

Community Engagement Pages 16 - 18 of the Integrated Management Strategy (Issues 12 - 15). Summary of Glasgow Science Centre meeting. Facilitator - Jillian Boag (Secondary and Environmental Education, Glasgow Science Centre). Questions for consideration included at bottom.

Asked people to think about What and Where Should the Forum be focusing on in order to achieve these aims with respect to:

1) Co-operation between Users of the Firth

Marine conservation society have a project that assists with community involvement – adopt a beach and litter picks. It is a ready made project proven and tested that involves communities. There is a litter project officer in the Firth of Forth who assists with this project. Good way of getting communities involved. 4 Marine Litter.

Saw the project as a good idea however brought the following points up:

- Frustration for those who clear the litter up when a large proportion of litter is from external sources and gets brought by tourists/ brought in by storm tides/currents etc.
- Large coast line
- Shouldn't be reliant on volunteers

Agreement with above points but the project raises awareness to the local community that there are wider issues with marine pollution such as Shipping operators & possible disregard for legislation, that it is a big problem which is ongoing and needs awareness on national and international level and therefore public awareness assists with the overall problem as well as proactive involvement in local areas – raise awareness that it shouldn't be volunteers responsibility but should be dealt with in legislation. Agreed that litter in local area may be brought from elsewhere as experienced in angling in Helensburgh and Cardross from Loch Leven

Acknowledged that anglers can cause pollution themselves – would be good to raise awareness with them for this reason and also as anglers could assist to point out problem areas as they use river for recreation and therefore spend a lot of time and know the river

Suggested liaison with Clyde River Foundation and Sea Fishing Federation suggested

Reclaiming the Waterfront for Communities Community have lack of contact with river as access is restricted due to present and past industry.

Need to have a drive from community to have access to river rather than developers, e.g. where do the community want access/what type of access do the community want/river use

Community would also have info on historical contamination due to local knowledge (past or present)

Changes in lifestyle have taken people away from using river Larger than just the Glasgow community (meaning many other local authorities involved and it isn't just people living directly on the Clyde that should be involved)

The forum should link into existing local community initiatives that are already in place – how can the Clyde Forum help promote existing work.

Agreement with above point: Forum to have a key role in facilitating what communities are already doing
General agreement by all vocal people on the above point about linking and picking up local community initiatives that are already in place (how can you help them with existing initiatives). Linkage between community and environment is important but also more consideration to linkage between community and economic dimensions.

3) Education & Awareness Door opening campaign to what the Forum is about to help raise awareness in the public eye. Advisable to focus on something that public relate easily too and something the community already responds to. How to let people know about the Clyde Forum – could use the adopt the beach campaign to assist with this Opportunity to link fragmented public bodies through the Clyde Forum in terms of community involvement.

e.g. there are x number of local councils, x number of tourist bodies, x number of different enterprise companies (all doing own thing to an extent – the Forum crosses the board)

Do the Clyde forum have a PR officer to put articles of interest into the local newspapers? Webpage – good for professionals but harder for some members of the community to access either as no access to computer or don't know how to access internet Someone asked if webpage has a counter on it

Legislation for Health and Safety in schools has made it much more difficult to take pupils out of school for instantaneous field trip to the Clyde to learn more about it (e.g. when it is good weather). She used to take pupils out to the Clyde for ecology based trips. This is more difficult due to advanced planning with parental slips etc (and then for the prearranged date may not be suitable weather etc). and in depth risk

assessments. Therefore less will probably be done by schools – makes teaching local environmental awareness harder. However still schemes like clear up the Leven schools are still involved Millport's New director keen on community engagement To assist to educate people need a vehicle to do so e.g. awareness of new tourism initiatives, community involvement with tourism, related initiatives e.g. environmental issues, history, arts etc. encourage responsibility for sustainable tourism Other points Perspective given by publications e.g. Trout and Salmon portray Loch Lomond and local areas as clean, pristine etc. and it isn't then people disappointed Leisure sport, could have boat building etc. Conflict of user groups

Questions to think about under each of the 'Issue' headings. You may find it useful to refer to the Management Strategy.

1. Take each of the issues identified within the Management Strategy (Co-operation between users of the Firth, Reclaiming the Waterfront for Communities, Education and Awareness and Development of Firth of Clyde Image). Are the areas that are included sufficiently representative of the issues surrounding community engagement?
2. What are the main community concerns on the Clyde estuary and how can the Forum more effectively interact with Clyde communities to meet those concerns?
3. What are the strengths of our contacts base and how do we use them in order to fulfil the proposals within the Management Strategy?
4. Who are the agencies that can help deliver a more integrated community base and what can the Forum offer them?