

SEFTON COAST PARTNERSHIP

BOARD MEETING 13 January 2005

Minutes of meeting

Present: Paul Green English Nature
Andrew Brockbank National Trust
Dave McAleavy Sefton Leisure
Ralph Gregson Birkdale Civic Society
Graham Lymbery Sefton Technical Services
Ted Jackson Lancs Wildlife Trust (Chair)
Ceri Jones Sefton PERD (minutes)

Apologies: Cllr Tattersall (SMBC), Cllr Lord Fearn (SMBC), Cllr Moncur (SMBC), Dr Annie Worsley (Edge Hill College), Alice Kimpton (EN), David Taylor (Fromby Golf Club), Paul Nolan (Mersey Forest), Andrew Hall (Sefton PERD), Will Moody (Sefton PERD), Rajan Paul (Sefton Leisure).

1) Minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2004 were agreed

2) Matters Arising:

- i) Paul Green gave a brief update of the Ribble Estuary Regional Park position. The boundary was being re-thought with a view to possible inclusion of the Martin Mere area; work on proposals for habitat creation on the Hesketh Outmarsh was progressing; a proposals had been submitted to Lancs Rural Futures for interpretation and promotion and discussions were looking positive; discussions were being held with GONW on the possibility of identifying the Ribble as a pathfinder in the Rural Delivery Plan.
- ii) CJ reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Copranet Workshop in Zandvoort (North Holland) on 10 -12 March.

3) Draft Sea Britain programme: RG reported that Dan Grice (Sefton MBC Communications) was identifying interest from local organisations. New details were now available from National Trust. A number of local yacht club and Leisure Services events can be promoted under the Sea Britain banner. The proposed Gormley statues installation can also be included.

4) Review of SCP Management Plan: AH's monitoring report was received; feedback is required to ensure the report can be used as an input to the Review. The proposed approach to the Review was to produce a Partnership Plan linked to a 5-year 'business plan'; the former could be used as a promotional document, while the latter would be the SCP's working document against which progress could be measured. It was also proposed that the Task Groups Chairs meeting should take charge of the process and be re-named the Partnership Working Group. It was noted that lessons should be learned from the Forest Plan process, and that it was essential to define/agree priorities and identify the additionality/added value of the Partnership.

- 5) Outline proposal for a nature conservation and biodiversity delivery plan: The report to Sefton's Cabinet was noted. PG was concerned this had come to the Board before EN had had time to consider the implications. It was noted that in due source it was an issue that should be considered by the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group of the Sefton Borough Partnership
- 6) Volunteer Award Scheme: DmcA outlined the proposals and it was agreed that nomination should be considered by the Partnership Working Group (PWG) for the 2006 Forum. Ralph Gregson to draw up nomination forms for distribution. A one-off award will be made at the 2005 Forum to Phil Smith to kick the process off.
- 7) Annual Coastal Forum: the programme for the 2005 forum was agreed and it was noted that all speakers had been confirmed
- 8) Sponsorship for future forums: The issue of sponsorship had been raised at the Task Group chairs meeting. The principle was agreed that sponsorship should be sought from partners and from private sector organisation to enable the Forum to be held at a larger venue, and to assist with costs which were at present borne entirely by Sefton Council.
- 9) Draft Annual Report: CJ apologised for not being able to produce the draft in time for the Board meeting. However it would be circulated for final comment to Board members prior to the Forum. CJ thanked all who had contribute information on their activities.
- 10) Coastal process monitoring reports: Graham Lymbery circulated samples of the monitoring reports which had been produce to promote public understanding of the issues affecting different section of the Sefton Coast – 6 reports were now available as hard copy or on the Seftoncoast website.
- 11) Review of Coast Defence management: GL table a note setting out 5 issues which the review would focus on: communication, research, partnership, sustainability and standard of service. The existing Strategy had not dealt specifically with communication, which had become increasingly important in coastal defence in recent years. A report on the revile will be present to Sefton Council committees in February.
- 12) Sefton Coastal Path enhancement: AB reported that negotiations on Phase 1 was progressing well and work would start in the spring. This included a 10-year permissive path agreement; consent was required from EN, and a maintenance agreement was also required. Subject to funding application phase 2 is planned to start in the autumn.
- 13) Gateway project: CJ reported that a joint project had been agreed with NT and Sefton to undertake feasibility in initial design work on visitor facilities at Ainsdale Lido, Victoria Road and Lifeboat Road. AB emphasised the aim (for NT) was to establish sustainable use of their site, looking at repositioning of the carpark, reviewing access arrangements, and providing welcoming visitor facilities on site. Consultants had been selects and a brief agreed.
- 14) Physical Access Strategy – update report: a summary of the consultant's finding had been circulated with the agenda papers. The consultant was due to give a presentation at the Forum , at which there would also be a workshop

on the topic. The intention was to assess the report and propose a method of implementation – this was likely to focus on existing mechanisms and foreseeable resources rather than anything more radical. However the strategy could form the basis for future funding proposals and would be linked in to other projects such as the Gateway project

- 15) Task Group Updates: There were no formal reports from Chairs. It was noted that Fiona Sunners would chair the Education Task Group..
- 16) Smallworlds website: a request from a Canadian environmental website to establish links with the Seftoncoast website was agreed.
- 17) Confirmation of conference attendees: DmcA 1-2 Feb Eurosite, London; Coastnet 22/23 March – to be confirmed; Eurosite 21/22 September conference – tbc. RG queried Copranet Canaries workshop attendance – CJ to check and confirm to him.
- 18) AOB: An issue was raised of inappropriate tree species in tree plantings in Formby in relation to Red Squirrel support; CJ to take up in relation to S106 tree planting requirements.
- 19) Date of next meeting: Thursday 19 May, 2:00 pm Formby Library.