

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES****Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter****2pm Thursday 15 September 2016****Present:**

Chair: Cllr Michael Howe, EDDC
 Cllr Margaret Baldwin, ECC
 Neil Downes, Forum Chair
 Peter Chamberlain, DCC
 Graeme Smith, TDC
 Hugh Davey, Environment Agency
 Gavin Bloomfield, RSPB
 Stephanie Clark, EEMP

Cllr Humphrey Clemens, TDC
 Cllr Andrew Cadbury, SPC
 Lynn Trout, Forum Vice Chair
 James Chubb, EDDC
 Andrew Stanger, Natural England
 Matt Boydell, Devon Wildlife Trust
 Alan Wood, RYA
 Neil Harris, Delivery Officer

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence:

- BH welcomed those present. JC took the minutes.
- Apologies were noted from: Councillor Bernard Hughes OBE (DCC); Cllr Ted Hockin (TDC); Cllr Martin Wrigley (DTC); Cllr Terry Lowther (DTC); Cllr Graham Murrin (WPC); Cllr David Atkins (WPC); Lord Courtenay (Powderham Estate); Mandy Westlake (WPC); Cllr Pat A Graham (ETC); Katherine Stephenson (D&SIFCA); Colin Acton (ECC); Lisa Bowman (ETC); Ann Tipper (DTC); Suzanna Hughes (SPC)

2. Minutes and Action Log of Previous Meeting – SC

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

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

- 2016/17 budget on track with small projected and planned underspend of approximately £5k forecast. This is due to SC reducing outgoings and looking for funding opportunities as they arise. Situation for next year not looking good.
- Report on contribution from Powderham Estate. SC still awaiting decision. Requested £1000 from Powderham to bring in line with RSPB who are land owner and manager, however, they have concerns that this is more than Parish Councils contribute. SC read email from Powderham.
- GB – no obligation for RSPB to fund the partnership to the level they do. However it is a positive contribution and charity gets much from it.
- Chair – can understand as a business owner the reticence of the estate. Rather have £500 than nothing.
- MB – better to take money offered now and look to build.
- GS – historical negotiations with his father.
- HD – is £500 reflective of what they can bring to the table, rather than how much cash value they bring.

AGREED: Suggest contribution of £500 from Powderham Estate.

- Projected overspend for 2017/18 is £12k. Income generation is the only option as reducing officer hours is not an option. SC investigating taking on work for partner organisations which fit to management plan items too.
- Likely intent of budget contribution for next year would be needed for November.

ACTION: SC to email all Funders to clarify likely funding position.

CHAIR: Should contributions be inflation linked?

PC: If there is any inflationary rise in budgets that allow contributions to increase, this would be helpful. Funders can indicate this.

Full detail in 'Budget Preparation Report'.

4. Progress Report

a) Exe Estuary Officer progress against Action Plan – SC

Priority: Management Plan

School Sessions, Exmouth: Completed. Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership offered free rail travel for schools on the Avocet Line (Exeter to Exmouth). Indication that they may offer the same next year.

Autumn Exe Press: Distributed end August

Presentation: Exmouth Macular Group, 6th Sept

Autumn Clean-Up: Saturday 17th September – approx. 140 volunteers signed up. Survey as part of Great British Beach Clean.

Bird Disturbance: Volunteers continuing to carry out surveys of disturbance of birds from activities at Dawlish Warren, working with DW Rangers helping with management of volunteers on-site. Plan to produce a report at the end of this f/y (funded by NE) to communicate findings and inform management measures in the DW area.

Response to LiCCo Audit.

Applied for funding to support the 'Spirit of the Exe' Festival through 'Grants for the Arts' - £15k. Unsuccessful.

Attendance at various meetings:

Consulted on a variety of issues:

- Lympstone slipway
- Topsham fireworks

Summer Festival: Saturday 24th September, Exmouth Beach & Gardens. Working with Exmouth Mussel Festival, co-branded 'Spirit of the Exe & Exmouth Mussel Festival'. Live music, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, fresh local seafood to buy, local ale and wines on sale, coastal foraging, sandcastle competition, children's activities. Charge for stalls at this event with the aim to cover costs if possible. Looking into selling a signature dish (mussels) with profits going towards festival.

Review of codes of conduct & zonation: Habs Regs funded. Begin October.

Forum: Tuesday 7th February, Council Chamber

b) Partner progress against Management Plan – Update from Partners

(i) Update on Habitat Regulations Partnership and EEMP involvement – NH

AW: Lack of enforceable byelaws on Exe raised as an issue with HMO work on water. Regulations not published on ECC website.

GB: Critical function of EEMP to demonstrate that the background levels of mitigation addressed not only new user groups from new housing schemes.

ACTION: SC to speak with AW about issues regarding lack of publication of regulations on ECC website.

(ii) East Devon Catchment Partnership – HD

5. Management Plan 2016-2021: agreement on draft for public consultation – PC

SC gave update, detailed amendments. Welcomed further comments or considerations for the consultation stage.

Consultation is a 6 week period 19 September to 30th October. Single consultation event planned. AONB Managers will also advise. Final version to be published after 1st December sign off. Not being printed, it will be an e-document.

6. Any Other Business

- a. LT update on activity groups from local areas. PUG. Next meeting 26th September, 6pm. Introduction, constitution, etc. Suggestion of SC as Secretariat (i.e. observer and minute taker).
GS: As Technical Secretariat, should be recompensed by ECC. Don't necessarily think minute taker is a good use of SC's time.
AW: Second.
GS: Therefore if anything of interest, SC could attend,
LT: SC could attend as agreed.

- b. Location for venues for further meetings, can only make use of free space. Starcross FCC suggested by AW.

AGREED: Winter meetings at County Hall, summer meetings at various venues around the estuary.

ACTION: AW to look into the use of Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club for a meeting in 2017.

- c. Concerns about role of HMO – LT.

7. Dates of next Management Group Meetings:

Dates already agreed:

- 2pm on Thursday 1 December 2016 – Committee Suite, County Hall
- 2pm on Wednesday 1 March 2017 – Committee Suite, County Hall

Proposed dates agreed at meeting:

- 2pm on Thursday 22 June 2017
- 2pm on Thursday 14th September 2017