

CYNGOR GWYNEDD GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the 20th Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Liaison Group meeting held on the 13th April 2011 (starting 7pm) at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.

Present:

Cllr Caerwyn Roberts (CR)	Local Authority – Snowdonia National Park Authority (chairman)
Alison Hargrave (AH)	PLAS SAC Officer
Dafydd Roberts (DR)	RA - Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA)
Mike Bowyer (MB)	Other - Archaeology
Mike Parry (MP)	Tourism
Bill Miller-Jones (BMJ)	Other - Diver and boat owner
Alan Gayden (AG)	Community Council – Dyffryn Ardudwy & Tal y Bont
Rowland Sharp (RS)	Other
Rhys Jones (RJ)	RA – Gwynedd Council
Glynne Roberts (GR)	Commercial Fishing - Llŷn Inshore Fishermen's Association
Bill Bracewell (BB)	Recreation - Aberdyfi Partnership
David Roberts (DavR)	Local Authority – Snowdonia National Park Authority

(PLAS – Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau)

(RA – Relevant Authority)

Introduction

CR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Cllr Ray Quant	Local Authority – Ceredigion
Lucy Kay	RA – CCW
Bob Lowe	
Jilly Whipp	
Mike Thrussell	
Glen Bickell	

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Item 4.2 (AH to check MCS figures regarding costs of marine litter): AH has spoken to MCS and confirmed that the figures regarding costs of marine litter are UK figures not Wales only figures. **Action completed.**
- 3.2 Item 4.2 (AH to send AG KWT's contact details): **Action completed.**
- 3.3 Item 4.2 (AH to set up a focus group to discuss the litter issue): **Item on agenda.**

- 3.4 Item 5 (AH to circulate dates of SMP public meetings as soon as they become available): Dates are not yet available. Action carried over to next meeting.
Action: AH to circulate dates of SMP public meetings as soon as they become available
- 3.5 Item 8 (AH to write to Greg confirming that the Liaison Group has invited him to represent industry on the group): *Action completed.*
- 3.6 Item 8 (RS to send information regarding bass fisheries to AH. AH to send this information to DavR): In addition to the information received from RS regarding minimum landing size and closed seasons AH spoke to WAG and to the local fisheries officer Asa Owen regarding this issue. There are two people that fish the Dyfi on a regular basis. One uses a rod and line and the other fishes for mullet using a seine net. The following rules apply to the Dyfi:
- No bass fishing between 1st May – end October
 - There is a minimum landing size
 - There is a minimum mesh size
 - Bylaw 24 closes the Dyfi between 1 April – 1 November to drift nets and seine nets.
 - There are no restrictions to fishing from the shore
- This information was emailed to DavR and explained at the meeting. *Action completed.*

4. Update from the SAC Officer

4.1 Update on work undertaken May 2010 – November 2010

AH outlined the work that had been accomplished since the last meeting:

- 2 presentations organised – Inner Wheel Caernarfon and Sustainable Abersoch Society
- Cool Seas Roadshow began last week and will run until 15th April. 16 schools booked in. Huge response with 50% of schools requesting the show. AH also takes the opportunity to speak to the teachers regarding the SAC and how they can find out more information.
- AH will be visiting schools on request – Ysgol Llanbedrog has already booked a session for May.
- AH has written an article about the SAC for Llygad Llyn
- AH has given a radio interview about the SAC for Galwad Cynnar (15th Jan)
- The website has been updated
- The annual events leaflet has been produced and will be distributed shortly
- Many beach cleans have been undertaken
- AH has lead a guided walk / presentation to the Pwllheli multicultural group (in Aberdaron)
- AH's priority over the last few months has been the management plan
- AH has also worked on two SAC projects, Turning Tide and a Sea Grass project

Turning Tide project:

- The project has officially come to an end
- AH has written the final report for Tidy Towns
- AH has completed a schools competition the winning entries are currently being made up into posters and the runners up are being made into a series of stickers. The aim is to encourage people not to throw litter and to raise awareness of the PLAS. Copies will be sent

out once they have been produced. AH will also write news items and send out a press release regarding this.

- Even though the project has officially come to an end, the project itself has continued. A number of beach cleans have taken place using our equipment and AH has publicised them.

Management of the seagrass bed at Porth Dinllaen – an initial investigation into the use of alternative mooring systems:

- AH commissioned a report to investigate the use of alternative mooring systems in Porth Dinllaen.
- The intertidal mudflats and sandflats feature is in unfavourable condition and in unfavourable conservation status. The main reason is the impact that the current mooring and anchoring facilities are having on the sea grass beds at this location. The sea grass beds are a component feature of the intertidal mudflats and sandflats.
- A number of actions have been noted against anchoring and mooring in Porth Dinllaen both in CCWs actions database and in PLAS management plan.
- The aim of the report is to look into the current situation in Porth Dinllaen, to look into the alternative mooring systems and to come up with best management options for Porth Dinllaen.
- The report has been completed and should be available in a few weeks.

Action: *AH to send a copy of the report via email when it becomes available.*

5 Presentation and discussion on Marine Conservation Zones

AH gave a presentation on the current situation with regard to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Wales. MPAs include marine SACs, SPAs (Special Protection Areas), RAMSAR and SSSIs. In September 2009 WAG produced a document called 'Protecting Welsh Seas' which outlined its proposals to use a new MPA designation called Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The intention in Wales is to have a small number of Highly Protected MCZ as we have a sufficient number of SACs. For more information please visit the WAG website www.wales.gov.uk and search Marine Conservation Zone.

The group discussed the topic and asked for more information when it becomes available and suggested writing a letter from the group to the MCZ stakeholder group to request involvement in the process. It was noted that Louise George from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) is on the stakeholder group.

Action: *AH to write a letter to the MCZ stakeholder group to request that the Liaison Group is involved in the process.*

6 PLAS Management Plan

AH explained that she had been working on the management plan over the last few months with the aim of completing the plan as soon as possible. AH brought 12 completed Topic Action Plans to the meeting and asked if the group could look over them and submit comments. AH also wanted to discuss the management actions to begin the process of agreeing actions. AH noted that she has linked all the plans to other SAC plans in Wales and also to CCW's actions database to ensure consistency.

AH explained the relationship between the Management Plan and CCW's actions database. The PLAS management plan will contain all the relevant actions to bring PLAS features back to favourable condition and status. CCW's actions database will only contain the priority actions. The database will act as a rolling work programme for the PLAS management plan. Once the management plan has been completed the RA group will prioritise the actions. These will be the actions that feature in the database. Actions can be added or removed from the database. This will provide the RA group with a computerised reporting mechanism. AH added that actions such as monitoring, reporting, raising awareness and stakeholder involvement will not be included in the database but will be included in the management plan.

The group had a discussion about the topic action plans and the management actions. It was noted that other designations such as MCZs and the Dyfi biosphere reserve should be included in the document. AH explained that each topic action plan has a section called 'links to other plans and projects'.

Action: *AH to send the topic action plans to the Liaison Group via email.*
Action: *Liaison Group members to submit comments to AH before the next Liaison Group meeting in October.*

7 The future of SAC management

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) is looking into the management of SACs in Wales and how they can manage them as a network of sites. WAG has asked CCW to provide advice on this issue. Consequently CCW are undertaking a review of current SAC management to report back to WAG. This is an important piece of work as it will shape the future of SAC management. CCW will contact Relevant Authorities and Liaison Group members shortly regarding views on SAC management. CCW are looking at finishing this piece of work over the next few months. It was stressed that it was vital that the Liaison Group input into this when given the opportunity to do so as CCW and WAG will be using the recommendations of this review to decide the future of SAC management. The Liaison Group agreed that it was important. AH noted that a letter had been sent to CCW to request a copy of the review.

8 Any issue of concern or interest

BMJ – Radiation from Trawsfynydd

BMJ brought up the issue of radiation due to the recent disaster in Japan. BMJ wanted to know:

- What is known about radiation in the SAC from Trawsfynydd?
- Is there any risk to the SAC from stored materials at Trawsfynydd?
- Is the Irish Sea still the most radioactively polluted sea in the world?

MP mentioned that WYLFA used to monitor the situation.

BMJ wondered what the situation was further afield, is anyone measuring this?

RS noted that there was a fish farm in the lake at Trawsfynydd and that it is monitored regularly.

Action: *AH to look in to the situation wrt radiation from Trawsfynydd.*

RS – Litter bins in Barmouth

RS asked if the Council has reduced the number of times they empty the public bins in Barmouth. He asked if they could time it better e.g. they could empty the bins at specific times e.g. before the evening rush at the chip shop. He wanted to know what the plans are for the summer.

Action: AH to look into the situation wrt public litter bin collection in Barmouth.

AG – Flooding in Dyffryn Ardudwy

AG noted that a concern had been raised at a council meeting regarding the amount of water coming down into the village and flooding houses. AG asked who to contact about this and what effect this could have.

DR mentioned that the EA might be closing several hundred ditches to prevent flooding using LIFE funding.

Action: AH to look into the issue of flooding in Dyffryn Ardudwy and provide AG a point of contact in EA.

MP – Flooding in Pwllheli

MP noted that there is a lot of silt and mud coming down the river and drying out especially in the inner harbour. This causes displacement that could put houses close by at a higher risk from flooding.

MB – Moorings

In view of the Porth Dinllaen sea grass project MB mentioned that there are a large number of moorings on land that no one owns.

9 Time and date of next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for the 5th October 2011, 7 – 9pm in Plas Tan y Bwlch.