

**Minutes of Community Engagement Meeting 23/05/2002, Lorne Street
Community Hall, Kinning Park**

Chair of Meeting: Gillian Boag (**GB**), Glasgow Science Centre (GSC)

In Attendance:

David Price (**DP**): Clyde Heritage Trust

Calum Duncan (**CD**): Marine Conservation Society

Stuart MacQuarrie (**SM**): Firth of Clyde Forum, Project Officer

The meeting opened with a brief description by SM of the current activities within the Forum and the reason that these topic group meetings were taking place. GB then invited comments on the main priority areas within the Management Strategy.

DP wanted clarification on what 'users of the Firth' meant within the context of the Management Strategy. GB informed DP that at the previous Forum meetings people were keen on promoting the leisure use of the Clyde and these ranged from on the river users and those using the banks for walking or bird watching.

DP then made a distinction between leisure users and those that were actually using the banks for commercial activity. He followed by stating that unless there was activity on the banks then there wouldn't be activity on the river itself. DP wanted to see co-operation between users and authorities on the Firth. The river was still seen as a dumping ground.

GB stated that in order for the river to realise its full potential people had to be educated as to the value of its resource.

DP stated that in comparison to other estuaries and rivers in the UK there was precious little activity on the river. It was like watching 'paint dry' standing on the river banks.

CD suggested that Clyde communities could be linked together through a project whereby various links were established from shore to shore and each of the communities were able to add their own individual mark to the project. Was unsure of how this might happen but suggested that the river could be used to do this.

DP raised the problem of the fixed bridge

Beach Litter

CD suggested that the Adopt-a-beach was a good opportunity to pull together communities. DP supported this by giving the Cardross-Inverclyde common complaint that all the rubbish is washed up from the south bank of the Clyde to the north bank. This was all the more reason for a co-ordinated clean-up. CD gave an insight into the way in which the Moray Firth handled the issues of beach litter. They started by looking at the whole of the Moray Firth and only got 6 volunteers initially. Then they had a more focused campaign on the Cromarty area and managed to get 30 volunteers. CD suggested that this may be a more efficient way of initiating action within the Firth.

CD then gave some feedback to the group as to the national situation and the work currently being undertaken by NALG (National Aquatic Litter Group). He

suggested that there may be plenty of scope for a seminar of some description on the requirements laid down in the Port Waste Management legislation. Also a good opportunity to make this widely available to the Clyde communities.

SM gave a brief outline of the Forums Marine Litter Campaign to date and the general lack of interest from the public.

CD said that this was not an uncommon phenomenon for a first attempt and that the Moray Firth expressed the same problems initially. CD said that it might be a better idea to focus on certain areas to boost awareness. He suggested that measured Focus Groups in Helensburgh, Arrochar, Ayrshire coast, Clydebank and some G.R.A.B. contacts (Group Recycling Argyll and Bute) may be more fruitful.

CD also suggested that it might be a good idea to locate the 'hotspots' of the litter problem and make a database of 'litter-sinks' available that the public could contribute to.

GB suggested that if the Forum wanted to engage the schools it would be an idea to stick to the national guidelines. It was difficult accessing time in schools but it was seen as a good way of influencing parents as well as children.

SM asked whether a poster of the Clyde would be of any use to schools and whether it may be used. GB said that a posters are often used whilst other resources may just be shelved.

The meeting ceased at this point.