

**Towans Partnership  
Draft Notes of Meeting on 30 September 2009  
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle**

<b>Present:</b>		<b>Supporting</b>	
Ian Toy (IT)	Gwithian Towans Ratepayers	Dave Clarke (DC)	Cornwall Council
John Pollard CC (JP)	Hayle Town / Cornwall Council	Sue Nicholls (SN)	Cornwall Council
Dick Goodere (DG)	Gwithian Residents Association		
John Gorst (JG)	Hockin Trust		
Cllr John Bennett (JB)	Hayle Town Council, Deputy Mayor	Terri Winchester (TW) (Notes)	Cornwall Council
Georgina Schofield (GS)	Community Archive/ Hayle Mill Pond Project	Joe Coot (JC) Notes	Cornwall Council
Mr B Makin (BM)	National Trust		
Cllr Duncan Thurnell-Reed (DTR)	Gwithin-Gwinear Parish Council		
Mr La Touche	Owner of Riviere Towans		
Mrs La Touche	Owner of Riviere Towans		
Phil Drew (PD)	RNLI		

**2 Apologies**

Cllr Brian Pocock (BP)	Gwithin-Gwinear Parish Council
Michael Williams (MW)	Owner of Lethlean Towans
Rob Jewell (RJ)	Chamber of Commerce
Ray Tovey CC (RT)	Cornwall Council
Cllr B Pocock (BP)	Gwithian Gwinear PC
Cllr Jean Charman	Camborne Town Council
Andrew McDouall (AM)	Natural England

**Actions**

**Actions**

**3 Minutes of the last meeting**

- a) 4f) Ragwort was not removed from the Towans
  - b) 4n) Bosarts Project artist is Janet McEwan
- The notes were amended and agreed as a accurate record of the meeting

**4 Cornwall Council Progress Report**

Countryside Officer report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 1)

**DC provided further information on:**

- a) Sarah Byham has left Cornwall Council – the meeting agreed to send her a letter of appreciation for her work and support in the area
- b) Gwithian Towans steps removed due to erosion of banks, fencing will be installed to deter visitors from accessing the beach via this route – redirection signs pointing to alternative access point will be installed on the fence. DG suggested looking at the reasons for the erosion and considering future access for users of Gwithian campsite and access during high tide. DC to review and liaise with Duchy College who have agreed to put in the fence
- c) Winter grazing confirmed for Lethlean Towans but unsure if we will have ponies on Gwithian Towans this winter
- d) Programme of events to be continued
- e) A possible sighting of a Sand Lizard on St Gothian Sands has been recorded, Sand Lizards are endangered so if it is correct the area could

**IT**

**DC**

- be designated a SSSI
- f) Vandalism – concerns for loss of habitat. DG observed that damage caused by bike riders could be stopped with better signage, leaflets and a warden to patrol the area. IT suggested that the Access to Nature Project Officer could have an element of warden duties and there is possible Access to Nature Grant funding for this. DC spoke to stunt bike riders who had dug out jumps behind Phillack Church on 27 September. The meeting discussed the issue and concluded that providing a suitable track would be a long term answer and could also bring good business prospects to the area. DC to investigate funding opportunities and identify potential sites, he will establish if Clare Williams would consider using her land to create a bike track. Code of Conduct signage could be more prominent across the area and better use to be made of St Gothian notice board
  - g) Mexico Towans – following a falling accident steps to the beach have been closed and people have been redirected to alternative access point down over dunes
  - h) Beach Zoning Trial - water based activities will be allocated a rigging area on the beach. PD clarified that lifeguards will provide advice but they have no enforcement responsibilities or powers

DC

#### **Cornwall Council Work Programming**

- i) Scrub cutting on the Towans is starting next week
- j) Grazing on the Towans is partly dependant on replacement officer for post that Sarah Byham vacated and it is hoped to commence grazing in a couple of months
- k) PD raised concern about broken hinge on emergency gate: DC confirmed that arrangements for repair are in hand and agreed to include digging out centre post in works

#### **Cornwall Council - update from SN**

- l) Beach cleaners finished 25 September, good results were achieved by conscientious operatives and it is hoped that these individuals will return next year. Statistics will be available for the next meeting

SN

#### **General comments**

- m) IT has noticed a return of glow-worms in grazed areas
- n) Replacement of burnt out waste bin at Gwithain Towans car park - SN agreed to pass on request to her colleague Mike Toms

SN

#### **National Trust – update from BM**

- o) Low visitor numbers for the season - it was a good start up to July but dropped to about 80K cars. Statistics will be available for next meeting
- p) Re-turfed main car park - dry weather necessitated using bowsers
- q) Seal watching point safety issues – low barriers now in place
- r) Camborne School of Mines commissioned to undertake a digital survey of cliff erosion towards the road. Study will inform timescales
- s) Beach safety discussions with PD on potential of extending lifeguards services to previously uncovered beaches, to include signage and red and yellow safety flags
- t) Godrevy parking – increased parking options being considered to satisfy tourist demands

BM

## **5 Local Updates**

### **Gwithian Green Residents Association – DG**

- a) Events included: 'Butterfly Walk', 'Conservation Issues' with Julia Goldsworthy, 'Bat Evening', 'Geological Walk' and 'Willow Making' with Sally Foster and Janet McEwen involving Connor Downs School funded by £300 Health and Wellbeing grant
- b) Volunteer work undertaken by Green Club BTCV and Duchy Collage

- c) Willow is being cut back and excess cuttings will be left on the right hand side of the green for anyone to take

**Hayle Millpond Project – GS reported**

- d) 80 ducks and a couple of coots on the pond
- e) Children trapped and killed 2 drakes, police will be taking case to court
- f) Due to low water levels the ponds heated up over the summer and European Turtles that were put in the pond over 100 years ago were seen, in some areas these are an endangered species

- g) Partnership congratulated GS who has received a neighbourhood award

**Natural England – DC reported on behalf of Andrew McDouall**

- h) Result of Conditional Assessment of Towans as SSSI is 'Unfavourable Declining' status, this is mainly due to encroachment of scrub. AM will be mapping all scrub and expects to bring the level up to 'Favourable Declining'

**Gwithian-Gwinear Parish Council – DTR reported**

- i) Parish considering applying for land behind church to be designated as common land under government pilot scheme – Martin Wright co-ordinating the scheme for Cornwall Council has advised that a stipulation for designation is that someone must be willing to graze the land even though it is recognised that it is ungrazable. Plan being prepared for consultation by end of December

**RNLI – PD reported**

- j) Incidents recorded as Gedrevy 12; Gwithian 19; St Peters Point 2; Mexico Towans 14; Hayle Town 7; SN will bring statistics to next meeting. There has been a decline in beach use but an increase in the number of people in the water. Lifeguard services will be extended for Porthmere and Gwithian until October half-term. RNLI in talks with Cornwall Council and land owners to improve facilities

- k) DLT asked if lifeguards could assist with issue of dogs on beaches - PD advised that whilst lifeguards would provide advice the issue is the council's responsibility. SN added that the Environmental Wardens (EW) had issued tickets for dog fouling but they also have other duties and they are not dedicated dog wardens, the EW for this area has been on long term sick leave. Problems seem worse this year and there is no consistency of dog orders throughout the county. Suggestions discussed included 24 hour bans or use of bylaws but without enforcement neither would work. PCSO could issue tickets; all breaches should be reported to police. The meeting concluded that a letter should be written to Alan Humphries, Health and Protection; Lance Kennedy CC, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities; Kevin Lavery, Chief Executive Cornwall Council; and copied to Andy Mead, Operations Manager for Environment (West) and Rebecca Kirk, Area Manager (West) Public Health & Protection, Cornwall Council; stating that "The Towans Partnership are concerned about dog enforcement issues and remedies to control dog fouling on the beaches need to be in place before next season, by the provision of effective banning and adequate enforcement"

- l) JP asked about beach pollution as shown on Panorama TV programme. PD responded that there is a notice displayed which indicates potential of pollution from the Red River and shows that pollution readings regularly exceed the standard required for bathing beaches due to sewage overflow discharge; the discharge licence was issued prior to awarding of bathing water status. CPR regeneration will increase the footfall of waste but plans to retro-fit suds were shelved as being too costly. Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW) to be

SN

IT

Invite  
SSW/  
EA

invited to next meeting. SN attending Bathing Water Liaison Group meeting (chaired by SWW) in November, and will circulate notes. ROSPA Bathing Water Directive obligates all land owners to display information about water quality on public signs; Defra will help with cost of signage and guidance on displaying consistent information for 80 beaches in Cornwall that have been designated for mandatory signage. SN will update at next meeting. GS added that something needed to be done about the recent outbreaks of E. coli

SN

SN

## 6 Partnership Review

- a) IT tabled the current attendance list for review and it was agreed that representatives from Defra, Mill Pond Project and Hayle Town Trust should be invited to future meetings. DTR asked about this groups relationship with Community Networks and it was agreed that no direct relationship has been established

## 7 Sand Extraction – No report

- a) HHML still to provide sand extraction figures to this meeting
- b) JB said that Hayle Town Council had received a letter from the sailing club stating that they had never seen it so bad. IT to write to Plymouth University asking if the survey that they are doing could be informative about the long term effects of sand extraction. BM suggested that 'Shoreline Management Plan' could be informative. IT offered to continue his GTRA correspondence with Andrew George MP and send a letter to chase up on the FEPA licence process. 'Save Our Sands' meeting scheduled for 13 October 2009'. DC to consult Jenny Christie, Marine Officer Cornwall Council and invite her to the next meeting if she has advice to give or comments to make. PD advised that scuba divers have commented on the movement of sand

PH

IT

IT

DC

## 8 Transport Sub-group Feedback – DC reported

- a) DC met with Peter Moore from Cornwall Council Transportation Section who advised that park and ride for the Towans is unlikely to be viable. Gwithian car park needs to be bought into line with the 'Off Street Parking Order of The Traffic Management Act 2004', and it is proposed that the car park is made into pay and display, contact names will be on signage for maintenance issues. Fly parking – if Highways own verges yellow lining along the road would apply to the verges also. Paul Walton from National Trust has agreed to come to next Transport and Parking (TAP) meeting, notes from meetings are copied to Maxine Hardy the local Community Network Manager. DC to attend Gwinear Parish Council meeting to give TAP presentation. IT said that in the past you could get a 'Traffic Regulation Order' was promised by Penwith DC in the past to give police the necessary powers to deal with obstruction of the access road, DTR questioned whether this applied to private roads. Towans Gate sign gives contact name of Mike Peters - PD raised issue of emergency access and RNLI will put concerns in writing
- b) JP concerned that unstaffed car parks is a cost cutting exercise but the decisions are outside the control of this group
- c) St Erth park and ride is scheduled to open 2012 – DC suggested that it could assist and benefit Hayle and he is hopeful that the Transport and Traffic Study 2010' will put Hayle parking issues on the agenda

PD

## 9 Any Other Business

- a) DG would like to invite Nick Taylor from Duchy College to next meeting
- b) SWW and EA invitation to meeting is priority

DG

- 1** **Date of Next Meeting**
- 0** 16 December 2009  
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle

DRAFT