

# Towans Partnership Meeting

## Report from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer for Hayle Towans

13 July 2010

### Progress Report

- 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 attracts dogs 'to 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.
- Received a report about the construction of cycle jumps in a dune 'blow out' north of Phillack Church. We will liaise with the Police and Natural England about this matter & remove timber used for jump construction.
- 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 padlocked 3' gate was installed to allow the RNLI access to the Lifeguard hut.
- Post and rail fencing that had been vandalised close to Gwithian Lifeguards hut was repaired.
- The seized padlock on the noticeboard outside Sunset Surf Café was replaced to allow it to be used to display current local information. The noticeboard at St Gothian Sands LNR is also being kept up to date.
- It was requested that a new padlock was provided at the barrier giving access to Gwithian Lifeguard hut & 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 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.
- One of the height barriers at the larger of the top car parks at Gwithian has been removed as it was broken. If problems with overnight camping recur then it will be replaced.

- A new temporary lifeguard hut has been sited on the beach at St Gothian Sands.
- Work to improve the potholed surface and replace broken 'dragon's teeth' at the larger top car park at Gwithian has been carried out.
- It was reported that old post and wire fencing & exposed war-time metal work had become exposed on paths west of Harvey's Towans Car Park and were a hazard to walkers. It was found that this was on ING's land and as they are not public rights of way, ING were made aware of the problems.
- Showed photographic students from Truro College around St Gothian Sands LNR. This site has been chosen as the subject for their studies & to follow up they will be contacting local venues to stage a photographic exhibition in October. Some excellent pictures have been taken.
- Beach Zoning Scheme in place between 10 July – 5 September 2010

### **Work Programme**

- A guided walk on history & folklore took place at St Gothian Sands LNR; another is planned to take place in July.
- The public footpath from the Gwithian Towans top car parks, parallel to the road to the beach, was trimmed out. As the path is overgrown again it is planned to re-cut this route & install a new waymarker post to encourage walkers to use the path.
- Butterfly transects are to be carried out in the summer months along regular routes over various parcels of land grazed in winter by the ponies. The results will be used to show how grazing benefits butterflies & moths.
- We are hoping to set up Management Agreements by liaising with landowners at Mexico & Lethlean 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.