



River Crouch Estuary Coastal Community Team

Management Team Meeting

Thursday 17th November 2016 at 13:15

Held at St Mary's Church, Burnham On Crouch, CM0 8DA

Meeting Notes

Dean Border Chairman DB	Baltic Distribution
Cllr Penny Channer Cllr PC	Maldon District Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph Cllr St J	Maldon District Council
Paula Chapman PC	Rochford District Council
Cheryl Milton-White CMW	Rochford District Council
Russell Everard RE	Maldon District Council
Doug MacEwen DM	Crouch Area Yachting Federation Clubs
Jeff Kew JKW	RSPB
Fr Mark North MN	Burnham Town Council
Ken Wickham KW	Roach Sailing Association
Keith Powell KP	Dengie Enterprise Support

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Dean Border (Chairman) welcomes all, all attendees introduce themselves.

Apologies from: Cllr June Lumley – Rochford District Council, Natalie Holt – RSPB

2. Work Plan 2016/17

Events

The group had not met yet and Cllr R Pratt was not present to give update. DB felt that future promotional events around the CCT area should be pursued, as previously discussed a proposed 5K run around Wallasea and that the partnership should work together to highlight details of such events. The group would also support partners who wish to organise and hold events.

Young People

Responses to the letter inviting schools to participate had been very low, however both Ormiston River Academy (ORA) and William de Ferrers Schools had expressed an interest. The King Edmund School had also responded but were not able to participate.

The Young People working group had met with ORA. A project involving Year 7 students is being developed. MM would be applying to Magnox socio-economic scheme for up to £1000 funding, (ORA had discussed funding of £500 to enable the project to happen). Once project outline agreed the Principal would need to authorise.

The CCT Management Group felt that this type of project should be continued to work on and suggested earlier engagement with the schools to ensure greater future participation.

Footpaths

CMW advised that the footpath group had met again and had been joined by Cllr Glen Dryhurst and Sue MacEwen, who both have extensive knowledge of local footpaths and routes.

Six walks were selected, three on the North side and three on the South side. The details of the walks will be passed onto the Guide working group so that information about the walks and links to allow people to download the walks will be on the Guide reprint. The need for information in regards to bus routes, and places to park to enable walkers and visitors to access walks was also discussed and needs to be added to Guide.

Action: CMW to email Paul Hemsworth in regards to bus routes for the Guide reprint.

SWF River Access

DM informed the group that the application has been admitted to Essex County Council Highways Panel.

Guide

DM explained that they were investigating the cost of a reprint of 5000 Guides and that there are some amendments to be made to the Guide. The major change will be to remove the events page and replace this with details of the 'walks' that the footpaths group are working on, as this would mean the Guide would have a longer shelf life as would not be restricted by dates. RE informed that group that Maldon DC may be able to reprint the guide in house to keep costs lower. There may also be costs involved in regards to distribution as it would be good to distribute the guide outside of the CCT partnership. The launch of both the Guide and video (via the Young People project) is planned for 7th April.

The group also discussed the need for clarity in regards to a criteria outlining who could be included in future versions of the Guide, would this be an opportunity to make the guide sustainable by encouraging sponsorship or fees for being included. This will be an agenda item for the main group for discussion.

3. Project Proposals

- Lower Crouch Crossing: The group were presented a paper by DM/KP. **At this point Cllr Channer stated she would not participate in any of the discussions for this proposal as she is a member of Planning Committee at MDC.**

The proposal incorporates development of the Crouch Harbour Authority site, Burnham Yacht Club including a new wheelchair pontoon, a restaurant, signage, a visitor/tourist information site, retail outlets, a number of residential units, two passenger ferries, a wheelchair friendly pontoon on Wallasea and a new pay and display car park on Wallasea.

There was a lot of discussion in the group about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal, Officers from RDC felt that it was a very Burnham focussed proposal and there was no apparent economic benefit to the Rochford District communities and that more evidence to support this proposal was needed. Also there were some concerns in regards to the funding of this project in its current state, as the Coastal Community Fund for Round 5 has been reduced to a total of £15 million, which every CCT around the Country can apply. The group agreed that it would support a project proposal but not as outlined in the document and that work would be done in partnership to produce a more satisfactory proposal to be put forward.

- Marine Management Organisation(MMO) Tool Kit: Cllr St Joseph explained that the River Blackwater CCT were looking at a proposal for the need for a more streamlined and easy to follow process that would be of benefit to local communities and businesses. Members of the group from the Crouch Harbour Authority offered to provide additional information to Cllr St J to support the work that was being undertaken. It could be a piece of work that would be useful to both the River Blackwater CCT and to our CCT. Cllr St Joseph was invited by the Group to attend and give a presentation at a future River Crouch CCT meeting. Chair DB suggested that it may be beneficial for the Management Groups from Blackwater the Roach CCT's to meet to discuss current and over lapping work streams.

Action: CMW to email Cllr St Joseph to confirm he would like to present MMO Tool Kit at the River Crouch CCT meeting on 7th December

4. Coastal Community Fund Round 4

RE updated the group on the progress of Maldon DC application which had been unsuccessful.

5. Secretariat Arrangements

RE advised the group that Rochford DC Officers had informed him that they were going to hand the secretariat duties of the group over to Maldon DC. Officers from RDC have been providing this service since the group formed, without charge or compensation for RDC, as outlined in the TOR, the Accountable Body, MDC are responsible for this function, and so it would be appropriate for them to do so. RE explained that MDC have Officers time constraints and will not receive funding for performing this duty, which is the same position RDC Officers as they also have capacity and budget issues. It was suggested that Chelmsford BC may perhaps be able to assist and Cllr PC agreed to take the issue back to MDC to see if they could offer additional support.

6. AOB

RE informed the Group that additional Members from MDC would be attending future River Crouch CCT Management Group meetings. RE also informed the Group that the current TOR will be revisited to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 17th January at 2.00pm at the Rayleigh Civic Suite.

7. Close

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.