



**Heritage Coast**  
Sunderland-Durham-Hartlepool

# **HERITAGE COAST PARTNERSHIP**

**STEERING GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2015  
VENUE – SEATON HOLME EASINGTON VILLAGE**

**[Document consists of 8 pages]**

**I PRESENT**

Niall Benson	Heritage Coast
Steve Bhowmick	Durham County Council (Env & Design)
Sarah Bowman	Hartlepool Borough Council
Heather Brittlebank	Natural England
Councillor D Boyes	Durham County Council (Easington)
Councillor B Burn	Mayor of Seaham Town Council
PC Jen Christie	Northumbria Police
Darryl Cox	Durham County Council (Countryside)
Gaynor Crute	Chair of Monk Hesleden Parish Council
Clare Deasy	Northumbrian Water Ltd
Louise Harrington	Heritage Coast
Paula Hunt	Ryhope Community Association
Myrtle MacPherson	Easington Village Parish Council
Councillor J Maitland	Durham County Council (Murton)
Ed Mason	Ambassador
Fred Rowe	Steering Group Open Seat Representative
Gary Shears	Durham County Council (Ecology)
Inspector Southall	Northumbria Police
Deborah Staines	Durham County Council
Sylvia Tempest	Ambassador
Nicol Trueman	Sunderland City Council
Ruth Tyson	Environment Agency
Ross Wares	Ryhope Community Association
Joanne Willey	Durham County Council
Florence Wilson	Hornden Regeneration Partnership

**2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ross Wares, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from :

Joanne Ashworth	Groundwork
Chris Evans	Natural England
Deborah Jefferson	Hartlepool Borough Council
Joe Lemon	Ryhope Community Association
James MacLean	Northumbrian Water
Sarah Stevenson	Environment Agency
Councillor S Thomas	Hartlepool Borough Council

#### **4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was agreed that the minutes of the HC Steering Group Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were accepted as a true record of proceedings by all present.

#### **5 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **HALLIWELL BANKS LANDFILL SITE**

Ruth Tyson reported that investigations were continuing on site, with bore holes and trial pits being drilled in September and ecological assessments were ongoing. Groundwater monitoring is still being carried out and will finish in January 2016. A full site report will be produced by May 2016 which will make things more clear about what will happen next on site. Niall Benson questioned whether the report would be in the public domain; Ruth will investigate and report back on this.

Erosion monitoring will continue on site, next monitoring will take place in January.

#### **6 HERITAGE COAST OFFICER'S REPORT – NIALL BENSON**

##### **CIC**

Interim trustees have been appointed so that registration could be submitted – the application has been rejected twice; more proof is needed of charitable objectives.

Once the CIC is formed full trustees will be appointed at the inaugural AGM when it takes place.

##### **Reconnecting Communities to Coast**

HLF funding has now been awarded for this project (£90k over two years). Another funding bid had been submitted to "14" which, if successful, will be used for environmental improvements so the coast can be better used.

##### **Coastal Communities Team**

Assisting with development of a walks leaflet from Hendon to Hartlepool; a photographer has been commissioned to take some high quality images of the Northern and Southern end of the Heritage coast for this leaflet.

##### **Restorative Justice**

Ongoing work is taking place with Durham Constabulary and the Fire Service; especially in the light of the fires which took place on the coast last year.

**Marine Life** – Seasearch had a successful coastal dive this year which is showing underwater species continuing to recover. There may be a large HLF

project coming through which the Heritage Coast Partnership can be active in – more information to follow on this.

### **Coastal Streams Partnership**

This project extends work from the coast inland, the focus being all streams flowing into the sea. It aligns NWL/EA investment & others to gain wider environmental, social and economic benefits; as well as bidding into the EA Medium Term Plan to roll the model out across all the coastal streams c. £40K pa project funding for three years

### **North East Water Science Hub**

ERDF bid for £1.25m has been submitted.

Revenue could be developed for both of the above schemes.

### **Business Plan**

The Business Plan for Quarter 3 was circulated – attached.

### **Management Plan**

Now at pre-consultation draft stage – two further chapters need adding, the plan will be finished by January 2016.

## **7 LOUISE HARRINGTON : PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **Horden Denes**

All phases are now complete. The scheme recently won an award in the County Durham Environment Awards (People and Places category). Louise extended a huge 'thank you' to all involved in the Project, community groups, members of the community and all who had worked on site and had been involved. Steve Bhowmick said it was fantastic recognition for the Partnership and it's work.

### **Capturing Coastal Memories Project**

HLF funded project (£9200) – looking at all different coastal memories, growing up on the coast; working in collieries – anyone with any interesting stories can be involved. Project also involves working with 3 local Blackhall schools next year – children will be encouraged to 'interview' their grandparents; be engaged in artwork; and will take part in trips to Horden Heritage Centre, the George Elmy Lifeboat House, the Donnison School and possibly Beamish. A book will be produced at the end of the project and a celebratory event will be held. A camera with video function has been purchased and Myrtle offered to be our first interviewee – Louise had edited some of the interview and played this for all to see. More interviews will take place next year – any volunteers to be interviewed welcome.

Paula Hunt mentioned weekly reminiscing group sessions held at Ryhope for the elderly and it may be a good idea to link into this.

### **Reconnecting Coast and Communities**

Permission to Start has recently been granted for this project. In the New Year a meeting will be held with all the relevant personnel to discuss the way forward.

### **John Muir Discovery Award**

This is being carried out in conjunction with Durham Constabulary (Restorative Justice Scheme) with five individuals from Easington Colliery who have been in trouble with the Police.

Part of the award is to discover and explore wild places – the group had been out on a 3 mile circular walk, accompanied by the local PCSO from Easington.

Other aspects of achieving the award include doing a conservation task and sharing/presenting their experiences. A boat trip had been offered to take the group out and raise awareness of habitats and species and the effects of anti-social behaviour on biodiversity.

Discussion ensued whether the Award was too lenient for offenders and whether it would offer any help with their problem behaviours and just be seen as a 'reward' rather than punishment. DHC had just been requested to help with this initiative from a local police officer. Restorative Justice had been chosen in this instance by Durham Constabulary and the Award is aimed to challenge the individuals and to 'open their eyes' to what effect their actions can have on the landscape, ecology etc.

### **HLF Learn 2 Love Project**

A bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £25,000 for funding to continue the work with Durham Constabulary and the Restorative Justice Scheme and also to carry out a project with Murton Ribbon School. An outcome is expected at the end of January.

### **Heritage Coast Festival**

This will take place from Saturday 28 May to Sunday 5 June 2016. Starting with Celebrating our Coast at Dalton Park on the first Saturday with the National Trust half marathon ending the festival the following Sunday. This will take place through half term week with some exciting events held along the coast including rock pool rambles, photography walks and much more. Seaham Marina staff are also keen to be involved – they will be providing some kayaking sessions and assist with the provision of boat trips, there will be sea shanties at the Lookout café and an open day with the George Elmy Lifeboat House staff. If anyone has any further ideas please contact Louise.

Other events so far in 2016 include :

- Peterlee Show
- Ryhope Carnival
- Hartlepool Summerhill Coast and Countryside Festival
- Castle Eden Dene Family Fun Day

### **Beach Care**

Joint work has taken place with :

- Northumbrian Water
- ASDA
- Lloyds Bank
- Lord Street Seaham with Civic Pride team
- Super Heroes (Nicola Beldham)
- Seaham Beach Cleaning Crew / Blast beach / Christmas Clean-Up

Councillor Maitland queried the make-up of rubbish generally found on the beaches. Louise said it was a mix of rubbish from people frequenting the beach and what had been washed up; with regular clean ups from volunteers the beaches are getting better and looking cleaner. The last clean-up session at Seaham had seen five shopping trolleys removed from the beach.

Fred Rowe added that a proportion of rubbish was fishing waste.

### **Jimmy Kays Touring Exhibition**

16<sup>th</sup> January – 27<sup>th</sup> February at EDAN, The Art Block, Seaham

11<sup>th</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> April at Blackhall Community Centre

17<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June at Seaton Holme, Easington Village

*To follow July – December 2016*

- Hetton
- Spennymoor
- Murton

## **8 PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE**

An independent review is currently taking place of the governance of the Partnership which will look at current processes (staffing, finance etc) and streamline them as well as providing recommendations for improvements. Joanne Willey and Deborah Staines (Durham County Council) handed out a draft structure and accompanying notes (attached).

Partnerships in other parts of the UK had also been looked at; as well as feedback from the current Partners (in the form of a questionnaire). Any further feedback is welcomed (email [REDSERVICE@durham.gov.uk](mailto:REDSERVICE@durham.gov.uk)) and

all feedback will be collated and discussed at the next steering group meeting in March.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Easington Colliery Project** – Councillor Boyes asked that an Easington Colliery Project was included; working alongside the National Trust.

**Denemouth** – Fred Rowe queried what further improvements would be carried out. On the ‘Blackhall side’ the hedge will be cut; the small carpark is becoming overridden. The angling club are using the barrier for access; so far there have been complaints. There is suitable grazing land which needs fenced off; liaison with the National Trust is needed in this regard.

**‘106’ Funding** – Paula Hunt queried involvement with Cherry Knowle and funding to protect the foreshore. This project is being led and delivered by Claire Dewson’s team, Sunderland City Council.

**Projects with Other Agencies (e.g. Housing Development Issues)** – Councillor Burn queried this; Niall responded that there is the capacity to develop this further by working more closely with Sunderland City Council on their strategic plans; Niall will be completing a business case to extend our support in this area. There is funding associated with managing access onto the coast.

**Hartlepool Access** – Sylvia Tempest said that access at some parts was dangerous and access via dune systems was causing ecological damage. The Bruce Tunnel had been opened damaging habitats; Niall said he could write to the Chief Executive of HBC; which did help the last time this occurred. Niall to investigate this further before doing this (priority).

### Transportation

Ed Mason asked about the possibility of another initiative like the ‘little tern bus’ which would encourage people to come to the coast more and keep coming. The bus had been a one year project with external (Leader) funding. Information provision could be a lot better for the coast if there was more funding available. There may be opportunities to explore in tourism areas next year.

### Education

Paula Hunt said the project involving Murton schools showed educating children can have a really positive effect, teaching children to look after their coast.

### Coast Watch

Discussion took place about the success of this scheme and how it can be extended into Sunderland. There is no particular funding needed as it uses existing Durham Police systems (as used for Neighbourhood Watch, Farm

Watch etc) – although some leaflets were produced when the scheme was first launched. External funding has been granted to key police officers in Durham Constabulary to form Junior Coast Watch.

### **Network Rail Fencing**

Network Rail have installed 6' high galvanised steel fencing along the coastline from Hawthorn to Easington; when this was installed at Dawdon, it attracted a lot of complaints because of the detrimental effect on landscape quality. Niall wrote to Network Rail when this happened and thought that an agreement was in place to liaise before any more fencing of this nature was installed. Niall is meeting Network Rail staff on site later this week – the key issue is about recognising Heritage Coast status.

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 8 March 2016

Tuesday 5 July 2016