

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP**MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES****Sargent Room, Coaver Club, County Hall, Exeter****2pm Thursday 29 January 2015**

Present:

Chair: Councillor Bernard Hughes, DCC	Cllr Pat A Graham, ETC
Cllr Michael Howe, EDDC	Cllr Andrew Cadbury, SPC
Cllr Margaret Baldwin, ECC	Graham Murrin, Chairman WPC
Neil Downes, Forum Chair	Lynn Trout, Forum Vice Chair
Aidan Winder, DCC	Gavin Bloomfield, RSPB
Graeme Smith, TDC	Katherine Gray, D&SIFCA
Tom Manning, Natural England	Stephanie Clark, EEMP
Cllr Ted Hockin, TDC	Paula Salge, EEMP

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence:

Apologies were noted from: Cllr Tim Pattison (WPC), Belinda Price (WPC), Charlie Plowden (EDDC), Colin Acton (ECC), Megan Debenham (SPC), Richard Tugwell (EA), Sarah Clark (D&SIFCA), Tim Robbins (D&SIFCA), Steve Edmonds (EDDC), Peter Otley (RSPB), Cllr Terry Lowther (Dawlish TC), Peter Ball (EA), Lisa Bowman (ETC), Ann Tipper (DTC)

2. Budget Update 2014/2015

SC introduced the budget monitoring statement showing the financial position at the end of January 2015. She pointed out some relevant rows of the budget, such as: 'Other contractors', which is the money received from Stuart Line Cruises; 'Int Recharge-Human Resources' which is Paula's work. SC also explained the LiCCo budget statement and highlighted expenses with the educational resource, designing and printing of the State of the Exe Estuary and leaflets. She also explained that the LiCCo project will end in February 2015, and there is a chance that the last scheduled LiCCo teaching training on the Exe Estuary may not happen due to time constraints. EA is still waiting an answer from JTS to confirm if a short extension is possible to complete this action. The teaching training will be held in Dawlish Warren after February.

BH emphasised the success of the presentation on David Weatherly's educational resource work at the LiCCo final conference in Poole.

AGREED: The MG has taken note of the budget.

3. Funding levels for 2015/2016

AW informed the meeting that NE has decided to withdraw the funding for EMS/MPA management, and as consequence the NE funding for the EEMP will terminate in the end of

March 2015. TM explained that the decision arose from budget constraints, and the view that such funding was not the natural function of NE. He said that NE will continue with its advice support on the different matters on the Exe Estuary and the local NE office will explore the possibility of a small amount of funding.

AGREED: The meeting expressed regret at the decision of DEFRA, NE and MMO and decided that the EEMP will write a letter to these agencies highlighting the importance of the partnership to the management of the European Marine Sites.

BH also suggested SC and AW to write a letter to the senior members of the Partnership (District and Parish Councils, NGOs and agencies) to thank the support over the years and how grateful the Partnership are for the service and help provided by them.

ACTION: SC and AW to write a letter on behalf of the EEMP addressed to a high level within DEFRA, MMO and NE. Emphasise importance of Partnership and dealing with matters that are local responsibility. Letter to go out under BH signature.

ACTION: SC and AW to write to all senior members of the Partnership to say how grateful we are for their continued confidence in what we're doing.

4. Exe Estuary Officer achievements and main activities/ including LiCCo update

SC elaborated on the list of activities and achievements circulated in advance of the meeting.

Regarding the Stuart Line Bird Viewing Screen, BH said that he has offered to finance the upgrading of the path from his locally budget; however he is still waiting someone from East Devon or the Partnership to contact him with the final budget requested. The money still exist (up to £1000), however the request need to be sent by the end of March. The finance request has to be done through DCC form (available on website). It was also suggested that the 'Payback Team' (young offenders) might help with the work.

ACTION: SC will contact SE (EDDC) asking for a quote for upgrading the path north of the former bird hide. SE or SC to complete and send the request form to BH by the end of March.

5. Update on Paula's work

State of the Exe Estuary 2014 (SoE) – PS distributed to all members present one hard copy of the SoE and one DVD copy.

Recreational Framework Consultation – PS explained the next steps of the public consultation and also gave some feedback of the November workshop.

PS informed her last day of work as being the 27th of February.

6. Potential External Funding

SC talked about potential external funding for projects on the Exe. Regarding new source of funding, BH said that Powderham Estate may be a potential external funder to be contacted or even invited for one of the EEMP meetings. TH also suggested contacting the two railway lines along the Exe; Riviera Line and Avocet Line. Maybe the Estuary officer could participate in one of their internal meetings and present the EEMP. GB gave more information about the Habitat Regulation funding,

and that SC is involved with the Working Group created to manage this funding. The Working Group meeting will be on the 6th February. GS suggested contacting the Exmouth Docks and Exmouth Marina for future partnerships.

ACTION: SC to contact Powderham Estate regarding potential funding and invite to next MG meeting.

ACTION: SC to contact the two railway lines (Network Rail) along the Exe regarding potential funding, perhaps participate in one of their internal meetings and present the EEMP. Contact: Tony Day.

ACTION: SC to contact the Exmouth Dock Company and Exmouth Marina for future partnerships and possible funding.

7. Winter Forum 2015

SC announced that the next Winter Forum which will take place on Tuesday, 17th February (6.30-9.30pm) in the Council Chamber at the County Hall, Exeter. ND listed the suggestion topics which have arisen from the Working Group Meeting. They are:

- a. River Basin Management Plan consultation.
- b. Managing the speed of river traffic – suggested Mark Williams, EDDC.
- c. Promotion of recreational use of Exeter Quay and canal basin, tow paths and cycle paths
- d. Creating and managing intertidal habitat in the context of pressure on land space and resources
- e. Internal Drainage Board (IDB): The potential environmental and flooding consequences of drainage measures at Exminster marshes
- f. The new Natural England framework for Site Management: Conservation Advice Package – currently still in draft form
- g. Exploring the relationship between recreational angling and conservation.
- h. The relevance of CIL as a source of funding to mitigate the effects of development on the estuary.

SC talked about the possibility to offer refreshments (food and drinks) during the Winter Forum and if members are aware about funding available to cover this expenses or companies which may be interested to have its name promoted during the Forum. GS suggested Dart Farm. BH will check possible funding to cover the refreshments and he also suggested to invite the chairman of DCC to the Forum.

ACTION: BH to check possible funding to cover Forum refreshments as a co-sponsor.

ACTION: AW to invite the chairman of DCC to the Forum.

8. Summer Festival 2015

SC talked about the recent meeting with a representative of the Riviera Line. They would promote the Summer Festival on the Exe Estuary; however they are not able to offer funding to the Festival. The Exeter Quay was pointed as a very suitable option for all members. MB will discuss the idea of the Festival and possible dates with Roger Crane and she will inform the decision to the Estuary officer.

ACTION: MB to talk with Roger Crane about the Festival location and dates and to keep SC informed about decisions.

9. Exe Explore potential funding

The Exe Explorer leaflet is being redesigned and reprinted in partnership with the Riviera Line project. The Riviera Line project wants to include more information on rail services in the leaflet, and also have logo and tab on the front. An extra 20,000 copies will be printed to be distributed at stations along the line, the additional costs of which will be covered by the Riviera Line. SC is currently in discussions as to whether the Riviera Line is able to cover print costs of the copies that the Partnership already produces.

10. Feasibility of new EEMP website

SC talked about the need of the EEMP website to be reviewed and revamped to tackle a broad number of issues and inform a wider public. The EEMP website is quite old and has not attended the real demands of the Partnership. Beside that, a more dynamic and modern website would be more attractive to a wide range of public. MH asked SC to do a survey on google analytics to discover the website usage before any proposal of change.

PS informed that to renovate the website, a web design service must to be contracted. She will explore the possibility that the web team from DCC designs a new website for the EEMP. External local companies charge between £3.000 – 5000 to design and develop a new website.

ACTION: SC to do a survey on google analytics to discover the website usage and bring to next MG meeting.

11. Any other business

AGREED: The Minutes from the last MG meeting were agreed as accurate and signed off by BH.

12. Date of next meetings:

The next year's meetings are set for:

- 24th March 2015
- 17th June 2015
- 16th September 2015
- 28th January 2016

These meetings will take place at 2pm-4pm at County Hall.

