

**EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP****MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES****Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter****2pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017****Present:**

Chair: Councillor Bernard Hughes OBE, DCC	Cllr Ted Hockin, TDC
Cllr Michael Howe, EDDC	Cllr Pat A Graham, ETC
Cllr Margaret Baldwin, ECC	Cllr Andrew Cadbury, SPC
Cllr Martin Wrigley, DTC	Lynn Trout, Forum Vice Chair
Neil Downes, Forum Chair	Andrew Stanger, Natural England
Peter Chamberlain, DCC	Ruth Crundwell, Natural England
Graeme Smith, TDC	Tim Faulkner Powderham Estate
Gavin Bloomfield, RSPB	Maureen Ackland-Smith, Chairman Clyst St
Alan Wood, RYA	George Parish Council
Stephanie Clark, EEMP	Roger North, DCC
Clare Laurence-King, EEMP Volunteer	Derry Tydeman, SW Coffee Festival
Rowena Garne, DCC	

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence - BH**

- BH welcomed those present. RG took the minutes.
- Apologies were noted from: Cllr Terry Lowther (DTC); Katherine Stephenson and Steph Davies (D&SIFCA); Cllr Humphrey Clemens (TDC); Neil Harris (SEDHRP); Cllr Graham Murrin (WPC); Hugh Davey (EA); Lord Courtenay (Powderham Estate); Matt Boydell (DWT)
- Mandy Westlake no longer works for WPC

**2. Minutes and Action Log of Previous Meeting – SC**

- Minutes from previous MG meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
- Actions from previous meeting distributed (see Action Log).

**3. Budget update 2016/17 and Preparation of Budget for 2017/18 – PC**

- 2016/17 projected spend of £50,817
- 2016/17 income via contributions and carry forward from 2015/16 - £58,340
- £7,523 left in budget is projected situation
- 2017/18 anticipated spend 38,253 (only employment costs) – does not indicate overall spend
- Total income £27,313 far below what we need to operate at - £11,540 additional funds required
- However, approximately £7,000 will be carried over from 2016/17, £750 will be carried from NE Disturbance study report, approximately £10,000 will be carried forward through HRA Mitigation Strategy funding
- This will provide approximately £6,733 budget for projects. Positive outlook.
- Still not bringing in enough regular income via contributions. Additional income needs to be raised.

- Discussion:
- GB – How will we fund other projects?
- PC – This is a limiting factor and we will need to prioritise accordingly. Need to allocate the existing budget and look at what additional funds we need to raise to carry out additional work.
- Exmouth Mussel Festival made a loss – should we charge for admission?
- BH – Possibly more commercial aspect, e.g. sponsors. Advised that a small committee be formed from the MG, with the outlook to raise funds for the festival and support SC in organising. Commercialisation should stay limited.
- MH – Free entry but commercial stands?
- SC – Did charge for stalls at Mussel Festival
- LT – Car parking charges at Powderham?
- SC – An option we're looking at, but may need to cover costs of shuttle
- BH – if the venue is an attraction in itself we should make money ourselves via commercial value, charge for admission?
- Friends of the Exe Estuary could charge for membership during event?

**ACTION:** MG to look into forming Committee for festival.

#### 4. Progress Report

##### a) Exe Estuary Officer progress against action plan

- Priorities include – Management Plan, Delivery Plan, review of zonation and codes of conduct, Bird Disturbance Survey report (by end March), summer festival etc.
- The spring Exe Press newsletter will be distributed by 20<sup>th</sup> March
- 2 new volunteers working with EEMP – Clare Laurence King (Friends of the Exe) and Natalie Pursglove who will be working on bird surveys
- Winter Forum 2017 feedback – 68 attendees, presentations and view proposed Voluntary Exclusion Zones. 25 people completed feedback forms with 100% saying that it was worth attending and well organised. The sectoral balance included a good range of interest groups. Comments were also received (names of those who commented are not to be distributed further, detail just for MG)
- The next Winter Forum 2018 has been scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

##### b) Partner progress against the management plan

###### (i) Dawlish Warren beach management

- Public Summary
- Programme is currently on track
- Beach level is currently lower than design standards
- Recently there has been a tourism drop however; the scheme will be trialled on the impact on bird life etc.
- Recharge scheme is one of the largest going on at the moment
- SC – Guided tour has been offered to the EEMP (21<sup>st</sup> June 2017) which will replace previously arranged meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> June), time to be confirmed

**AGREED:** MG will accept guided tour of Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, instead of previously arranged meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June

**ACTION:** SC to email MG the time of guided tour of Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017. All who plan to attend will need to respond to reserve a place

###### (ii) Gateway to Dawlish

- Rn was project manager for Teign estuary trail.
- This scheme plans to connect the Exe estuary through Dawlish to Teignmouth and on to Bishops Teignton

- Improvements on kerbside – walkway extended from Lanherne – changing steep steps into more manageable steps- lead down to waterfront by the promenade
- Crazy gold course has seen improvements
- Dawlish roads either side of hill adjacent to highway
- A379 – Wide verges – cycle/walkway added
- Holcombe dip – being widened by moving rock face and vegetation clearance
- Teignmouth issues – currently being secured with landowner
- Not seen as appropriate to take the trail through the middle of the dockyard so may be moving to nearer the rugby ground. However, funding is yet to be confirmed.
- Passage house has been submitted for pre-application advice and is now moving to full planning consultation.
- The passage house to racecourse section appears straightforward
- Oakhill is very narrow – however behind hedge is a footpath which is considered highway and therefore can be widened.
- Lanherne take 2-3 more weeks.

### (iii) Introduction to Clyst St George Parish Council

- MAS contacted SC to see if it was appropriate for her to attend these meetings and learn about the EEMP
- SC asked MAS to put a presentation together to introduce Clyst St George to EEMP
- Clyst St George is a small Parish Council of around 600 electorate divided into 3 areas, including Clyst St George, Ebford and part of Clyst Road (from Sowton to junction near edge of Topsham). Includes Clyst River (Bridge Inn to where Exton meets the Exe River).
- Has the normal issues of most Parish Councils which include, speeding, flooding (during storms), parking (especially during rugby events), planning issues which is often down to lack of infrastructure and facilities.
- New Councillors have been appointed and aim to streamline the council to improve efficiency and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Looking at broader picture and what else to get involved with.
- Environmental issues brought up by Simon Bates – EDDC – who aims to connect green space, expand the Exe Estuary Trail and protect important trees (using volunteers).
- Clyst St George borders wetland area of Exe Estuary by Darts Farm, with wildlife interest.
- Clyst St George is interested in promoting legacy of Exe and Exe Estuary Trail.
- Been in touch with EA to understand what they do – look after bank, flooding and maintain a healthy environment of the river.
- MAS questions for EEMP
  1. What do you do to monitor this sort of thing?
  2. Where does Clyst St George Parish Council fit into the EEMP?
- BH – Dart family – proactive with EEMP. Environment Agency was going to let land flood, however, this was changed, instead letting the landowners clear ditches (which they weren't before).
- Some issues in Clyst St George have been previously dealt with by EEMP and we are happy to continue having Clyst St George involved in the partnership.

## 5. Final Management Plan 2016-2021

- The Management Plan has just been finalised and is available as an electronic copy, no printed copies produced.
- This outlines how the partnership will work to safeguard and manage the Exe Estuary.
- SC stuck well to timetable during process.
- This is a crucial document which contains collective priorities and increases the clarity of the Partnership's role on the Exe.

- PC encouraged all of MG to read the Management Plan

**ACTION:** SC to send link to MG of Management Plan on EEMP website.

## 6. **Approval of Draft Delivery Plan 2017-18**

- Outline the overall priorities and policies and on an annual basis look that we do over the next 12 months.
- Steph has been liaising with groups and how the delivery plan relates back to the management plan.
- The Final document will be produced by end of March

**APPROVED:** The MG gave indication of approval of the Delivery Plan.

- Discussion:
  - MW – South West Water feel entitled to allow overflow sewage into Shutterton brook, and have yet to upgrade system even with a new housing development.
  - More monitoring of SWW overflow.
  - BH – SC to invite SWW to next meeting to discuss their future plans to deal with this issue.
  - MR – overflow when tanks are blocked not just during storm conditions and runs right into Voluntary Exclusion Zone. Under storm conditions the Sewage is more dilute however this is not always the case.
  - Fear that increased housing in the area could cause further issues and put pressure on system.
  - PC - primary responsibility to recognise issue – we should invite both EA and SWW to next meeting.
  - LT – potentially could to a survey of overflow.
  - SC – EEMP and IFCA carried out Exe Estuary Health Audit 2008.
  - SC did approach EA about possible future report, but they didn't think there was a need at the time.
  - CLK – Friends of the Exe could help given appropriate training to survey area. MW agreed that Friends could be the eyes and the ears of the Exe and put pressure on EA (and other bodies) to address issues such as this.
  - SWW have admitted they were wrong in Cranbrook by piping the water directly under flood plain causing issues.
  - GB – best way forward is to persist in getting into a 5 year program and continue to contact SWW until the issue is resolved.
  - SC – summary of 5 year plan has been shared with SC for the Exe, could include in Delivery Plan. Exmouth Mussels developed system to monitor water quality better, could also be invited to next meeting to explore how this could be made best use of.
  - GB – EEMP could have a role in looking at totality of storm overflows, baseline cumulative impact on estuary (and users).

**ACTION:** SC to invite SW Water, EA and Myles Blood-Smyth (Exmouth Mussels) to next meeting to discuss sewage overflow issue on Exe.

**ACTION:** SC to explore whether Exe Estuary Health Audit 2008 should be repeated, or look at impacts of storm overflows on estuary and users.

**ACTION:** SC to include SW Water's five year plan in Delivery Plan.

## 7. **Presentation: Review of Zonation and Codes of Conduct**

- Commissioned by SE Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership to update and produce new codes of conduct and review of zonation

- To balance wildlife protection and use of Exe for recreation.
- It is a busy estuary with many stakeholders including business, tourism, leisure and wildlife.
- Natural England – features are generally favourable but some decline in bird populations.
- EEMP more neutral approach – balance of all stakeholders and wildlife.
- Public consultation regarding the two zones on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- Crab tilers adhere to IFCA byelaw area, some rely on crab tiling for a living. Have formed the Lower Exe Crab Tilers Association and adhere to codes of conduct which is currently being updated through consultation. Also agreed to act as voluntary wardens and have permits.
- Eales Dock have a right of access through the voluntary zone, will promote codes of conduct, sign a site specific agreement and mark the channel with willow.
- Kitesurfers will meet again soon, as with power boaters.
- More meetings will be arranged shortly.
- Due to the eelgrass beds Dawlish Warren is important at low tide for feeding, and high tide for roosting.
- At Exmouth we are not looking to change the Voluntary Exclusion Zone (VEZ), which is currently in place for kite and windsurfers, but to extend it to all users – using a seasonal exclusion zone in winter.
- Power boat and water ski areas (in place through byelaws) overlap VEZ, but will be allowed continued use at two hours either side of high tide.
- However, water ski safety issues have arisen which may bring a change to their area via byelaw (through the Harbour Authority).
- There will be a revision of byelaws later in the year (through the SEDHRP).
- Updating codes of conduct – 10-11 codes of conduct will be produced and promoted heavily via website, signage, etc.
- Consultation for this ends 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- SC not yet been in touch with National Bodies, but will be.

## 8. Spirit of the Exe & SW Coffee Festival 2017

- DT has been working with Powderham Estate to organise a coffee festival (first in south west) in order to highlight local businesses and has received interest from Bristol, Cornwall, Somerset and therefore expanded festival. Moving toward independent suppliers is the key looking at sourcing locally. Figures show 345 specific coffee shops in Devon and 3,200 coffee serving outlets (excluding chains). Using Powderham to keep it Devon based and at the heart of the South West. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- Joining with the Spirit of the Exe is a chance to share infrastructure and work with to gain knowledge on festival planning.
- SC – joining together will help with the support of the event and will reach a wider audience. This also means sharing a workload and a good experience in a commercial aspect
- BH – How to raise money?
- Coffee festival will charge however since Spirit of the Exe is in front of the coffee festival and therefore it will still be free admission to attend.
- DT has received sponsorship of £7,500.
- SC – food stalls who have gotten in touch with Coffee festival have been directed to Spirit of the Exe as coffee festival is purely coffee focussed (with 2 bakeries).
- Stage will be set up and paid for by Coffee Festival, for use of Spirit of the Exe on Saturday.
- Spirit of the Exe will be held Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**AGREED:** Overall majority at meeting in favour of partnership of these festivals, will evaluate after.

**9. Presentation: Friends of the Exe Estuary – CLK**

- 63 participants interested in volunteering through survey – based fairly evenly around estuary.
- Popular options for volunteering were clean ups, surveys (e.g. biodiversity), practical management and education.
- Aim of group is there to help out and support EEMP.
- There is a membership cost as agreed via survey – (£8 individual, £5 student, under 18, unemployed and £15 family). This membership cost will include incentives such as newsletters and possibly t-shirts.
- Currently in consultation with different groups, e.g. RSPB.
- Plan to launch in April with meetings every 3 months.
- BH – might be good idea to move around estuary as a meeting point.
- SC – large amount of interest.
- BH – support at past volunteer events has been offered by local businesses, e.g. via Stuart Line offering free cruises and collecting donations.

**10. Any Other Business**

- Spring Clean Up 13<sup>th</sup> May 2pm – sponsored by Krispies Fish and Chip shop who have won a national award and sources sustainable fish. Everyone who attends will get a free fish and chip supper.
- The Chairman extended his thanks to the MG for the prints that he received at Forum as a gift.
- TH thanked the Chairman for his time with the EEMP and all that he has been involved with.

**11. Dates of next Management Group Meetings:**

Proposed Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme guided tour:

**-Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 – time TBC**

-2pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Starcross Yacht Club (TBC)

-2pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Committee Suite, County Hall

-2pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Committee Suite, County Hall