



FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM CORE GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday 17th November 2004
at Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team Office, Prestwick

Present: Karen Wright, SNH Chair of Forum Core Group
Julia MacPherson, Firth of Clyde Forum Project Officer
Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise
Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
Toby Wilson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
Rupert Ormond, University Marine Biological Station
Zoe Clelland, RSPB
David Robinson, Clydeport
Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council

Apologies: Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base Clyde
Ron Bailey, Clydeport
Robin Edgar, Glasgow and Clyde Structure Plan Team
David Ross, SEPA
Stephen Midgley, Scottish Coastal Forum
Mike Balmforth, British Marine Industries Federation
Kevin Williams, Argyll and Bute Council
Jeremy Glen, Royal Yachting Association
Vincent Goodstadt, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team
Steve Marshall, West Dunbartonshire Council
Mearns McCaskie, Argyll and Islands Enterprise
Lynn Rew, Scottish Enterprise, Dunbartonshire

1. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting (24th August 2004) and Matters Arising

Jean Curran asked Julia MacPherson to add that other partners had also contributed to the Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Plan mentioned in Ethel-May Abel's update in the last minutes. Following this, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Discharged action points:

Action Point August 2: JM to circulate Water Framework Directive Characterisation Report from website to Core Group members.

Discharged. JM circulated report 31/8/04.

Action Point August 4: JM to post Clyde archaeological survey report on the Forum website when available.

Discharged. JM posted archaeological survey details on website on 21/10/04.

Action Point August 5. JM to circulate reports from the Imagine Scotland event.

Discharged. JM circulated report on 24/8/04.

Action Point August 6: JM to contact Roderick McCulloch, Historic Scotland, to obtain link to Scottish Burgh Survey for website.

Discharged. JM contacted RM. Waiting for reply and link to the website.

Action Point August 7: **Archie Campbell to send JM updates on the Garelochhead Training Area Conservation Group.**

Discharged. AC is sending updates as they are available.

Action Point August 8. JM to keep Core Group informed as plans for next seminar develop.

Discharged. JM updated group on seminar plans.

Action Point August 12: JM to circulate Creative Clyde information to the Core Group and keep them informed of developments.

Discharged. JM circulated all available info.

Action Point August 13: JM to invite Bill Burns to speak about the Hunterston Container development at the next Core Group meeting.

Discharged. JM invited Bill Burns and he agreed to present at November meeting.

Action Point August 17: JM to investigate the possibility of INTERREG funding in discussion with Stephen Midgley.

Discharged. JM investigated, but deadline for the application was too soon for us to be able to apply. It was agreed that in future we need to find out about such funding opportunities earlier.

Action point August 18: Rupert Ormond to send JM a newsletter article about the basking shark survey in order to publicise it and to encourage sightings to be reported.

Discharged. RO sent basking shark article which was included in newsletter.

Action point August 19: JM to include basking shark article in next Clyde Breakers newsletter.

Discharged. Basking shark article included in newsletter published November 2005.

Action point August 22. JM to change conference title to a new, more appropriate one.

Discharged. Conference title changed to Transport in the Firth of Clyde: Is Integration Possible?

Action point August 23: JM to follow up suggested speakers and to write to the Transport Minister inviting him to give the key note speech.

Discharged. JM contacted suggested speakers and wrote to the Transport Minister inviting him to give the key note speech.

Action point August 24: JM to speak to Argyll and Bute Council regarding private service out of Troon and timber import to Troon.

Discharged. JM invited local timber transporters to the conference, some of whom did attend.

Action point August 25: JM to investigate including a session on cycling/walking in the conference program.

Discharged. Michael Addiscott, Cycling Scotland spoke on cycling/walking opportunities around the Clyde at the conference.

Action Point August 26: JM to keep the Core Group informed of further developments with the proposed Scottish Coastal Partnership and response from SCF to the partnerships' joint letter.

Discharged. JM reported back to the Core Group that a meeting with SCF to discuss the role of SCF and its relationship with the local coastal partnerships was arranged for 13th December.

Action Point November 1: JM to report outcome of December meeting with SCF at next Core Group meeting.

Action point August 27: JM to arrange a meeting with the Clyde pilot project consultants, the Scottish Executive and the Core Group as soon as possible.

Discharged. A meeting was held with the Clyde pilot project consultants, the Scottish Executive and the Core Group in September to discuss the Clyde Pilot Project.

Action point August 28: JM to circulate the link to the SSMEI website.

Discharged. JM circulated the link at the end of August.

Action point August 29: Core Group members to send any comments on the Clyde Pilot project proposal to JM by the end of August.

Discharged. Comments received from the Core Group and fed back to the consultants.

Ongoing action points

Action Point August 1: Stephen Midgley to send JM copies of tourism brochure if more are obtained.

Carried forward. SM sent apologies for meeting and hopes to have further copies by new year.

Action Point November 2: SM to send JM tourism brochure when more are obtained.

Action point August 3: JM to incorporate SNH PR Officer's comments and circulate resulting PR plan.

Carried forward. PR plan drafted and sent to SNH PR Officer whose comments have still to be incorporated.

Action Point November 3: JM to finalise draft PR plan and circulate to Core Group.

Action Point August 9. JM to circulate the Scottish Coastal Forum Strategy to the Core Group.

Action Point August 10. JM to collate comments and respond to the Scottish Coastal Forum Strategy consultation by end of consultation period.

Action Points 9 and 10 carried forward.

Action Point November 4: JM to circulate the Scottish Coastal Forum Strategy and send draft response to the Core Group before Christmas.

Action Point August 14: JM to circulate River Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Annual Report leaflet once received.

Carried Forward. Ethel-May Abel reported leaflet not yet available.

Action Point November 5: JM to circulate leaflet once its received.

Action Point August 15: JM to put Clyde Waterfront Regeneration website and reports on the Firth of Clyde Forum website and to circulate to Core Group.

Carried forward.

Action Point November 6: JM post and report details on the Firth of Clyde Forum website and circulate to the Core Group.

Action Point August 20: JM to investigate marine identification guides for ships to use to report sightings.

Carried forward.

Action Point November 7: JM to investigate marine identification guides for ships to use to report sightings.

Action Point August 21: JM to pass Rupert Ormond Phil Johnson's contact details regarding dolphin surveys.

Carried forward.

Action Point November 8: JM to get contact details to RO.

2. Update from Project Officer

Annual Conference

Much of the time since the last meeting was spent on organising the conference. See separate agenda item.

Fisheries update

The Clyde fisheries project is a partnership project involving Seafish, SNH, the Marine Station Millport and WWF Scotland. Funding to match that received from the European FIGG fund has been received and the project is to go ahead. Interviews for the Project Officer will take place before Christmas. Rupert Ormond reported that there is also a scientific program of four to six projects which is being done by the marine station. This includes work on scampi and benthic habitat mapping. This will also feed into future offshore marine planning work.

Tourism brochure progress

Work on this is ongoing. JM has gathered good examples of similar publications, but due to volume of other work has not made much further progress.

Education Poster

JM has drafted an outline for the poster and is meeting with staff from the Clyde in the Classroom project and the Glasgow Science Centre before Christmas in order to develop this further.

Ethel May Abel reported that Glasgow City Council is in discussions with Glasgow Science Centre about water safety and creating links with the Glasgow River Festival. She suggested that links with this project should be included in the education poster.

Clydebreakers newsletter

The first edition of the Clyde Breakers newsletter was published at the beginning of November. JM thanked all for their contributions.

PR Coverage

JM reported that there was much press interest in the conference before and on the day. The Core Group asked whether a report would be made available of the press coverage.

Action Point November 9: JM to provide the Core Group with a press cuttings package for the conference and any other Forum projects.

Consultations

Following comments from Core Group members, JM responded to Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and the Scottish Executive Management of Inshore Fisheries consultations at the end of August.

3. Core Group Members' Updates

Ethel May Abel, Glasgow City Council

River Clyde Waterfront Regeneration report was launched in July and the leaflet is due for publication in December.

British Waterways report is still in draft format. The Council will discuss the draft in December before completion by the consultants. Report considers use of the river and integration with land uses.

The installation of a new 36m pontoon is planned either at the city centre or the Glasgow Science Centre by the end of March 2005. This may also act as a place to join the seaplane, but only if located at the Science Centre.

Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team

Working on timetable for the structure plan. Reported a high response rate to consultation process, but a lack of community involvement which was concerning. There was also a lack of comments on the environmental issues. The comments should be incorporated by March 2005.

Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan is responding to the Scottish Coastal Forum Strategy. They feel that marine spatial planning will become increasingly important and are intending to discuss marine issues further. Toby Wilson is to development expertise and take ICZM forward. Ian Johnson reported that there are environmental issues associated with the Clyde which need some solution to facilitate tourism for the councils and the local enterprise companies. These marine issues need to be linked and then better related to onshore activities.

Karen Wright questioned whether any other coastal local authorities are taking up marine issues. She suggested that the Irish Sea Pilot project could provide helpful information and suggested that Steve Atkins, Irish Sea Pilot Project Officer, should speak at the next core group meeting.

Action Point November 10. JM to invite Steve Atkins to speak at the next Core Group meeting.

Toby Wilson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team

Toby reported that he has had a meeting with the British Geological Survey who operate a wide remit on the west coast of Scotland covering marine geology and including oil drilling etc.

Action Point November 11. TW to pass British Geological Survey contact details to JM for info.

Zoe Clelland, RSPB Scotland

Zoe explained that she replaces Simon Zisman on the Core Group as RSPB representative. Simon has responsibility for the Inner Clyde area while Zoe is responsible for south of the Clyde including Ailsa Craig, Arran and the Ayrshire coast. It was therefore felt more logical for her to sit on the Core Group and pass particular Inner Clyde issues to Simon when they arise.

The work on Ailsa Craig is mainly continuing work with Girvin to develop interpretation etc for the island.

Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise

Jean updated the group on the Pacific Quay digital campus plans.

Creative Clyde: Scottish Enterprise has been leading on this and are progressing it to capture ideas. They are planning to produce a catalogue of the Clyde's creativity which sets it apart from other river city developments.

Scottish Enterprise is also looking at a wider events strategy, including the Glasgow River Festival etc.

The Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Group has held its first partnership meeting. The partners include local authorities, Scottish Enterprise, Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive. They plan to appoint an independent chair and a small executive team to administer the project. The team will consist of a director, project officer, marketing officer and admin support. These staff are to be based in the Glasgow Science Centre. An independent chair is being appointed. The primary role of this group is to promote the Clyde regeneration and to advocate cross-boundary issues, river engineering etc. As the Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Plan identified the need for public sector investment in transport and engineering between Glasgow Green and the Erskine Bridge, it was thought to be important to include a marketing officer in the project team.

David Robinson, Clydeport

DR reported that the planning application for Rothesay Dock has been submitted. It should be considered by early 2005.

Rupert Ormond, Marine Station Millport

RO has set up a scientific program, linked to the Clyde Fisheries Project. Between four and six projects will be done by the marine station including studies on scampi and benthic habitat mapping. The results of these studies will then feed into offshore marine planning.

The Marine Station is also working on Ailsa Craig and may be collaborating with the Marine Conservation Society and Callum Duncan on marine spatial planning issues.

4. Forum Annual Conference – Transport in the Firth of Clyde Post Event Discussion

There was a general discussion on the transport conference and how members of the Core Group felt it had gone. Karen Wright commented that the appropriateness of the location outweighed the logistical and acoustic problems. David Robinson agreed that while the venue was good, the acoustics were bad. Toby Wilson commented that it presented a good mix of history and future projects including both the current situation and innovative new ideas. TW also suggested that, the next time, a summary of the talks should be provided in the delegate packs. JM mentioned that the unusual choice of venue contributed to a high level of press interest. JM was asked to provide a pack of cuttings from the day.

See Action Point November 9.

Ethel-May Abel commented, as did many of the feedback forms, on the fact that the lack of discussion time meant that the integration aspect of the day was lost somewhat.

5. Any other Business

None.

6. Presentation – Hunterston Container Hub Development, Bill Burns, Clydeport

Bill Burns, Managing Director for the Hunterston Container Hub Development presented the plans to the Core Group. The presentation is attached with these minutes.

Questions were raised about the environmental impact and why a low environmental impact was predicted so far. Zoe Clelland expressed that the RSPB had not yet been involved in the discussions. BB explained that only an initial environmental study had been done using existing environmental information. An environmental consultant will be appointed to scope and carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment. An economic impact assessment will also be produced. The business plan will be produced by January 2005 after which Clydeport will commence the planning application process.

Rupert Ormond cautioned against creating jobs at the container hub which may lead, at the same time, to loss of jobs, for example, in the fishing and tourism sectors.

7. Vote of Thanks

Karen Wright expressed her thanks to Bill Burns on behalf of the Core Group for his interesting and detailed presentation.

KW also thanked Ian Johnson and Toby Wilson for providing the meeting venue and lunch.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th February 2005 at SNH Clydebank Offices, 1000 till 1230 followed by lunch.