

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP



MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Clinton Room, Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter

2pm Tuesday 16 September 2015

Present:

Chair: Councillor Bernard Hughes OBE, DCC (BH)	Cllr Andrew Cadbury, SPC (AC)
Lord Charles Courtenay, Powderham Estate (CC)	Cllr Rob Masding, ETC (RM)
Cllr Ted Hockin, TDC (TH)	Steve Edmonds, EDDC (SE)
Aidan Winder, DCC (AW)	Lynn Trout, Forum Vice Chair (LT)
Graeme Smith, TDC (GS)	Gavin Bloomfield, RSPB (GB)
Andrew Knights, Natural England (AK)	Lucy Radford, DCC (LR)
Stephanie Clark, EEMP (SC)	

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence:

- BH welcomed those present, and introductions were made. BH welcomed Lord Charles Courtney to the meeting. LR took the minutes.

- Apologies were noted from: Neil Downes, Forum Chair; Cllr Michael Howe, EDDC; Cllr Margaret Baldwin, ECC; Cllr Pat A Graham, ETC; Lucia Mascorda Cabre, Natural England; Katherine Stephenson, D&SIFCA; Andy Bakere, Devon Wildlife Trust; Sarah Ward, ECC; Cllr Terry Lowther, DTC; Colin Acton, ECC; Hugh Davey, Environment Agency; Cllr Graham Murrin, WPC; Ann Tipper, DTC; Lisa Bowman, ETC; Belinda Price, WPC; Neil Harris, Delivery Officer

- SC stated that Meg Debenham has retired and that Tom Manning has moved to a different area of Natural England.

ACTION: SC to invite all MG to Mudbank bird screen opening event & publicity.

2. Minutes and Action Log of previous meeting

Minutes from previous MG meeting were agreed as an accurate record and signed by BH. Actions from previous meeting discussed (see Action Log).

3. Budget Update 2014/2015

- SC talked through the budget, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- SC stated that all partners should have received their invoice for this financial year.
- The Exe Estuary Festival was very busy however it didn't aim to make a profit.
- LB stated that Stephanie did an amazing job on the Exe Estuary Festival.
- TDC have not contributed to the budget this year.
- BH stated that there needs to be an Exe Estuary Officer for the partnership to work.
- CC asked if there was a chance to ask more Parish Councils for funding.

4. Progress Report**a. Exe Estuary Officer progress against Action Plan and funding opportunities – SC**

- The summer Festival that was held on the 1st August was very successful and was very well attended.
 - SC managed to get £8250 of funding for the festival, and used just over £1000 from the Exe Estuary budget.
 - Security was the largest cost for the festival.
 - SC is looking for places to hold the festival next year.
 - BH stated that it may be an idea to expand the festival, where charities and local businesses could have stall, where there is a charge for them to bring a stall. It was also suggested that businesses could pay to advertise in any literature.
 - LB stated that if Exmouth held the festival then it would encourage kitesurfing stalls to come.
 - Topsham was suggested as a location for the festival.
 - CC stated that Powderham Estate have a site that could be used.
 - Another suggested venue was Lympstone.
- SC said that she has printed versions of the Annual Review & Action Plan, which were distributed at the meeting.
- SC stated that she is looking to update the website internally within DCC, to make it more visually appealing and user friendly.
- SC asked for comments on the first draft of the website to be emailed to her.
- BH stated that work on Manhead Slipway would have started by now, however, the correct paperwork had not been put in place.
- Guidance on Moorings – updated details & map now on website.
- Effects of Bait Digging and Crab Tiling activities on waterbirds - first draft of report created, will send to NE and RSPB to peer review before sending to MG.

ACTION: Send draft bait digging / crab tiling report to NE to peer review and work with IFCA & RSPB.

- The autumn Exe Press has been published
- Autumn Clean-Up: 20th September, 3pm
- Winter Forum: Tuesday 9th February, 6.30pm
- Mussel Festival: 12th September, 12pm
- Planned bird disturbance mitigation measures (next financial year), to include Zoning review & Review of Codes of Conduct
- Greater Exeter Visioning Board Officer Working Group: 27th July & 6th October
- SC discussed the funding opportunities that were currently being progressed.
 - An expression of interest has been submitted for the First Great Western Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, which aims to bring improvements and benefits for customers in lower income groups and communities of social need. The proposed Exe Estuary Community Rail Project would encourage visitors and local communities of the Exe to make use of the FGW rail service by improving and promoting the current Round Robin service and making travel and visitor information easily available to promote local facilities and businesses. £500,000 has been requested for a three year project (with 20% match-funding). Responses should be received by the end of this year.
 - SC is also submitting an application for the Coastal Revival Fund, to support or restore local heritage and facilities on the English Coast that benefit the wider community and the surrounding economy. The bid has requested £50,000 (of a £3 million pot). The closing date for applications is 14 September 2015 and requests the support of a CCT.

b. Partner progress against Management Plan - Updates from Partners

- Partners had no updates.

5. Coastal Communities Team (CCT)

- EEMP has been granted £10,000 to set up a CCT.
- Aims to encourage, promote and bring economic rewards to businesses that support local fisheries. This project will end in March.
- Looking to use volunteers in this project.
- SC asked if there is anyone that is interested in local / sustainable finishing.
- Well done to SC on securing the funding.
- Suggestions for groups to involve:
 - Deep Sea Fishing Club – Exmouth Lifeboat Station.
 - Lynn Trout can help with a list of fishermen.
 - Bait diggers and crab tilers.
 - Alison Haywood – EDDC economic development.
 - University history department.

ACTION: Keep LMC updated about CCT (AK may have an interest).

6. Discussion: Exploring new working relationships

- SC stated that with an evolving partnership, we are always looking for new partners with an interest in the estuary. Need a balanced and good representation from all interests.
- BH stated that the partnership welcomes new partners.
- In the future SC is looking to involve more Parish Councils.
- It was asked if Powderham Estate and Devon Wildlife Trust want to be involved in the partnership more.
- CC stated that Powderham Estate will produce a 100 year plan (focusing on what the estuary is going to be like in 100 years). It was asked if CC can provide a service. CC has an aim to learn more about the Exe Estuary.
- LT: It was asked whether First Great Western would be a good partner as they have railway both sides of the estuary. Also, National Rail, Crossrail, SW Trains? Devon Rail – new organisation.

ACTION: SC to speak with Richard Burningham / Celia Minoughan (Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership) to investigate whether rail businesses would be interested in being a partner of the EEMP.

7. Partnership User Groups

- SC is looking into which user groups would like to be involved with the partnership, this involves task and finish groups to review zonation and Codes of Conduct.
- Terms of Reference will need to be produced.
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) have asked to be involved with the partnership, to represent recreational clubs on the Exe. It was asked whether they should be invited to the next meeting. The MG agree that they should be invited.

ACTION: SC to invite RYA to next MG meeting.

8. Exeter Waterways Partnership

- Exeter City Council have put together a new partnership which focuses on areas of the canal and upper river.
- SC has put herself forward on behalf of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership to sit on the Board.
- GB concerned about uncertainty of new partnership.

- AW would like to see the two partnership work together.
- It was asked if Exeter Waterways Partnership could put in two pages in the next Exe Press to explain what the partnership does.

ACTION: SC to invite the Exeter Waterways Partnership to submit a two page article for the next Exe Press. Also invite Sarah Ward and Cllr Rosie Denham to the MG meeting in January.

9. Management Plan 2016 – SC

- The Management Plan is due to be updated, the update needs to be in place by the end of this financial year.

ACTION: SC to arrange one-to-one meetings with partners to update Management Plan.

10. Any other business (please submit to Stephanie before meeting)

- a. Belshers Slipway and Shelly Beach consultation – SC
- b. Development of Maclaines Warehouse on Exeter Quay – SC
- c. Update on disturbance mitigation measures – NH
- d. D&SIFCA netting review
- e. Coastal Management

11. Dates of next Management Group Meetings:

- 2pm on Thursday 28 January 2016 – Coaver Club, County Hall

12. Proposed dates for future MG meetings

- 14 March 2016
- 15 June 2016
- 15 September 2016