



## EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

### MANAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Manley House, Exeter

10am Monday 25th June 2012

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#### Present:

**Chair:** Councillor Bernard Hughes, DCC (BH)  
Aidan Winder, DCC (AW)  
Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Officer (MK)  
Councillor Ted Hockin, TDC (TH)  
Councillor Terry Lowther, DTC (TL)  
Maddie Goodey, NE (MG)

Giles Beauchamp, RSPB (GB)  
John Winchester, DTC (JW)  
Councillor Pat Graham, ETC (PG)  
Steve Edmonds, EDDC (SE)  
Richard Tugwell, EA (RT)  
Andrew Cadbury, Chairman of SPC (AC)

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

Apologies were noted from: Neil Downes (Forum Chair); Lynn Trout (Forum Vice Chair); Colin Poole (ETC); Steve Edmonds (EDDC); Charlie Plowden (EDDC); Gavin Bloomfield (RSPB), Cllr Terry Lowther (DTC).

The Chairman welcomed Maddie Goodey from Natural England to the Management Group.

#### 2. Budget update 2012/13

The budget statement was agreed.

The Chairman thanked funding Partners for all agreeing to the carry-forward of the 2011/12 underspend.

It was noted that several Partners have yet to send in their contributions and the Chairman encouraged them to do so as soon as possible.

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

The budget statement was agreed. AW explained that the MoA is a governance tool that sets out how the EEMP Partners will work together in partnership to fund and deliver actions set out in the Action Plan. It sets out matters such as the level of funding for each Partner organisation and what each Partner can expect.

The Chairman noted that there has been reluctance from some of the more major Partners to sign the MoA although no particular reasons for not doing so have been received and in some cases a funding contribution has been received despite non signing of the MoA. Non-signatories to date include EDDC, ECC, TDC, RSPB and Woodbury PC.

**ACTION:** MK to identify suitable EEMP or LiCCo event, THEN **ACTION:** Chairman to draft more formal letter to go to all Partners, inviting them to come along to a publicised event on the Estuary (linking to the EEMP or LiCCo event?) to include a 'staged' re-signing (or signing!) of the EEMP MoA.

#### 4. EEMP progress (MK)

MK provided updates on a range of projects that as Estuary Officer she has been involved in, and would have mentioned others on the list below if time had allowed:

Draft Interim Management Plan – needs to have images removed to reduce size for emailing. Will then be emailed to technical officers for comment (over period of 1 month) then brought to October MG meeting for approval.

Annual Review 2011/12 and Action Plan 2012/13 – recently uploaded to website. Quotes invited for printing of 25 paper copies from all printers on DCC's Ebiz list. Lowest quote selected and order will be placed soon.

Exe Press newsletter - Issue 28 published and distributed. (Deadline for copy for next issue 29th June for publication 2nd August. Articles and photos welcome!)

Clean ups – Spring clean up organised by MK but delivered with assistance from EDDC officers and support from other organisations. Big success - 85 volunteers, 2.5 tonnes of rubbish, great weather for cruise. (Next one on 15th September).

**ACTION:** MK to involve Partners in looking into the feasibility of borrowing walkie-talkies to give out to trusted individuals on clean ups to enable them to contact tractor driver more easily to secure help with extracting heavy items from sand.

**ACTION:** MK to email Working Group members to ask for suggestions of safe (and litter-rich) venues that could be used for public clean ups.

Education sessions – Bookings received for just 6/10 of Exmouth sessions and 0/3 of Exminster sessions. Reasons given included filtration by school administrator, alternate year coverage of particular habitat theme (this being year off), and teacher too busy to arrange.

**ACTION:** MK to liaise with other outreach education providers (notably EDDC, TDC and RSPB Ranger staff) and the Principal Engagement Officer on the LiCCo project to investigate a more coordinated estuary offer to schools – looking at resources, curriculum links, marketing etc.

**ACTION:** MK to email around Working Group and Management Group Partners to ask for details of relevant contacts who might be able to help ensure that messages reach the most appropriate people within schools – both local to the estuary and in schools further afield. Info on Exmouth, Dawlish, Exeter and Clyst Vale Learning Councils would be appreciated.

**ACTION:** MK to bring update to next MG meeting.

Patrol boat – MK reported that she'd been out on the patrol boat on 24th June and had been impressed by the approach taken to 'miscreants' by the volunteer cox – gentle but firm and apparently effective. The patrol boat fuel budget, which is administered by ETC stood at £804 at end of March 2012. Last year's fuel bill came to £444 so top up is needed to ensure can meet needs to end of 2013 season. Working Group suggested contacting sailing clubs after Christmas and ETC suggested seek total contribution of around £600.

The Chairman offered to contribute between £50 and £100 some of his DCC Councillor allocation to the fuel budget and suggested that other DCC councillors whose wards adjoin the Estuary.

**ACTION:** MK to email BH to request the names of other councillors, then contact them to invite contributions to the fuel budget.

**ACTION:** MK to contact sailing clubs inviting contributions after Christmas.

Estuarine species ID Guide – fold-out colourful leaflet guide commissioned by Stephanie Clark (MK's predecessor), designed by MMO with funding from Crown Estate. EEMP has been allocated 200 copies for distribution free of charge to worthy causes. Several already distributed to some schools and Partner officers.

Kite Festival – MK was there but owing to collapse of gazebo, impact was limited. 9 people signed up as EEMP stakeholders.

**AGREED:** Partners agreed that replacing gazebo was essential for EEMP to present strong profile at events.

**ACTION:** MK to secure replacement gazebo from manufacturer of original, reusing artwork if possible to minimise (unbudgeted) cost.

Contributions from developers for mitigating impact of anticipated housing development on European Wildlife Sites – MK updated on meeting attended on the Community Infrastructure Levy (and s106 monies), involving officers from Natural England, EDDC, ECC, and TDC. Consultants Footprint Ecology (who undertook the Disturbance Study for the EEMP) are to be appointed to propose funding structure mechanism and identify key on-site and off-site mitigation projects. The on-site visitor management measures are likely to be of particular relevance to the EEMP, and could include additional wardens and a more formalised patrol boat service.

**ACTION:** MK to invite Tony Paige (or his nominee) from TDC to come and address next meeting of the Management Group on proposals for utilising developer contributions to mitigate disturbance.

Jet ski update - trial of Harbour View slipway underway, but substantial problems encountered with sand softness and waves/current affecting launching/recovery. Exmouth PWC Club likely to be set up soon, though leadership questions to resolve. EEMP and ETC assisted with draft constitution. Complaints received re speeding vessels.

Bird hide, Mudbank Lane, Exmouth – Geoff Morris of Exmouth Residents and Traders Association is main advocate of this project, but owners of identified site (Network Rail, NR) not acting decisively. Indications suggest if permission is given by NR, will be on contracted out tenancy agreement renewable every 3 years (probably maximum), so this unlikely to be a feasible arrangement. Whilst the National Trust owns land nearby it is deterred from hosting bird hide by high incidence of vandalism experienced.

Lower Halsdon Farm, Exmouth – EEMP represented on Stakeholder Group set up by land owners National Trust to increase community links. Estuary Moo caravan café opened on 18th June to sell food drinks and ice cream to trail users. Other proposals include cycleway across site to connect Exe Estuary trail with parts of Brixington.

Earth Festival – being organised jointly by EEMP and ETC – 4th and 5th August. Venue being offered free of charge and will be Pavilion Gardens Exmouth (for gazebos), Pavilion car park (for trailers) and beach (extension of activities). Booking form to go out to potential stallholders in next few days. ETC organising entertainments, including music and dinosaur. Pavilion selling food and drink throughout weekend. Theme will be a celebration of local area and environment, as well as coastal change. Nowhere Island will be moored off the beach and the embassy parked across the Esplanade from the Pavilion.

**ACTION:** MK to invite Exmouth and District Rotary Club to deploy wishing well at festival and invite BH and other Partners to assist with supervising it if this would be helpful.

EEMP website – MK experiencing technical problems understood to be associated with Internet Explorer 6 and its incompatibility with latest version of Java. DCC plan to move to new platform in due course, with new content management system (Life Ray). Some parts of website not working properly and likely to get worse, but big time requirement to resolve. Plan is to do the

best with what we have and keep situation under review. Working Group members alerted at last meeting.

## 5. LiCCO Update

MK listed several projects that are planned for the next few months, involving the Principal LiCCo Engagement Officer (Jane Lavick). These included:

- Display materials to be developed for events such as Exmouth Earth / Spirit of the Exe Festival
- Pro-active events such as Teachers' workshop at end of June to scope educational resources
- Messages in summer edition of Exe Press
- Press releases
- Email to stakeholders
- Produce animations and fact sheets
- Update database and web site(s)
- Capture/record community memories for community reminiscence project

**ACTION:** MK to ask Jane to ensure that Management Group members are kept informed of opportunities to contribute to the community reminiscences project.

## 6. Action log from previous meeting (circulated in advance)

The following additional pieces of information are relevant:

(a) Re action log (1) Minute-taker – AW reported that it is likely that the PA of one of DCC's Heads of Service will be able to take meeting notes at future meetings. She will be pre-briefed by MK.

(b) Re action log (2) Member representation of ECC. **ACTION:** BH to follow up.

(c) Re action log (6) Date of next Man Group meeting. AW informed the meeting that a transnational LiCCo meeting is to be held on 4th October and requested that the date of the next meeting be changed.

**ACTION:** RT to inform MK of availability of room at Manley House for 10th or 12th October. MK then to inform Management Group Partners as soon as possible.

## 7. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 23rd March 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 8. Date of next MG Meeting: To be confirmed – but NOT 4th October

