

**Sefton Coast Partnership
Archaeology and History Task Group**

Minutes of a meeting held on 24th June 2008 at Ainsdale Discovery Centre

Present: Jen Lewis (JL Chairman), John Houston (JH), Gordon Roberts (GR), Mark Sargant (MSa), Jenny Stanistreet (JS), Reg Yorke (RY).

Apologies: Annie Worsley

Having been closely involved in the work of the Task Group over the last twelve months or so, Jenny Stanistreet and John Houston were welcomed as members of the Group.

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2008

Approved as a correct record.

2) Matters arising

There were no matters arising

3) Coast Conference Publication

Sand & Sea had been launched at a reception held at Formby Luncheon Club on 12th May. To date 228 copies of the book have been sold via different outlets. Review copies have been distributed and publicity leaflets/order forms are available in local libraries, Ainsdale Discovery Centre etc. Opportunities for sales will be provided at the Sefton Coast Forum on 28th June and at the Dynamic Coast Conference on 1st September.

4) Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund

JH advised that this had been a good example of evidence-gathering. Further information will be available when the Formby Civic Society completes their research. The potential for dissemination of the information in a popular format/via education outlets was discussed. Equipment bought for the project is held by JML (digital camera), Formby Civic Society (MP3 recorder) and JH (GPS) and should be security marked 'Hist/Arch Task Group'.

5) Landscape Partnership

JH reported that the bid was submitted to HLF by the end of March; SCP will be advised of the decision on 21st October. If successful there will be a one-year development phase. Projects particularly relevant to the Task Group include two projects developed by Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Section

- Archaeological volunteers – training in observation and recording in the field to generate volunteer input to inform management strategies
- Community archaeology – participation in archaeological excavation and recording

Formby Civic Society has collaborated with The National Trust in proposals to develop an Asparagus trail. Many of the other projects, including contributions by Liverpool University's Centre for Lifelong Learning, will include some element of local archaeological and historical research as a contribution towards informing the public about particular aspects of the coastal heritage.

It was recommended that copies of the submission documents should be made available to local libraries. The next edition of Coastlines will include a summary of the Landscape Partnership bid.

The Task Group expressed its thanks to JH for his work in putting the bid together; he advised that he is now working on a freelance basis and is no longer involved in the Landscape Partnership bid.

6) National Archaeology events 2008

The programme was advertised nationally by the Council for British Archaeology and included in Sefton's Natural Coast Events Programme. Posters for use in advertising our events had been provided by CBA. Ainsdale Discovery Centre will provide a venue for displays between 12th July-10th August and elsewhere eight other events (walks, talks, demonstrations etc) are offered.

7) Sefton Coast Forum 28th June 2008

MSa, GR and RY will provide displays.

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8) Sound Archive for Sefton Coast

Following a proposal by RY to develop a sound archive for the coast, topics suggested as suitable included:

- Military activity
- History of coast management and conservation
- History and process of sand extraction

It was noted that guidelines and basic training for developing such an archive can be obtained from the North West Sound archive to which Sefton Libraries subscribes; information about the Sound Archive is available at http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/record_office/about/archive.asp

It was also noted that development of a Sound Archive could make a contribution to the HLF Landscape Partnership programme.

It was agreed that the Task Group should give further consideration to this proposal.

9) Pinewoods, Lifeboat Road, Formby

A planning application to demolish the existing house and develop a new house with a basement provides a rare opportunity for environmental sampling near St Luke's church where previous investigations have produced evidence for an early, possible Iron Age, land surface. Members of the Task Group could comment on the planning application.

10) Any other business

- a) JH reported that, as Chair of the Altcar Range Conservation Group, he has invited JML to join the Group as Chair of the Task Group.
- b) JH offered to explore what sort of archaeological/historical work is being carried out at Martin Mere and how the Task Group might link into this.

11) Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 4th November 2008 at Ainsdale Discovery Centre at 1.30pm.