

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

**Draft minutes of the Pen Llŷn a=r Sarnau cSAC Liaison Group meeting held on 23 October 2000
(starting 7pm) at Plas tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog**

Present:

Jim Andrews	North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Alf Bowen	Chair, Aberdyfi Community Council
Bill Bracewell	Dovey Yacht Club/Aberdovey Partnership
David Archer	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Michael Bowyer	
Adam Cole-King	Countryside Council for Wales
Gethin Clwyd	Countryside Council for Wales
Aled Davies	Gwynedd Council
Cllr Owen Edwards	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Robbie Gorman	Fisherman
Rod Gritten	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Lucy Kay	Countryside Council for Wales (notes)
Andy Hall	Arthog Outdoor Education Centre / Welsh Canoe Association
Ann Lewis	
Peter Lloyd	Welsh Yachting Association/RYA
Bill Miller-Jones	Sub Aqua Association
Cllr Tom Raw-Rees	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Caerwyn Roberts	(chairman)
Rowland Sharp	WFSA
Iwan Thomas	Environment Agency
Mike Thrussell	
Jill Whipp	CPRW
Tom Woodward	Dŵr Cymru

Apologies:

Liz Allan	Ceredigion County Council
Barry Davies	Gwynedd Council
Huw Davies	Gwynedd Council
Iwan R H Edgar	
Jenny Fell	
Elinor Gwynn	Countryside Council for Wales
Jill Jackson	Gwynedd Council
Andy Jeffrey	
Iain Roberts	

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- 1.1 These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting
- 1.2 Peter Lloyd suggested that the group should be able to co-opt any interest group not adequately represented by the current membership. This was discussed further under agenda item 5.

2. Matters arising

- 2.1 Items under 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8 and 3.9 of the minutes: completed.

3. The draft management plan

Feedback from the public meetings and response to the consultation to date

- 3.1 Lucy Kay described what had been happening since the last meeting including the public meetings held earlier in the month at Dolgellau (5 October) and Pwllheli (10 October). There was a discussion about the low number of responses to the consultation and the poor attendance at both public meetings. Views were expressed suggesting that people's initial interest had been generated by their concerns as to potential restrictions that the cSAC might bring in, and since these had not been realised in what is proposed in the draft plan, there is not such a large interest to be so closely involved. Others suggested that people may have had problems with getting to grips with the detail of the draft plan and may not understand the full implications of what is proposed. Overall, it was agreed that the level of consultation had been good and most people supported the proposals in the draft plan.

Discussion of the draft plan

- 3.2 Specific issues raised were:

- 3.2.1 Increased siltation in the area around Barmouth and problems with drainage in the Fairbourne area.
- 3.2.2 Jet skis and their management in Gwynedd. The issue of noise and water pollution and disturbance to marine mammals was raised. It was noted that the draft management plan did address the potential impact of jet skis on the reefs and estuaries of the cSAC, although this did not resolve the noise disturbance of other beach users. Gwynedd Council have put measures in place to minimise potential conflicts between jet skis and other interests using the beach areas around Llyn.
- 3.2.3 Climate change and sea level rise and its implications for the coast and estuaries. It was recognised that it is difficult to try and foresee what will occur in relation to climate change and that information needed to be gathered to build up a better understanding of what changes are occurring and their implications for future coastal management. It was pointed out that some changes due to "natural" processes can be far bigger than those caused by human activities.
- 3.2.4 Dumping of arms/ammunition in sea areas. It was agreed to try and ascertain whether any arms/ammunition from the second world war had been dumped in areas close to Cardigan Bay.
- 3.2.5 Proposal to develop an eco-centre in Aberdyfi and the opportunities to promote awareness about the cSAC and the wider marine environment of the Dyfi estuary and Cardigan Bay.
- 3.2.6 Involvement of others (including fishermen, recreational boat users, divers) in recording data about the marine wildlife and marine habitats, and developing codes of conduct. There had been a strong message from the public meetings that people wanted to be actively involved in this and this was reinforced by comments from the Liaison Group members.
- 3.2.7 Section 5.4.6.2 of the draft plan: Improvement of existing slipways to prevent damage to adjacent shore areas by repair. It was suggested that if existing slipway facilities in Gwynedd were improved this may help to reduce potential damage to intertidal habitats by the launching of boats across the shore in areas without slipways. It was suggested that this may provide socio-economic benefits as a result of the improved facilities and possible environmental benefits as well. Aled Davies said he would pass these comments on to Barry Davies, Maritime Officer for Gwynedd Council.

- 3.2.8 In relation to the conservation objectives, the setting of an upper limit for a marine habitat or species: Adam Cole-King explained that an upper limit would usually only be set where a particular habitat or species was known to affect another habitat or species of nature conservation value.
- 3.3 The point was made that while it is important to look at specific issues, the important thing is to progress the general programme of work on the site and be in a position to respond to any changes that may occur.

Next steps

- 3.4 Lucy Kay suggested that a useful way of taking the draft plan forward would be to produce a timetabled Action Plan (based primarily on sections 6 and 7 of the draft plan revised in light of comments received during the constellation). The full draft plan document would remain as a technical annex to the Action Plan. It was agreed that as we start implementation of the management plan it would be useful to have a more slimline document that clearly shows the work to be undertaken. It was suggested that this should be a colourful document if possible.
- 3.5 There was a query as to where in government the plan will be sent. Adam explained that the management plan does not specifically require the approval of the National Assembly. The final document (the Action Plan) will be sent to the Assembly by the relevant authorities to show how it is intended to implement the Habitats Directive on this cSAC.
- 3.6 It was stressed that the management plan and proposed management actions are not set in tablets of stone, and that we are at the development and implementation of the management plan are a process which we are at the start of. The management plan and actions will need to be reviewed in the future (as discussed in chapter 7 of the draft plan).
- 3.7 The relevant authorities were aiming to try and produce the revised document/Action Plan by early 2001. Copies of the Action Plan would be sent to the Liaison Group members and publicised more widely. Beyond this there was no specific timetable beyond that set by the relevant authorities and others. The deadline set by the European Commission (EC) for formal designation of the site is 2004 and there is a requirement for the UK to report to the EC every 6 years on the measures undertaken to implement the Habitats Directive in the UK and the condition of the sites features.
ACTION: Lucy Kay to send copies of the Action Plan to Liaison Group members.
- 3.8 There was a query about who would carry out the monitoring of the site. It was explained that much of the wildlife monitoring will be done by CCW, but that other work would need to be undertaken by the other relevant authorities.
- 3.8 It was suggested that a Frequently Asked Questions sheet should be produced for the cSAC as there were still a need for straightforward explanations about the cSAC and its management. It was suggested that this should be used as the introduction to the Action Plan.
- 4. Liaison Arrangements**
- 4.1 David Archer explained that the feedback from the public meetings was that people would like to continue the Liaison Group and also to have some sort of wider public meeting at least once a year. He also said that the relevant authorities were keen to maintain the Group in some form and asked the views of the Group members present.
- 4.2 It was agreed that it would be useful to maintain the Liaison Group and to have meetings twice a year. It was suggested that some future meetings of the Group could be subject-specific. There was also support for a wide public meeting of some sort at least once a year.
- 4.3 It was suggested that the terms of reference for the Group should be revised to clarify the role of

the Group into the future. In relation to this it was suggested that the terms of reference should include the ability to co-opt additional members onto the Group if required.

ACTION: Revise the terms of reference for the Liaison Group for discussion at the next meeting.

- 4.4 The issue of future funding was raised. It was explained that the funding from the LIFE Project for work on the cSAC will end in March 2001. Each of the relevant authorities will need to secure funds from within their own organisations to meet the on-going running costs for the cSAC and the costs of implementing the management plan. There was the possibility of bidding for additional funding from, for example, the Heritage Lottery Fund, European programmes for specific projects if appropriate. Securing funding may become easier once the site is formally designated as at this point it would become a formal obligation for the National Assembly and the UK Government.

5. AOB

- 5.1 Adam explained that as reported to the Liaison Group in March, the European Commission had undertaken a major revision of all the UK's SACs. These were found to be deficient and the UK had been asked to identify more sites and features on existing sites. This had resulted in a proposal on the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC to include additional habitats and species in the cSAC and to alter the boundaries of the site to encompass these features of interest. The National Assembly had announced today (23rd October) the start of a public consultation about the proposals for new sites and changes to existing ones. The timing of this was unfortunate given the potential confusion with the consultation over the draft management plan. CCW would be undertaking the consultation on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales and in accordance with the Assembly's wishes, the consultation was publicised via letters to a range of statutory bodies and a public notice in the local papers. Copies of the information relating to the proposed changes to the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC were circulated to those at the meeting. Responses to this consultation need to be made to CCW by the 4 December.

These new proposals did in any way undermine the work that had been carried out so far on the draft management plan.

- 5.2 A query was raised as to whether Barmouth Town Council had been sent information about the cSAC and the draft management plan. It was explained that the information had been sent to all the relevant Town and Community Councils for the cSAC.
- 5.3 The Liaison Group congratulated the relevant authority officers for putting together the draft management plan.

6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Liaison Group will be on Monday 9th April 2001 at Plas tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog (tbc), starting at 7pm.

Caerwyn Roberts thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.