

PEMBROKESHIRE COASTAL FORUM

MANAGEMENT GROUP

6 FEBRUARY 2003-02-17

NOTES OF THE MEETING

1. The following were present:

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| Edward Holdaway | Chairman |
| Nic Wheeler | Pembrokeshire Coast National Park |
| David Worrall | Countryside Council for Wales |
| Steven Hurr | Pembrokeshire County Council |
| Paul Varallo | Environment Agency Wales |
| Steve Morris | Pembrokeshire College |
| Ted Sangster | Milford Haven Port Authority |
| Alison Smith | Welsh Development Agency |
| Tonia Forsyth | Forum Officer |

Apologies were received from Carolyn Heeps of the Crown Estate

2. The Chairman's report [tabled] was noted, in particular the comments about the great interest nationally about the work of local fora and the opportunity presented by the forthcoming preparation of ICZM strategies in the four nations of UK for securing a sound basis for the long term funding of local fora. Nic Wheeler agreed to raise this latter issue in the next meeting of the WCMP.
3. **Item 2 Forum Officer's progress report.** The report [circulated in advance] was noted. Tonia was congratulated on the progress that had been made in the first year, despite the set backs in relation to the post of Assistant Forum Officer.
4. **Item 3 Forum priorities.** The priorities set out in section 9 of the Forum Officer's report were agreed. The Group was particularly concerned that progress should be made towards the preparation of the ICZM strategy.
 - Topic Groups – due to the quantity of work it was agreed that each topic group will need a 'driver' to assist in the process and groups may have to be prioritised according to relevance in Pembrokeshire.
 - Fisheries – the group would be looking to assistance with other partners in organising this event. MHPA offered their support, particularly in identifying future trends of the industry.
 - Aggregates – it was agreed that the Forum wait for the outcome of the PCC study before organising a meeting to discuss aggregate dredging.
5. **Item 4 Marine Code / Outdoor Charter Group.** The Forum Officer described progress on these two initiatives and the catalytic role played by the Forum. The approach adopted by TF was seen to be just what the Forum should be doing. It was agreed that TF should write to the key organisations involved, alerting them to the current funding situation and the possibilities for continuing these initiatives. **Action TF**
6. **Item 6 Future of the Forum.** The paper prepared by Edward Holdaway was discussed at some length. In introducing the paper EH emphasised the unusual nature of the Forum, which was very much a creature of the organisations that had set it up and does not have a life of its own. Accordingly it was down to the organisations that set it up to secure its future. It was agreed that any discussion of the Forum's future should be undertaken in the context of the future for ICZM in Pembrokeshire. It was generally agreed that there is likely to be a future for the Forum, though what shape it would take and what tasks it would undertake would depend on the outcome of the

ICZM strategy which is not due for completion until the end of 2004. It was recognised, however, that an interim approach would need to be adopted, based on the current level of Forum resources to carry on its work after the Objective 1 funding comes to an end in December 2004. Members of the Group advised that a proposal for a further 3-year package should be prepared by September at the latest. In putting any proposals together the experience of other similar Fora should be drawn upon.

7. **Item 7 Consultations.** The paper prepared by EH was agreed as a basis for responding to consultations relating to the government consultation Seas of Change, the SAC issues document and the Community plan for Pembrokeshire. It was agreed that the responses should focus on any issues of integration and how the Forum might play a part in implementing any plans.

8. **Item 8 Project Finances** – EH introduced a tabled paper reviewing the first years income and expenditure. He highlighted the cash underspend and the ‘in kind’ overspend during the year and the fact that over the three years the balance would have to be reversed, in order to ensure the draw down of EU funds. Looking to the next two years he indicated the need to vire funds from Research/information gathering and marketing into the salaries budget [£5669] and to cover T&S [£2033]. It is hoped to replenish those headings from which funds are to be vired through an approach to the Regional Tourism partnership. The Group agreed the recommendations, including the recast budget, with the proviso that the funds for research were not to be devoted solely to buying in manpower for the Forum – some of it should go to local partners to carry out research for us. EH pointed out that the recast budget would need to be agreed with WEFO.

9. **Date of next meeting – Thursday 1 May 2003 2pm MHPA**