

**Towans Partnership
Draft Notes of Meeting on 1 July 2009
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle**

Present:		Supporting	
Mr I Toy (IT)	Gwithian Towans	Mr D Clarke	Cornwall Council
J Pollard CC (JP)	Ratepayers Hayle Town / Cornwall Council	Ms S Nicholls (SN)	Cornwall Council
J Coombe CC (JC)	Cornwall Council		
Mr R Tovey CC (RT)	Cornwall Council		
PC A Charmain (AC)	Hayle Neighbourhood Police		
Cllr J Bennett (JB)	Hayle Town Council, Deputy Mayor		
Mr A McDouall (AM)	Natural England		
Tony Bunt (TB)	Resident		
Mr P Haddock (PH)	HHML		
J McGuire	Local Artist		
Ms S Foster (SF)	Gwithian Residents Association		
Mrs G Schofield (GS)	Community Archive/ Hayle Mill Pond Project	Mrs T Winchester (TW) (Notes)	Cornwall Council
Mr B Makin (BM)	National Trust		
Mr K Sampson (KS)	GTRA		

Actions

2 Apologies

Mr D Goodere (DG)	Gwithian Residents Association
Mr M Williams (MW)	Owner of Lethlean Towans
Mr R Jewell (RJ)	Chamber of Commerce
Mr M Williams (MW)	Local Resident
Cllr B Pocock (BP)	Gwithian Gwinear PC
Mrs S Byham (SB)	Cornwall County Council

3 Minutes of the last meeting

- a) 5k) Dawn Chorus was lead by Martin Rule
 - b) 7c) ING setting aside 20% of sand for return to bay
 - c) 7d) ING are required to replace 20% but are returning 60%
- The notes were amended and agreed as a accurate record of the meeting

Matters Arising

- e) 5d) SN was not able to progress water testing to report back to GS.
Brian Hoskin is no longer with the council

4 Cornwall Council

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

Progress Report - DC provided further information on:

- a) Steps to beach at Gwithian Towans – the solid structure of concrete steps will be replaced with a ramp. DC to check status of route and report back to next meeting. KS suggested that if the route is permitted for horse use the ramp would not be sturdy enough **DC**
- b) Summer events
 - St Gothian sands history and nature walk, Thursday August 6th
 - Gwithian beach bonanza, Tuesday August 11th
 - Sand dune safari, Thursday August 13th
- c) Gwithian Towans entrance stone now in place. AM suggested commissioning a similar stone for Upton Towans – DC to look into **DC**

- d) Ragwort pulling - there is a statutory duty to ensure that infestations are not within 100 mts of gazed pasture, we do not fall within that category but we will remove it from Towans and Lethlean anyway. SF informed the meeting that DG is currently working on Gwithian Green with volunteers to remove hemlock - JP advised that the Parish Council should be informed for insurance compliance. SF is concerned that neighbouring farmer is not clearing hemlock
- e) Caterpillars on the Towans include Cream Spotted and Scarlet Tiger Moths
- f) Gwithian Car Park – DC has a meeting this afternoon to look at anti social behaviour. IT feels that horse riding business using the car park needs to be addressed and he commented that the visual impact of the site has improved.
- g) DC is meeting with Peter Moore, Transportation, to look at car park management in general, the aim is for closer working

Work Programme

- h) Peter’s Point new Lifeguard hut is solar powered and fire proof. Damage caused by the construction machinery accessing the site will be made good
- i) DC will be setting up butterfly transects across the Towans – SF requested that thanks is noted for DCs butterfly conservation work, it is much appreciated

National Trust – update from BM

- j) Dealing with vandalism caused by vehicles breaking into top fields at Godrevy has taken up a lot of time and energy – vehicle registration numbers have been passed to the police
- k) Ragwort has been found in concentrated areas
- l) Plans to returf the main large car park entrance this autumn
- m) Seal watching point safety issues – NT have resisted fencing before but a risk assessment has indicated that precautions need to be taken. A low level barrier will be installed, like the one at Hell’s Mouth. IT suggested a viewing platform for photographers, BM said that his could be a long term consideration and they are also looking at how the SWCP deal with safety by zoning
- n) Godrevy is the focus of an art project that Janet McGuire is working on

Boss Art Project – JM reported

5 artists engaged work on art access project. JM has chosen to work on Godrevy and will be doing research in the area. A temporary event that is driven by research and consultation will be held on 22 August

Natural England – AM reported

- o) SSSI Conditional Assessment of the Towans starting this afternoon will make recommendations in terms of notified features. Scrub encroachment, zonation and fixed or mobile dunes will be looked at. SF enquired what NE does if notification fails e.g. Silver Studded Blues – AM advised that there is potential for modification so that new features can be added or taken into account as significant. If SF provides data AM will incorporate in future management plans
- p) Gwithian Towans inspection this morning – the track impact damage to the habitat is minor and will recover
- q) Dog fouling is causing long term changes to the habitats around Gwithian Gate where areas are becoming enriched through fouling – AM suggested that possibly under Countryside Stewardship the vegetation is periodically cut to deter dogs spreading to other areas - AM and DC to discuss stewardship. Dog fouling is an unresolved issue and the meeting agreed that any legislative actions would need to have manpower for enforcement. Incidents to be referred to Rebecca Kirk, Cornwall Council

**SF/
AM**

**AM/
DC**

Progress Report

Cornwall Council – update from SN

- r) Still doing the same work as last year
- s) Beach cleaners are constantly exceeding job requirements

5 Local Updates

Hayle Millpond Project – GS reported

Natural England – AM reported

- a) Leak – Environment Agency lowered level of the water so that they didn't have to repair leak and locals were keen to go down legal route to resolve. During hot weather in June the fish came to the top of the pond but the water is now up to 6 inches. Mosquitoes are attracted by the silt at the bottom on the pond, but there is no money to remove it but a suggestion was made to move it under and around the islands as was done in 1996
- b) Top pond is shallow and will heat up in the hot weather but vegetation has made good recovery and wildlife is back. It has been a decent breeding season with ducks on river doing well
- c) Angarrack – biodiversity programme agreed by the Environment Agency for the stream bank is not supported by all local residents

Gwithian Green Residents Association – SF reported

- d) 50th anniversary
- e) NHS Community grant will be used to fund a willow weaving event for the community and to purchase nets and equipment for Connor Downs School to work with on the nature reserve
- f) Events
 - Bat Day with Cathy Turtle, County Ecologist 14 July
 - Butterflies on Upton Towans 4 July
 - Geologist walk for locals
- g) Wet area known as the Snipe Bog is much improved and is looking fantastic
- h) 5 year review of management plan – Gwithian Green was given to village without title so Parish Council is designated as responsible for management. As a volunteer Dick Goodere is key to management of site but Friends of Gwithian Green would like officer support to manage the conservation habitat - DC confirmed that whilst it could not be dedicated CC would continue to provide support across the Towans. RT advised that Parish has a management role and IT advised that this meeting is not the correct forum to raise issues that should be reported through the Advisory Group to the Parish in the first instance

Hayle Neighbourhood Police – AC reported

- i) Dog fouling - PCSO to be informed of persistent offenders
- j) Life Guard hut raided at Gwithian
- k) No reports of off road bikers
- l) Car park vandalism – AC going to meeting this afternoon. Request for registration numbers of offending vehicles
- m) Godrevy – BM enquired if there was still a general crime log number (there was one about 5 years ago) that could be used to build up picture of offences in the locality – AC advised that each incident would have to have to be logged individually
- n) JP and IT observed that this meeting had been informed that the Towans would be patrolled by PCSO

6 Sand Extraction – PH reported

- a) Licence has another year to run
- b) 25K tones of sand removed with 60% returned and the rest sold to fund process. IT questioned impact of removal - PH advised that natural sluicing had evened levels out
- c) Possibility of mechanical dredging of side estuary with sand being returned to North Quay beach - the aim is just to clean up the area
- d) JP observed that the sand used to replenish the dunes had a lot of stones in it. PH agreed and explained that this is because it is not screened and that boulders were used to stop cars driving over the area. It is hoped that the area will stabilize when marram grass becomes established. The area is being monitored by an engineer
- e) 'Annual Dredging Meeting' – PH is awaiting authorisation from Wayne Adams to bring published figures to this meeting. 1/4ly meetings programmed
- f) FEPA licence application – hoping to raise funding from sand sales
- g) Natural England are providing advice and see an opportunity for ecological improvements over time

7 Transport Sub-group Feedback – DC reported

- a) Objective is to address car park issues across the Towans
- b) Funding is an issue and we need Cornwall Council Transportation on board, to this effect DC is liaising with Peter Moore. Potential funding from Access to Nature bid could provide £20K for transport surveys. Community Networks to be approached for funding
- c) National Trust contacted regarding parking issues at Godrevy - Paul Walton to be invited to next meeting
- d) RT suggested inviting Maxine Hardy, Community Network Manager for Hayle and St Ives to the next meeting
- e) JP suggested linking into CPR regeneration as INGs Sec 106 monies for Hayle have been accounted for – Hayle Town Council meeting with ING next week. DC has been advised by Dave Lewis that under European legislation mitigation money of £40 per house is payable if there is a likely impact on areas with international designation which does not include SSSI's. AM feels that CPR should focus on people using area which will have an impact of the habitat. JB suggested contacting David Clough, Senior Planning Policy Officer (formally Penwith)
- f) Andy Mead, Operation Manager for Environment (West) CC hopes to have restructure in place by end of August. He is keen on in house maintenance and already has an established maintenance team. West area stretches from Scorrier to Penwith

DC

8 Any Other Business

- a) Attendance for future meetings – From Cornwall Council Andy Mead will deal with operational issues and Steve Crummay is responsible for strategic issues. RNLi and Rebecca Kirk or Alan Hampshire to be invited. SF suggested that Friends of Gwithian, conservationists and landowners should also be invited. DC and IT to review invitee list
- b) JC - received a complaint about glass on the beach, it was not a large quantity. SN advised that landowner Mr Toms has given permission for cleaners with quad bike to access the beach over his land, beach cleaners log items collected
- c) 'Hayle in Bloom' 22 July, national judging 23 July

DC/IT

9 Date of Next Meeting

30 September 2009

Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle

Towans Partnership Meeting

Report from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer

Wednesday, 1st July 2009

Progress Report

- ✿ The steps to the north of Gwithian Towans are to be removed and the cliff re-profiled as the steps have become dangerous. This work is to be carried out imminently and should be completed by the high season.
- ✿ A programme of summer events is under way across the Towans and on the beaches – activities include beach bonanzas, sand dune safaris and history walks. School and educational visits are also taking place
- ✿ The entrance stone commissioned for Gwithian Towans in a similar style to those on St Gothian Sands has been put in place and has received many favourable comments.
- ✿ Ragwort puling in the grazing areas has been planned for mid July and will be carried out by volunteers from BTCV in anticipation of the ponies returning to the site in September.
- ✿ There have been large numbers of woolly bear caterpillars and their associated moths sited on the Towans this year – much above average. It is thought that the moths are Cream spot Tiger moths *Arctia villica*.
- ✿ **Beach Zoning Trial – update** – The Beach Management Advisory Group has reviewed the 2008 trial zoning scheme and has revised the zoning of Gwithian Beach for 2009. The zoning will come into action on July 11th until September 6th between the hours of 10am and 6pm and will be signed on the cliff top and in the Gwithian Towans car park. Stake holders and interested parties have been informed and information is available from local outlets and on the internet.

Work Programme

- Ⓢ It is planned that a new lifeguard hut will be installed at Peter's Point before the peak season begins. Ecological assessments have been carried out and a site meeting has been held to instruct contractors on how to avoid unnecessary damage to the environment.
- Ⓢ Patrols and surveys will be carried out on the Towans over the summer season to monitor activities and wildlife.
- Ⓢ The 2009 beach zoning will be reviewed in the autumn and appropriate alterations considered for the coming year.
- Ⓢ The ponies will be returning to the Towans in the autumn to continue the conservation grazing programme.

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.