



# Exe Estuary Winter Forum 2018



6.30pm to 9.30pm  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Council Chamber, County Hall, Exeter

## Key Discussion Points from Q&A Sessions

### Update from SEDHRP: Questions

**Q (RF):** Explain why during the consultation we did not see your officers? Why did everything go through SC?

**A (NaH):** The consultation was awarded to the EEMP due to their large contact database, so was therefore led by SC. There were two stages of consultation, the first led by SC through the EEMP and the second led by SEDHRP.

**Q (RF):** We had endless consultations, the officers that were present did not make much contact.

**A (NaH):** The officers were asked not to influence the outcome of the consultation and therefore did not interact much during the first stage of consultation.

**Q (DC):** The requirements of the local nature reserve encourages use which conflicts with the Wildlife Refuges. Is anything being reconsidered here?

**A (NaH):** As part of SEDHRPs role we are still encouraging use in less environmentally sensitive areas and promoting sustainable use such as through Devon Loves Dogs and codes of conduct work.

**Q:** Various meetings were held. People that were consulted felt that they were having a meaningful discussion yet no changes or compromises were made. Why were the councillors making the decision not informed of our complaints?

**A (NaH):** Compromises were made, but not all suggestions could be taken forward as they would not provide sufficient protection for the wildlife.

**Q (DP):** Of the many user groups who took part in the consultations how many user groups endorsed the Wildlife Refuges?

**A (NaH):** User groups didn't want the Wildlife Refuge areas, but due to legal obligations and our statutory role we had to put them in place as set out in our Mitigation Strategy. It is unfortunate that people disagreed with the refuges but we were acting on evidence. The report that went out included all responses.

**Q (MD):** How do you measure harmful vs non-harmful disturbance?

**A (NeH):** Currently writing a brief to monitor the effect of measures on the Exe.

**Q (MD):** Can we be provided with the brief?

**A (NeH):** I will provide SC with a copy to send out to users.

**Q:** How do you know disturbance is the issue?

**A (NaH):** Conferring with a consultant and Natural England. We will be considering other environmental factors when monitoring the refuges.

**Q:** A grant was mentioned?

**A (NaH):** We have plans to create a countryside park in Exeter/Teignbridge.

### **Exe Estuary Highlights for 2017: Questions**

**Q (JE):** The colours on the codes make them hard to read.

**A (SC):** I will be checking with DCC internally, will should be able to do an accessibility check.

### **Planned work with recreational boating clubs: Questions**

**Q:** How will hovercraft be managed on the Exe? Can this be included in code?

**A (KF):** These are covered in the general Water Users code at present. Perhaps speak with SC to discuss further.

### **Completion of Mamhead slipway: Questions**

**Q:** Hazard of the “ankle-breakers” on slipway.

**A (DT):** We are aware, there is a specific request to look at this hazard.

**Q (RF):** When will the wreckage of the old groyne be removed?

**A (DT):** Plans to mark it and look for suitable opportunity to remove.

**Q:** What routine is in place to keep marine/algae growth down?

**A (DT):** Slipway is pressure washed every two weeks.

**Q:** Probably not enough.

**Q:** Is a pontoon an option, to avoid the difficulties of leaving a vessel in the water when parking?

**A (DT):** No plans for this.

**Q:** There was a 9m drop off at the end when the slipway was completed, what is it now?

**A (DT):** From the last set of surveys, the depth is reducing. However, not sure since last survey was undertaken and not sure when next bathymetric survey will be.

**Q:** ECC are planning their own bathymetric survey, are they aware that you are also planning one?

**A (DT):** Will make sure CA is aware. ECC will survey higher up the estuary.

**Q:** ECC survey from mouth to Dawlish Warren area.