

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

Progress Report & Forum Priorities for the Management Group Meeting

Thursday 6th February 2003

1.0 Introduction

Once again we are in the position whereby we are in the process of recruitment for the Assistant Forum Officer post. This has led to a significant set back in the Forum's already tight work programme. This paper will identify the work that the Forum has been involved in since the last Steering Committee meeting.

An additional paper will then begin to address some of the changes required in forum priorities due to a combination of factors, including the lack of administrative support over an extensive period of time.

2.0 Recruitment of Forum Team

We will be interviewing for both the new Assistant Forum Officer and the Research Assistant posts on Thursday 13th February.

3.0 Project Finances

- Financial Summary – Please see attached document.
- WEFO claims – The fifth WEFO claim has now been submitted with the next claim due at the beginning of April.
- In Kind Contributions – Due to the loss of Pembrokeshire Collages time to the project we are now significantly down on In Kind hours for WEFO claims however this is temporary as once the Topic Groups and Steering Committee are formed the in kind contributions will increase significantly.
- Invoices – we are still in the process of gathering financial contributions from some partners.

4.0 Staff Training

- **WCVA** – Attended a two day facilitation course in October 2002
- **Welsh language** – beginners Welsh class, continued.
- **Computer Training** – in house computer training on Access database

5.0 Events

- ICZM Conference – DEFRA, London
- CMS Coastal Futures Conference – London
- KWTC annual Conference
- WTB Watersports Wales Conference
- WTB Adventure Tourism Conference – soapbox session
- Green Seas Initiative – Presentation on PCF

6.0 Publicity & Marketing

- Met with David Reed to discuss the marketing of the Forum. It was felt that there was a need to develop the following
 - Corporate image for the Forum
 - Production of leaflet/fact sheet/website/display boards in line with corporate image
- Website – I am currently awaiting the arrival of the Forum Team before instigating the significant changes required on the website as recommended by PBI
- Newsletter – The second edition of the Newsletter was produced in December prior to the Forum meeting
- Forum Fact Sheet – produced a Forum Fact Sheet to outline the history, aims and objectives, structure and work of the Forum
- Newspaper – all events have been advertised in the local paper as well as on the local radio

7.0 Communication

General Public

- Coastal Surgeries – (Newport, November 2002) This event proved to be the most successful event to date with over 30 individuals attending with a broad range of issues. The main concerns were related to coastal erosion, the Shoreline Management Plan and the ad hoc methods of obtaining moorings.
- Coastal Forum – The first full Forum meeting was held at Cleddau Bridge Hotel in December 2002. With over 70 individuals and organisations in attendance, it proved to be a very successful event. Presentations were given by the Forum Team about the progress and work of the Forum as well as priorities for the forthcoming two remaining years of the project. After discussion several other ideas were added to the priorities including litter, pollution inputs into the Waterway. Other presentations were given by Philippa Dodd on the Community plan and Madeline Havard on the Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership and how PCF links into this process.

Organisations/partnerships/committees

The Forum have continued to work with existing and new contacts in organisations, partnerships and committees within and outside of Pembrokeshire. We have also now joined the WTB Watersports Wales Steering Committee to ensure that the principles of ICZM are fed into the process of developing both watersports and activity tourism in Wales in the near future. We have also been invited to join Arfordir (All Wales Local Authority Coastal Group).

Consultations/projects

- Local
 - Marine code – The forum have spent a great deal of time preparing for a full meeting of all operators, conservationists, Marine police, MCA etc. The main bulk of time has been spent meeting with all of the marine wildlife boat operators and dive boat operators for the whole of Pembrokeshire and organising / chairing two marine code meetings with the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, CCW, RSPB, PCNPA and Marine Police Unit. Further details of this work will be discussed in the attached paper.

- WTB Outdoor Recreation Strategy – Met with Andrew Keeling, WTB to discuss Strategy and encourage them ensure partnership and sustainable development underpin all future promotion and development of Outdoor Activity's in Wales. Also looked at potential funding opportunities for both POCG and the Marine Code Group. PCF were pleased to see that all the above points have been addressed in the strategy.
- Helicopter flights Operator – Held a public meeting in Tenby to discuss the proposed development of the company to provide scenic flights in the Tenby/Saundersfoot area.
- ICZMap – PCF hosted a second meeting of the ICZMap team to discuss the future pilot of the Welsh element of this project. Following this work was carried out to identify any further interest in the project locally, particularly within the oil industry. A student from Pembrokeshire College, Sarah Lockwood is now assisting the forum in developing this project. The main aim is to allow local organisations to test the new GIS package and to identify levels of current GIS work within the county and packages used. The PCF visited Ordnance Survey in Southampton during January to further discuss the project before the data arrives with the Forum in February 2003. All who try the package will have to complete licensing agreements and follow up questionnaires. This will then hopefully ascertain the requirements within the county for such a package in the future.
- MOD Briefing – PCF attended the briefing and have now identified a mechanism for communicating with the sea angling community. Over 160 individual sea anglers attended briefings in 2002 so the MOD have now been provided with the Tidy Tackle Campaign packs for this year. There is still a great deal of potential work to be done with this.
- Castle Pill Boat Club – PCF met with the club to discuss some of their concerns regarding sewage inputs into the Milford Haven Waterway.
- Fresh Adventure – This newly established outdoor activity centre were given advise on ICZM & the POCG, local interpretation and essential contacts for business development - particularly related to the discharge of sewage from Freshwater East and potential problems that may arise when Coasteering next to the discharge pipe.
- St. Justinians – PCF assisted the PCNPA in organising a public meeting to identify a way forward for future management of the peninsula taking into account the needs of the local businesses, community, City Council, Environment and future Eco-City Status for St David's.
- National
 - Carmarthen Coastal Strategy Group – PCF attended their last meeting to give a presentation on the Forum and to advise them on community consultation techniques for involvement in coastal management for the future.
 - WCMP – PCF hosted the third meeting of the Partnership in November 2002 at Milford Haven Port Authority. Following the meeting Ted Sangster gave a tour of port control and a talk on port operations. This was followed by a boat trip up the waterway with Richard Ayre to view his tidal energy project.
 - WTB Activity Tourism Conference – PCF gave a presentation on the importance of addressing the principles of ICZM in future tourism development, particularly

concentrating on sustainable development, local partnerships and community involvement in activity development. The main recommendation from this talk was that the WTB provide funding for both the Marine Code and Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group for the future.

- Green Seas Partnership – PCF gave a presentation to the partnership working group on Forum work. It was very well received and stimulated a great deal of discussion. The Forum have now been asked to attend the main Green Seas Forum meeting and deliver the same presentation. The aim is for the group to seek agreement from the Forum to incorporate a new objective in their work programme - to encourage the establishment of other coastal Forum's throughout Wales, possibly in the form of a joint Objective One or INTERREG III bid. PCF also encouraged the group to make contact with the WCMP.

9.0 Forum Team Priorities (*in order of priority*)

- Topic Groups – In order to meet our targets for Objective One, the Forum must now place the development of the Topic Groups as its main priority over the next year. Without this structure we will not be able to meet the timescale for Strategy Development.
- Coastal Surgeries – These will continue throughout the duration of the project, however priority must be given to topic groups at this stage. The next two locations identified for surgeries are Broadhaven North and Dale.
- Marketing – We still have no leaflet or image for the Forum. This could be one of the tasks given to the Assistant once in post. A corporate image could also help to identify improvements to the website which urgently needs to be improved.
- Marine Code – PCF will continue to work on the development of a marine code for Pembrokeshire which will include identifying funding for the production of information packs and training. They will also be looking to assist the operators in eco-tourism marketing.
- Fisheries – Once the Fisheries & Aquaculture group is established the group could look to the need for a conference, topics to be covered, potential speakers and timing (hopefully to fit in with the Welsh Fisheries Strategy consultation period)
- Aggregates – There is a need for the Forum to organise a meeting with all bodies involved with the dredging of aggregate materials on the Nobel Banks. It may be appropriate to wait until the PCC study of Tenby South Beach has been completed.
- Coastal Directory – Due to the limited response to date to the Directory, it is suggested that this project be given low priority.

10.0 Management Group Priorities

- To support the work of the Forum Team and in particular assist in the development of the Topic Groups and data gathering for each of the eleven topic areas.
- If the Management Group see a future role for the Forum after current funding ends – to secure future funding and support for the Forum.
- To disseminate information on the Forum work within own organisations and partnerships