

Towans Partnership
Draft Notes of Meeting on Tuesday 13th July 2010
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle

Present:

Ian Toy (IT)	Gwithian Towans Ratepayers	Dave Clarke (DC)	Cornwall Council
Julian German (JG)	Gwithian Gwinear PC	Stella La Touche	Landowner
Derek Goodere (DG)	Gwithian Residents Association	John Pollard CC (JP)	Hayle Town / Cornwall Council
Sally Foster (SF)	Gwithian Residents Association	Laura Penaluna (LP) (Notes)	Cornwall Council
Georgina Schofield (GS)	Community Archive/ Hayle Mill Pond Project	Cllr John Bennett (JB)	Hayle Town Council, Deputy Mayor
Alison Clough (AC)	Cornwall Council	Mr B Makin (BM)	National Trust
Cllr Jean Charman (JC)	Camborne Town Council	Duncan Thernell Read (DTR)	Rambler Association
Dick Goodere	Gwithian Residents Association		

1 Introductions

2 Apologies

Brian Pocock CC (BP)	Cornwall Council
Sue Nicholls (SN)	Cornwall Council
Steve Crummay	Cornwall Council
Michael Williams (MW)	Owner of Lethlean Towans
Andrew McDouall (AM)	Natural England (AM)
Cllr Ray Tovey (RT)	Cornwall Council
Peter Haddock (PH)	Safety Officer, Hayle Harbour
John Gorst (GJ)	Hocking Trust
John Coombe CC (JC)	Cornwall Council

3 Notes of Meeting 16 December 2009
Amendments

Item I – Correction – DG congratulated AC on the plan for the forward work programme and the way that she has focused on the infrastructure, he asked if the two caravan sites in Gwithian – Churchtown Farm & Gwithian Farm could be approached by AC to put up the code of conduct signs and their exits to the Dunes. Churchtown Farm has been approached. AC is dealing with this

The notes were amended and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

Matters Arising

- IT – has had a response from Phil Mason regarding the Planning Issue.
- JP – The Harbour Company do not have a licence. Awaiting Protocol. JP has contacted 8/9 to sign agreement. Some sand needs to be removed.
- JB – Has expressed a concern with dog fouling on the Upton Towans. The issue needs to be looked at. It was suggested that Enforcement Officers need to be trained to deal with wider areas of the Districts.
- Beach ban is currently work in progress.
- AC – Suggested that 'Dog Awareness Week' starting on 24th July may help dog fouling. Leaflets are being distributed.

Actions

4 Progress of Work Programme Reports

Cornwall Council

- Small area of scrub clearance was carried out close to the top car parks at Gwithian Towans. Having a grassy area immediately next to the car park & dog bins attract dogs 'do their business' there and encourage owners to remove it in a responsible way. Additionally, problems caused by fouling & nutrient enrichment of the soil are eased.
 - Removed old steps at the lifeguard hut at Mexico Towans as erosion of the cliff below had made them dangerous. Fencing and signs to guide people to the beach on an alternative route were installed. In addition a padlock 3' gate was installed to allow RNLI access to Lifeguard hut. Paddock goes missing/fence broken.
 - Post and rail fencing that had been vandalised close to Gwithian Lifeguard hut was repaired
 - The seized padlock on the notice board outside Sunset Surf Café was replaced to allow it to be used to display current local information. The notice board at St Gothian Sand LNR is also being kept up to date. Information leaflets are being delivered to all holiday parks and notice of Beach Zoning Scheme.
 - It was requested that a new padlock was provided at the barrier giving access to Gwithian Lifeguard hut and the public toilets. The RNLI have since provided several combination locks as they go missing.
 - An additional 'dog bin' has been installed at the larger of the two top car parks at Gwithian
 - It was reported that there were was an algal bloom on one of the two small ponds at Mexico Towans, on investigation it was found that the ponds were close to drying out so any weed clearance work will have to be carried out in Autumn/Winter.
 - Work to improve the potholed surface and replace at larger top car park at Gwithian has been carried out.
 - Beach Zoning scheme in place between 10 July-5 September.
 - The public footpath from the Gwithian Towans top car park, parallel to the road to the beach, was trimmed out. As the path is over grown again it is planned to re-cut this route & install a new way marker post to encourage walkers to use the path.
 - We are hoping to set up Management Agreements by liaising with landowners at Mexico & Lethean Towans. The current Countryside Stewardship Schemes expire this autumn so it is hoped new agreements can be drawn up for the land to be entered into the new Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.
 - At the continuation of the public footpath at the west side of St Gothians, a fence with signs saying 'danger steep cliff ahead' will be installed at the top of the steep slope to the beach as it is unsafe to use.
- DC provided information on behalf on Sue Nicholls:**
- An additional dog bin has been erected at the larger car park at the entrance park to Gwithian, plus an additional bin has been placed down by the lifeguard hut. We have erected these bins for the summer season to help with additional use and have also extended our emptying rounds to now include weekends.
 - Beach cleaners are working well and have removed numerous large tree trunks that have washed ashore in recent weeks; these couldn't be removed until we got a chainsaw to cut them up as they were too big.
 - RNLI Lifeguards are now fully operational along the hayle stretch of beaches.
 - The office has received a few complaints regarding the machinery on

Hayle beach for the wave hub, mostly regarding concerns over safety aspects.

- Seasonal zoning schemes for Gwithian are now operational until 5th September.
- Access to Porthkidney beach is restricted at present due to the works being done to remove the asbestos and the restructure of the Footpath which has meant we have been able to clean the beach as thoroughly as we would normally do. Work due to be completed soon.
- Marine plywood had now been erected on existing beach information signs so that if there is a pollution incident the lifeguards then have something to put the laminated warning signs on. No pollution incidents since changes will continue to monitor the situation. Environmental Health Officers continue to take the lead in the event of any pollution incident, co-ordinating the response with lifeguard and beach management.
- The Environment Agency intend taking additional samples from the Red River and investigating what metals are in the water, after which they will be seeking advice from the health protection agency as to what information to give to the public.
- The bathing water group meeting on 14th July will continue to meet regularly

5 Updates form Other Organisations

BM – Natural Trust

- Have received the final study form Camborne School of Mines.
- Monitoring the Red River Valley. Property restructure within the Trust. Car park is now managed differently

JP left the meeting

GS – Community Archieve / Hayle Mill Pond Project

- Suggested that Environment Agency attend the next meeting.
- The Police have identified cyclists along Towans (Red River) the police have been looking into getting off road bikes. If cyclists appear again to dial 999

BM & JC left the meeting

7 Sand Extraction

No outstanding issues

8 Any Other Business

Dogs – Have spoken to Dog Warden regarding an issue in Brook Way

9 Date of Next Meeting

Provisional date 13th October 2010

Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle

Appendix 1

Towans Partnership Meeting
Report from West Cornwall's Countryside Officer
Wednesday 17th March 2010

Progress Report

- 6 ponies arrived on Lethlean Towans in early December. They were then moved to Gwithian & Mexico Towans. Currently they are grazing Phillack & Mexico Towans until Easter.
- 8 Slate waymarkers installed on South West Coast Path at Gwithian & Mexico Towans; special capital improvement works funded by Natural England.
- 2 short stretches of fencing have been constructed to re-align a badly eroded stretch of the South West Coast Path at the Car Park at Phillack Towans.
- An adjustable overflow pipe has been installed to maintain a consistent water level in the lagoon on St Gothian Sands. This will help to create a boggy habitat around the margins of the lagoon that will encourage visiting wading birds to feed.
- 2 signs have been installed at Gwithian Towans Car Park warning people that there is an unfenced cliff edge nearby. Recently there have been several incidents where dogs have fallen a considerable distance over the cliffs onto the beach below.
- The RNLI have approached Cornwall Council with a proposal to locate a new seasonal portable lifeguard station on the beach at St Gothian Sands. Following a meeting with the RNLI the Council has given its consent for this building to be on site between April & September.
- A resident at Upton Towans raised concerns about vehicles accessing the parking area at Upton Towans getting too close to his front door. Cornwall Council has agreed to install a bollard outside his property to keep vehicles at a safe distance from his entrance.
- BTCV have started clearing invasive scrub on the areas identified on the condition assessment carried out by Natural England.
- We have recently received queries from the public about the stopping up of gaps in the hedge leading onto the Towans adjacent to St Ives Bay Holiday Park. We have confirmed that these hedges belong to a private landowner who we assume has carried out this work.
- Due to the growing problem of dog owners leaving bagged up dog mess under the sign on the beach at St Gothian Sands at the mouth of the Red River, we have received an enquiry about the provision of additional dog bins in this area. Unfortunately we are unable to provide bins at his location as it is inaccessible to the waste collection vehicle.
- We have received several reports of motorcycles accessing St Gothian Sands. We are currently reviewing measures in place to make it more difficult for them to access this site.

Work Programme

- Property Services are planning to repair the surface of the access road across Gwithian Towans. If funds are available work will start in the new financial year.

- 2 guided walks are planned to take place in the summer at St Gothian Sands. We are hoping to organise more events later in the year.
- Extension to post & rail fence & 'no motorcycling' sign to be installed at roadside at St Gothian Sands as part of measures to stop motorbikes accessing site.
- Small area of scrub clearance planned close to the top car parks at Gwithian Towans. It is hoped that having a grassy area immediately next to the car park & dog bin will attract dogs 'to do their business' there & encourage owners to remove it in a responsible way. The problems caused by fouling & nutrient enrichment of the soil will be eased.
- The public footpath from Gwithian Towans top car parks, parallel to the road to the beach will be trimmed out & an additional waymark installed to encourage walkers off the road.

DRAFT