

# EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

## Minutes

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION: Review of Zonation & Codes of Conduct

Group: Eales Dock

Venue: Eales Dock, Dawlish Warren

Date: 10am Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017



### Present

Stephanie Clark, Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) – SC

Paul Allard, Eales Dock Company – PA

Mark Tribe, Eales Dock Company – MT

Richard Bentley, River Exe Moorings Limited – RB

SC gave an overview of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP), South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership (SEDHRP) and South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy. Outlined why the Exe is so important, and the reasoning behind the current proposals to create two Voluntary Exclusion Zones (VEZs) at Exmouth and Dawlish Warren.

SC stated that there is understanding that there is an established use of the access point to Eales Dock and there are no proposals to stop this. However, aware that there have been enquiries made about extending activities / use of the dock, relevant authorities have stated that they don't want to see any increase in activity, as any activity above what is currently taking place is likely to have an impact. NE would need to be advised of any proposed changes in activity.

RB confirmed that there are no moorings that he manages within the proposed VEZ, but he needs continued access to his moorings outside of the area.

The group discussed several suggestions that would help promote the sensitivities of the Dawlish Warren area and to encourage considerate use of the VEZ by people that use Eales Dock:

1. Any boats should avoid prolonged use of VEZ (enter/depart VEZ as quickly as possible, adhering to speed limit, not wandering from the shallow channel / creek).  
PA agreed. Suggested that he could help in marking the channel from the dock to the end. Will put in place buoys / withies before mid-year, working with EEMP.
2. Launching/recovery 2 hrs either side of high tide and without disturbance.  
PA stated that they currently access the docks 2-3 hours either side of high tide and would like to continue to do so.
3. Promotion of information about how users should be using the area and why the area is important (map of proposed VEZ, explanation of designations, etc.) – can be promoted on well displayed signs on exit of the dock.  
PA happy to cover costs of the sign if SC provides the content. Will site sign at exit from dock.

4. Distribution of relevant codes of conduct for water users that use the dock.  
PA happy to do this.
5. Signed site-specific agreement with owner to promote this requirement to users of the dock.  
PA happy to sign a voluntary agreement to show willing to help with promotion of the VEZ.

SC stated that there will be ongoing monitoring of the VEZs, to observe and detrimental use of the areas.

Tour of site followed meeting, where SC was shown modifications put in place to reduce disturbance.

### **Further Action**

- Add RB to database.
- SC to put sign at foot crossing to encourage participation in consultation.

### **Summary of Proposed Suggestions from Eales Dock Meeting**

- Eales Dock has continued access, via creek.
- Creek marked with buoys / withies by Eales Dock, working with EEMP.
- Eales Dock to promote correct use of VEZ to users, via well displayed signs on exit of the dock (PA has agreed to produce sign and cover costs of this, if SC provides content). To include following information:
  - Why area is important (map of proposed VEZ, explanation of designations, high tide roost, feeding ground, etc.).
  - Boats should avoid prolonged use of VEZ (enter/depart VEZ as quickly as possible, adhering to speed limit, not wandering from the shallow creek).
  - Launching/recovery 2-3 hrs either side of high tide to avoid disturbance.
- Distribution of relevant codes of conduct for water users that use the dock.
- Eales Dock to signed site-specific agreement to promote this requirement to users of the dock.