



FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM CORE GROUP

Minutes of Meeting
held on Wednesday 19 May 2004
at Scottish Enterprise Offices, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

Present: Karen Wright, SNH Chair of Forum Core Group
Julia MacPherson, Firth of Clyde Forum Project Officer
Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise
Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base Clyde
Robin Edgar, Glasgow and Clyde Structure Plan Team
John Esslemont, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team, in lieu of Ian Johnson
Helen Kennedy, The Crown Estate
Stephen Midgley, Scottish Coastal Forum
David Ross, SEPA
Anne MacSween, Historic Scotland

Apologies from: Ron Bailey, Clydeport
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
Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team
Steve Marshall, West Dunbartonshire Council
Mearns McCaskie, Argyll and Islands Enterprise
Rupert Ormond, University Marine Biological Station
Lynn Rew, Scottish Enterprise, Dunbartonshire
David Robinson, Clydeport
Simon Zisman, RSPB
Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council

1. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting (17th February 2004)

The minutes were agreed.

Discharged action points and new actions arising:

Action point Feb. 1: Julia MacPherson to circulate Scottish Coastal Forum Scottish Coastal Strategy to Core Group and collate comments by the 19th April 2004.

Discharged: JM circulated SCF Strategy and collated comments in April.

Action Point Feb. 4 : JM to investigate Water Framework Directive advisory groups and raise awareness of FoCF as being a potential candidate for inclusion in such a group.

Discharged: JM spoke to Callum Sinclair, SEPA, about this and SEPA's consultation document suggests that coastal fora should have a role in WFD advisory groups.

Action point Feb. 6: JM to follow up with Mike Balmforth (MB) on info for tourism brochure and restart work on it.

Discharged: JM followed up info with MB and restarted work on tourism brochure.

Discussion about tourism brochure and publicity in general. Stephen Midgley (SM) will send us a tourism brochure with a map on the back as a good example and suggested bearing in mind that any brochure should fit in the pocket as that was one drawback of the Mersey publication. Robin Edgar (RE) said that the Central Scotland Forest Trust also have a good publication and that he would send it.

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

Action Point May 2: RE to send JM the Central Scotland Forest Trust tourism brochure.

The question was raised whether a Google website search on "Clyde" would find link to the Firth of Clyde Forum website.

Action Point May 3: JM to search Google for "Clyde".

Action Point Feb. 7: Jean Curran (JC) to present work of Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Partnership at the next Core Group meeting in May.

Discharged: JC gave presentation at end of meeting.

Action Point Feb. 10: JC to investigate the position of "Scotland the Brand" and what their role is and report back at next Core Group meeting.

Discharged: JC reported that Scotland the Brand, was set up by Scottish Enterprise and partners. Two years ago it became an independent body. Its key role is to promote the Scotland Mark. There has however, been political debate with Scottish Executive regarding the overlaps between their remits and as a result Scottish Enterprise are now taking back ownership. Substantial costs were involved in setting it up and Scottish Enterprise own the Scotland Mark. Scottish Enterprise would encourage the Firth of Clyde Forum to use Scotland Mark rather than initiating a separate Clyde brand.

It was felt in any case, that the Clyde's strength lies in engineering heritage rather than foodstuffs which could be branded. Stephen Midgley commented that the Clyde's history, historical/engineering trade, small museums, Singer's clock etc could be better promoted. Archie Campbell suggested this could all be weaved into the tourism publication.

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

Action Point Feb. 11: JM to investigate Skye branding group.

Discharged: JM reported on Skye branding group and that a brand existed, but that it was unclear how businesses linked their goods to this mark.

Action point Feb. 12: JM to prepare a draft schedule of seminars and circulate to Core Group for comments.

Discharged: JM circulated seminar list in March and update in May.

Action point Feb. 15: JM to report on her visit to the Nigg Bay Coastal Realignment Project at the next Core Group meeting.

Discharged: JM reported on useful and informative training opportunity.

Ongoing action points and new action points arising:

Action point Feb. 2: David Ross (DR) to send the Characterisation Report to JM for circulation to the Core Group and wider Forum for comments.

Ongoing: report not yet available.

Action Point May 5: DR to send to JM as soon when available.

Action Point Feb. 3: JM to prepare response to Water Framework Directive on behalf of the Forum.

Ongoing: WFD consultation underway.

Action Point May 6: JM to collate Forum comments and prepare response by end of consultation period.

Action Point Feb. 5: Ethel May Abel to provide an update on the flood attenuation study and the British Waterway Study at the next core group meeting.

Ongoing: Ethel-May Abel (EMA) unable to attend meeting.

Action Point May 7: EMA to provide an update at next meeting instead.

Action Point Feb. 8: All to respond to JM with comments on the current Core Group membership.

Ongoing: no responses received.

Action point Feb. 9: JM to continue with work as outlined in draft Phase III work plan.

Ongoing.

Action point Feb. 13: All to let JM know ideas for Core Group meeting presentations for discussion at the next Core Group meeting on 19th May 2004.

Ongoing: no ideas received.

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

Action Point Feb. 14: JM to investigate increased press coverage and sponsorship.

Ongoing: JM completed draft PR plan and is investigating sponsorship for conference.

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

2. Update from Project Officer

JM passed round activity report (attached).

Conferences/meeting attended since last Core Group meeting

Projects

- Archaeological survey field visit with Mike Cressey, archaeologist and local Shorewatch volunteers.
- Meeting with Strathclyde Passenger Transport re transport conference
- Meeting with Envirocentre re transport conference
- Meeting with GalGael Trust re "Weaving the Clyde" project

Raising Awareness/promotion

- Waterbirds Around the World – presentation to delegates during Inner Clyde Estuary field visit
- Meeting with Chris Waltho, Scottish Ornithologists Club re eider duck on Clyde and Waterbirds Around the World Conference poster
- Presentation to coastal zone management students at Biological Marine Station, Millport
- WWF "Tangle of the Clyde" launch
- Presentation at Community for Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) AGM on Arran

Liaison

- Tay Estuary Forum Conference
- Scottish Coastal Forum Project Officers' meeting
- Presentation to SNH's Ayr team meeting

Training/development

- Nigg Bay Coastal Realignment training day
- Scottish Coastal Forum Fundraising training day
- Marine Spatial Planning Seminar, Scottish Executive

Galgael "Weaving the Clyde" project update

JM met Mary Craig, GalGael Trust, who is leading on this ongoing project. The loom has been built and the wool hand spun. Mary Craig and her volunteers are doing a trial piece before starting the final tapestry later this summer. Estimated completion date is the end of the year although this may be extended.

Archaeological survey

The draft report has been published and when finalised will be put on the Forum website.

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

Fisheries study update

The Seafish Industry Authority has bid for FIG match funding for a two year project officer post to work on the Clyde Inshore Fisheries Management Project. JM has met with Seafish to inform them that we would be interested in being involved. No news yet about result of funding bid.

Beach Cleans

JM has been in touch with several community groups to promote the annual Beachwatch beach cleans, sent out info leaflets to existing beach cleaning groups and coastal community councils and posted info on the website. Work to promote this ongoing.

Wireweed

This is an alien seaweed species which has recently been found in Scotland for the first time. It has been found in Loch Ryan having come from Ireland and Forum members should be aware of it and report sightings in the Clyde. Further info will be put on the website.

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

Progress on website updates

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

Progress on newsletter

Ongoing. JM asked for articles from Core Group members for inclusion in next edition.

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

Tourism brochure progress

See minutes from last meeting, above.

PR Coverage

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

Imagine Scotland Waverly Trip

JM explained that the Forum has been approached to participate/fund the Imagine Scotland Waverly trip which aims to enable members of the Clyde community to come together informally and discuss their aspirations for the Clyde area. Core Group agreed that event was being organised at very short notice and that details regarding structure of day, other

fundlers etc was still very vague. No members were willing to commit to attending without further details.

Action Point May 13: JM to circulate the info and to seek further info as required.

Lighthouse Architectural Project

JM has been approached by the Lighthouse exhibition space in Glasgow regarding a website exhibit they are developing to showcase the current development along the Clyde. Asked to link to the FoCF website and possibly liase with us.

Action Point May 14: JM to keep Core Group informed of developments.

Marinas

JM raised issue of marine development in the Clyde and whether the Forum felt it had a role in exploring a spatial planning/strategic approach for such developments. This was just to raise the issues generally and to think about it in principle as the Forum does have a role to promote sustainable use of the Firth of Clyde for recreation.

The Core Group felt that this type of role for the Forum would have to be handled very sensitively and looked at, if at all, from all angles and not just environmental as it is a potentially very complex issue. The Clyde Regeneration Partnership is currently looking at marina development. Archie Campbell highlighted that Ron Bailey, Harbour Master, Clydeport and the Crown Estate are involved in the Clyde Moorings Committee. Helen Kennedy, Crown Estate, mentioned that Crown Estate could possibly address this issue.

Stephen Midgley met recently with Mike Balmforth, British Marine Industries Federation, to discuss the Scottish Coastal Forum's facilitating role in a range of issues. The British Marine Industries Federation are interested in marine spatial planning possibly to resolve potential conflicts with fish farming.

The conclusion of the discussion was that the Forum should be cautious about getting involved in spatial planning for marinas, but that it would be possible and acceptable to have an initial look at where marinas currently are.

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

3. Core Group Members' Updates

Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise: Glasgow City Council River Festival 16th – 19th July. Scottish Enterprise have contributed to this and are looking at extending river festival down river in future.

John Esslemont, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team: The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan consultation document is to be launched provisionally in June. It is intended to link with other consultations – coastal strategy, marine national parks, etc, etc.

Helen Kennedy (HK), Crown Estate: ongoing involvement in early planning and negotiation for bridges over Clyde. Helen volunteered to give presentation at next Core Group meeting.

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

Ann MacSween (AM), Historic Scotland: Scottish Burgh Survey has been completed in conjunction with Glasgow University. It includes Govan and is linked to historical maps etc.

Action Point May 17: AM to send JM link for Forum website.

Archie Campbell (AC), HM Naval Base: New floating jetty proposed in Gareloch. Plans in their early stages. Garelochhead Training Area Conservation Group manages a substantial area of land west of Helensburgh. High conservation interest including hen harriers, black

grouse, short eared owls, etc. Nature ramble around Loch Long. Trying to increase projects and community involvement. AC offered to send Forum updates of committee meetings.

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

David Ross, SEPA: update on Water Framework Directive consultation and local sub river basin management groups. The consultation suggests that these groups should include existing coastal partnerships.

The WFD Characterisation Report identifies areas of water at risk of not achieving quality standards. The draft report will be available for consultation at the end of June. There will then be scope for local fora to comment.

Robin Edgar, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team. Reviewing Structure Plan, working on green spaces and Clyde waterfront sections as well as section on wind farms visible from the water. Review going to committee in June and will show preferred/potential areas for large-scale (greater than 25) wind farms. There will still be scope for smaller schemes elsewhere. Helen Kennedy reported that no offshore wind farms are identified in Scottish Waters in Round 2 of the process and that there will be large potential in the future for other marine renewable energy sources.

4. Forum Annual Conference – Transport in the Clyde Corridor

JM reported that she has met with Strathclyde Passenger Transport to discuss conference. They are keen to be involved and may contribute funding for the event. Following Core Group meeting JM to meet with Envirocentre to discuss their work on commercial transport and possible involvement/funding of the conference. JM also to contact Calmac Ferries.

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

JM asked for suggestions for speakers. Stephen Midgley suggested Professor Ralph Baird, Napier University, as a good speaker specialising in maritime transport, ferries etc. WESTRANS, a relatively new organisation, was also suggested. Rodney Mortimer contact (331 6050). They have a consultative document coming out. JM to follow up. It was also suggested to have a local authority presentation on transport.

Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council, followed up after meeting by email to say that Scott Wilson had completed a Clyde Corridor Transport Study which had been reported to the Council and recommended a pre-Light Rapid Transport Strategy. She will send JM report. Ethel-May also suggested the conference should look at the potential of the river to once more become a highway, the value of river crossings and river access to accelerate regeneration, the potential of historical transport, e.g. seaplanes or new forms of river transport to transport goods and services-barges, container ships, leisure cruises, river taxis etc.

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

5. Forum Seminars

- **WFD Seminar**

JM updated the Core Group on the plans for the first FoCF seminar to be held on the 7th June in Helensburgh. Speakers confirmed are Callum Sinclair and David Ross from SEPA who will talk about the WFD, Mary Craig from the Galgael Trust about the Clyde tapestry, Mike Cressey about the Clyde archaeological study and Mic Starbuck about his SIMCITY models of the Clyde area.

- **Scottish Coastal Strategy Seminar**

The seminar is still being planned and may be postponed depending on the consultation timetable for the Scottish Coastal Strategy.

Action Point May 21: JM to update Core Group as plans develop.

6. Forum Business

- **Potential Scottish Coastal Partnership**

JM informed Core Group of discussions between coastal partnership Project Officers regarding the potential benefits of affiliating the individual local coastal partnerships into a national Scottish Coastal Partnership for certain issues, whilst still retaining their local agendas and work programmes. While the local partnerships have strengths in dealing with their local issues, they also have many issues in common such as difficulty securing core funding, plans to organise coastal litter campaigns and requirements to respond to national consultations. If the partnerships could join forces on these common issues there may be increased funding opportunities, opportunities for raising awareness of the partnerships and their work and presenting coordinated responses to consultations whilst allowing them to continue with their local work and local agendas.

The feedback from the Core Group was that this was a positive plan in principle although it would need to be discussed again as plans develop. The terms of reference of such a group and whether it could absorb funding, as well as generating it, would have to be considered carefully.

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

7. Consultations

- **Scottish Executive consultation: Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment and the Scottish Coastal Forum's Scottish Coastal Strategy**

Stephen Midgley (SM), Scottish Coastal Forum. Explained range of Scottish Executive consultation documents and stressed that the key consultation is the Scottish Executive Framework Strategy responses to which are due by the end of July. The Scottish Coastal Strategy is to be launched in July and will be used as a basis for answering the questions raised in the Framework Strategy consultation. SM stressed it is a good opportunity for the Fora to raise issues. It was suggested that it maybe useful for the coastal fora to respond jointly on issues common to all partnerships and then to give a more specific response as local circumstances dictate.

Action Point May 23: JM to liase with other coastal Project Officers and respond to consultations in consultation with Core Group.

SM suggested we look at the INTERREG website with reference to COASTNET, maritime history and spatial planning in Germany for ideas of possibilities for projects and funding in the Clyde.

Archie Campbell, HM Naval: stressed need for us to take this opportunity to rationalise the many coastal consultations and initiatives into fewer, integrated strategies.

- **Clyde Pilot Project**

JM explained that the FoCF has been approached by consultants working on the Sustainable Scotland Marine Environment Initiative about the possibility of using the Clyde as a pilot project area. As yet to meet consultants, plans are still vague.

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

- **Clyde River Boatyard Consultation**

Core Group Members were asked to feed back on how they felt the FoCF handled this consultation and how it could be improved for other consultations. Jean Curran expressed

approval at how the response was dealt with, that it focussed well on the FoCF agreed Strategy and gave a balanced and constructive view.

8. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 24th August at Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team's Offices in Glasgow.

9. Presentation: Clyde Waterfront Regeneration, Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise

Jean Curran gave a very informative and stimulating presentation on Scottish Enterprise's work in general and on the Clyde Waterfront regeneration project in particular. This ambitious project is addressing the Clyde waterfront focussing on Glasgow City Centre, Pacific Quay, Glasgow Harbour, Renfrew, Braehead, Scotstoun, Clydebank, Erskine and Old Kilpatrick. The regeneration plans aim to be transformational, comprehensive, competitive and deliverable through working in partnership and promoting connectivity, integration, access to waterfront and community involvement.

10. Vote of Thanks

Karen Wright expressed her thanks to Jean Curran on behalf of the Core Group for her interesting and detailed presentation, for hosting the meeting and providing a delicious lunch.