



FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM CORE GROUP

Minutes of Meeting
held on Wednesday 24th August 2004
at Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team Offices,
Glasgow

Present: Karen Wright, SNH Chair of Forum Core Group
Julia MacPherson, Firth of Clyde Forum Project Officer
Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base Clyde
Robin Edgar, Glasgow and Clyde Structure Plan Team
Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
Toby Wilson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
Helen Kennedy, The Crown Estate
June Francis, The Crown Estate
Stephen Midgley, Scottish Coastal Forum
David Ross, SEPA
Rupert Ormond, University Marine Biological Station
Simon Zisman, RSPB
David Robinson, Clydeport
Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council

Apologies: Ron Bailey, Clydeport
Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise
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 (19th May 2004) and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Discharged action points:

Action Point May 2: Robin Edgar to send Julia MacPherson the Central Scotland Forest Trust tourism brochure.

Discharged: RE gave JM a copy at Forum seminar in June.

Action Point May 3: Julia MacPherson to search Google for "Clyde" to determine how easy it is to find the Firth of Clyde Forum website on the internet.

Discharged: JM reported results of search. Typing "Clyde" into Google and searching the UK internet pages only, gives the FoCF website sixth on the list. Searching the whole internet gives FoCF website near the bottom of the second page of results. If search is done on "Firth of Clyde Forum", our website is top hit even when searching the entire internet.

JM concluded that FoCF website is reasonably visible on the internet provided either the whole title is used or only UK internet pages are searched.

Action Point May 5: David Ross to send Water Framework Directive Characterisation Report to JM as soon when available.

Discharged. Characterisation Report now available on the SEPA website.

Action Point May 6: JM to collate Forum comments on the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Planning consultation and prepare response by end of consultation period.

Discharged: JM submitted a response on behalf of the Forum on the 21st July. JM also contributed to the joint response submitted jointly by all the local coastal partnerships.

Action Point May 7: Ethel May Abel to provide an update on the flood attenuation study and the British Waterway Study at next meeting.

Discharged: EMA gave update, see Core Group members' updates.

Action Point May 8: All to let JM know ideas for Core Group meeting presentations.

Discharged: Core Group has been providing suggestions for meeting presentations.

Action Point May 11: JM to post information on wire weed on Forum website.

Discharged. JM posted info on FoCF website.

Action Point May 12: All Forum Core Group members to send JM any newsletter articles before end of July 2004.

Discharged. JM thanked Core Group members for articles received.

Action Point May 13: JM to circulate info on the Imagine Scotland Waverley trip and to seek further info as required.

Discharged. JM circulated info and Charlie Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park attended on the FoCF's behalf. JM also met with organiser Margaret Wright to discuss potential follow-up projects.

Action Point May 14: JM to keep Core Group informed of developments on Lighthouse architectural website project.

Discharged. No further developments.

Action Point May 16: Helen Kennedy to give presentation at next Core Group meeting.

Discharged. HK gave presentation. See below.

Action Point May 19: JM to contact Calmac Ferries re conference.

Discharged. JM contacted Calmac and they have agreed in principle to take part in the conference.

Action Point May 20: JM to follow up suggested contacts.

Discharged. JM followed-up contacts. See conference agenda item for details.

Action May 22: JM to keep Core Group informed of plans for a Scottish Coastal Partnership and to circulate note of plans written by Forth Estuary Forum Project Officer.

Discharged. JM circulated the plans. See below for update on Scottish Coastal Partnership plans.

Action Point May 23: JM to liaise with other coastal Project Officers and respond to Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment and the Scottish Coastal Forum's Scottish Coastal Strategy consultations in consultation with Core Group.

Discharged. JM collated Core Group comments and responded to the Strategic Framework for the Marine Environment at the end of August. The SCF consultation period begins in September.

Action Point May 24: JM to feed back to the group details on the Clyde Pilot project as they emerge.

Discharged. See agenda item below for update.

Ongoing action points

Action Point May 1: Stephen Midgley to send JM example tourism brochure.

Carried forward: SM has no copies just now.

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

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

Action Point May 4: JM to consider historical aspects of Clyde in developing tourism brochure.

Ongoing. JM continuing work on developing tourism brochure.

Action Point May 9: JM to circulate draft PR plan.

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

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

Action Point May 10: JM to post Clyde archaeological survey report on the Forum website when available.

Carried forward. Report not yet received electronically.

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

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

Action Point May 15: JM to consider setting up a small project to identify the location of existing marinas.

Ongoing. Ian Johnson reported that Scottish Enterprise did a marina study six or seven years ago. Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team and some other local authorities are also looking at these issues. He suggested that there may be an opportunity for a strategic approach, but it would need to be approached carefully. It was suggested that the study could perhaps be done by a student, but it was agreed that it would be preferable for a professional to do it.

Action Point May 17: Ann MacSween (AM), Historic Scotland to send JM a link to Scottish Burgh Survey for Forum website.

Ongoing. Historic Scotland contact changed to Roderick McCulloch.

Action Point August 6: JM to contact RM to obtain link to Scottish Burgh Survey for website.

Action Point May 18: Archie Campbell to send JM updates on the Garelochhead Training Area Conservation Group.

Carried forward.

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

Action Point May 21: JM to update Core Group on Scottish Coastal Strategy Seminar as plans develop.

Discharged. Seminar has been postponed due to pressure of other work.

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

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.

2. Update from Project Officer

- **Conferences/meetings attended**

JM referred group to activity report previously circulated (attached).

- **Firth of Clyde Forum Water Framework Directive Seminar**

JM reported that this had been a successful, well attended seminar with a range of speakers from the Forum membership. JM thanked members of the Core Group who presented and attended.

- **Fisheries update**

The Seafish Industry Authority bid for FIFG match funding for a two year project officer post to work on the Clyde Inshore Fisheries Management Project has been approved. JM waiting further details on when the Project Officer will be recruited and start work on the project which is anticipated to be in the next few months.

- **Wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*)**

This is an alien seaweed species which has recently been found in Scotland for the first time. Having been found in Loch Ryan it has now been sited on the Isle of Cumbrae. JM asked Core Group members to keep a look out for it and to report any sightings to the FoCF.

Action Point August 11: All to report any sightings of wireweed to the FoCF.

- **Firth of Clyde archaeological survey Phase III**

Phase III of the archaeological survey will cover Cumbrae and the Kintyre Coast. Three tenders were received and JM one of four assessors. It was agreed that CFA archaeology who carried out the Phase II survey would be awarded the Phase III contract to be completed by February 2005.

- **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 other progress.

- **Imagine Scotland, Waverly trip**

This was a relatively successful trip. Around 300 people attended, including Charlie Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park who attended on behalf of the FoCF. JM has had follow-up meeting with Margaret Wright and outcomes from the day may inform conference plans or other future FoCF projects to be developed.

- **Creative Clyde update**

JM attended the second meeting of the Creative Clyde group which was facilitated by Scottish Enterprise. A forum for creative issues for the Clyde was being suggested and JM had to highlight the work the Firth of Clyde Forum is doing which appeared to be relatively unknown to the attendees. It remains to be seen how this project develops, but JM will keep the Core Group informed.

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

- **Website updates**

Website has been restructured to archive out of date info. Website updates ongoing.

- **Clydebreakers newsletter**

Ongoing. JM thanked the Core Group for articles received and is in the process of compiling newsletter.

- **PR Coverage**

PR coverage following first Core Group meeting and relaunch and also presentation on Arran.

3. Core Group Members' Updates

Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise

Jean Curran was not able to attend. However, JM reported to Core Group on her behalf. Scottish Enterprise is working on an Events Strategy for the Glasgow area which they intend to use to strategically plan their involvement in, and support of, events in the area from Glasgow Green to the Erskine Bridge. The report is expected at the end of September.

Scottish Enterprise also have a continuing interest with Strathclyde Passenger Transport in looking at the market for river transport. The involvement with the Creative Clyde initiative was also mentioned on which JM reported in her update.

Robin Edgar, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team

RE reported that they are starting the update of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan and the associated consultation process. The draft will be published next spring, but it remains to be seen how it will affect the Firth of Clyde Forum.

David Ross, SEPA

The River Basin Management Planning consultation has been completed and the responses are being collated. The River Basin Characterisation Report is being consulted on until the 23rd September and coastal/estuaries are included in some of the "at risk" categories in this consultation. Work is ongoing on monitoring with respect to the Water Framework Directive. More geographical information will be available as a result of this where at present only historical data is available in GIS format. The future monitoring will include monitoring morphology and tidal flow and this information could be made available on the Firth of Clyde Forum website.

Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base, Clyde

AC reported a very quiet period. Design plans are underway for the new floating jetty although the location is still under discussion due to issues compromising between the need for dredging and limiting the visual impact of the jetties.

Helen Kennedy, the Crown Estate.

HK also reported a quiet period. The Crown Estate is currently in consultation on the transfer of the regulation of fish farms from the Crown Estate to the Local Authorities.

David Robinson, Clydeport

Developments ongoing at Glasgow, Renfrew and Victoria Harbours. Clydeport are looking at the proposed container development at Hunterston with Scottish Enterprise and South Ayrshire Council. This sparked some discussion about Hunterston with Rupert Ormond commenting that it could have a significant negative impact on the landscape and tourism assets of the area. David Ross added that the development may be affected by the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. David Robinson replied that Halcrow was doing the studies for the development and suggested contacting Bill Burns, Managing Director of the project, for further information. Karen Wright commented that Bill Burns is speaking at the SNH West Areas Board meeting and suggested that the Core Group invite him to speak at the next meeting.

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

Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan (AJSP) Team

The AJSP consultation ends on the 27th August. Hunterston is one of the key pillars of the plan. A Strategic Impact Assessment is not required for it if the plans are submitted to the Scottish Executive by July 2006. At present the aim is to have the plans in by 4th March 2005.

The Joint Structure Plan committee is keen to do a sustainability appraisal and have appointed consultants and an independent panel to comment on it. Toby Wilson's first task will be to assess the environmental appraisal of the final plan. The sustainability appraisal will be available with the final plan also.

Simon Zisman, RSPB

The RSPB has a new reserves acquisition strategy. There are seventeen reserves in Scotland at different levels of access: full visitor, limited visitor, landholdings and confidential. The new acquisition strategy for the Clyde area will look at the potential for managed realignment sites. They are also keen to achieve conservation gains at Bogside Flats.

To coincide with their 100 year anniversary, the RSPB has secured a lease on Ailsa Craig. This means the RSPB now has more involvement in marine management issues. They are investigating a number of community initiatives at Girvan including regeneration/tourism possibilities, interpretation about Ailsa Craig, boat trips etc, possibly along similar lines to the seabird centre at North Berwick. Rupert Ormond questioned whether there would be an increase in the number of boats landing on Ailsa Craig. Simon Zisman confirmed that there would be a managed increase and that they were in discussions regarding the economics of these boat trips. SZ added that this new reserve has been a partnership process with Bernie Zonfrillo, Glasgow University who did much of the work in eradicating the rats from the island which allowed the seabird populations to recover.

Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base, Clyde, asked whether the RSPB could advise him on moving a gull colony to another site as, due to development work, there would be no room for the gulls. SZ happy to advise.

SZ reported that managed realignment is a priority for the RSPB, but that they have no sites in the Clyde definitely proposed. They are keeping a watching brief on Longhaugh point and studying the changes there.

Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council

GCC Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Annual Report available on CD and in leaflet format. Ethel reported that a CD-Rom and website are being developed which will show all the developments along the river.

Action point August 14: JM to circulate leaflet once received.

Action point August 15: JM to put website and report details on the Firth of Clyde Forum website.

Ethel also highlighted the publication of the Clyde Waterfront regeneration Plan which was published jointly by Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise.

Action point August 16: JM to get a copy of the report, circulate it to the Core Group and put it on the Firth of Clyde Forum website.

Increasing use of the river. There is a new pontoon at York Street which is bookable on the internet. It has been used fairly well so far and is intended for private and leisure craft and river taxis etc

GCC River Festival was a success with the target number of 70, 000 visitors almost met. Between 10, 000 and 15, 000 people attended most days. Positive feedback has been received and it was done on a very small sponsorship budget of £200, 000. The lack of direct access to the river was a problem and a new pontoon at the SECC has been made permanent. They are looking also to install a permanent one at the Glasgow Science Centre where the Waverley is now based.

The British Waterways Water Use Strategy is now due in September. A detailed strategy will be available in the autumn.

The Flood Management Strategy is due in 2005. At present the preferred option which will be recommended is likely to be barriers and this will require further detailed study. Jim Fleming is the Glasgow City Council contact.

The Light Rapid Transport Strategy was approved at the end of December. The pre LRT strategy will first operate buses along the routes until 2010. SPT are looking to widen the approach to this to include a wider area than the Clyde corridor.

Stephen Midgley, Scottish Coastal Forum

The Scottish Coastal Forum national strategy was launched in July. The Scottish Executive are writing a consultation paper and will then send the strategy out for a three month public consultation period starting in September.

SM has been directed by his Steering Group to write a work program which includes guiding the work of the coastal partnerships. They are still discussing the Framework Strategy for the Marine Environment and how it may link with the other strategies.

SM brought the possibility of INTERREG funding to the group's attention. He has been instructed that it is not the role of SCF to apply on the partnerships' behalf, but instead to advise and provide information to partnerships. The deadline for this funding application is November so there is little time to work on it. It was agreed to investigate it anyway and SM to provide the information.

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

Rupert Ormond, University Marine Biological Station, Millport

Rupert reported that the Clyde Fisheries project is going ahead following a successful bid for FIFG funding. One or two Project Officers will be employed and work from the Marine Station in Millport starting within the next few months. It is hoped that this project will also cover fish spawning and habitat recovery areas.

The Marine Station is running an ongoing basking shark survey project and were hoping to monitor basking shark winter behaviour. However, only four animals were seen in the Clyde as it was a bad year for them, possibly linked to the weather. Also a change in plankton composition from large to small particles may have led to high numbers of herring, gannets and guillemots, but less basking shark. Rupert asked the group to publicise the survey and to encourage reporting of any basking shark sightings in the Firth of Clyde over the next two years.

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.

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

The Marine Station has also been keeping cetacean records, especially of bottlenose dolphins around the Clyde islands. Four months ago twenty-four dolphins were seen in Loch Fyne. This number could potentially be of conservation significance. It is thought that one of the sub groups may come from Islay. The Marine Station is planning to develop a network in order to monitor the dolphins and get reports of sightings.

Archie Campbell asked whether there were any identification guides for mine sweepers etc to report sightings.

Action point August 20: JM to investigate identification guides.

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

4. Forum Annual Conference – Transport in the Clyde Corridor

JM circulated the note of plans so far for the conference and potential speakers which included Strathclyde Passenger Transport, WESTRANS, Prof Alfred Baird, Calmac and Clydefast Ferries.

It was suggested that the title of the conference should be changed from referring to the "Clyde Corridor" to reflect the fact the event will address the whole Firth of Clyde Forum area rather than just the river section in the Glasgow area. Suggestions were "Doon the Watter" or "Transport in the Firth of Clyde".

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

4.1 Speakers - It was suggested that the following speakers should be contacted:

Lawrence Fitzgerald, Glasgow Transport Museum on the historical perspective of transport in the Clyde;

A representative from the Waverley on the historical perspective of transport in the Clyde;

Bill Burns, Clydeport on the proposed container development at Hunterston;

A representative from Loch Lomond Sea Planes as this was also a traditional method of transport;

The Transport Minister, Nicol Stephen, should be invited to give the key note speech instead of the Rural Affairs Minister.

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.

Ian Johnson stressed that the conference should address transport along the Ayrshire coast, including Troon, Loch Ryan and Arran links, and not just in the Glasgow area. JM assured the Core Group that we are aware of these sensitivities and with Calmac's involvement and the WESTRANS area wide strategic views a good balance across the area should be reflected by the presentations.

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

Ethel May Abel suggested that the conference should show use of the water as well as covering walking and cycling.

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

4.2 Soap Box Sessions

It was commented that the speakers in this session would have to be carefully chosen in order to ensure that they expressed views relevant to the conference and were not just pursuing a very local, private agenda.

5. Forum Business

5.1 Potential Scottish Coastal Partnership

Further to previous discussions about the local coastal partnerships forming a national affiliation, the coastal partnerships are planning to write jointly to the Scottish Coastal Forum Plenary meeting in September requesting clarification on the role the SCF could play in addressing the joint national needs of the local coastal partnerships. JM will keep Core Group informed of further developments and response from SCF.

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

6. Consultations

6.1 Consultations Responded To

As mentioned above, JM reported that she responded to the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Planning consultation both on behalf of the Firth of Clyde Forum and jointly with the other local coastal partnerships.

JM also responded to the Scottish Executive consultation: Developing a Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment on behalf of the Firth of Clyde Forum.

6.2 Ongoing Consultations

JM is still preparing responses to the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and the Scottish Executive Management of Inshore Fisheries consultation. The deadlines for these are the end of August. JM thanked the Core Group for their contributions to all the consultation responses.

6.3 Clyde Pilot Project

The proposals for the Clyde pilot project were discussed following the circulation of the latest draft proposal from the consultants.

It was generally agreed that there was a lack of detail in the proposal, lack of detail on outputs, that it was not clear how it would marry with land use planning and how it would

integrate on/offshore issues using the ecosystem approach. Some aspects, such as community involvement are not touched on nor is it clear what the future of the project following the pilot would be. Whilst it was acknowledged that there is a gap in seabed/fisheries management which could be explored and linked to the Forum, there were also worries expressed that the project would supercede or duplicate the work of the Forum.

It was agreed that a meeting was required as soon as possible with the Core Group, the consultants and David Mallon from the Scottish Executive who is responsible for the project. Prior to this, it was also agreed that the Core Group would send any comments on the proposals to Julia MacPherson by the end of August.

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.

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

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

7. Any other Business

None.

8. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 17th November at the offices of Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan team in Prestwick at 1030. Ian Johnson kindly offered to provide lunch following the meeting.

9. Presentation

Helen Kennedy, Deputy Marine Estate Manager (West) for the Crown Estate gave an interesting and informative presentation on The Crown Estate and the Clyde. The presentation covered the general role of the Crown Estate, their involvement on the Clyde and details of the Crown Estate Marine Stewardship Scheme. The presentation is attached here.

10. Vote of Thanks

Karen Wright expressed her thanks to Helen Kennedy on behalf of the Core Group for her interesting and detailed presentation.

KW also thanked Robin Edgar for providing the meeting venue.