

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
Progress Report for the Management Group Meeting
Thursday 16th October 2003

1.0 Introduction

Since the last Management Group meeting the majority of time has been spent completing 10 Topic Papers, accessing funds for the joint Marine Code Outdoor Charter project and progressing the Forum marketing. David Gardner left the Forum in August, at the end of his 6 month contract.

2.0 Staff Training

- **Welsh language** – beginner's Welsh class, continued (TF).
- **National Trust Boat Trip** – Forum staff training day with Ian Bennett of the National Trust. Exploring the South Pembrokeshire coast, discussions were based around present and future management by the National Trust.
- **KL personal training** – Katherine is now undertaking a MA in Heritage Tourism at Trinity College, Carmarthen which will be completed in May 2004. She has temporarily reduced her working hours with the Forum to a four day week until the end of the course.

3.0 Events

- **Pembrokeshire County Show** – The Forum had a stand in the countryside section at the show and encouraged members of the public to complete the Forum questionnaire (11 individuals) with the incentive of a prize (MHPA Pilot boat trip up the Waterway).
- **EAW's Environment Protection Advisory Committee** – The Forum gave a presentation to the group on the work of the Forum.
- **Little Haven Coastal Surgery** – The last Surgery was held in Little Haven on 9th October and 20 individuals attended. The main issues raised were litter, dog fouling, water quality at Broadhaven North and within the Milford Haven Waterway and the lack of sheltered slipways and safe moorings in St Brides Bay.

4.0 Publicity & Marketing

- Jessa Fairbrother is now working a two day week with the Forum Team to assist in progressing the Forum PR and Marketing work. Work is now well underway on the following:-
 - **Leaflet** – To be tabled at MG meeting. We have Forum dispensers for the leaflets and are currently working with Kirsty Morris – Greenways Officer to develop joint distribution to minimise costs.
 - **Newsletter** – The 3rd newsletter has now been produced and KL is now working on issue 4 to be finalised for the next Forum meeting in December.
 - **Website** – Training is due to commence at the end of November and the site will be online shortly after that date. We are currently awaiting design work to be completed which will establish the Forum image to be used on all future Forum publications and displays.

- **Display panels** – Awaiting design completion before ordering.
- **Banners** – Purchased
- **T-Shirts** – Now purchased. To be used by Forum staff at Coastal Surgeries and other events to make sure we are easily identifiable.
- **Forum Fact Sheet** – To be tabled at MG meeting.
- **Press releases** – Regular articles have been placed in the local papers, on Pembrokeshire Radio and an article has also been placed in Park Life – PCNPA publication.

5.0 Communication

General Public

Individuals are now beginning to contact the Forum with concerns which are then added to our Topic Papers to be passed on to all statutory bodies.

Organisations/partnerships/committees

Although in the past few months time has not allowed for much input into other organisations and partnerships the Forum are regularly kept up to date with work. We have recently joined Antyr Cymru, a WTB initiative which is a national partnership for the outdoor adventure industry across Wales. The Forum has been invited to join the group to represent local interests. Once the Outdoor Charter / Marine Code officer has been recruited they will take on this role.

Consultations/projects

- Local
 - **Marine Code Working Group** – A meeting of the newly established Working Group was held to evaluate the pilot project during the middle of the season. There were no major concerns identified and it was agreed to continue with the maps in their current state until the next full operator meetings in October.
 - **St Justinian's** – PCF attended several meetings to assess the future development of the slipway at St. Justinian's. The matter has still not been resolved however the group have agreed to support a desk top study for a sustainable transport scheme to resolve some of the problems. It is clear from discussions however that the boat operators favoured option is a car parking facility at the site.
 - **Darwin Festival** – KL has continued to represent the Forum at these meetings.
 - **Darwin Feasibility Study consultation meeting** - PCF attended the final consultation meeting on the feasibility study for the Darwin Sabbatical Centre. It was very apparent that the initiative is now much more focussed on the scientific element to the work and they appear to have a clearer focus than at previous meetings. Papers on the findings have been circulated to MG members however the main conclusions of the study were to proceed with the concept in three distinct phases:-

1. maturing the festival and establishing a scientific reputation
 2. securing funding and designing a permanent sabbatical centre
 3. building and operating the centre
- **Communities & Education Topic Group Meeting** – The eleventh topic group meeting was held on 22nd July in Haverfordwest and attended by 14 individuals. The main focus of the meeting was to explain work to date of the Forum in relation to State of / Issues report development and then to analyse issues identified through the previous topic group meetings and add to or elaborate on where necessary. The issues have now been incorporated into all of the 10 existing topic papers.
 - **Meeting with Andrew Davies & Philip Evans** – TF was invited to join Andrew Davies, Minister for Economic Development on board Philip Evans' boat at Fishguard. Discussions were based on future developments of the Watersports industry, the need for improved facilities for boats and the proposed marina development in Fishguard. The Minister was also aware of both the Marine Code and Outdoor Charter project and was fully supportive of such initiatives, recognising their increasing importance with the development of the activity tourism and Watersports industry.
 - **Nic Ainger** – The Forum Team met with Nic Ainger to discuss progress to date. Nic now wishes to be more actively involved in Forum work and is to be copied all notes from MG meetings. He will also attempt to attend whenever possible.
 - **Severn Estuary meeting** – The Forum Team and Sue Burton met with Charlotte Street Severn Estuary Partnership Officer and Steve Knowles, Severn Estuary SAC Officer in Tenby to exchange information on project work. The meeting proved very beneficial and therefore the Forum will be visiting the Severn Estuary early next year to look develop these links further.
 - **SPEEL** – KL attended a meeting of the SPEEL Group. Much of the discussion was based around current environmental education initiatives. An assessment of materials and expertise has since been drawn together to enable sharing of resources to further improve educational activities for the future.
 - **South West Wales Regional Committee** – TF attended a meeting in St David's, the subject being Planning Aspects Associated with Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities in the Countryside. The well attended meeting attracted a broad range of individuals and organisations that had a lively debate with interesting discussion highlighting the complexity of the subject and the need for action. Points raised at the

meeting will be given to the National Assembly's Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee which has launched an affordable housing inquiry.

- National
 - **WTB Watersports Strategy** – The Forum are currently responding to a consultation response paper on the Watersports strategy which will be circulated to MG members prior to going to WTB. We will be attending the Watersports conference in Aberystwyth on 2nd December to discuss the work in greater detail.
 - **ICZM Stocktake Meeting** – The stocktake meeting for Wales was held in Newtown on September 4th. Turn out was not as high as was expected with a few notable absentees including the industry sector, WAG, WDA, Crown Estates and WCMP. The meeting took the form of a workshop with breakout groups looking at key ICZM issues. The findings of this event have been forwarded to the MG electronically and will be available in hard copy at the MG meeting.
 - **Coastnet Conference Marine Spatial Planning** – EH attended.
- International
 - **Shannon Development** – TF was invited to Limerick in Ireland to give a presentation to Shannon Development Working Group on the development of ICZM in Pembrokeshire. Professor Peter Burbridge from Newcastle University also gave an interesting talk on the economic benefits from adopting an ICM approach.

In 1999 a Steering Group was established for the Shannon Estuary to progress the proposal for an ICZM project. Since that time very little progress has been made due to a general lack of support. The group are now looking to re-launch their work and take it forward to the next stage.

6.0 Future Events

- **CZMNet Dublin** – EH is to attend the first in a series of three ICZM Conferences between Wales and Ireland over the next two years. The purpose of the events is to share experiences related to ICZM in West Wales and South and East Ireland and strengthen the network of contacts and information which enhance such management.
- **Coastal Surgeries** – The next Coastal Surgery is on November 26th at Milford Haven Town Hall.
- **Reception with Prime Minister & Mrs Blair** – TF has been invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street on 22nd October in recognition of work to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.