

## **MOU Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group – Swansea University**

### **Introduction**

1. Swansea University is aware that some local stakeholders remain concerned about the proposed Seagrass Ocean Rescue project. For this reason, the project is anxious to ensure an agreed means of allaying such concerns and to ensure harmonious working relations with positive outcomes. At a community meeting (02/12/2019) it was agreed that an MoU be developed between all the key groupings.
2. This MoU has been created to guide the continued working relationship between Swansea University and its Seagrass Ocean Rescue project with the Seagrass Stakeholder Group (SSG).
3. Swansea University believes that the SSG is the appropriate grouping with which to establish an MoU, as it incorporates statutory organisations, other users and importantly the Dale community.
4. The overarching remit of the MoU is to enabling and ensuring the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project can work in partnership with stakeholders and the Dale Community.
5. It is envisaged that this MOU is an evolving document working to build upon and support (it cannot replace) existing reassurances provided by the PMSAC - RAG (the addendum) and communications from NRW and WG.

### **Understandings and Commitments**

6. Swansea University understands the sensitivity of the proposals to plant 2 hectares of seagrass in Dale Roads given the continued use of the site for boating, fishing, recreation and other maritime activities. It also understands that boat anchoring in Dale Roads in the area of the proposed planting is an accepted risk to the proposed Seagrass Ocean Rescue project.
7. Swansea University wishes to continue to work with local people and major regulatory stakeholders and therefore commits to:
  - a. Hold regular meetings, (timetable to be agreed) to include site meetings to discuss, review and when needed amend planned work.
  - b. To ensure that all activities are clearly explained, transparent and work in agreement with the outcomes of such meetings.
  - c. Swansea University also understands the sensitivity of previous seagrass planting trials in Dale, and as an undertaking of good faith will remove all previous trials placed in Dale Roads (Bay), by the end of April 2020 as weather allows.
  - d. Provide a baseline marine habitat report to the SSG of Dale Roads targeting the specific areas of planting and the inclusion of the locations of previous trials.
  - e. Swansea University wishes to support the Dale community and so commits to progress the provision of visitor moorings.
  - f. Swansea University wishes to reiterate its commitment to the continued long-term development of the project and our aim of working in a collegiate manner with local people and the SSG at the site.
  - g. Swansea University see the value of the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project for assisting with improving water quality within the Milford Haven Waterway and commit to support local people and the SSG to ensure the maximum benefit of the project for leveraging environmental improvement.
  - h. Swansea University wishes to reiterate that as a public body it has full public liability insurance that covers all its operations (including but not limited to Seagrass Ocean Rescue) (to a value of £50 million) and will obtain all necessary licences, from all appropriate regulatory bodies e.g. Relevant Authorities Group, NRW, Harbour Authority etc.