

Code of Conduct Review Sailing Meeting

Minutes

14:00-16:00 Tuesday 28th November 2017

Location: Exe Sailing Club, Tornado, Shelly Road, Exmouth EX8 1EG



Attendees

Kate Fortnam, The Green Blue
Rowena Garne, Exe Estuary Management Partnership
Colin Acton, Exeter City Council
Dave Ashman, Exe Sailing Club
Emma Barton, Royal Yachting Association
Sama Euridge, South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership
Guy Farrant, Exe Sailing Club
Vyv Game, Starcross Yacht Club
Ben Jennings, Exe Sailing Club
Nick Pearce, Exe Sailing Club
David Rochester, Topsham Sailing Club
Daniel Shaw
Nicholas Webber, Exe Sailing Club
Alan Wood, Royal Yachting Association
Amelia Davies, South East Devon Habitat Regulations Partnership
Deborah Tyler, Exe Sailing Club
Rob Ferns, Exe Sailing Club
Leslie Arscott, Exe Sailing Club
Rex Frost, Exe Sailing Club
Mike Acred Exe Sailing Club

1. Apologies from Stephanie Clark, Exe Estuary Officer for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership

Stephanie Clark, Exe Estuary Officer, apologises for not being able to make this meeting, unfortunately she needs to attend a funeral today. A decision has been made to go ahead with this meeting, rather than delaying it, as we wouldn't want to put people out who have booked onto this event at such late notice.

2. Introduction to Review of Codes – Kate Fortnam

Codes of conduct provide the user with all the information they need to undertake their chosen activity safely, without creating conflict with others. Covering safety and the environment.

Codes are particularly relevant where there are a wide range of different users, potentially not linked to a club, or where multiple activities overlap.

This is particularly relevant to the Exe, where visitors travel in from other areas and may not be aware of how their activity may impact on other users or the sensitive environment.

Codes for the Exe have existed for many years already. However, some have not been updated over the last 10 years or so, and contain out of date information.

The EEMP has received a small pot of money to update and review the codes of conduct for the Exe. This gives us the opportunity to work with local clubs and users, to invite input into the codes to ensure they capture good practice that local clubs and user groups want to promote, and to make them best work for the Exe area.

We are not looking into any new restrictions, but will be making use of content from existing codes and good practice guidelines from local clubs and national recreational bodies to best promote safe and responsible practice on the Exe.

As you probably know, three meetings have already taken place around the estuary, for users that take part in various activities to get together and discuss a common approach to these codes. We now have a good idea of which activities would find use in having their own codes, and which would like to see best practice promoted in a general code.

3. Discussion – Individual Groups Summary (taken from notes handed in at the end of the meeting)

- 3 main points to include – personal safety, safety of others and safety for wildlife.

Map of Exe:

- A3, folded – easy to carry – look effective on a display stand, access to all.
- Needs to be available as a phone app.
- Not too small.
- Generic water users code to cover
 - o Sailing
 - o Kiting
 - o Wind
 - o SUP
 - o Kayaking/Canoeing
 - o Rowers
 - o Powerboats
 - o Commercial/recreational#
 - o PWC

Codes of Conduct content:

- Always wear floatation device.
- Familiarise yourself with tides and currents, see local signage at slipways.
- Consider other water users.
- Let someone ashore know your plans and what time you are expected to be back.

Water Safety:

- Check tide, wind and weather before launching.
- Wear a personal flotation device.
- Have means of calling for help VHF/mobile/whistle/flares, appropriate clothing.

Other:

- Include byelaws No. 4 do not exceed 10 knots maximum, No. 6 navigate with due care and attention with reasonable care for others, International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- Keep to the appropriate area for your activity: know and respect the exclusion zones for birds/water-skiing/swimmers.
- Respect the environment: no rubbish/no pollution/minimize wildlife disturbance.
- Like Poole Harbour map.
- Make sure it is commercial and recreational – incorporate picture of ferry to make it clear who it is aimed at.
- Knowing the tide strength especially at the mouth of the Exe. Point to information such as tide tables, include tide information on maps.
- No real need for waterproof code as they would not be taken onto the water but read beforehand anyway.
- QR code on signage to point to website.
- Too much information on bird types in Poole Harbour code – if people want information on bird species point to link. Just have basic information about disturbance and significant species.

4. Group Discussion Summary

- Keep it simple – simple map with main 3 discussion points. Personal safety, safety of others, safety for wildlife.
- Teign estuary, like that the leaflet was very visual, include tidal flows, like that the map shows refuges and zones.
- Needs to be very generic – not just sailors but available to everybody.
- Downloadable codes which can be accessed via an app.
- Large size.
- Need information on floatation aids, tides, it needs to be formal but clear.
- Include need to consider other users and be considerate to commercial users – be careful with wording as they do not necessarily have right of way.
- Printed copies can easily become dated after a few years, best to have electronic version that can be changed or an app than can be updated. Only print few copies to go out to shops and clubs. Design leaflets to be web friendly.
- Include links to further information but keep the codes generic.
- Wildlife refuges – only avoid where practical and safe to do so. Make it clear the zones are voluntary. Allow people to be aware that if the conditions are deemed unsafe they can enter the zones.

5. General feedback from meetings so far

Codes which have been suggested by local users so far:

- 2 general codes: one for shore-based users and one for water users - size A3, folded
- Dawlish Warren code - size A3, folded
- Kite / windsurfing - size A5
- PWC (Jet Skiing) - size A5
- Bait collection (crab tiling & bait digging) - size A3, folded
- Dog walking - size A3, folded

Designs of codes will all be similar, for a consistent approach and message.

Both printed & electronic versions.

Similar design and size of the Poole Harbour code.

6. Next steps:

- Steph will roughly draft text and contact key representatives for feedback during Nov-Dec.
- Draft designs will be on the EEMP website for six weeks during Jan-Feb 2018 for feedback.
- Additional meetings can be organised for specific activities during this six-week period. Another sailing meeting has been requested at Topsham Sailing Club next year – date TBC.
- Final designs to be endorsed by the EEMP Management Group in March.
- Promotion on the ground through officers, through local clubs, on signage, websites, etc.

Further detail can be found on the EEMP website.