



Heritage Coast
Sunderland-Durham-Hartlepool

HERITAGE COAST PARTNERSHIP

STEERING GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017
VENUE – SEATON HOLME. EASINGTON VILLAGE**

[Document consists of 12 pages]

I PRESENT

Cllr R Arthur	Seaham Town Council
Niall Benson	Heritage Coast Partnership
Steve Bhowmick	Durham County Council (Design/Conservation)
Katharine Birdsall	Environment Agency
Ross Carrick	Durham County Council (Countryside)
Gail Craig	Heritage Coast Partnership (Minutes)
Cllr G Crute	Monk Hesleden Parish Council
Emily Cunningham	Consultant (Seascape Project)
Ian Graham	City of Sunderland (Coastal Ranger)
Louise Harrington	Heritage Coast Partnership
Cllr P Hunt	Ryhope Community Association
Bev Jones	Horden Regeneration Partnership
Joe Lemon	Ryhope Community Association
James MacLean	Northumbrian Water Ltd
Myrtle MacPherson	Easington Village Parish Council (Open Seat Rep)
Cllr J Maitland	Durham County Council (Murton Ward)
Fred Rowe	Horden Regeneration Partnership (Open Seat Rep)

2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from :

Wayne Appleton	National Trust
Mark Frain	National Trust
Chris Scaife	Hartlepool Borough Council
Gary Shears	Durham County Council (Ecology)
Ernie Cooper	East Durham Heritage Group (Open Seat Rep)
Darryl Cox	Durham County Council (Countryside)
Joe Davies	Natural England

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the Heritage Coast Steering Group Meeting held in July 2017 were accepted as a true record of proceedings by all present.

It was noted that Cllr Arthur did not receive the LAF contact information – Niall Benson to forward this.

5 MATTERS ARISING**HALLIWELL BANKS LANDFILL SITE**

Niall Benson has contacted the Environment Agency, there have recently been some staff changes and a new staff member has been assigned to the steering group (Lloyd Tyson) –no update has been provided.

Joe Lemon expressed his frustration at the length of time this issue has been on the Agenda (15 years). He was also concerned that there was still no sign of the report which was supposed to be published last year by the Environment Agency. The landfill is now exposed and it is a matter of time before it breaches fully, a large crack has now appeared on the surface. The impact along the whole coastline will be felt –on Seaham beaches, Easington and further south. As the contents of the site contain medical waste, this is extremely worrying.

Ian Graham has been in post for one year and reported that there were visible differences in this timespan; people visiting the site are now starting to comment on it. This has been reported to Sunderland City Council but there has been no reply.

It was agreed that Niall Benson will write to and request a response from the Environment Agency and report back to the Steering Group. Niall will also contact Sunderland City Council.

Cllr Hunt will also make enquiries within Sunderland City Council. She was aware that the relevant people were going to be taken to court, but nothing seems to have happened and there have been no further advancements. She will also contact the MP for Sunderland too.

It was noted that previous press coverage and communications with the Secretary of State by Niall Benson has not resulted in any positive action.

6 HERITAGE COAST OFFICER'S REPORT – NIALL BENSON

Adoption Draft - Management Plan – Niall distributed some hard copies of this document– electronic copies will be distributed to everyone by email.

All comments and advice received so far have been included which have included Bathing Water Quality, Horse Access, Declining Bird Numbers, and Invasive Species. Some maps need improved, more images are needed for inclusion before the Final Plan is issued.

England Coast Path – The England Coast Path Partnership group is now established and meets twice a year. The Partnership is extending to include South Tyneside and Stockton (Tyne to Tees). Work has taken place recently on the condition of the path, counters, signage and the installation of kissing gates. An Implementation Grant is in place to oversee these works from Natural England.

Landscape

- The third Reach for the Beach Festival will be taking place during Whit Week 2018; last year's festival engaged with around 5000 people.

- Transnational Visit with Finnish Partners – this visit took place in November with the involvement of East Durham College’s Music and Media students and focussed on the coastal dunes and marine litter. It is good for the students to experience different cultures. Unfortunately it is looking as though the East Durham students will not be able to visit Finland now due to the cessation of the Government Funding stream; however Niall is continuing to explore other funding options.
- Ongoing discussions are taking place with Natural England regarding a concept called ‘Living Coast’.

Nature Conservation

- S106 Habitat Regulations Assessment – guidance has been adopted by Durham County Council which affects the coast and in particular Crimdon. This has been in place for around 3 years now and some income from development is starting to come in. Hartlepool Borough Council have HRA money coming in which can be used to match the little tern budget – this may result in a little tern Project Officer as well as two Wardens for next year. This is a big step forward in terms of cross-authority work
- There have been improvements to Easington Colliery Local Nature Reserve – paths have been installed, this is due to the hard work of local councillors and community involvement
- Little terns – only 9 fledged this year due to dogs entering the colony and destroying the eggs and other predators. Next year more people will be on site which should result in more effective working with the community and visitors to the site next summer. Access routes will be changed and public perception will be improved so that they understand more about the bird and it’s importance.
- Seasearch – three dives have taken place on the Heritage Coastline this year, images have been sent through of the shoreline underneath the waves which are very encouraging. The images won a National Award for Seasearch (North East).

Coastal Streams Partnership

- Wear Catchment Partnership – this is a sub-catchment delivery partnership; funding is making a difference. An update was handed out by Niall, Niall will circulate this electronically as the print quality was poor.
- Castle Eden Catchment Improvement Project is continuing – this has resulted in a Wapping Burn Focus Group which will involve Peterlee Industrial Estate - money will be in place for physical improvements. Pollution levels are being monitored so the source can be known – local businesses will be involved (albeit not at this point in time).

- There will be a planning meeting in January covering Ryhope, Hawthorn and Crimdon
- North East Water Science hub – ongoing
- EU Interreg Topsoil Project – ongoing
- Bathing Water Assessments 2018 – all beaches have been classified as ‘excellent’ which is great news! James MacLean said looking at the country as a whole, the Durham coast was near the top of the rankings due to all beaches now being classified as excellent.

Seascope Project ‘Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas’– Emily Cunningham gave an update on this project which has now been approved for HLF Funding, this is resulting in £5m over the next 6 years. More than 20 organisations make up this Partnership and are involved.

The project boundary is from the England Coast Path out to sea for 6 miles and focusses on the heritage rich seascope – geological, industrial, wartime and natural.

The timescale is right as it fits in with North East Marine Planning processes, the momentum gained from the Sunderland Tall Ships 2018, builds on the England Coast Path Partnership and is the next chapter in post-industrial recovery.

Timescales for the Project :

Stage 1 bid (approved) which is an 18m development phase; this will see the employment of two staff members, a Development Officer and a Community Engagement Officer;

Stage 2 submission is due in July 2019; delivery will take place between January 2020 and January 2024 which will see the employment of another 4 staff members.

Councillor Hunt said that the Seascope Partnership could feed into the Heritage Coast Partnership; a defined structure is needed as to how information is exchanged and input (which does not need to be over complicated), there is also some overlap as some members of this Partnership also sit on the Seascope Partnership.

Ian Graham – Coast Project

This project is running in the Ryhope Area, an area which is earmarked for much development.

The funding for Ian’s post comes from SI06 HRA money which Niall has already spoken about.

Sites of ecological importance are being surveyed for overwintering birds which need protecting as some species are declining rapidly.

Purple sandpipers are not coming to Britain now due to global warming and the Durham coastline has two species in decline - the sandering and the redknot.

Part of Ian's role has included undertaking training in habitats, survey and methodology work, butterfly monitoring, John Muir training, whale and dolphin watch training; as well as being involved in Partnership events, public engagement work, beach cleans, and learning about marine litter.

So far the response to the Project has been fantastic and he has received some very positive feedback. He has been involved in commissioning a survey at Hendon which could be a local wildlife site; this may be designated next year.

The Ryhope area also attracts flytipping, Ian is working on cleaning this area up – and keeping landowners informed accordingly. He has also been dealing with invasive plant species, which is an ongoing battle.

Access improvements at (Ryhope) Denemouth have now been expedited along with regular litter picking. A large aspect of Ian's role is talking to people and tackling anti-social behaviour issues like dog fouling.

There was some discussion as to why rockpools in the Ryhope area were not thriving, Joe Lemon suggested this could be because of the issue at Halliwell Banks. A report by an expert in this field would be needed before conclusions are drawn. Councillor Hunt asked if samples were tested on the shoreline; this is carried out by the Environment Agency although Northumbrian Water may well be asked to take samples for the EA. As Ryhope is not classed as a recreational beach it is not included in the statistics. Joe Lemon said that there are plenty of dog walkers on Ryhope beach and it was a pity that pollution was not cleaned up purely because it was not classed as a 'recreational' beach.

Niall Benson said there was no reason why samples could not be taken to check it was not sewage related. Councillor Hunt queried leaking substances getting into the aquifer. As this is groundwater it is clearly an Environment Agency issue – Niall will also include the question of samples/boreholes being taken when he writes to the Environment Agency about Halliwell Banks.

Councillor Hunt said that 500 new houses are being built at Ryhope which which will have an impact and will put massive pressure on the coastline and coastal dunes.

7 LOUISE HARRINGTON : PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Reconnecting Communities and Coast – this has been a 2 year project in Ryhope and Hendon, funded by HLF and the I4 programme.

Summary of the project

- Engaged with approximately 6600 people
- 46 community events attended
- Involvement with 7 local primary schools (approx. 700 pupils)
- Engagement with 2 Youth groups (approx. 50 young people)
- Awarded 72 John Muir Discovery Awards

- Engagement with 12 local community groups

Primary School Work has included - art projects, building an Anderson shelter, looking at village landmarks; light up Ryhope art project; learning about heritage, achieving John Muir Awards, fishing, guided walks, treespotting, rockpooling, beach art, visits to Donnison School and George Elmy Lifeboat House (local history), beach trips to look at geology, marine litter and partaking in beach cleans, making bug hotels, bird boxes (science and nature).

Access Improvements and Conservation Work– working alongside Ian Graham.

Flytipping at Ryhope has been cleaned up. Louise has also been involved in arranging local rockpooling events and beach fun sessions.

Coast Watch – East Sunderland is now launched; they will be taking this forward now. Dog fouling is an issue, Ian is helping with this.

Ryhope Leaflet – the Heritage Group supplied photos to produce a self guided walking route around the village.

Capturing Coastal Memories and Learn 2 Love Projects – Louise is currently working on these and finalising them.

Bev Jones asked about the possibility of this happening in Easington/Horden/Blackhall as it has been such a fantastic project.

Niall Benson said that the Seascope Project may mean the equivalent of Ian Graham's post in Durham.

Councillor Hunt summarised that this had been a very unique project and a huge success; links to networks have now been formed by Louise that we may be able to use in the future.

Coastal and Marine Data Evidence Review – Emily Cunningham

This is a small project funded by Natural England and the Heritage Coast Partnership looking at gaps in knowledge.

This will take in an identical geographical area to the Seascope Project. There is a lack of knowledge of what is underneath the water on our coastline.

James MacLean enquired as to how the information would be presented. Emily explained that she is creating spreadsheets and including all gathered data. This will then highlight priorities.

Niall Benson said that workshops would be arranged for the Spring and that he would be looking to the Partnership for advice.

Business Plan – Niall Benson provided an update for Quarter 3 (attached).

Any Other Business

Ross Carrick reported that Durham Police were having a large crackdown on off road vehicles (Operation Endurance). Durham County Council and the National Trust are involved and are feeding into this.

This has resulted in the Police getting a better picture of where the issues are.

Fred Rowe said forecasts for the erosion of colliery waste on the shores at Horden hadn't been accurate. Niall Benson said that this depended on wind direction/pressure and tides which can make a massive difference. Current predictions are that the colliery spoil should be all gone by 20 years time.

11 CONTACT LIST

As there have been several new members to the steering group, pages 9-12 show contact details for all members.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tues 27 March 2018
Thurs 21 June 2018
Thurs 27 September 2018 (Annual Forum)
Thursday 13 December 2018

Page No	Name	Action
2	Niall Benson	Forward LAF contact information to Councillor Arthur
3 & 6	Niall Benson	Official letter to EA re Halliwell Banks and sampling; letter to SCC re Halliwell Banks
3	Councillor Hunt	Contact SCC and MP for Sunderland re Halliwell Banks
3 & 4	Gail Craig	Send electronic copies of Wapping Burn Information sheet and updated Business Plan (Q3)

HERITAGE COAST STEERING GROUP CONTACT LIST

	Contact	Email
Chairperson	Cllr P Hunt – Ryhope DC	
City of Sunderland Civic Centre Burdon Road Sunderland SR2 7DN	Nicol Trueman Andrew Bewick Mark Taylor Claire Dewson Ian Graham	nicol.trueman@sunderland.gov.uk Andrew.Bewick@sunderland.gov.uk Mark.Taylor@sunderland.gov.uk Claire.Dewson@sunderland.gov.uk Ian.graham@sunderland.gov.uk
Natural England The Quadrant Newburn Riverside Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 8NZ	Tom Charman Joe Davies	Tom.Charman@naturalengland.org.uk Joe.davies@naturalengland.org.uk
Durham County Council County Hall Durham	Gary Shears (1) Countryside Officer Tel 03000 267 137 Darryl Cox (2) Tel 03000 264 586 Steve Bhowmick (3) Tel 03000 267 122	Gary.shears@durham.gov.uk Darryl.cox@durham.gov.uk Steve.bhowmick@durham.gov.uk
Durham County Council	Cllr J Maitland Tel 03000 268 740	joyce.maitland@durham.gov.uk
Groundwork Grosvenor House 29 Market Place Bishop Auckland Co Durham DL14 7NP	Grace Crawford	Grace.crawford@groundwork.org.uk
Durham Wildlife Trust Rainton Meadows Houghton-le-Spring Tyne and Wear DH4 6PU	Jim Cokill Tel 0191 584 3112	jcokill@durhamwt.co.uk

Environment Agency Tyneside House Skinnerburn Road Newcastle Business Park Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR	Lloyd Tyson Joanne Grantham Katharine Birdsall Tom Manuel	Lloyd.Tyson@environment-agency.gov.uk Joanne.Grantham@environment-agency.gov.uk Katharine.Birdsall@environment-agency.gov.uk Tom.Manuel@environment-agency.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council Hartlepool Countryside Wardens C/o The Gatehouse Hartlepool Power Station Tees Road Hartlepool TS25 2BZ	Chris Scaife	Chris.Scaife@hartlepool.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council 117 Stockton Road Hartlepool TS25 1SJ	Cllr Kevin Cranney	kevin.cranney@hartlepool.gov.uk
Ambassador	Sylvia Tempest	sylvia.tempest@angelic.com
National Trust	Eric Wilton Mark Frain	Eric.Wilton@nationaltrust.org.uk mark.frain@nationaltrust.org.uk
Northumbrian Water Abbey Road Pity Me Durham DH1 5FJ	James MacLean	james.maclean@nwl.co.uk
Horden Regeneration Partnership	Bev Jones	b.jones@cotsford-jun.durham.sch.uk
Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership	Councillor David Boyes	David.Boyes@durham.gov.uk

Seaham Town Council	<p>Eddie Mason AMBASSADOR and Vice Chair</p> <p>Cllr R Arthur</p> <p>Paul Fletcher Seaham Town Council Parks Department Cemetery Lodge Princess Road Seaham Co Durham SR7 7TD Tel 07718 984210</p>	<p>parks@seaham.gov.uk</p>
<p>Ryhope Community Association C/o Ryhope Community Centre Black road Ryhope Sunderland SR2 0RX</p>	<p>Councillor Paula Hunt (CHAIR) 5239371</p> <p>Joe Lemon</p>	
Myrtle MacPherson	OPEN SEAT REP 1	NOT ON EMAIL
Fred Rowe	OPEN SEAT REP 2	

Ernie Cooper East Durham Heritage Group	OPEN SEAT REP 3	
Cllr Gaynor Crute Chair of Monk Hesleden Parish Council 132 West Avenue Blackhall Colliery Hartlepool TS27 4LD	Blackhalls	
Marine Management Organisation	Zoe Mackay	Zoe.Mackay@marinemanagement.org.uk