Martin Hoggard, Denis Hudson for support with the set-up and catering, Keith Bartlem for his time and shared expertise and information, the K&SWBKA for hosting and the forum participants for their attendance and enthusiasm.

During the round up oral feedback the thanks were echoed and there was an apparent unity a that resolution towards a unified Cumbrian AHT should be realised and with appropriate urgency, and that it should be enabled, in an agreed form by the Spring of 2024, in order to meet the AH invasive challenge.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
To receive feedback from the forum attendees on provided form, anonymously if preferred.	Forum Attendees	ASAP
Next meeting to arrange	Andrew Brown and Julia Hoggard to coordinate with BKAs' chairs in Cumbria	January 2024

Summary of Feedback Questionnaire of Forum

Number of feedback forms received - 16

Table of Feedback Distribution	1	2	3	4	5
Question	1 grotty - 5 very good				
How well has the course met your needs to develop your AHT?		1		3	12
Was the day interesting?				1	15
Do you feel the venue was good enough?					16
			Yes	No	N/S
Do you see European hornets near where you live? We could practice tracking and tracing their nest next summer			1	15	
May we share your name/phone number/email within the AHT group?			15		1
Would you like the group to move forward supporting/sharing/cooperating?			13		2

In response to the written responses to the questions,
What do you need next?
Winter zoom?
Zoom from one of the AHTs that has been active this summer?
Would your group like to host a future meeting?
A cooperative group can use many skills - what would you be keen to offer/share?
There was a definite desire for a further meeting, face-to-face, soon and somewhere more central to the other BKAs in Cumbria.
Requests for a meeting (Zoom) with an effected BKA AHT in the Spring/Summer
Most offered whatever services they could provide.