



## Feedback Report 2018

**EXE ESTUARY WINTER FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, EXETER**

### Summary

The 2018 Exe Estuary Forum was a success with 93 people attending to hear presentations on:

- Introduction to the New Partnership Chair (Cllr Jeff Trail BEM, Chair of the EEMP)
- Status of the Exe Fisheries (Devon & Severn IFCA & Natural England)
- Update from the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (SEDHRP)
- Exe Estuary Highlights for 2017 (EEMP)
- Planned work with recreational boating clubs (The Green Blue)
- Completion of Mamhead slipway (East Devon District Council)
- Consultation for Coastal Byelaws at Dawlish Warren (Teignbridge District Council)
- Devon Loves Dogs (Dog Project Officer)
- Seahorses on the Exe (The Seahorse Trust)

Forum members were given the opportunity to view the *Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme film from the Environment Agency*. There was also opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Codes of Conduct which were on display, ask questions and find out how to further provide feedback. The feedback period will continue until 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Further information can be found on the EEMP website at <https://www.exe-estuary.org/review-of-codes-of-conduct>. The Forum presentations and key discussion points in the Q&A sessions can also be found on our website at <https://www.exe-estuary.org/exe-forum>.

### Feedback

Of the 93 people that attended the Exe Estuary Forum, ten completed a feedback questionnaire, the results of which can be seen below.

Questions	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The conference was worth attending	70%	30%			
Everything was well organised	50%	40%		10%	
The presentations were interesting	50%	50%			
The themes covered were relevant to me	50%	40%		10%	
The venue was suitable	70%	30%			
I would like to attend the Forum again in the future	50%	40%	10%		
The Forum is a key opportunity for me to learn more about the Exe Estuary, get involved and have my views heard	30%	50%	20%		
I value the work of the Exe Estuary Partnership	40%	40%		20%	

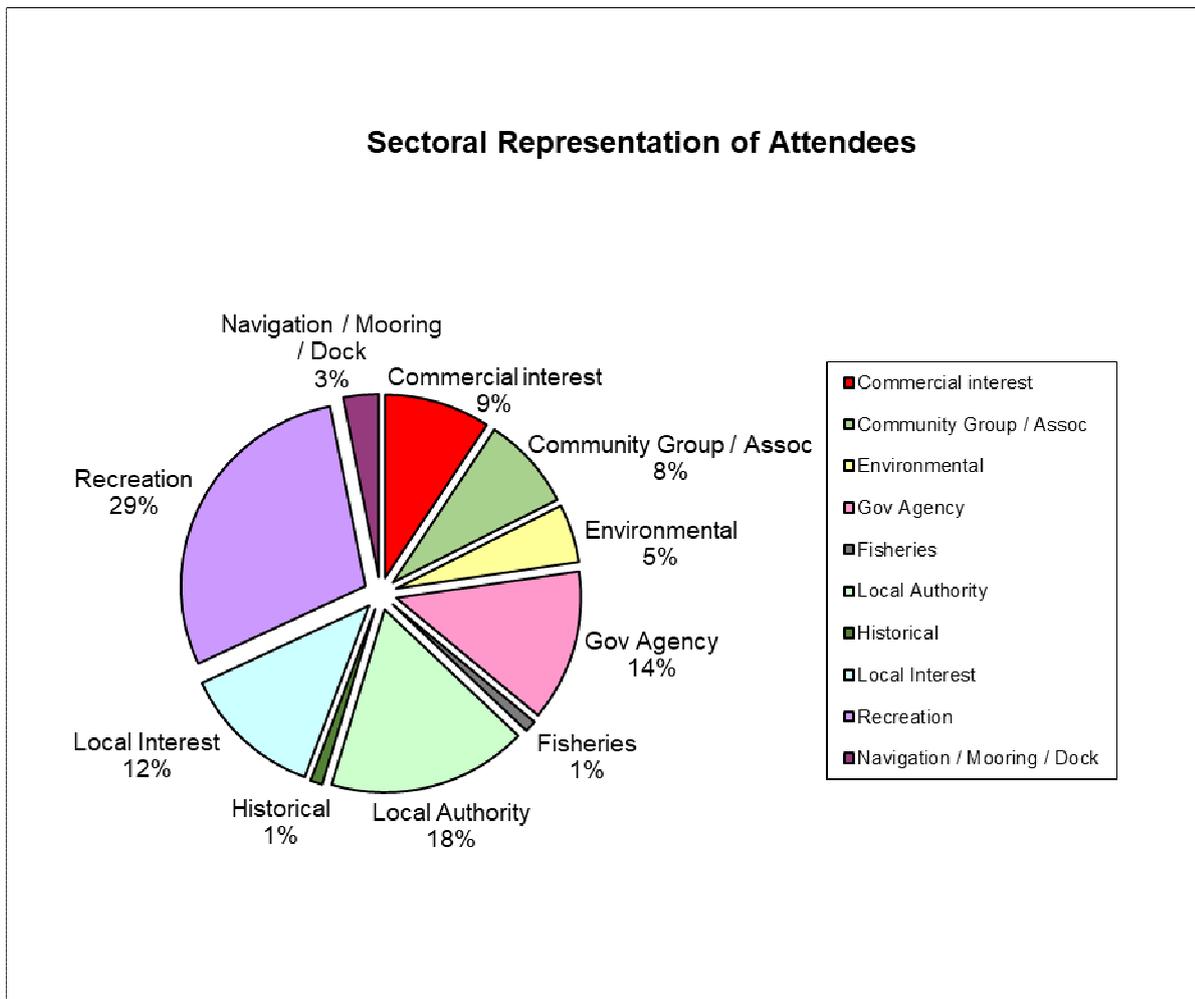
These are positive results for the future direction of the Forum with 100% of feedback stating that the Forum was worth attending, that the presentations were interesting, and that the venue was suitable for the Forum. A large majority of attendees found that the event was well organised, that topics relevant, the work of the EEMP is valued and Forum members would attend again in the future, as a key opportunity to learn more about the Exe.

General comments received through these feedback forms are listed at the end of this report. The feedback and comments will be used to develop the Forum in the future, taking onboard ideas for improvements and integrating them into the successful current format of this annual event.

### Sectoral Balance

The sectoral representation of the attendees was analysed to investigate the balance of interests represented at the Forum. The attendees have been grouped according to sector, for example 'Environmental' covers site managers, conservation charities and other wildlife interest groups.

As can be seen from the pie chart below, in general there was a broad representation of different sectors from those with a commercial interest in the estuary to those representing the Local Authorities around the Exe, including Councillors. These groups are fairly well balanced and are generally in line with the expected proportion of interest groups on the estuary, with representation from all sectors. A large representation from the recreation sector attended this event, likely due to the production of draft codes of conduct for public feedback. There were also a substantial representation from Local Authorities and Government Agencies, who attended to discuss management of the estuary with local stakeholders.



## **General Comments Received**

"Most useful: Status of Exe Fisheries  
Least useful: SEDHRP - they are STILL not listening!"

"As discussed earlier this evening I shall be most grateful if you will post me copies of the 6 codes of conduct."

"I felt that it was important to attend. I am not convinced that my views were taken into consideration."

"The draft codes are difficult / impossible to print & therefore to study properly is a problem. May I receive copies in the post please?"

"Effective use of slide presentations - some presentations were not aware of the need for contrasting colouring of text from the background colour! - and size of text font should be large enough to be read from back of room."

"It is madness to ban kiaks in an area where power boats and sailboats are rightly being used and have been used for generations. The river is a success story for wildlife and users groups who currently coexist and thrive.  
There needs to be careful consideration of what constitutes a "likely significant effect" regarding "harmful" disturbance as opposed to an event that causes no harm.  
These are my observations having lived on the river for 50 years and having observed wildlife and users.  
Exe Estuary Management Partnership has done a great job for years."

"Voting not fully organised properly. Not all attending given voting papers or shown candidate CV's. Canvassing before meeting???"

## **Suggestions for Next Winter Forum**

"How to include more user group representatives onto the Forum."

"John Douglas Goss-Custer."

## **Feedback on Codes of Conduct**

"Some use of colour & background in the printing.  
Very useful to attend."

"Too long to explain in boxes.  
Need information on success or failure."

"They need to be clear."