

**Towans Partnership  
Draft Notes of Meeting on 21 January 2009  
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle**

<b>Present:</b>		<b>Supporting</b>	
Mr I Toy (IT)	Gwithian Towans Ratepayers	Mr M Hawkey (MH)	Cornwall County Council
Cllr J Pollard (JP)	Hayle Town Council	Mr D Clarke (DC)	Cornwall County Council
Mr M Williams (MW)	Owner of Lethlean Towans	Ms S Nicholls (SN)	Penwith District Council
Sergeant S Dobson	Hayle Neighbourhood Police		
Mr F Scott-Mance (FSM)	Hayle Area Plan Partnership		
Mr A McDouall (AM)	Natural England		
Cllr B Pocock (BP)	Gwinear Gwithian Parish Council		
Ms C Williams (CW)	Land Owner		
Mr P Haddock (PH)	HHML		
Ms S Foster (SF)	Gwithian Residents Assoc		
Mrs G Schofield (GS)	Community Archive/Hayle Mill Pond Project	Mrs T Winchester (TW) (Minutes)	Cornwall County Council
Mr B Makin (BM)	National Trust		
Mr K Salmon (KS)	GTRA		
Ms L Robinson (LR)	Save Our Sands		
Ms J Jackson (JJ)	Save Our Sands		
Mr J Gorst (JG)	Hocking Trust		

**2 Apologies**

Mr D Goodere (DG)	Gwithian Residents Association
Mr R Tovey (RT)	Gwithian Residents Association
Mr R Jewell (RJ)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms T Lello CC (TL)	Cornwall County Council
Cllr J Bennett (JB)	Penwith District Council
Mrs S Byham (SB)	Cornwall County Council
Mr S Sharples (SS)	Cornwall County Council (no longer attending meeting)

**3 Minutes of the last meeting**

- a) 8d) Action was put on whole meeting rather than just Wayne Adams to identify funding  
The notes were amended and agreed as a accurate record of the meeting

**Matters Arising**

- e) 4b) Details in Countryside Officer report Item 4
- f) 5i) Gwithian signage – SB is dealing with and will report to next meeting
- g) 7) Bylaws – SB in liaison with CC Legal on land ownership issues and bylaws that are already embedded in legislation. SF requested a progress report and signage to backup the message. SB to report to next meeting
- h) 8) Sand Extraction – AM to monitor and report to next meeting

**4 Cornwall County Council**

**Progress Reports/Work Programme**

**Progress Report**

Report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 1)

DC provided additional information:

- a) The Gwithian Towans ponies were moved from Phillack Towans to Lethlean Towans on 19 January, they will graze there until Easter
- b) RNLI lifeguard hut will be reinstated
- c) Gwithian Green Management Group consultation day. SB will be attending and SF/BP will be available on the day to provide guided tours and information, the area will be taped out on the ground to indicate proposed plans. BP advised that all views are welcome either anonymously, verbally or in writing
- d) Countryside Stewardship – CCC and Natural England have been working together for 12 – 13 years and this work will be ongoing
- e) Gwithian Towns entrance stone completed DC arranging transport for delivery to site
- f) Beach Zoning Trail – SD advised that Inspector Jean Phillips is the Community Police contact for patrolling the beach and Towans. There is already a patrol for Perrenporth and St Ives (the first in the country) if we share with St Ives the post is funded but if an additional officer is needed Devon and Cornwall Police will require a contribution for funding – IT suggested contribution should come from council
- g) Winter programme of events – CCC will ensure that all interested parties are notified if the

**Action**

**ALL**

**SB**

**SB  
AM**

event is cancelled

- h) The ponies that were grazing Phillack Towans will move to Mexico Towans

**Penwith District council – update from SN**

- i) Beach cleaning statistics graph circulated – the service has improved with dedicated support (2 staff from May to September for Hayle area), the lifeguards who used to clean the beaches were restricted to one hour per day. Mexico Towans does not come under the remit for cleaning but staff were very good and cleared the surrounding areas. Penwith removed 841 bags of rubbish from Hayle beaches. A digger will be going onto Upton Towans to clear away nets and large debris. Total amount of rubbish for the area so far this year is 86 tonnes (not including dead animals). Awaiting appointment of new Head of Service before jobs can be advertised in April but SN is confident staffing for 2009 will be to the same level as 2008
- j) Peters Point emergency telephone – replacement delayed until lifeguard hut is in position. Equipment is regularly checked by staff
- k) Events under the new authority will go in Cornwall Events Guidance Pack
- l) MH noted from beach cleaning graph that the level of sea rubbish is consistent throughout the year so he asked if the increase of summer rubbish comes from the beach. SN advised that Gwithian rubbish during the summer is often related to BBQ users, there are educational issues regarding safe BBQ disposal. BM commented that this is a common problem around the coast and a BBQ being put in a rubbish bin was probably the cause of St Agnes Café burning down. Consideration could be given to providing public BBQ facilities but he agrees that the main thing is to raise awareness and ensure that BBQs are cooled down and taken home for disposal
- m) SF commented that she was involved in a clear up event a year ago and they found tiny pieces of plastic in the sand that got into the eco system of the Red River

**National Trust – update from BM**

- n) Godrevey – main area turf rolled and aerated – Opening April currently advertising for seasonal staff. IT commented that the headland turf now looks very green
- o) Successful seminar to introduce 'Shifting Shores in the South West' a booklet informing of National Trust's views on climate change and sea level rise and featuring Godrevey Lighthouse. Copies of booklet handed out

**5 Local Updates**

**Hayle Millpond Project – GS reported**

- a) Environment Agency annual grass cut as part of a pre arranged programme undertaken early this year to allow cover for ducks
- b) Mill Pond Bridge repaired – GS's appeal in the 'Pump' (local publication) asking children to stay off of the island appears to have worked well, as it also did when asking boy racers to stop speeding
- c) Not yet heard if 'Green Flag' to be awarded
- d) Swan Pool is dying; there is no wildlife, a lot of rubbish and no maintenance and the pond is not recovering. GS has spoken to RSPB, Natural England and Environment Agency. GS is hopeful that 20year flood prevention review will take account of the state of Swan Pool. GS suggested that it would make a good project for a student study. IT asked if the water was contaminated, GS advised that EA test the water in the outer pool every couple of weeks. MH suggested getting the water tested through Tremough. SN thought that Brian Hoskin from Penwith DC was arranging testing – she will enquire and copy to GS. DC suggested possible voluntary involvement from Duchy College, he will discuss with SB. SF suggested seeking advice from sally Tomsett, CWLT. MH felt that EA should investigate it, GS to pursue. MW suggested that police should involve young offenders as part of their rehabilitation - DS advised that he felt this work needed specific expertise but he is working with Hayle Youth Project who would be available for volunteer work such as littler picks
- e) On Christmas day GS had a phone call to say that a swan had collided with overhead cables but the good news was that when Nick Reynolds went to find it, the swan had flown off

**Natural England – AM reported**

- f) Working with Natural England, RSPB, and CCC who are taking the lead to bid for Access to Nature grant, invited to bid for stage 2. Steering Group meeting 30 January to look at building bid details and community support. Aiming to submit application autumn this year
- g) Cornwall and Isle of Scilly Coastal Group Partnership undertaking a shoreline review, this is a national review using the South West to look at how shoreline will be managed over the next 100 years; get involved through website <http://www.ciscag.org/>

**Gwithian Green Residents Association – SF reported**

- h) Concerned about the height of ING developments on South Quay. IT asked if SF had been at the public meeting at Hayle Community School last week because it was very informative. Before development can go ahead ING will have to repair the harbour wall, the majority of it

SN  
DC/SB  
GS

on North Quay and over time the development will create jobs in the area. JP stated that ING will have to undertake a lot of remediate work and his biggest concern would be that the devolvement does not happen this work will not get done. MH advised that CC Environmental Officers are working with Penwith to ensure that all the issues are addressed. JP commented that without the development there would not be the Wave Hub. SF reiterated that their association are concerned about the size of the development, IT is also concerned about the number of houses for infrastructure of the area to support

- i) Gwithian Green is looking the best it has for a number of years, thanks to SB for the boardwalk and to Duchy College for their work on the path. Martin Will who specialises in conservation work cleared the steam for a reasonable price
- j) Friends of Gwithian up and running – they will advise the Management Group
- k) Dawn Chorus being lead by Coin French an eminent botanist who wrote that Gwithian Green is richest area in Cornwall with 900 flowering plants
- l) Management Group working well with conservation and biodiversity as their priority
- m) Butterfly monitoring for 13<sup>th</sup> year - transects set up and workshop planned for 18 June: All welcome. Butterfly report circulated – MH requested a copy of the report SF agreed to email it to him
- n) Enhancements to entrance of Gwithian Green will be in keeping with the area
- o) IT said the work of the group is very much appreciated, SF responded thanks should go to locals for their interest and good results

SF

## 6 Transport Sub-group Feedback

- a) Last meeting 6 January agreed to invite representation from Chamber of Commerce because plans will affect business in the area
- b) Dc and Scott Sharples met with owners of overflow car park and they are keen to see figures for commercial interest in the land
- c) Group agreed that now is the time to act to steer the new authority and guide their options; all the group can do is discuss they have no money to take action
- d) Godrevy Car Park combined effort between CCC and National Trust discussed
- e) Sandy Acres Planning Application submitted
- f) Access to Nature grant can not be used for private land
- g) Park and Ride St Erth – locals are not optimistic that it will materialise
- h) Contacting Transport Division to establish how they can help us in relation to all that is going on with ING development – ongoing liaison
- i) Next meeting 7 April 2009
- j) DP suggested setting out the options in map format – DC meeting with BM on 22 January they will plot out and bring to next meeting
- k) IT asked about getting repairs done to Gwithian Towans car park – DC advised that it would be counter to achieving higher goals, MH endorsed DC's advice

DC/BM

## 7 Any Other Business

### Sand Extraction

- a) 'Sand Extraction' to be on the Agenda for future meetings
- b) BC suggested that joined up actions would have more impact – JP said that polices would indicate supporting this line and the Clerk for Hayle Town Council would circulate the suggestion to Councillors
- c) IT commented that whilst all agreed the sale of sand is wrong the estuary needs to be dredged. PH informed that in consultation with Environment Agency and Natural England, ING is setting aside 60% of the sand for return when the FEPA licence is obtained and that the operation is running at a loss. BP commented that it in the public interest to identify fund to obtain the licence. AM confirmed that he had been consulted by Wayne Adams and had agreed that buckthorne infested area would be dug out and replaced with sand and over time marron grass would colonise the sand, this would be an interim measure and in 2 years it is hoped that the sand can be returned to the cell. MH informed the meeting that 27 years ago acting on advice from Nature Conservancy Council the County Council were responsible for planting the buckthorne to stabilise the sand dunes which is an example of man made damage. PH informed that the plan is to fence the area to replenish and plant, the FEPA licence cost is £8K and will take a few months to sort out the application. SF said that when Hanson used to take the wind blown sand they believed that it was being taken to keep the road clear but now the sand naturally goes backwards and forwards. IT reiterated the need to find funding for the licence. Defra require as part of the licensing process full environmental information which will determine where the sand is best returned to
- d) Sand our Sands – LR said that the beaches where being ruined and turned into mud flats with the extraction, and this will impact on tourism. They are not against keeping the fisherman safe by dredging but the sand should be returned. SF agreed that unless we look

Agenda

JP

after the habitat the tourists will not come to the area, she asked if the Shoreline Management Plan could look at this but AM advised that the issue is too local and the timescales 2010 for report would not suit the purpose. LR asked about income from sale of sand and PH said that the operation was running at a loss of £30K – ING are required to replace 10% but as a good will gesture that will be retuning 20%

**One Cornwall – MH reported**

- e) Environment issues will be a priority but there will be budget issues – Mike East (currently Technical Director for NCDC) has been appointed as Head of Environment
- f) Car parking will come under Transportation
- g) Community Networks (CN) will give the opportunity for greater input at local level and Sally Newby has been appointed CN Manager covering this area
- h) MH will be reporting based on the recommendation from previous meeting that this Partnership has a useful function and makes a valuable contribution to complex management issues. Round the table representation for the new council will be different. Elections are likely to be October 2009 and the interreg period will mean that there will only be 82 Members to carry out the work for the whole council, the implication being that they will have very heavy workloads, with this in mind MH suggested that the next meeting be delayed until June

**Devon and Cornwall Police – SD reported**

- i) Neighbourhood Team are committed to engage at local level, the beat officer is PC Kevin Youngman. The only issues on record for the area are a report of gun shots and bikes. Good communication is vital and SD can be contacted on 01736 751827 or 07786865108 *only use this number if you want to pass on information or non urgent intelligence* – use the general the telephone numbers 08452777444 or 999 to report active crimes or call for assistance in an emergency

**8 Date of Next Meeting**

10 June 2009

Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle

DRAFT

# Towans Partnership Meeting

Report from Cornwall County Council's Countryside Officer

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009

## Progress Report

- ✿ The Gwithian Towans ponies have been moved to the grazing area 3 in front of the chalets beside the main car park. This occurred earlier than planned due to a number of incidents with people tampering with the pony grazing. The ponies are regularly monitored.
- ✿ The RNLI have had surveyors in to assess the re-building of the lifeguard hut. Low levels of vehicle movement across the dunes will be required to bring in materials to re-instate the hut. Natural England are being consulted.
- ✿ Gwithian Green Management Group is holding a consultation event regarding the planned improvements to the Green entrance and other associated projects on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The event is being held in the Church Hall from 3-7pm.
- ✿ Contractors have carried out the year 2 Countryside Stewardship work on Gwithian Towans, cutting scrub along the road and within the central area of the Towans.
- ✿ An entrance stone has been commissioned for Gwithian Towans in a similar style to those on St Gothian Sands. It will hopefully be in place by the end of January.
- ✿ **Beach Zoning Trial – update** – the Beach ownership group has met twice to review the 2008 trial. A format for the 2009 trial has been drawn up and meetings are being held with user groups to discuss how best to let different activity groups know of the trial. A meeting with the police has been held to discuss the possibility of having a beach beat PCSO to aid enforcement of existing bye laws and beach management.

## Work Programme

- Ⓢ The winter programme of events continues with a Sand Dune arm chair safari on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Gwithian Church Hall where you can learn about the history and wildlife of the dunes.
- Ⓢ Duchy college will be returning to the Peter's point steps to carry out routine maintenance and repairs.
- Ⓢ The ponies on Phillack Towans will be moved to another location, yet to be decided, within the area. The ponies on Gwithian will remain until they have adequately grazed the area or until just before Easter.
- Ⓢ Planning for the summer events programme is underway. If anyone would like to include local events in this year's diary then please let me know. The deadline for submitting events is January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*The work carried out on the Towans is guided by local input. If you have any suggestions or comments or would like to take part in any of the events or activities mentioned you can contact Sarah Byham on 07800 610560 or e-mail [sbyham@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sbyham@cornwall.gov.uk).*