



## EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

### MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall

10am Wednesday 10th October 2012

#### Present:

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| ◇ <b>Chair:</b> Cllr Bernard Hughes OBE, DCC (BH) | ◇ Cllr Michael Howe, East Devon DC (MH) |
| ◇ Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Officer (MK) (Minutes) | ◇ Jane Lavick, LiCCo / Env Agency (JL)  |
| ◇ Andrew Burns, Natural England (AB)              | ◇ Colin Poole, Exmouth TC (CP)          |
| ◇ Andrew Cadbury, Chairman of SPC (AC)            | ◇ Mary Rush, Teignbridge DC (MR)        |
| ◇ Neil Downes, Forum Chair (ND)                   | ◇ Graeme Smith, Teignbridge DC (GS)     |
| ◇ Steve Edmonds, East Devon DC (SE)               | ◇ Richard Tugwell, EA (RT)              |
| ◇ Nicola Glover, Teignbridge DC (NG)              | ◇ Aidan Winder, DCC (AW)                |
| ◇ Cllr Pat Graham, ETC (PG)                       |   |

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies for absence:

Apologies were noted from: Gavin Bloomfield (RSPB); Steve Carnell (Exeter CC); Sarah Clarke (D&SIFCA); Cllr Ted Hockin (Teignbridge DC); Cllr Terry Lowther (DTC); Lynn Trout (Forum Vice Chair).

The Chairman welcomed Mary, Nicola and Andrew as new faces.

#### 2. Budget update 2012/13

The budget statement was noted.

The Chairman thanked funding Partners for all sending in their funding contributions for the current year. He reiterated that although funding for the Partnership is secure at the moment, it is important to keep in mind the challenge of funding beyond the LiCCo project. Noting that there is a lot of inconsistency in local authority contributions, the Chairman drew attention to the opportunity to discuss the issue with all local authorities, particularly with the recent and welcome addition of Exeter City Council to the Partnership.

**ACTION:** AW to bring early report to the Management Group in advance of the end of the LiCCo project setting out budgetary planning considerations.

#### 3. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)(AW)

The Chairman thanked Woodbury Parish Council and East Devon DC for return of their signed MoA, but urged the 3 partners that have yet to send in a signed MoA to do so. These are Teignbridge DC, Exeter CC and the RSPB.

AW pointed out that although MoAs would probably not be enforceable legally, they are extremely useful documents that define the work area for the Partnership and set out a framework for how the partner organisations will work together and fund the Partnership. ND highlighted the fact that potential funding organisations would certainly require any organisations that they support to have a signed MoA or constitution.

**ACTION:** Teignbridge DC, Exeter CC and the RSPB to send in signed MoAs to MK at their earliest convenience.

#### 4. Action Plan, Annual Review and Interim Management Plan (MK)

MK distributed printed copies of the Action Plan and Annual Review to Partners present. 25 copies were printed, enough for each elected representative of the local authority partners plus support officers, and one for each non-local authority body.

**ACTION:** MK to post copies to partners not present at the meeting.

MK reported that she has incorporated the latest amendments suggested to the Interim Management Plan (covering the 3 year period 2012 – 2015) and requested approval from partners to proceed to print. Partners agreed to endorse and deliver the Interim Management Plan.

**ACTION:** MK to arrange printing of the Interim Management Plan document and its uploading to the website (when technically possible).

#### 5. EEMP progress (MK)

MK ran through the progress report for the period 25th June – 5th October as circulated in advance of the meeting and invited questions from Partners:

- a) **Education** - ran sessions for 95 children from 4 primary schools (June and July), met with representative of the Carousel Project re possible collaboration on resource pack for pre-school children.
- b) Gave presentation about the EEMP to **Devon Maritime Forum** on 28th June in Paignton
- c) **Crab tile surveys** – participated in 2 survey days with D&SIFCA on 6th July and 30th Aug off Cockwood and Lympstone resp.
- d) Produced **Exe Press** newsletter Issue 29
- e) Co-organised 2-day **Exmouth Earth Festival** – celebrating the spirit of the Exe on 4th and 5th Aug in vicinity of Exmouth Pavilion.
- f) Organised **Big Autumn Clean up** on 15th Sept at Exmouth LNR (more than 120 volunteers removed 1.54 tonnes of litter).
- g) Received 1-day Emergency **First Aid** at Work training
- h) EEMP **Working Group** meeting on 21st September
- i) Meetings with Network Analyst re **website** – the existing website cannot be edited at all since the content manager server (Livelink) failed several months ago. The website is currently being rebuilt on a new server hosted by a new content manager, Liferay, which involves transferring every element (block of text, image, object) of the site across. A significant amount of content has been moved and now I have to go through every single one of the 100+ pages to edit, and amend every single internal link (between pages within the EEMP site). Big time commitment, but has to be done soon, as old Livelink site will soon cease to exist and cannot be archived. Estimated date for new system to go live – Christmas 2012.
- j) Compiled **Claim 3** progress report for LiCCo project for submission to the Environment Agency on 28 September.

- k) Participated in **Transnational LiCCo meeting** (with French Partners) on 2nd – 4th October. This was based in Exeter and included interesting and useful meetings and site visits to Dawlish Warren, Steart, Bridgwater, Exminster Marshes and the Axe Estuary.
- l) Participated in and helped facilitate Stakeholder Workshop on 9th October re the Exe Estuary Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Partners noted the actions taken.

Re item (f), partners informed the meeting that LEMA is currently engaged in removing old moorings and recycling old mooring chains, and encouraged MK to involve them in the clean up if possible. MK reported that a representative of LEMA had been present on Clean up day.

Re item (i), MH advised MK to ensure that the new server is fully backed up to avoid the frustrations currently being experienced.

Re item (l), the Chairman said that yesterday's Stakeholder Workshop on the Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy had been very useful, providing the opportunity to raise local issues with key people such as Network Rail engineers.

## 6. State of the Exe Report (MK)

The State of the Exe, a definitive document containing a wide range of facts and figures about all aspects of the Exe Estuary including Natural Environment, uses of the Exe etc was published in 2006 and is now in need of updating. MK informed Partners that at the last Working Group meeting (held 21st Sept), a mechanism, for updating the State of the Exe Report had been discussed and officers had either volunteered themselves or suggested other individuals / organisations to review discrete sections or chapters of the document. Partners were asked if they had any observations to make about this approach.

GS said that this is the approach that they are adopting for a similar document relating to the Teign Estuary. He pointed out that the document is a useful tool for helping with the many enquiries he receives from students and others working on estuary-based projects.

## 7. Utilisation of developer contributions for disturbance mitigation (MR)

MR expanded on the list of bullet points tabled at the meeting:

### Legislative Framework

- Designated sites: Exe, Warren, Pebblebeds (Dartmoor)
- Hab Regs S61 (& S62)
- Appropriate Assessments (AAs) of applications (and Local Plans)
- No permission unless any impacts FULLY mitigated

### Partnership Working

- Partner LAs had been doing individual AAs
- Talking to NE and others (incl the Exe Estuary Officer)
- Recognised need for better evidence
- And need for joined-up approach
- E.g.s up-country – TBH, Dorset Heaths etc

### Evidence base

- Disturbance Study (Partners already aware)
- (New Burdens payment)
- Dawlish Warren Impacts Report
- Face to Face Visitor Study

- Residents postal questionnaire
- Interim Overarching Report
- Tourist Questionnaire(s)
- Pebblebeds work
- Interim costings
- Final Overarching Report – due early 2013

#### Mitigation Measures

- Work to date has briefly outlined a range of possible mitigation measures
- On-site access management - e.g. Exminster Marshes signage, visual screens; e.g. Dawlish Warren wardens, dog byelaws and boats at W Point; Exe further thought and stakeholder discussions needed, but e.g. user codes, byelaw review
- Off-site – Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces – several in Local Plans
- Monitoring – of use levels and mitigation effectiveness
- Most best delivered by LAs/partners, rather than by developers
- Hence we've adopted 'developer contributions'

#### Joint Interim Approach (JIA)

- JIA adopted Nov 2011 - until Final Report finished and adopted
- Across 10km zone, all residential development
- £350 per house (£350 plus ... if very near Euro site)
- Tourist accom and attractions too
- Some money in pot – but most waiting on commencement/first occupation

#### Final Report

- pulling all evidence together
- fuller consideration of mitigation measures
- more detailed costings
- it may increase (or decrease) developer contribution and change zones
- Joint adoption by LAs
- Payment via CIL/S106/UU or developer delivery of measures e.g. SANGS
- Delivery and delivery partners

There will be further stakeholder engagement after publication of the final report, and the levy rate per house may change (probably increase). Potentially some 30,000 houses will be affected by the levy. Ultimate responsibility for spending the funds will fall to the three local authorities that are working together (EDDC, TDC and ECC).

GS asked whether the funds could be spent on habitat creation work being proposed through the Exe Estuary Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Strategy, but MR said that she doesn't think so, as the legislation wording is specifically 'mitigation' rather than 'compensation'. However, she will ensure this point is addressed in the report.

MH asked whether proposed industrial development is going to be subject to a levy. MR said no, because this type of development is considered unlikely to lead to significant recreational activities likely to cause disturbance to the birds. Partners pointed out that the employees working at the industrial sites (be they individual companies or industrial estates) will almost certainly undertake recreation at lunchtimes or after shifts - such as walking or cycling at lunchtime, sometimes to exercise dogs etc. - within close proximity to their workplace. MR agreed that this point would be put to the consultants and fed into the report.

The Chairman asked MR how the Partnership can be involved in the process. 2 main ways – (i) by helping to define the impacts of recreation, identify the most effective mitigation measures and suggesting how best to deliver these measures; and (ii) assisting with delivery of mitigation measures on the ground (e.g. perhaps by hosting a member of staff).

MR would like to come and speak with the Partnership again in future about proposed mitigation measures and their delivery.

For more information, visit: <http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/index.aspx?ArticleID=15162>

**ACTION:** MK to continue to work with the officer team working on this project, keep the Partnership informed of developments, and to invite MR back at an appropriate point in the future.

## 8. Beach Recharge Study Update (GS)

The full name of the Study is the Teignbridge District Council and East Devon District Council Exmouth Beach and Dawlish Warren Recharge Technical Appraisal Study (I think). It was born out of the Shoreline Management Plan, which was adopted in summer 2011. The main purpose of the Study is the maintenance of Exmouth Beach and Dawlish Warren sand spit through the addition of suitable dredged or imported material. Dawlish Warren in particular has lost and continues to lose considerable material through erosion, a process likely to accelerate with sea level rise and other impacts of climate change.

GS emphasised that the Study is very much a technical process, rather than a consultation – the consultation aspects are being addressed through JL's work with the wider Exe Estuary Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (the Strategy). The study has involved a massive amount of modelling and been funded by Defra. It has been on hold for the last 6 months because of the importance of ensuring consistency with the Strategy, which has experienced some delays.

The most likely suitable source of the sediments for the potential recharge is the seaward side of Pole Sands, outside the designated areas of the Estuary, but sediment in the vicinity of the Isle of Wight also has suitable characteristics.

The Study is only the first step. Implementation of the recharge scheme would cost many millions of pounds, and there is an expectation of local contributions from local authorities.

## 9. LiCCo Update (JL)

JL said that she was pleased to hear that people found yesterday's Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Strategy interesting. She reiterated that LiCCo is all about engaging local people with the Strategy and their preparedness for coastal flooding.

Recent and current LiCCo activities have included:

- ◇ An exhibition at the Exmouth Earth Festival on 4th and 5th August;
- ◇ Production of Visualisations for Dawlish Warren showing how its shape and usage has changed over the years;
- ◇ Development of Factsheets, leaflets and exhibition posters;
- ◇ Creation of a website, to which lots of materials will be uploaded, and which will enable members of the public to upload their own reminiscences, hopes and photos;
- ◇ Planning development of resources for schools, including a Tools for Schools resource, virtual and self-guided field trips;

- ◇ An estuary film – on 16th and 17th October a film maker has been commissioned to record short film clips with various 'Exe characters', which will then be made into a longer film as part of an oral history/contemporary views study of the estuary.

## 10. Action Log from last meeting (circulated in advance) (AW)

AW went through the actions that hadn't been cleared from the Log. Actions still requiring follow up:

**ACTION:** MK to bring update on education activities to next MG meeting

**ACTION:** MK to contact DCC's Alison Eastland to discuss (and action) emailing DCC elected members whose wards bound the Exe Estuary to seek contributions of £100 to £200 from their locale budget allocations towards the fuel budget for the Patrol Boat.

**ACTION:** MK to contact sailing clubs inviting contribution towards patrol boat fuel budget.

## 11. Any other business

### (a) Marine Planning (note circulated in advance of meeting) (AB)

AB explained that the Dover to Dart area has been chosen as the second zone to benefit from a system of marine planning to mirror the terrestrial planning system that has long been in place. The Marine Plans will inform and guide marine users and regulators, and allow the balancing of development with other uses (such as recreation) and with the need to conserve and protect marine species and habitats. Marine Plans can cover the area from Mean High Water to 200 miles offshore – so some intertidal areas as well as open sea.

In 2013 the Marine Management Organisation will begin engaging with relevant organisations and bodies such as the EEMP to determine and agree how they can contribute to marine planning. AB pointed out that the State of the Exe Report is likely to be an important source of information and data that can underpin a Marine Plan for this area.

**ACTION:** AB agreed to return to brief the Partnership in more detail at the next meeting.

### (b) Winter Forum

The Chairman asked Partners to note that the EEMP Winter Forum event will be on the evening of Tuesday 12th February 2013 in the Coaver Club.

**ACTION:** All partners to note date of Forum in their calendars (12th Feb 2013).

**ACTION:** MK to liaise with Partners (Forum Chair and Vice Chair in particular) to plan agenda for the Forum.

## 12. Date of next MG Meeting:

**10am on Tuesday 22nd January 2013 in Sargent Room, Coaver Club, County Hall, Exeter.**

