

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the 7th Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC Liaison Group meeting held on 21st October 2003 (starting 7pm) at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.

Present:

Lucy Kay	Countryside Council for Wales	(CCW)
Rod Gritten	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(SNPA)
Alison Edwards	Gwynedd Council	(GC) (minutes)
Jamie Davies	Ceredigion County Council	(CCC)
Rhys Jones	Gwynedd Council	(GC)
Liz Allan	Ceredigion County Council	(CCC)
Barry Davies	Gwynedd Council	(GC)
David Archer	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(SNPA)
Craig Rockcliff	Environment Agency	(EA)
Helen Clay	Environment Agency	(EA)
Gruff Jones	Keep Wales Tidy	(KWT)
Mike Parry		
Andy Jeffery	Outward Bound Wales	(OBW)
Michael Bowyer	Archaeology	(A)
Siân Shakespear		
Cllr Caerwyn Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(SNPA) (chairman)

1. Apologies:

Alf Bowen	
Bill Bracewell	
Iwan Edgar	
Owain Edwards	
Andy Hall	
Peter Lloyd	Welsh Yachting Association / Royal Yachting Association
Owie Roberts	Llŷn Inshore Fishermen's Association
Rowland Sharp	Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers
Mike Thrussell	

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 2.1: Lucy to write to Liaison Group members who have not come to meetings or acknowledged correspondence to check if they are still willing to be representatives of the Liaison Group. **ACTION: Alison to follow up through meetings with Liaison Group members.**
- 3.2 Item 4.2: Completed
- 3.3 Item 5.5: Liaison Group members to let Lucy know if they prefer to receive information through paper copies or electronically. **ACTION: Alison to follow up through meetings with individual Liaison Group members.**
- 3.4 Item 6.3: Completed

4. SAC moderation & establishing a wider distribution list for the SAC

- 4.1 Lucy provided an update on work associated with site designation and follow up to last year's public consultation. Following the public consultation and consultation of the comments received, the Welsh Assembly Government submitted the revised site to the European Commission for consideration for designation as a European Marine Site. We are

currently waiting to hear whether the site has been approved by the EU. CCW wrote to all the consultees to inform them about the submission of the site to the EC and a tear off slip was included at the bottom of the letter for people to return if they wished to continue receiving information about the cSAC. From about 700 letters there have been approx 120 replies. These have been used to re-establish a wider mailing list for the SAC.

5. Action Plan Implementation

5.1 Update and discussion on work undertaken in 2002-03

- 5.11 Lucy and Alison provided a summary update sheet for the meeting. Liaison members were given a few minutes to read through the report. This provided a report back on a selection of the main actions that had been undertaken during 2002-03. Specific areas of work were highlighted:
- 5.12 Barry provided a brief explanation of which areas would be included in the Port Waste Plan. He explained that it is not only GC harbours that are included since all harbours need a waste licence. Although, Aberdyfi has not been included as yet. GC are encouraging the public to get rid of wastes such as oil at these locations. Fewer batteries are removed from the sea now than five years ago-suggesting that the Port Waste Plan is working.
- 5.13 A question was raised about the use of mats in rivers to identify any sheep dip chemicals entering that river and if they were available for use. Craig explained that they were still undergoing testing at Swansea.
- 5.14 Rod gave a brief overview of SNPA's work on Spartina. Work on Spartina monitoring in the Mawddach estuary has been completed. However, there is a lack of funds for further monitoring in other estuaries. It has been discovered that the growth of Spartina is decreasing. It is believed that this may in part be due to grazing.
- 5.15 Barry provided a brief introduction to the number of boats in the SAC and number of vehicles on the beaches. The numbers have dramatically increased this year.
- 5.16 Liz provided an update of where CCC are with codes of conduct. She also explained that a fifth monitoring site for cetaceans will be established in Aberystwyth.
- 5.17 Lucy distributed a newsletter entitled 'Sightings in Wales' which provides a summary of cetacean observations around Wales, and she mentioned that the CCW reports mentioned on page three of the summary update were available.
- 5.18 In relation to communication, awareness raising and interpretation, Lucy explained the work that had been undertaken and the interpretive materials that had been produced during 2002-03. This included getting information about the cSAC into a new book by Chris Holden entitled 'Underwater guide to North Wales' which was published a few months ago.
- 5.19 Gruff provided an overview of Action 6.17 of the Action Plan. The action involves KWT organising voluntary beach cleans. It has been going extremely well and the number of volunteers continues to increase. KWT are also looking into working with schools on this project.

5.2 Future work: Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC

- 5.21 Alison gave a short presentation to introduce herself, her background and the work she will be undertaking in the next few months. Her main areas of work will be:
- i. Preparing wider Contact Lists for the cSAC
 - ii. Improving Communication with Liaison Group representatives, relevant authorities and wider interested groups and individuals
 - iii. Undertaking a review of the Action Plan
 - iv. Setting up and distributing a simple newsletter for the cSAC
 - v. Reviewing existing codes of conduct for the cSAC (an action in the Plan)
 - vi. Acting as Secretariat for RA and Liaison Group
 - vii. Establishing herself as a first point of contact for queries and information about the cSAC

5.3 Initiatives within Cardigan Bay: Update on the Cardigan Bay cSAC

- 5.31 Jamie gave a short presentation to introduce himself, his role within the cSAC, an update on what is happening in that SAC and the links through to PLAS SAC.
- 5.32 It was agreed from both presentations that working together, increasing communications and including the public are important issues.
- 5.33 It was suggested that it might be a good idea to produce a children's calendar to promote the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC-an idea that had been implemented in Ceredigion.
- 5.34 A question was raised about jet skis that chase dolphins in the Cardigan Bay cSAC and what could CCC do about it. Liz explained that a code of conduct is in place so action can be taken if they are spotted. CCC have the power to remove boat launchings. However, it is difficult to identify users so enforcement is difficult. GC have a registration system but it is still difficult. It is also difficult because the general public are not sure who to phone in such instances. These are all issues that are actively being looking at in relation to the ongoing management of the Cardigan Bay cSAC.

6. Presentation and discussion: raising awareness project proposal

- 6.1 Raising awareness has been highlighted as one of the key areas of work for the management of the cSAC since the first public meetings about the cSAC. Actions related to this are in the cSAC Action Plan. As a way of taking this forwarding in a more coordinated way it is proposed to try and establish an awareness raising project for the cSAC.
- 6.2 Siân Shakespear has been commissioned by GC to put together a project bid for this which involves identifying what sort of raising awareness activities people think would be most effective. The aim is to put together the bid then try and secure funding to take this forward. Siân facilitated discussions about the issue of awareness raising and those present were asked to identify the potential list of audiences and a list of possible projects, and finally for each person to indicate their preferred projects. The outcome of the discussion will be used to help inform the production of the project bid. The notes of this discussion are attached as a separate document to these minutes.

7. AOB

- 7.1 It was suggested that the next Liaison Group meeting take place outdoors. It was agreed that a boat trip from Pwllheli was a good idea as some people haven't seen many parts of the cSAC. It was suggested that having a drop down camera on the boat to see below the surface would be very interesting. Barry suggested that there are room facilities at Pwllheli marina where a brief 'dry' session of the next meeting could be held before or after the trip.
- ACTION: Alison to ask members about their views on this and whether a trip from Pwllheli would be convenient.**

8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1 To be arranged-suggested sometime in May. **Action: Alison to arrange and look into potential craft, costs and arrangements re a drop down video.**