

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP



ZONATION REVIEW: Exmouth Water Users Association

Exe Sailing Club, Exmouth

7:30pm Tuesday 4th April 2017

Present:

Stephanie Clark - SC

Rowena Garne

Shaun Griffiths

Eileen Underhill

Toby Lagus

Dave Littlefield

Steve Hockings-Thompson

Ria Ball

Rob Masding

Myles Blood-Smyth

Lynn Trout

Mike Trout

Mark Sansom

Alan Woods

James Edge

Note: These minutes are only those regarding the agenda item of the Zonation. The meeting was not set up solely to discuss this and therefore these minutes are shorter and less detailed than others. This is recorded as a Q&A.

SC:

- So far I have met with a lot of the user groups including (but not limited to) crab tilers, power boat and ski club, kite surfers, sailing, bait digging and angling, sandeel fishing and canoers / kayakers. I will continue the discussion with National Bodies and RYA.
- I would like to preface this meeting by clarifying that if I think your ideas are reasonable does not mean they will necessarily go ahead.
- Once I have accepted all comments I will take them to the SEDHRP Officer Working Group, once agreed they will be taken to the Executive Committee – based on the views of the Officer Working Group.
- I am part of a two-sided conversation and therefore I have yet to put completely amended maps on the website as I can't take into account all users wants at this moment in time, the boundaries should change at the end of the consultation.
- Public Consultation – April 20th 6pm Coaver Club County Hall. Limited number of places, book through website. Putting forward suggested proposals and getting feedback.

Q: Who will be there?

SC: SEDHRP, RSBP

Q: Will the Executive Committee be there? I think they need to hear it straight from the users to really understand our concerns. It would be nice to know that they are listening.

SC: I will take that comment into account, but it is not my decision to make.

Q: Our maps are based on charts whereas yours are based on OS maps, could the zone be transferred onto charts so that we can clearly see where the zones are? We need to know if our moorings will be affected.

SC: If you are permitted through local councils to have those moorings it will hold precedence to the zones, there will be no changes to existing moorings. Do you feel we should be using charts instead?

Q: I'm worried different maps could cause people to argue over something they agree on due to the difference on the map. It would be easier for us for the zones to be on a chart.

SC: Will take that into consideration – I use GIS to make the maps so I might not be able to find a chart base layer. OS maps are what all local authorities use and suggest I use.

Q: Has anybody actually asked why you are doing this at all?

SC: We are trying to work with local users to find how they use the estuary and how best we can protect it whilst allowing activities to continue. I know everyone in this room knows the estuary well and respects it but potential new users could damage areas if they are not protected and affect the future of the estuary.

Q: Will the zones change as the eelgrass spreads and moves? Will they become statutory?

SC: That is not what we are envisioning. The zone in Exmouth is based on the existing kite surfer exclusion zone which has been in place for over eight years now, without going statutory. It is not working so well now – which is why we are proposing to include all users in the zone. We want to give it the best chance and don't want to go statutory.

Q: Different name? Exclusion is very negative.

SC: No enforcement just education. This name change has been brought up before and will be taken into consideration.

Q: There is a limitation to the number of boats (due to the number of moorings) but there is no limit to canoes and paddleboards, etc. who are more inclined to use the shallower areas – signage and education needs to be there. You can't force these people to go out into the channel.

SC: Looking into the future approximately 30,000 houses could be built around the Exe and we are doing this in preparation. There will be signage and the SEDHRP Habitat Mitigation Officers will be there to educate.

Q: Will the area be marked?

SC: Buoys will mark the exclusion zone in both areas. There will be signage at access points.