

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Ansell Room, Coaver Club, County Hall, Exeter

2pm Thursday 28 January 2016



Present:

Chair: Councillor Bernard Hughes OBE, DCC (BH)	Cllr Michael Howe, EDDC (MH)
Cllr Margaret Baldwin, ECC (MB)	Cllr Pat A Graham, ETC (PG)
Cllr Ted Hockin, TDC (TH)	Cllr Andrew Cadbury, SPC (AC)
Neil Downes, Forum Chair (ND)	Lynn Trout, Forum Vice Chair (LT)
Peter Chamberlain, DCC (PC)	Steve Edmonds, EDDC (SE)
Gavin Bloomfield, RSPB (GB)	Nik Ward, Natural England (NW)
Neil Harris, Delivery Officer (NH)	Alan Wood, RYA (AW)
Stephanie Clark, EEMP (SC)	Lucy Radford, DCC (LR)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence:

- BH welcomed those present, and wished everyone a happy new year. Introductions were made. LR took the minutes.

- Apologies were noted from: Lord Courtenay, Powderham Estate; Hugh Davey, EA; Katherine Stephenson (D&SIFCA); Mandy Westlake, WPC; Cllr Terry Lowther, DTC; Graeme Smith, TDC; Colin Acton, ECC; Lisa Bowman, ETC; Cllr Graham Murrin, WPC; Ann Tipper, DTC; Suzanna Hughes, SPC; Andy Bakere, DWT.

2. Management Group Vice Chair Election

- BH queried the need for a Vice Chair Election as TDC currently don't provide funding to the partnership, so are unable to stand as Vice Chair. TH said that TDC are still in discussions on funding for the next financial year.

3. Minutes and Action Log of Previous Meeting – BH

- Minutes from previous MG meeting were agreed as an accurate record and signed by BH.

- Actions from previous meeting discussed (see Action Log).

ACTION: SC to send a reminder about the photo opportunity for the Mudbank Bird Screen to all involved.

- BH informed the group that he had received an email from Aidan, thanking the Partnership for the prints he was given at his last MGM.

4. Budget update 2015/16 – SC (circulated in advance)

- SC explained that the budget paper circulated is a simpler version of the budget, with the first column setting the budget for the year, the second column is the year end projected spend (including what has been spent) and the third column the budget spent to date as a percentage.
- The row for Coastal Communities Team expenditure is the money for the local fisheries project, minus £1,000 which had been allocated as employee costs.
- Still awaiting decision from JTS regarding the additional evidence that was requested for the LiCCo budget rejections.
- Income against Stuart Line Cruises / Locality Budget Contribution is related to the Mudbank Bird Screen.
- There is an expected carry forward to next financial year of £17,681. This carry forward is due to the additional income that has been identified throughout the year, which will be relied on to cover core costs next financial year.
- PC said the MG should be happy with the amount of income that SC has been able to generate for the Partnership.
- SC will be working on a Funding Strategy next year that will look at how core costs can be covered.
- BH said it may be a good idea to make the summer festival more of a commercial event, as last year the event didn't make a profit.
- PC asked whether the simpler budget sheet is useful, everyone agreed it was.
- SC checked that the MG was happy to host the Habitat Regulations OWG meetings and cover the costs of refreshments. The MG agreed that this was acceptable.
- The deadline for Partners to confirm this year's carry forward into next financial year and the contributions for 2016-17 is the 8th February. SC has sent an email reminding the Partners of this deadline.

5. Progress Report

a. Exe Estuary Officer progress against Action Plan – SC

SC gave a summary of the work that she has been involved with since the last meeting:

- Coastal Revival fund – a share of up to £50,000, EEMP was unsuccessful on getting this grant due to the high number of applications. It was said EEMP was unsuccessful because the application didn't meet the criteria as strongly as other applications.
- SC has shown interest in LIFE SEAS, Connecting 2 Coasts, Heart of England and a variety of stakeholder's engagement projects.
- Bait Collection Disturbance Literature Review draft has been sent out, working with NE to incorporate feedback received.
- Further work on the new design of the EEMP website will be carried out next financial year due to other work priorities.
- The winter Exe Press was sent out in Mid-December.
- The spring Exe Press will be sent out in Mid-March. SC invites articles by 22 February.
- SC asked if everyone was happy to have a Summer Festival, as long as there is funding for it. The 6th or 13th August were suggested as dates to hold it on. Exmouth, Dawlish Warren, Topsham, Darts Farm and Powderham are suggested locations. ECC have stated that there

may be issues with holding it at Topsham due to health and safety, but holding it at Topsham Recreation Ground may be an option.

- SC has 2 volunteers help with the bird disturbance surveys; they will be starting in the February.
- SC stated that the EEMP / Exmouth Rotary spiral wishing well has now been placed at Ocean, Exmouth (first floor in front of staircase and lifts). The views of the Exe from the café means that the map of the Exe on the well is relevant. The well also has illustrations of animals and habitats of the Exe.
- TH stated that TDC were considering offering to help site the well.

ACTION: SC to write to LED to thank them on behalf of the MG for accommodating the spiral wishing well.

- BH queried the bylaws of the Exe. PG stated that there are no bylaws on beaches, but could do with them to help tackle PWC issues and driving on the foreshore.
- AW explained that there is a need for parking for water users at Exmouth.
- Spring Clean-Up has been set for the 7th May, Autumn Clean-Up has been set for 17th September.

b. Partner progress against Management Plan - Updates from Partners

- GB: Exminster Marsh Water Management Plan is being reviewed over the next couple of months.

ACTION: PC asked that Partners try to get more involved with the 'Partner progress against Management Plan' section at future meetings.

6. Update on Coastal Communities Team – SC

SC gave an update about the new Coastal Communities Team (CCT), which aims to encourage, promote and bring economic rewards to businesses that support local fisheries.

- The timescale for the grant is that it needs to be completed by March 2016, with an economic plan published by the end of January.
- A CCT steering group has been formed.
- A report has been commissioned through for the DMF to identify the fishing activity on the Exe Estuary, indicating what is / isn't good practice for both local and sustainable fisheries.
- At the Winter Forum, interested parties will explore what they would like to see in a larger project.
- Future work includes an Exe Estuary Sustainable Fisheries Book.
- BH explained that there are many people that do come to Exmouth fishing.
- Local fishing boats / charter boats that take people angling should be included, to increase tourism. 'Deep Sea Angling' used to run from Starcross.

7. Management Plan 2016 – SC

- SC is working on a new five year management plan, and has already met with some partners for their input. It will sit alongside the State of Exe Estuary report.
- SC has requested feedback through the Management Plan review, with a deadline of 12th February.
- Stakeholders will be given an opportunity to input into the drafting process through the Exe Estuary Winter Forum on 9th February.
- On 14th March an agreement of the process will be agreed at the MG meeting, with the first draft being sent to them by the end of March.
- A six week consultation period will take place during May and June.

- Final Management Plan will be in place by the end of September.
- BH asked if there is any potential for help with EEMP work for SC. Exeter and Plymouth University were suggested.

ACTION: PC & SC will explore the opportunities available for help with EEMP work.

8. Memorandum of Agreement – SC

- Old MoA requires updating, to include combining Schedule 1 and 2 and to include an automatic carry forward each year. Amendments are shown in green.
- Changes will be made annually on Partner contributions to the EEMP.
- PC: Is the MG happy with the structures that we've got or do we need refinement of these structures? Suggested structure:
MG: Authority of EEMP, sets strategic direction through the Management Plan, MoA, etc.
OWG: Delegated more of the day-to-day input, e.g. budget, employment.
- MB: in favour of streamlining.
- GB suggested only having one group not two.
- SE: OWG should be carrying out the more practical work on the ground.
- BH explained that the Councillors work in different areas and the officers complete the work. The MG look to the OWG for budget making. The OWG should thrash out the direction of the work, the MG should make the decisions. BH appreciates officers coming to the MG, as they are working within the scope of the work, the Councillors look to the officer recommendations.
- PC: the OWG suggested holding three meetings per year.
- BH was against just having three meetings a year, need continuity.
- MH: happy to combine OWG and MG meetings.
- TH: relies on officer input.
- ND: OWG decides what is put to the MG.
- NH: Has OWG and Joint Committee structure for Habs Regs.
- PC: Needs to be made clear in MoA:
 - Streamlining
 - Better separation of what each group does
 - Keep four meetings per year

ACTION: SC & PC to come up with proposals for structures of MG & OWG

- MH: Concerns of wording in 4.9, which indicates contribution. Partners can't confirm until later in the year, so wording should emphasise this.

ACTION: SC to amend wording of MoA to state an indication of future intent (rather than indicate contribution) in section 4.9 of MoA and bring to next MG meeting in March.

9. Winter Forum 2016 – SC

- BH is happy with the way that Forums have been run in the past.
- SC explained that there will be an election for Forum Chair and Vice Chair.
- SC ran through the Draft Agenda of the event.
- It was suggested not to have breakout sessions and to address the whole Forum instead. This is to avoid wasting time in splitting the Forum into groups and to avoid the potential for attendees to leave early.

ACTION: SC to amend Forum Agenda as advised and to include an introduction to clarify what is being asked of attendees on the day, including the Management Plan activity.

10. Any other business**a. Winter Bird Disturbance issues**

- WeBS counts in November are recording similar numbers to November 2014 of 6000 birds.
- However, SE has received a lot of emails, requesting measures be put in place to reduce disturbance, e.g. bylaws mid-September to mid-December.
- TH: motorbikes have been a recent issue at Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve.

b. Update on disturbance mitigation measures

- Financial contributions from housing developments are being collected from the three districts. These funds are to mitigate against the impacts on areas such as the Exe. Partners in the Habs Regs OWG include the RSBP, ECC, EDDC, TDC & EEMP.
- To include a dog project to tackle issues related to dog walkers.
- PC: Management Plan to make clear the distinction between Local Authority duties for current populations and Habs Regs funding for increases in population.

c. Belshers Slipway and Shelly Beach consultation

- A brief update was given by SC. No PSPO will be imposed on the area.

d. EEMP leaflet

- SC stated that there is a need to make a leaflet to outline the role of the EEMP, as many people are unaware what the EEMP does. This could be done as a PDF, or printed for specific reasons.
- It may be a good idea to see if there is a volunteer through the 'Friends of the Exe Estuary' that is a graphic designer.
- BH suggested giving Parish Councils a presentation on the Exe Estuary at their meetings.
- LY said that there are more than just Councils that need to know what the EEMP does, like developers. A leaflet could give a summary of what we can do and our limitations of what we can do. There is confusion about what we do with other bodies and people.
- ND: Could explain in Forum presentation.

ACTION: SC will include an explanation of the EEMP at the Winter Forum.

- BH: A DVD could be produced about the EEMP that groups could use instead of presentations.

e. Vandalised LiCCo interpretation panels, Exmouth

- Two of the new LiCCo interpretation panels at Exmouth have been vandalised and need replacing. SC to explore whether costs can be covered.

11. Dates of next Management Group Meetings:

- 2pm on Monday 14 March 2016 – Committee Suite, County Hall
- 2pm on Wednesday 15 June 2016 – Committee Suite, County Hall
- 2pm on Thursday 15 September 2016 – Committee Suite, County Hall

12. Proposal for future meeting dates of the MG – SC

ACTION: SC to send out a Doodle poll to MG to identify the best dates for the next meeting (end November / beginning December).