

## FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM - CORE GROUP MEETING

17 February 2004 – Glasgow City Chambers

### Minutes of Meeting

#### Present

Karen Wright (**KW**) SNH (Chair)  
Isabel Glasgow (**IG**) Firth of Clyde Forum Chair  
Julia MacPherson (**JM**) Project Officer, Firth of Clyde Forum  
Ethel-May Abel (**EMA**) Glasgow City Council, Planning Department  
David Ross (**DR**) Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
David Robinson (**DRO**) Clydeport Operations Limited, Facilities Manager  
Jean Curran (**JC**), Scottish Enterprise  
Stephen Midgely (**SM**), Project Officer Scottish Coastal Forum  
Mike Balmforth (**MB**) British Marine Industries Federation Scotland  
Kenna Chisholm, (**KC**) RSPB, Inverness

#### Apologies

Jeremy Glen, Royal Yachting Association  
Ron Bailey, Clydeport Operations Limited, Harbour Master  
Archie Campbell, HM Naval Base Clyde  
Bill Geddes, Argyll and Bute Council, Development Services  
Vincent Goodstadt, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee, Manager  
Ian Johnson, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team, Manager  
Steve Marshall, West Dunbartonshire Council, Economic, planning and Environmental Services  
Mearns McCaskie, Argyll and Islands Enterprise  
Rupert Ormond, University Marine Biological Station, Millport  
Lynn Rew, Scottish Enterprise, Dunbartonshire  
Helen Kennedy, Crown Estates, Deputy Marine Estate Manager (West)  
Simon Zisman, RSPB

#### Introductions

Karen Wright (KW) welcomed Forum Core Group members to the relaunch meeting of the Firth of Clyde Forum (FoCF). She explained that after a gap of about a year, funding has now been secured for two years with the generous support of Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Enterprise, Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team, SEPA and Crown Estates. Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee continue to support the project through their role as account holders. KW introduced the new Project Officer, Julia MacPherson, and welcomed Isabelle Glasgow, Chair of the Firth of Clyde Forum. KW explained that there are many opportunities for developing the role of the Forum in the future, such as in fisheries issues and contributing to the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

IG welcomed members and expressed her pleasure that the Forum, a group she has been long involved with, is up and running again with an enthusiastic project officer. She echoed KW's comments about the opportunities for the Forum and expressed the hope that much positive work will be done in the next two years.

JM, Project Officer who started on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, briefly described her biological and environmental management background and previous experience with SNH in East Fife covering coastal issues and also for a short time with English Nature in their Maritime Team.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

KW invited those present to raise any issues relating to the minutes from the last meeting. No issues raised. JM discharged action point 5 by circulating the report "Towards a Coastal Strategy for Sustainable Use of Scotland's Coast".

### **Update from Core Group Members**

#### **1. Stephen Midgely**

##### **Scottish Coastal Forum – Scottish Coastal Strategy**

- Currently in draft and to be submitted to Scottish Executive Plenary Session on 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- Consultation period from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> April.
- Coastal fora will be encouraged to comment during four week consultation period and SM would like FoCF to be involved.
- Scottish Executive plans to use the SCF Scottish Coastal Strategy as the advisory/consultation document for the Scottish National Coastal Strategy to be prepared for EU by 2006. This will be launched on 8<sup>th</sup> June by the Minister and will be consulted on widely.

The group discussed the short consultation time and agreed that the Core Group only would comment on the SCF Strategy due to the short time scale. The wider Forum membership would have a chance to comment during the later Scottish Executive consultation period.

**Action point Feb. 1: JM to circulate SCF Scottish Coastal Strategy to Core Group and collate comments by the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2004.**

#### **2. David Ross, SEPA**

**Water Framework Directive.** Three month consultation on the Characterisation Report will begin in March. Management units are to be divided into water bodies and then, for each area, the risks to the water environment and what measures need to be put in place to improve/mitigate for them, must be assessed. This is a good time for the Forum to get involved with river basin management. Advisory groups are likely to be set up, although the boundaries have not yet been defined. It is possible that the boundaries will tie in with those of Coastal Fora. A map will be available in due course. Several different organisations feel they may have a role in the advisory groups. DR suggested the FoCF would be able to have a role and urged the Forum to raise awareness of its existence and potential suitability to act as an advisory group, in particular to help ensure that the groups are not dominated by land based sectors.

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

**Action Point Feb. 3: JM to prepare response on behalf of the Forum.**

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

#### **3. Ethel-May Abel, Glasgow City Council**

**Recent developments relevant to the FoCF:**

- Flood attenuation study, Glasgow City Council Land Services leading. To be completed by August 2004.
- White Cart flood attenuation study underway
- Finneston Bridge: will go ahead unless Court of Session Appeal regarding the lack of a Navigation Order on the bridge is upheld in March/April. EMA's understanding was that the justification for the bridge not opening to allow boat traffic through was that boats could still pass under it provided they had the technology on board which allowed them to withdraw the funnels etc before passing under. Some ferries have this facility. It was pointed out that a Napier University study has shown that ferry traffic has to be subsidised, just as other transport currently is, to be able to survive. Loch Lomond sea planes were also raised as a transport issue.
- Neptune Bridge, Broomielaw: planning application due at the end of February.
- British Waterways (BW) Study: Glasgow City Council (GCC) appointed BW to carry out and identify factors required to regenerate the Clyde as a viable waterway in GCC area. First draft due to Glasgow City Council Rivers Group on 26<sup>th</sup> February and the final report in April. Users, including boat clubs, have been consulted. Brief is to produce a visionary, but realistic, five year, plan for the area including scope for river houseboats, boat repair yards, marinas and using the river for waste transportation. The idea is to create interest, access and use of the river from further afield with a long term view of attracting the tall ships to the Clyde.
- "Clyde in the Classroom" – EMA updated group on this environmental education project which has been very successful. School children visit the Glasgow Science Centre where they take fish eggs, rear them in the classroom and release them in the Clyde at a later date. Project contact Willie Yeoman, Glasgow University.

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

#### **4. Mike Balmforth, British Marine Industries Federation Scotland Recreation, sailing and tourism**

- Interested in recreation, especially sailing, on the Clyde and keen to use it as a venue for major sailing events. North Ayrshire considered bidding for Olympic sailing event, but lack of time, funding and adequate infrastructure made this impractical. The Scottish Sailing Institute is putting a bid together to have sailing events on Clyde in the longer term.
- Assisted previous Project Officer in initial preparation for the tourism brochure. Still interested in having such a brochure for different activities on the Clyde. Leaflet could be funded by Forum members or sponsorship.

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

#### **5. Jean Curran, Scottish Enterprise**

**Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Partnership:** The Clyde Waterfront Working Group completed its Clyde Waterfront Regeneration Plan (based on the Development Framework and Action Plan produced by the group) last summer and presented it to Scottish Executive ministers in the autumn. This 15 year plan includes proposals for the formation of a formal Strategic Partnership Board. In support of this regeneration Action Plan the Scottish Enterprise Board has approved

an indicative investment fund of £126m over the next seven years. Detailed investments will be identified in rolling annual business planning.

JC offered to present the findings at a future Core Group meeting and it was agreed for her to do this at the next meeting in May.

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

#### **6. David Robinson Clydeport**

Nothing to report.

#### **Consultation responses from Firth of Clyde Forum**

The group discussed how the FoCF should respond to consultations in the future to allow all members an opportunity to respond to issues concerning them without being swamped by unnecessary information.

It was agreed that Project Officer would summarise the issue of the consultation and send it to all members in the core group by email wherever possible. Members can then respond if interested and Project Officer will collate answers and respond to consultation. Consultations will also be placed on the website to keep members informed and allow them to respond if desired. Forum members will be copied into all responses.

Any contentious issues which may impact on wider members will be discussed in open forum whenever possible. Project Officer will also possibly send an email alert to members when consultations are posted. It was noted that it is important to include the wider membership wherever possible to avoid the Core Group becoming exclusive to the rest of the Forum membership.

#### **Core Group Membership**

JM circulated the paper showing present Core Group members, their interests and how these tie in with the management objectives of the Firth of Clyde Forum Management Strategy. KW asked meeting to review the list and comment on current membership and whether the balance of organisations represented was appropriate and reflected the Forum's wider membership.

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

#### **Draft Phase III Work Plan**

JM talked Core Group through revised Phase II work plan. Agreement was reached on planned priorities as in the work plan prepared for the meeting (attached). Agreed that JM would continue to progress this work.

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

#### **Clyde Consortium**

IG suggested that the FoCF facilitate a Clyde Consortium/variation on the idea of "Clyde Built" where products/services on the Clyde could be branded as "Clyde Built" or "Pride of the Clyde" to show they come from the Clyde area. JC explained that there is already a similar national initiative called "Scotland the Brand" which had been costly and time-consuming to set up. "Scotland the Brand" works by members paying a subscription to be allowed to use the brand, but also having to qualify in

terms of product quality to do so. JC cautioned against duplicating their work and to check whether they are aware or approve of, sub-brands such as a Clyde brand. She stressed that a brand should reflect quality as well as origin.

KC informed group that a group on Skye has started branding food, clothing and accommodation as from Skye and suggested it maybe helpful to speak to them for background information.

JC volunteered to investigate the position of "Scotland the Brand" and what their role is.

**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.**

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

#### **Clyde Conference 2004**

The last conference in 2002 was on Flooding and was extremely successful with interesting, high profile speakers. It was agreed that this year's conference would be on "Transport in the Clyde Corridor" and would be held in November.

#### **Seminars 2004**

IG stressed that there is a need to hold regular Forum seminars for the whole membership and that at least two update seminars a year should take place. It was suggested that the planned seminars could be split into consultation and educational seminars, e.g. an educational seminar on the WFD and a consultation seminar on the Scottish Coastal Strategy. Other seminars could include one on fisheries and one on flooding.

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

#### **Presentations 2004**

It was agreed that a presentation at the end of Core Group meetings would be positive step, adding interest and value to the meeting. Ideas for presentations were sought.

It was agreed that JC would do a presentation about Scottish Enterprise's Clyde Waterfront project at the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

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

#### **AOB**

Mike Balmforth asked what the FoCF was planning to do this year re publicity. KW explained that a press release was produced to publicise the Forum relaunch and the first Core Group meeting. MB stressed the need to raise the FoCF's profile and that this was lacking in the past. It was agreed that more would be done with publicising events and projects in the local press and on the website. SM said that the Moray Firth Forum has put a regular page spread in the local paper and obtained sponsorship for their newsletter and AGM. Although a page spread in a paper is not cheap, it was agreed that this may be achieved through sponsorship, possibly also from the media, i.e. Glasgow Herald, itself. IG noted that a journalist contact, Jim Freeman, was interested in the Forum.

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

**Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004** at the offices of Scottish Enterprise in Glasgow.

**Nigg Bay Coastal Realignment – Kenna Chisholm, RSPB**

The meeting concluded with a presentation about the first coastal realignment project in Scotland in Nigg Bay on the Cromarty Firth. This was very interesting and thought provoking especially as the project has been so successful and provides a very tangible example of how coastal realignment can work in practice. The presentation was well received with time for questions afterwards. This is an issue which could be applied to the Clyde Estuary and should be discussed in the future.

Thanks were extended to Kenna for travelling to Glasgow to present the project.

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