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**Welcome** to the first edition of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) Newsletter. The aim of this Newsletter is to keep members informed of progress, give information on events, etc., and include items of relevant interest.

The Forum Team would welcome feedback on items to be included in future issues – many of you are actively involved in actions/initiatives which affect the coast and this Newsletter can be used to bring these to the attention of a wider audience. If you require further copies, please let us know.

Coastal Forum Team

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## Who's Who in the Pembrokeshire Coastal Zone

The Team is in the process of creating a "Who's Who" of organisations within Pembrokeshire. The Directory is aimed to:

- make clear the roles, responsibilities and activities of the many organisations working in or around the Pembrokeshire coast;
- identify who holds up-to-date information;
- provide communities with an informative guide to all managers, planners and users of the coast and who to go to for information and advice;
- provide a checklist of organisations whose knowledge or skills may be sought during the preparation and implementation of the Coastal Forum Strategy;
- encourage individuals and organisations to network, exchange information and collaborate more effectively.

It is proposed that the Directory will be issued on our website, on a CD and in paper format if required. It will be regularly up-dated and thus become an important item for people living and working in Pembrokeshire's coastal zone.

If you have not received information on how to be included in the Directory but feel you would like to, please let us know and we will forward full details to you.

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## **Coastal Forum Leaflet**

A bilingual leaflet explaining what the Coastal Forum does and how people can get in touch is in the final stages of development and will be available throughout Pembrokeshire in the next few weeks.

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### **Your Views and Concerns regarding the Pembrokeshire Coast**

We are currently gathering your views on the Pembrokeshire Coast – through questionnaires, coastal workshops and surgeries. We are asking three main questions:

1. What do you like and value about the Pembrokeshire Coast?
2. What use do you make of the coast and do you have any problems or concerns about that use?
3. What do you feel are the most important issues for the future of the coast of Pembrokeshire?

This information will form the basis of an Issues Report which we will be able to take forward in our Strategy Action Plan. We do not promise to solve all the issues overnight but hope we can find compromises and solutions to some of the problems through the creation of forums for discussion.

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### **Coastal Surgeries**

The Coastal Forum and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC are planning joint Coastal Surgeries for later in the year. Full details will be issued in future Newsletters and in the Western Telegraph. Please come along to a venue near you and let us hear your views about the Pembrokeshire coast.

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### **Valuing the Environment – The Community Approach**

On Saturday, 9 March PLANED launched their “Valuing the Environment” initiative providing everyone with the opportunity to become more involved with protecting and enhancing Pembrokeshire’s environment for future generations. Short presentations were given as an introduction to a series of workshops and information seminars to be held in venues around the county on recycling and composting, art and the environment, wildlife and landscape, community mapping, understanding and interpreting local heritage and caring for the coastal zone.

The Workshop on “Caring for Pembrokeshire’s Coast and Estuary” will be held on Wednesday, 1 May 2002 (6.30pm – 9.30pm) at Broad Haven Village Hall.

For more information please contact PLANED on (01834) 860965 or e-mail [wendy@sparc.org.uk](mailto:wendy@sparc.org.uk).

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### **Community Planning in Pembrokeshire**

So just what is a Community Plan? How will it affect me? These are just two questions frequently asked when faced with this relatively new initiative. Put simply Community Planning is about people and organisations working together to build a better future for Pembrokeshire. All County Councils in Wales are required to produce a Plan (often referred to as a Community Strategy) for their area, and Pembrokeshire has been working towards this for some time.

It is intended that Pembrokeshire’s first Community Plan will be ready by the end of 2002. It will run for five years and be reviewed annually to monitor progress and take account of any change in circumstances. There is already a vast range of plans and strategies that affect Pembrokeshire, but the Community Plan has the task of bringing them all together to provide a strategic direction for the whole County.

Community Planning will affect everyone, and you will all have an opportunity to have your say on how it develops. The initiative is co-ordinated by a Community Planning and Leadership Partnership that involves a number of strategic public organisations chaired by Pembrokeshire County Council. The group has produced a Community Involvement Strategy that sets out ways of involving members of the community. One of these is an extensive Residents’ Survey that took place in February and March 2002 seeking the views of around 1,000 residents on their priorities for Pembrokeshire.

The partnership has established a website that contains all the above information, and a lot more, on Community Planning in Pembrokeshire, including useful links to further sources of information. Why not pay it a visit at [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/communityplan/](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/communityplan/)? Alternatively you can contact David Astins, Policy Development Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council on (01437) 775857.

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## **Keep Wales Tidy Coastcare Groups improve the Pembrokeshire Coastline**

Keep Wales Tidy has set up a project in Pembrokeshire which encourages groups of volunteers to ‘adopt’ their nearest or favourite local beach and concentrate on its on-going care. The project involves volunteers of all ages and groups of various sizes who decide the type of projects they want to concentrate on each year. Most of them carry out regular litter picks to keep the beaches clean, but other projects undertaken so far have included coast path maintenance, lime kiln restoration, creation of a picnic site with an interpretation panel, litter surveys, removal of invasive plant species and provision of dog waste facilities. The project also has links with the Prince’s Trust and the Probation Service who help groups out when they are in need of some extra manpower.

Practical conservation work has been backed up by other activities such as first aid and marine mammal medic training, environmental education for school groups and other events designed to raise awareness of marine and coastal litter pollution such as television and radio interviews.

Keep Wales Tidy provides small grants to cover the cost of group insurance, equipment, project materials and expenses and offers training opportunities to all their regular volunteers. They also employ a Coastal Project Officer, Susan Evans, who is dedicated to the Coastcare Project and always on hand to provide help and advice and to act as a valuable link between the groups and the various organisations in Pembrokeshire concerned with the coast.

Beaches/areas which are currently adopted by Coastcare Groups include Aberbach (near Dinas Cross), Abermawr, Broad Haven North, Broad Haven South, Burton, Caerbwdi, Castle Pill, Druidston, Freshwater East, Freshwater West, Goodwick, Newgale, Newport Parrog, Newport Traeth Mawr, Nolton Haven, Manorbier, Marloes, Martin’s Haven, Pwll Gwylog, Saundersfoot and West Angle Bay. If you are interested in joining or establishing a Coastcare Group, Susan would be very pleased to hear from you. She can be contacted on (01646) 681949 or [susan.evans@keepwalestidy.org](mailto:susan.evans@keepwalestidy.org).

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## **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Park is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and various events will be taking place throughout the year. During the week of 19 May, “Paddle Pembrokeshire” will involve a group of canoeists kayaking round the Pembrokeshire Coast from Poppit Sands in the North to Amroth in the South with the theme “A fresh look at the Pembrokeshire Coast” – looking at the land from the water rather than from the coast path. Other events at various points round the coast will be occurring during the week to coincide with the canoeists leaving and arriving. Plans are still being finalised but information will be available soon – watch out for information in the media.

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## **News from the UK and Europe on coastal matters**

### **European Union focus on Coastal Zones**

The coastal regions of Europe are under constant pressure – fishing, shipping and tourism industries all compete for vital space and they contain some of Europe’s most fragile and valuable natural habitats.

The European Commission has called on Member States to put in place national strategies and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) has been designed to look at all the different policies which have an effect on coastal regions, planning/management of coastal resources and coastal space. “ICZM is not just an environmental policy, whilst the need to protect the functioning of natural ecosystems is a core aim, it also seeks to improve the economic and social well-being of coastal zones and help them to develop their full potential as modern, vibrant communities” (*EU focus on coastal zones – European Communities 2001*).

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## **England's first World Heritage Site : Dorset and East Devon Coast**

The Dorset and East Devon Coast was named as a World Heritage Site in December 2001. "The Jurassic Coast" has been awarded the status due to its outstanding geology which offers a glimpse into the ancient past with a complete record through 185 million years of the Earth's history. The World Heritage Site status recognises the global importance of this area and underlines the significance of maintaining its unspoilt beauty for future generations. There are expected to be opportunities for the development of sensitive and well managed out of season tourism, which will spread the visitor season and offer significant economic benefits for the area.

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## **Climate change might open Northern Sea Route within next five years!**

A New Scientist article published on 2 March has advised that the Arctic ice cap is melting at a rate that could allow routine commercial shipping through the North-West Passage in the next 10 years and open up new fisheries. The Northern Sea Route across the top of Russia could allow shipping for at least two months a year in as little as five years. The resulting boom in shipping could lead to new conflicts as nations try to enforce fisheries' rules and protect the Arctic environment from oil spills.

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## **The Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is currently undergoing the process of review. Following extensive consultation in 2001 based on a Green Paper, the European Commission is currently looking at the contributions received. It is shortly due to present its proposals for the review of the CFP to the European Parliament so that the new Policy can come into force in 2003.

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## **Marine Wildlife Conservation Bill**

The Marine Wildlife Conservation Bill, which was introduced as a Private Members' Bill in 2001, went through its third reading in the House of Commons on 15 March – it will now progress to the House of Lords for further consideration. The Bill has been substantially amended by the Government but if it becomes law will provide improved protection for the marine environment, in particular to protect nationally important marine sites and species and to enforce marine conservation.

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## **Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership**

A Partnership with interests in the public, private and voluntary sectors, has been brought together to act in an advisory capacity to the Welsh Assembly Government. Its main aim will be to help in implementing the new EC recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Wales. It will also look to encourage greater integration between the main interest groups in responding to the growing list of maritime and coastal issues and possibly help to fill in gaps in research. The first meeting of the group was held on 20 March and further details on the Partnership's work will be relayed in future Newsletters.

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## **Contacting the Coastal Forum**

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*The Forum is a partnership of individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sector, who are working together to promote a sustainable approach to the planning, management, use and development of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Zone.*

*The Forum is funded by Objective 1, with cash and in-kind support from: Milford Haven Port Authority, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire College, Pembrokeshire County Council, Countryside Council for Wales, Welsh Development Agency, Environment Agency, National Trust, Pembrokeshire Business Initiative, Pembrokeshire Chamber of Commerce, Crown Estates*