

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES****Starcross Yacht Club, Powderham, Exeter, EX6 8JJ****14:00 – 16:00 Thursday 14th September 2017****Present****Representatives**

Devon County Council:	Chair: Councillor Jeffrey Trail BEM (JT) Peter Chamberlain (PC)
Teignbridge District Council:	Vice Chair: Cllr Ted Hockin (TH) Cllr Humphrey Clemens (HC) Graeme Smith (GS)
East Devon District Council:	Cllr Michael Howe (MH) James Chubb (JC)
Dawlish Town Council:	Cllr Terry Lowther (TL)
Starcross Parish Council:	Cllr Andrew Cadbury (AC)
Woodbury Parish Council:	Cllr Graham Murrin (GM)
Clyst St George Parish Council:	Cllr Maureen Ackland-Smith (MAS)
Bishops Clyst Parish Council:	Cllr Christopher Scanes (CS)
RSPB:	Gavin Bloomfield (GB)
Natural England:	Andrew Stanger (AS)
RYA:	Alan Wood (AW)
British Canoeing:	Peter Thorn (PT)
Exe Estuary Officer:	Stephanie Clark (SC)
Minute Taker:	Rowena Garne (RG)

Substitutes

Powderham Estate:	Tim Faulkner (TF)
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Specialist Advisors

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (SEDHRP):	Neil Harris (NH)
Devon Loves Dogs:	Julie Owen (JO)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence – JT

- JT welcomed those present. RG took the minutes.
- Apologies for absence: Neil Downes (Forum Chair); Lynn Trout (Forum Vice Chair); Stephanie Davies (D&SIFCA); Lord Charles Courtenay (Powderham Estate); Hugh Davey (Environment Agency); Cllr Margaret Baldwin MBE (ECC); Colin Acton (ECC); Cllr Pat A Graham (ETC)
- Welcome to new Partner: British Canoeing

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – JT

- One amendment requested.
- Minutes from previous MG meeting were agreed as accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3. Voting Rights within the Management Group – JT

- Voting rights are set out in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), a reminder of this was outlined by JT.
- Only nominated representations of the Partners listed in the MoA may vote, with a maximum of one vote per Partner. For Local Authority Officers: by agreed delegation, a substitute can vote on behalf of its elected Member.
- In order for a vote to be taken it must be proposed and seconded by a Partner listed in the MoA.
- Decisions requiring a vote will be by simple majority. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have an additional and casting vote.
- A copy of the full MoA can be requested from SC.

4. Budget Monitoring 2017/18 – PC (circulated in advance)

- The EEMP is working towards a balanced budget for 2017/18 and have had to tightly control expenditure.

5. Funding Strategy – PC & SC

- PC - We are currently living beyond our means and need to address the funding issues ahead. We have developed a working document setting out a plan to identify and describe funding issues and address them accordingly.
- PC took the group through the key areas of the document:
 - Section 2 – identifies the aims and objectives of the partnership. It should be made clear that these objectives have different time scales.
 - Section 3.1 – Review of current budget – details existing funding and expenditure. Also looks at the review of approaches over the last year.
 - Section 3.2 is the Future Strategy. It lays out the money we need to carry on operating as we are - £48,415 - in order to balance budget next year and provide a basic project budget of £5,000. Core income is currently £26,375 meaning we have a shortfall of £22,040.
 - Section 4 details a short-term plan which is what we'd like to focus on in this meeting. We have to find £22,040 for 2018/19.
- Open up for suggestions –
 - Possibly ask some of the clubs based around the Exe if they can contribute such as the sailing clubs?
 - The chair stated that he is plans to get user groups together. Have set up meetings on both sides of the estuary, inviting lead representatives from clubs. 27th September for user groups on the Dawlish/Powderham side, 29th September, for user groups on the Exmouth side of the estuary. Hoping to form a committee and get them to vote on what they would like to see happening.
 - Question was raised regarding receiving some of the developer contributions that SEDHRP received. However, this cannot be used to provide core funding to the Partnership. It must be used towards projects which provide mitigation against the pressures created by new housing, e.g. the zonation work which has already been undertaken. The EEMP need to identify projects that we are well placed to deliver. The SEDHRP need to understand that the EEMP could go under, which would result in difficulties for the SEDHRP to deliver the Mitigation Strategy without the EEMP in existence.
- Options in the table were outlined by SC
 - It was agreed by this group that there would be an increase in the charge for education sessions.

- The value of advertisement space in the newsletter was also agreed by the MG in a previous meeting.
- Charging for presentations was also presented as an option though it was agreed that £200 might be too high.
- Partnership working as shown in the table – this may have been overestimated.
- Suggestion of additional funding from statutory organisations to be brought in.
- Small opportunistic project funds – 16 councillors based around Exe, will be contacting them in the future for funding opportunities. Will look into community grants from banks and building societies, speaking with regional managers.
- Suggestions from group to speak to local estate agents.
- Suggestion – Network Rail are working between Exeter and Newton Abbot, has been suggested that they could make a contribution but not until works start – 2019 or later. GS has already suggested EEMP as possible recipient.
- Suggestion for new partners – Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation. Do not contribute to core work of Coastal Partnerships. The opportunity of the new Chair in post - will be writing to the agencies to ask for a financial contribution, asking them to recognise the value of the EEMP – can expect they will not be willing to give routine contributions. Question rose as to whether the EEMP should be withdrawing assistance if they refuse to find money – need to be more robust. This local request should be in combination with the national request through the Coastal Partnerships Network event taking place in London.

ACTION: JT to write to EA and MMO to request financial contribution towards the work of the EEMP.

- Suggestion – landfill sites have grant schemes which are receiving very few applications. Farringdon site suggested, but may be too far away from Exe. Possibly better pursued as part of medium-term plan.
- Highways England – environment budget on works planned on M5 Bridge.

ACTION: MG to send funding ideas to SC.

- Tourism Boards? Unlikely to fund as looking at Devon as a whole. Possible future advertising approach, e.g. leaflets.
- Explore advertisement from smaller businesses around the Exe.
- Additional funding from SEDHRP for additional zonation work – just over £2,000 which will be carried forward.
- Natural England will also be providing small contribution of £1,300 for small project work to be carried out this year, and carried forward.

ACTION: Continued support from core funders is essential to the viability of the EEMP next financial year.

6. Delivery Plan Highlight Report – SC

- Governance – to be discussed in agenda item 8.
- Annual Delivery Plan – draft will be discussed in Management Group meeting in December.

- Winter Forum – suggestions for agenda items are welcome – please email SC.

ACTION: MG to email suggestions for Forum topics to SC.

- Funding Strategy see agenda item 5.
- Dawlish Countryside Park – SC was unable to attend as the day was moved due to bad weather.
- Zonation work – SEDHRP to produce a report in October, before the final decision is made by the Executive Committee, ongoing opposition from some users.
- Codes of conduct work currently underway, working with The Green Blue, RYA, British Canoeing and local user groups.
- Devon and Severn IFCA – reports to be distributed.

Work with the Green Blue –

“The Green Blue aims to raise awareness and promote good environmental best practice with the UK recreational boating sector in marine and inland waters. The Green Blue’s focus for the period 1st September 2017 – 30th June 2019 is a campaign to provide educational awareness on a localised basis at a prioritised list of sites, with the Exe accepted as one of these sites.”

SC has suggested 3 main focus areas as –

1. Birds within the MPA
2. Antifouling
3. Invasive non-native species

Any other issues that could be suggested let SC know.

Approach -

Workshops

Visual Information

Educational Activities

- Clean up event – Saturday 16th September
Involvement from local businesses
RSPB are providing the tractor
- Interpretation
 - Highly desirable to integrate approach with SEDHRP in reviewing interpretation panels
 - EEMP additional benefit through Green Blue and Community Seagrass Initiative, would propose an audit of all signage before new signage is created.
 - EEMP already have permissions in place for majority of signage amendments.
 - SC submitted proposal to SEDHRP, decision currently lies with them.
- Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme – successful implementation of current phase.

7. Clarification of the role of the EEMP – JT on behalf of LT

- In Lynn Trout’s absence, her statement regarding clarification of the role of the EEMP, in relation to the public consultation on zonation, was distributed to the Management Group to read. The main comments made were as follows:
 - We need clarity in order that that the roles of organisations are clear, and that organisations do not blame each other. In this case, clarity is needed that the EEMP was undertaking the consultation for the SEDHREC.
 - Due to time constraints pressed by the media, there was limited or no time to speak to some members of the SEDHRP due to holidays.
 - SC has been asked to ensure that in future, she contact JT, PC, ND and LT for comments on EEMP statements.
 - LT feels that the SEDHRP should have responded at that point as the EEMP consultation had passed and the SEDHRP were undertaking their

part of the consultation. NH stated that the SEDHRP did not feel it was appropriate to comment whilst the consultation was ongoing. SC's statement to the press was kept general and was under the guidance of the DCC media department. SC did not and would not wish to cause any upset to any party.

8. Review of Governance Arrangements of EEMP – PC

- PC – Although we have attempted to make changes to the way in which we operate on a smaller scale there are still issues. We are not saying that the Management Group is fundamentally flawed, however the increasingly large committee and the indistinct role between the OWG and MG signifies that a change in governance may be required. As stated by many of you there is also a need to clarify the role of the EEMP and SEDHRP as separate organisations.
- We have identified 4 options:
 - Option 1 – Status Quo – if everyone collectively decides they would like to continue as they are.
 - Option 2 – Limited changes made. Aim to better differentiate between funding partners due to the current variation in contributions. More equitable for larger funders. More streamlined approach.
 - Option 3 – Two groups better distinguished. Set up a Committee of 22+ who are the prime decision making body and only meet twice a year. Executive Group which is officer based and will oversee delivery of the Management Plan, to include around 10-12 members to meet four times a year. JT has suggested having two user group representatives, one each side of the estuary instead of the one written in the current governance review document.
 - Option 4 – Entirely new structure and link with SEDHRP – would only be an invitation to the other partnership for further discussion.
- Discussion:
 - Recommendation from OWG is option 3.
 - Concerns were raised about option 4 – the two partnerships need to be separate. SEDHRP have a very narrow role for new pressures, EEMP has a wider remit. They operate differently and therefore this is not considered a viable option. The EEMP will look at working with SEDHRP to improve operation, rather than merge.
 - **AGREED: Option 4 is not a viable option.**
 - Option 3 was suggested as the most viable option during the discussion.
 - Option 3 was put to vote by the Chair as a preliminary option. If the principle was agreed by the group it was established that SC and PC would bring more detail and clarity to the next MG meeting for further discussion –
Proposer: Cllr Ted Hockin
Secunder: Cllr Michael Howe
Vote – Yes: 12 No: 0

Unanimous agreement for option 3 on the understanding outlined above.

- Request for parity of main Partners.
- In the Funding Strategy, option 4 can essentially be discounted in the Future Adaptation section, although it will remain outlined in the document.
- Suggestion made to add name plaques during meeting so it is clear during voting

ACTION: RG to make name plaques to be used at future EEMP meetings (SC to oversee).

9. Current status on Wildlife Refuges – NH

- A draft report has been compiled – it is not considered appropriate to discuss detail at this time.
- Report will be public on 13th October.
- Decision to be taken at SEDHREC on 23rd October at Exeter Civic Centre Committee Room.
- There is likely to be media involvement between the release of the agenda and the meeting. We will be liaising with SC over media coverage.

10. Devon Loves Dogs – JO

- JO started as the Dog Officer - November 2016.
- Employed under EDDC and work with SEDHRP Officers.
- So far have been meeting partners and looking at protected sites.
- Project is based on Dorset Dogs which was researched in order to follow the success this project has seen.
- Designer employed to develop a logo.
- 4 paws code has been developed – it is quite general due to the largely different sites it covers including the Pebble Bed Heaths.
- Attended event for Dawlish Countryside Park – over 350 people counted on day.
- End of July the project was launched – success of fake poo picking activity.
- First guided dog walk very successful.
- Website is live – will continue to be developed.
- Next week will be sending out first welcome packs includes top 20 dog walks leaflet.
- Hoping to further engage local dog-based businesses.

11. Any other business (please submit to SC before meeting)

- No items submitted.

12. Dates of next Management Group Meetings – JT

- Agreement for meetings to take place on Friday mornings, or at 3pm on other days, following discussion from JT explaining difficulties in making meetings outside of these times due to work commitments.
- Amended next meeting date:
Friday 1 December 2017, 10am – Darts Farm meeting room
- TH sends apologies for next meeting.
- Suggestions for meeting rooms discussed –
 - Ford House, Newton Abbot
 - Exmouth Yacht Club
 - Premier Inn, Exmouth
 - Larkbeare House, Topsham Road (free parking)
 - Teignmouth Yacht Club (not free parking)
 - Darts Farm (possibly through GB, RSPB)

ACTION: Partners to provide suggestions for any other potential meeting venues.