

# **CYNGOR GWYNEDD**

## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL**

**Draft minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Liaison Group meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 (starting 7pm) at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.**

### **Present:**

Bill Bracewell	Recreation - Aberdyfi Partnership
Mike Bowyer	Other - Archaeology
Lucy Kay	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Rod Gritten	Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA)
Rhys Jones	Gwynedd Council (GC)
Rowland Sharp	Other - Personal Interest
Alison Hargrave	SAC Officer
Cllr Caerwyn Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority (chairman)
Cllr Ray Quant	Local Councillor
Bill Miller-Jones	Other - Diver and boat owner
Mike Parry	Tourism - Llyn Fisherman's Association
Vitoria Hickin	North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (NW&NWSFC)
Ruth Sharratt	Royal Yachting Association
Gruff Jones	Other - Keep Wales Tidy
Alan Gaydon	Community Council

### **Introduction**

Caerwyn Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were a number of new faces everyone introduced themselves.

Caerwyn Roberts explained that he had to attend another meeting that he could not get out of at 8pm so Rod Gritten would chair the meeting during the last hour. He also explained that Rod Gritten would be leaving his post in May 2008 and this would be his last meeting. On behalf of the group he wished Rod well and thanked him for all the hard work he had put into the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.

### **1. Apologies:**

Andy Jeffery	Industry
Liz Allen	Ceredigion County Council (CCC)
Liz Jones	Environment Agency (EA)
Alf Bowen	Tourism - Aberdyfi Partnership
Mike Thrussell	Recreational Fishing
Jilly Whipp	Other
Bob Lowe	Recreation

### **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 3.1 (Alison to keep the group updated on the Interreg IIIA raising awareness project): This item is on the agenda.

***ACTION: Alison to keep the group updated on the Interreg IIIA raising awareness project***

#### **4 Update from the SAC Officer**

##### **4a) Update from the Relevant Authorities Group – a new chair**

Caerwyn Roberts explained that David Archer from Snowdon National Park Authority used to chair the Relevant Authorities Group. He has since retired and the Relevant Authorities Group have agreed that Emyr Williams, Director of land management within Snowdon National Park Authority, will take over as chair with Rod Gritten (or the new Senior Ecologist) remaining as vice chair.

##### **4b/c) Raising Awareness and the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC logo**

**Alison gave a summary of the raising awareness initiatives that had taken place during 2007.**

- A number of presentations were given to approximately 11 groups and over 40 schools.
- A theatre production was produced under the Interreg project and has been extremely successful
- Special schools have also been visited this year for the first time, incorporating a trip down to black rock sands
- The mobile exhibition has been to over ten shows / events
- A number of events have been organised including a guided walk, rock pool safari and a sand sculpture competition
- 4 articles have been written for various magazines
- A number of press releases have been written
- A book mark has been produced to promote the SAC, the new website and to also give some tips on how to look after the environment
- The 5<sup>th</sup> newsletter is ready for circulation
- The new website should be live by mid November, the content has been completed. The web address is [www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk](http://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk)
- A logo has been produced for the SAC

##### **4d) Living Coasts Living Seas – Interreg IIIA project**

**Alison gave an update on the Interreg project Living Coasts Living Seas.**

This project was set up to raise awareness about Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC. It is funded by the Interreg IIIA programme and match funded by Gwynedd Council. Under the requirements of the Interreg IIIA programme we are the lead partner with Fingal County Council, Ireland as our project partner. The Welsh side of the project consists of ten sub projects. Updates outlined below:

##### **Audience survey**

This project has been completed.

##### **Art project**

- Contracted out to Creu-ad
- Split into three elements
  - **Mural**  
A series of small mural depicting the underwater world of the SAC as well as the SAC concept will be constructed and placed on a wall in Tywyn railway station. This is an ideal location as it is frequently used. Many school children use the

train to get to school. Creu-ad will be working with Tywyn Secondary School and Age Concern to develop ideas for the murals. We have had the go ahead from local community via the town council and a local press release. The final murals should be installed by March 2008.

- **Bathing Machine**

A sculpture depicting the underwater world of the SAC will be constructed and placed in Plas Glyn y Weddw gardens for a few months and will then reside in Llanbedrog car park. Ideas for the sculpture have been taken from a number of workshops that were held in Plas Glyn y Weddw over the summer. The workshops were very successful. The final piece should be completed and installed by March 2008.

- **Photographic project - completed**

Ysgol Ffriog and Ysgol Nefyn were chosen to participate in this project. Jean Napier, a professional photographer, and either the SAC Officer or the project coordinator went along to the school for 2 – 2.5 days. One the first day the pupils were taught how to use the disposable cameras, looked up facts on the internet about marine life then went down to the beach to take photos. They also did beach art and took photos of that as well. Over the next few days the pupils gathered information together and did some drawings, poetry, stories etc about the sea. One the second day of our visit we cut and laminated the photos, stories etc and stuck them onto shower curtains. This was very effective and many people have commented upon them after they had seen them at shows that we visited.

### **Theatre project**

- This project has been completed this year
- Fran Wen was contracted to undertake this project
- Angharad Tomos wrote a script – the largest turtle in the world. Using the story of the largest recorded leatherback turtle in the world washing up in Harlech to capture the imagination of the children
- Fran Wen put the drama together and toured 21 local primary schools with the show
- Each session consisted of a chat before hand with the Fran Wen education officer, the production followed by a workshop. Each child was also given a turtle friendly bag and some SAC goodies
- An education pack was also prepared by Fran Wen and a copy given to each school
- We also took the show over to two schools in Fingal, Ireland
- Fran Wen held an open day to advertise the project at the Sea Zoo in Anglesey
- Fran Wen liked the script so much that they have sourced more funding to take the story to more schools. This year they have also toured schools in Anglesey, Conwy and the rest of Gwynedd as well as 4 Special Schools

### **Underwater video**

- This project has been contacted out to Atticus media and design
- The video will be 30 seconds long i.e. in the form of an advert
- It will be produced in a number of formats to enable us to show it in cinemas, TV and also to download to mobile phones. People will be able to download the video from the new website
- The video should be ready by December

### **Leaflet**

- The leaflet has been contracted out to Blah d blah so that it links in with the design of the mobile exhibition

- The leaflet will be an information leaflet about the SAC. It will let people know what the SAC is, where it is, what is there etc
- The leaflet should be completed by March 2008

### **Mobile exhibition**

- The mobile exhibition has been contracted out to Blah d Blah
- This project has been completed
- The mobile exhibition consists of
  - Main display panel – consists of 5 panels that join together
  - Double sided panel – text about the SAC and a map
  - Outdoor panel – text about the SAC and a map
  - TV screen that fits onto the main display panel – we can display the video on this once it is produced along with anything else such as a slide show of photos
  - A swinging poster stand
  - A newly designed poster for the stand – so we can advertise events etc
  - 4 round tables
  - 2 literature stands
  - 4 interactive / educational games:
    - Gone Fishing
    - Head ‘n Tails
    - Large Floor Game
    - Find the Treasure
- The completed exhibition has been to a number of shows and has been successful

### **Poster**

- A poster will be produced for the SAC by means of a competition
- The competition is running until November 10<sup>th</sup> and people can submit photos, art work, poetry etc. Iolo Williams will be judging the competition. The winner will receive a trip for two on a boat around Pen Llŷn and their entry will be incorporated into the new poster
- The poster should be completed early 2008

### **Interpretation panels**

- This project has not been contracted out yet
- This project will be finished by June 2008

### **Evaluation**

- This project has been contracted out to Beaufort
- They will be evaluating the mobile exhibition, the art project and the theatre project. They will provide us with a report
- This project will be completed by early 2008

### **Seminar**

- A seminar will be run at the end of the project in partnership with Fingal County Council in Ireland to promote the project and go over our findings

### **4e) Updating the management plan**

Alison explained that the process of updating the management plan began about a year ago and it is hoped that it will be completed by March 2009. The original management plan was produced for the reef and estuary features only. Since then we have ten additional features that need to be added to the management plan.

At the moment the SAC Officer and the RAs have been concentrating on the Topic Action Plans, i.e. the section of the document that deals with activities that take place (or may take place) in the SAC, the effect that they may have on the features and the management response to this. Alison added that some of the Topic Action Plan heading might have changed and there are some new headings. The reason for this is that the SAC Officers around Wales are trying to standardise management plans across Wales to ensure that people can go from one to the other with ease and more clarity.

The RAs have been updating parts of these Topic Action Plans. The next step is for CCW to update the section on what features may be affected. The final section to update will be the management response.

Alison explained that the Liaison Group played a vital role when the management plan was first prepared and it would be valuable to get their input this time round as well. She distributed a list of the Topic Action Plans asking the Liaison Group members to mark the Topic Action Plans they would like to see and or comment upon. She added that members could see all of the Topic Action Plans if they wished. Alison will send the list out to all Liaison Group members with the minutes of the meeting to ensure everyone has a chance to contribute to the document.

***ACTION: Alison to send out a list of Topic Action Plans to the Liaison Group with the minutes of the meeting***  
***All Liaison Group members who wish to comment on sections of the management plan to let Alison know by mid December 2007***

#### **4f) SAC Officer maternity leave**

Alison explained that she will be off on maternity leave from the beginning of January for about 9 months. Gwynedd Council have put in a bid to CCW for extra funding for someone to work on the SAC part time during her absence.

Alison has put together a detailed work programme that covers the following areas. These will need to be completed in her absence:

- Continue with updating the management plan
- Hold one RA meeting
- Hold one LG meeting
- Update the new website
- To be a contact point for the SAC

The raising awareness targets:

- Much will be achieved through the Interreg project
- The biodiversity team in Gwynedd Council will hold a number of marine events in Alison's absence which she will organise before she goes
- Some will be completed before she leaves e.g. finish the website, newsletter etc

#### **5 Recap on representation by the Liaison Group**

Alison explained that she would like to check that the interest group list is still accurate and up to date.

Alison asked the Liaison Group members to see her before the end of the meeting to check that they are still representing the correct interest group. This way she could see if there are any gaps.

**ACTIONS:** *Alison to check with the remaining Liaison Group members who were not at the meeting to see if they are under the correct category*

## **6 Presentation by Ruth Sharratt – The Green Blue Project**

Ruth Sharratt, the Green Blue Officer from the Royal Yachting Association, gave a presentation on the green blue project.

The Green Blue project is an environmental awareness initiative by the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association, aiming to promote the sustainable use of coastal and inland waters by boating and watersports participants, and the sustainable operation and development of the recreational boating industry.

The Green Blue Wales is funded by CCW and Environment Agency Wales and is supported by the WYA and BMF Wales. There is more information on the Web site [www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk). She is based at Plas Menai in North Wales but the post covers all of Wales.

### **Questions:**

6.1 Rowland Sharp asked if they targeted boat users that are recreational anglers

Ruth said that they try as much as possible but they do not target angling particularly. She would welcome some advice on how to do so adding that it was easy to target people that are associated with clubs but quite difficult to target people that are not in clubs.

The following suggestions were made:

- Attend boat shows with information
- Ask boat sellers to distribute information
- Provide information at formal launch sites
- Go through the Gwynedd Council registration scheme – contact Barry Davies, Maritime Office, Gwynedd Council
- Go through the angling associations
- Post information on relevant websites such as the one run by Mike Thrussell
- Publish some information in magazines such as BSAC (British Sub Aqua Club magazine), Bill Miller Jones added that not all dive boats are commercial

6.2 Rod Gritten asked why did the project exclude paddlers

Ruth answered that they are not members of the Royal Yachting Association and the focus is on that group. She added that they do have a code of conduct and that many of the issues do relate to larger boats.

6.3 Mike Bowyer asked what is being done about boat waste

Gruff Jones answered that many areas now have facilities. Keep Wales Tidy have been working on this but they have now run out of money.

- 6.4 Alan Gaydon asked how could they target people with private slipways where jet skis and small boats launch e.g. from camp sites, often these people are not members of any club

The Liaison Group suggested that they take leaflets down to the campsite. It was also suggested that they contact the jet ski forum website. They could also get a link to their website from various other websites.

## **7 Any issue of concern or interest**

### **7.1 Bill Bracewell brought up an issue regarding liaison.**

He explained that the Aberdyfi Partnership has been involved in three projects recently and all three have encountered problems with communication from CCW:

- Project 1 – Applied for a grant to put in an arboretum. However, they are still waiting for a report to clarify whether or not there are otters there. After several requests no one has visited from CCW and they have had no contact despite emails and telephone calls.
- Project 2 – Applied to put a cycle track from Aberdyfi to Tywyn. This project was stopped due to the presence of 6 lapwings in a field. Again there was lack of communication from CCW.
- Project 3 – A scoping document has been produced for the development of a harbour in Aberdyfi.

Bill added that more liaison is needed because otherwise it will mean no more projects can happen in the SAC. He added that people need to make a living and also conserve at the same time. They feel that they are being looked down upon and that they need a better relationship with CCW. He added that people working on projects get the rough end of the stick.

Lucy Kay asked if there was anything that the Liaison Group could do. Lucy also explained that CCW is stretched at the moment so it is difficult to respond as they don't have the resources. She said that she could take the issue back to the regional manager.

Bill noted that they had phoned and emailed but didn't get a response.

Mike Parry made a general observation that at the beginning of the SAC designation process people were told that the SAC would not stop activities and would not interfere in people's lives. He added that this is not what he is seeing now and he is worried.

Rod Gritten referred back to Bill's question saying that Snowdon National Park was also a planning authority and they were also very busy and that things do take time. He agreed that there was a lack of response and he would take this back to the authority. He mentioned that it would have been best to respond not only to the consultants but also the partnership as well.

Bill said that he was scared that the SAC won't allow any development. Many things have been done without thinking about people and the economy, CCW and planning authorities must work with people.

Mike Bowyer mentioned that CADW were a lot worse than CCW, he is getting emails coming back unread.

Lucy explained that a reduction in funding does mean a reduction in services and resources and that this needs to be looked into.

Bill added that attitudes also needed to change.

## **7.2 Bill Miller – Jones brought up a point of interest about the British Divers Marine Life Rescue**

He mentioned that strandings in the UK are coordinated by the BDMLR – the British Divers Marine Life Rescue. He said that they have been doing a lot of work and put in a lot of effort to rescue stranded marine mammals. He mentioned that it may be worth getting a speaker in to talk about the work they do.

***ACTION: Alison to see about getting a speaker in to talk about the topic***

## **8 Time and date of next meeting**

Rod Gritten drew the meeting to a close by thanking everyone for coming.

Next meeting will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008, 7 – 9pm in Plas Tan y Bwlch