


Proceedings
2008 Annual Coastal Forum
Sefton Coast Partnership



‘My Coast, My Future’

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Introduction

The 2008 Annual Coastal Forum of the Sefton Coast Partnership was held at The Southport Convention Centre (The Floral Hall), on Saturday 28th June. It was chaired by Mr Ted Jackson, of the Sefton Coast Partnership and introduced by the Mayor of Sefton, Councillor Paul Tweed.

Background to the Forum

The Forum is intended to provide an opportunity for anyone who is interested in the future of the Sefton Coast to contribute to the work of the Partnership. The aim of the Forum is to improve communication among local communities, businesses and organisations with an interest in coastal zone. The Sefton Coast Partnership includes representatives of local communities as well as organisations directly involved in the management of the Sefton Coast.

Contents

The Forum was programmed as a full day event, based around the theme of Education and Lifelong Learning. Tying in with Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture, the event set out to showcase some of the many events and activities which already occur along the Coast involving young people, schools, families, students and volunteers.

The title of the Forum, 'My Coast, My Future', was chosen to indicate that the Sefton Coast is looking forward to the future and to bringing our community - residents, visitors and academics alike – along on what is likely to prove a fascinating journey into a world affected by climate and coastal change.

Special Volunteer Award

The day began with the Mayor presenting a Special Volunteer Award to Mrs Maureen McEntee and Mr Stan Hudson in recognition of their outstanding commitment over many years to the care of Lifeboat Road in Formby.

Presentations

Six presentations took place in the morning session, with an additional presentation from school children from the Borough:

1) *Keynote Speech - Dr Annie Worsley, Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography Edge Hill University*

Dr Annie Worsley gave the keynote speech linking the past to the present and the future through palaeoscience. Research has revealed the complex cycles of change linked to climate, changing sea levels, retreating and advancing coastline and human activity, all of which are being repeated today and will continue to do

so into the future. Cycles vary from daily changes (tides) to 2000 years (sediments). Research is the key to understanding this dynamic system.

2) Landscape Partnership Scheme – John Houston, Project Officer, Sefton Council Leisure Services

John Houston outlined the proposals for a Sefton Coast landscape partnership scheme bid to the Heritage lottery Fund. The scheme would help us to understand what makes Sefton special and involve the community of Sefton in exploring the cultural aspects of the landscape. This exciting opportunity is to be assessed in October 08 and if successful will lead to a 12 month development stage. Documents available on www.seftoncoast.org.uk

3) ‘Sand and Sea’ – Dr Jennifer Lewis Chair of SCP History and Archaeology, Liverpool University

Dr Jen Lewis launched the new publication ‘**Sand and Sea**’, (*Sefton’s Coastal Heritage, Archaeology, History and Environment of a Landscape in North West England. Proceedings of the conference Sefton’s Coastal Heritage, Formby, 15 September 2004, edited by Jennifer M. Lewis & Jennifer E. Stanistreet*).

This excellent book resulted from the 2004 conference and covers 10 000 years of human activity in the coastal area. Jen presented some examples of change, evidence of cultivation preserved in an eroding dune face and made a plea for people to sign up to be archaeology volunteers to record this often ephemeral evidence into the future.

4) Climate Change - Jessica Smith and Imogen Free Pupils from Range High School in Formby

The Range High pupils gave a rousing call to make positive efforts to deal with climate change now to ensure a future for the young people of tomorrow. On February 20th 2008 Jessica Smith was named the North West climate youth ambassador for 2008 in the presence of Gordon Brown at 10 Downing St and since then has given many presentations to a number of different audiences in the hope of raising awareness about an issue she feels so strongly about.

Break for refreshments

5) Biodiversity and Access Project, Sefton Council Leisure Services Coast and Countryside Service – D. McAleavy, Head of Coast and Countryside

Dave McAleavy applauded the people working on the ground and outlined the achievements of this inclusion project, which, working in partnership with a number of funders and organisations, has led to the successful interaction of people from different backgrounds through active involvement in countryside management.

6) Sefton Coast Woodlands Forest Plan 5 Year Review – Nick Roche, The Mersey Forest

Nick Roche presented the results of the review, which began in 2007. He

reminded the audience of the background and agreed vision of the Plan. The review considered the progress against the short term objectives. Conclusions were that the Plan is an effective structure for management and long-term consensus building.

7) Pinewoods Project – *David Bill, Manager North Sefton City Learning Centre*

David Bill introduced this video presentation from local schools involved in the Woodland Plan Review. Y5 classes looked at 6 objectives with 6th forms and woodland owners. 180 children in total were involved. The results were presented in a number of ways including news flashes and a rap.

Exhibition:

Following lunch the afternoon session consisted of displays, posters and opportunities to 'have a go' based around the theme of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Exhibitors included:

Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Biobank
Mersey Forest
RSPB
Pritchard Books of Formby
Alan McKernan Photography
Range High School
Sefton Council Coast & Countryside Service
Sefton Library Service
National Trust – St Jeromes
Southport Movie Makers
Merseytravel
Sefton Coast Partnership History & Archaeology Task Group

Question Time

This was followed by a 'Question Time' session in the Floral Hall. The panel comprised Ted Jackson (Chair), Dave McAleavy (Head of Coast and Coast and Countryside, Sefton Council Leisure Services), Andrew Brockbank (Property Manager, National Trust) and Graham Lymbery (Coast Defence Officer, Sefton Council). Members of the public were invited to send in questions prior to the event which were assigned to a member of the panel to answer. Any questions not answered on the day were followed up in writing after the event.

Forum Close

The Chair of Sefton Coast Partnership, Mr Ted Jackson, thanked everyone for attending the annual forum and the speakers. He also thanked all those involved in the logistics of planning the Forum. This included Mrs Lorna Lander who administers the Partnership, the Technical team of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Department, the Coast and Countryside Service of the Leisure Services Department and members of the Lifelong Learning Task Group.

Feedback Responses

A response form was handed to delegates for their feedback on the Forum and from those returned the results are shown below:-

	%	%	%
	Excellent	Good	Average
Overall Rating of Forum	24	65	12
Content	12	65	24
Venue	47	41	12
Catering	41	29	29
Pre-Forum Information	18	53	29
Delegate Information	18	59	24