

FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM - CORE GROUP MEETING

4 November 2002 – Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Premises, Prestwick

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Arthur Keller (**AK**), SNH (Chair)
David Ross (**DR**), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Ian Johnson (**IG**), Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transport Committee
Allan Mowat (**AM**), Scottish Water
Stuart MacQuarrie (**SM**), Project Officer Firth of Clyde Forum
Angus Clark (**AK**), Argyll and Bute Council
Rupert Ormond (**RO**), University Marine Biological Station

1. Apologies

Mike Balmforth (**MB**), British Marine Federation Scotland
Fiona Simpson (**FS**), Crown Estate
Ethel-May Abel (**EMA**), Glasgow City Council, Planning Department
Simon Zisman (**SZ**), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Lynn Rew (**LR**), Scottish Enterprise, Dunbartonshire
Marty Cox (**MC**), Project Officer Scottish Coastal Forum

2. Minutes of last meeting

AK offered those present to raise any issues relating to the minutes from the last meeting.
There was no action arising

3. Summary of Phase II Action Plan

1.3 Establish regular liaison between fisheries and other user groups

Contact with fisheries had been established and the Forum was awaiting information about a proposed meeting to take place between the RSPB, UMBSM, SNH and the Clyde Fisherman's Association. The Forum had been invited to take part in this meeting. RO suggested that SM liase with the UMBSM about progress on this action.

ACTION: SM to establish whether there is still momentum for this meeting. If so SM will liase with RO about an appropriate date.

2.1/2.2 Monitor and report on cross Firth progress on transport links through WESTRANS

IJ highlighted the issue of possible expansion of the local paper factory (Caley Paper) and the knock on effects that this would have on timber supply from Argyll. At present there was no movement on this aspect of transportation until the future of the paper factory was clearer. IJ also suggested that the Forum respond to proposals for tendering Clyde and Hebrides lifeline ferry services.

ACTION: SM to investigate what stage the tender process is at and whether the Forum can submit a response to the tender proposals. IJ to provide SM with WESTRANS response for reference.

3.2/3.3 Report on Clyde Corridor Regeneration Initiative

Scottish Enterprise have accepted an invite to speak at the Forum's forthcoming conference and they will present progress on the Clyde Corridor Initiative.

4.1 Set up a meeting of the area tourist boards with the intention of producing a Clyde wide guide to leisure.

Links with the Tourist boards are proving difficult to progress. SM highlighted the fact that other Firth Fora were having little success in this area. IJ suggested that it might take time to build up contacts in order to progress this action further.

5.3 Assist in promoting campaigns to prevent beach litter.

AK invited SM to summarise the proposed Clyde Litter Symposium. SM reviewed the background to the event which the Forum was organising on request from Argyll and Bute Council. The event will take place on the 19 November at the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh. Speakers from the Marine Conservation Society, Clean Coast Scotland and Group Recycling Argyll and Bute will present material relating to community action and beach cleaning.

6.1 Review contents of local plans in order to facilitate inclusion of coastal issues.

AK reviewed this action and why it was included in this Action Plan. IJ and RO endorsed the Action and suggested that the Forum would be an ideal holding area for such material.

ACTION: IJ to pass on details of the Ayrshire local plans to SM which relate to the coastal zone.

6.2 Undertake coastal survey work (flora/fauna and archaeological)

RO reviewed a submitted bid for money to undertake coastal survey work but it was unfortunately unsuccessful. He noted that SNH was involved with an Ayrshire grassland survey which may have a coastal component.

SM reviewed the progress of the shorewatch scheme and the survey work already undertaken. There are three groups established with the possibility of another two.

ACTION: AK to investigate the Ayrshire grassland survey work and report back as to how much coastal emphasis this project will have.

7/15.1/14.3 Facilitate a meeting of existing maritime resources.

This action slips due to time constraints.

12.1 Develop the website including information on bird distribution statistics and LBAP data.

RO complemented SM on the accessibility of information on the website. Bird distribution data will be included as a follow up within the next issue of the Newsletter.

13.1 Encourage riparian landowners to include waterfront access.

This action is ongoing.

14 Tapestry project

SM reviewed the rationale behind the tapestry project and detailed the Crown Estate Community Grant Scheme and application that had been submitted jointly with the Firth of Clyde Forum. The Forum was awaiting feedback from the Crown Estates.

14.4 Develop schools poster

This action will be progressed early next year as stated in the AP.

15.1 Provide a continual seminar series to promote debate and information exchange.

SM reviewed the plans for the Clyde Catchment Conference: Living and Working with the River. This led to a general discussion about the SCF national coastal strategy and IJ proposed that an action be included in the next meeting for Martyn Cox to present progress on the strategy.

ACTION: SM to circulate details of the ICZM conference sponsored by DEFRA and Coastnet's 'Coastal Futures' conference. SM to approach Martyn Cox and ask him to give the Forum a progress report on the National Strategy.

4) Financial Situation of the Forum

AK reminded Core Group members of the financial status of the Forum and the fact that resources are not currently in place to progress the Phase II action plan in its current form. IJ confirmed that north and south Ayrshire had agreed in principle to

finance the Forum over f/y 2003/04. This was welcomed by AK. AM asked what the current financial status was. AK confirmed that SNH had a 50% funding commitment to 2005 but that SEPA were the only other organisation that had promised to contribute.

5) Any Other Business

SM highlighted the approach from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park concerning the fact that they wanted to be involved with a promotional leaflet of the marine coastline of the national park. IJ suggested that we should be careful about how the leaflet was pitched and AK agreed. It was concluded that any leaflet should take in the whole marine context of the Firth and not just the small stretch of national park. SM would meet with the park rangers and find out more about their aims and objectives. Issue 2 of Clyde Breakers will be released early in the new year.

6) Date of Next Core Group Meeting

The next core group meeting will take place in February. A suitable date will be agreed upon through consultation with all core group members.