

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of Coastal and Marine Forum held on
Wednesday 17th January 2007 at 2.00pm in the Council Offices, Limavady
Borough Council, Limavady.**

In Attendance:

Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)
Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency
Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association
Ken Bradley, Environmental Policy Division, DOE
Liam Flanagan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Dermot Hughes, Marine Task Force
Dick James, Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.

Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer
Richard Gillen, Limavady Borough Council
Nick Rogers, North Down Borough Council

Apologies:

John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association NI
Jonathan Buick, Action Renewables
Claire Donnelly, Northern Ireland Tourist Industry Confederation
Dr. Joanne Gaffney, Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative Team
Peter Harper, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners
Dr Tony McNally, The Loughs Agency
Geoff Nuttall, The National Trust
Matt Peach, Countryside Access and Activities Network

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present, especially Richard Gillen, Limavady Borough Council and Nick Rogers, North Down Borough Council both of whom would be giving presentations later.
- 1.2. He went on to thank Liam Flanagan, CEO Limavady Borough Council, for offering the use of the Council Offices for the meeting and the kind hospitality the members received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 17th November 2006 were approved as presented.

3. Matters Arising

Item 2.9

- 3.1. Ken Bradley then gave an update on his recent attendance at the WFD Inter-Departmental Board.
- 3.2. He explained that following a short debate the Board, as an interim measure, agreed in principle, subject to the drafting and approval of a new Terms of Reference, to include ICZM and Marine issues on the agenda of future meetings. Ken pointed out that the Board was only prepared to consider Strategic issues. In addition if it transpires that ICZM and Marine issues start to move up the political agenda such as following the publication of the Marine Bill or an EU Marine Directive then the situation may have to be reviewed and consideration given to the formation of a specific group with responsibility for coastal and marine issues.
- 3.3. Ken went on to say that the Board had also agreed to the expansion of the Boards' membership and to the Forum's Chairman attendance at its meetings, for ICZM Items only.
- 3.4. Ken said next step was the preparation of a new Terms of Reference for the Board for consideration at its next meeting in late spring, early summer.
- 3.5. The Chairman thanked Ken for his update and went on to say that having read the handout outlining current and proposed membership of the WFD Inter-Departmental Board he was content that given the senior level of its membership such a group should have influence and he looked forward to attending his first meeting.

Item 3.3.8.

- 3.6. Ken explained that both he and a Welsh colleague had made approaches to Defra for the inclusion of an ICZM duty within the Marine Bill but the signs are not positive.
- 3.7. He went on to say that he is attending a meeting on Monday 22 January 2007 in Edinburgh with colleagues from Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man and this topic is on the Agenda for discussion. If nothing positive comes out of the meeting and ICZM is not forthcoming in the Marine Bill Ken said he would continue to look at other mechanisms of having an ICZM duty taken forward within local legislation but pointed out it may be some time before such an opportunity may arise.

Items 3.3.10 and 3.3.17

- 3.8. The revised wording of the CMF Remit was agreed and a copy of the finalised document would be sent out to Members.

**Action: A copy of the finalised CMF Remit to be sent out to members.
[CMF Officer]**

Item 4.6.

- 3.9. A draft copy of the revised diagrams on Page 64 of the strategy was handed out. The CMF Officer pointed out that this was work in progress given that

the new Terms of Reference of the WFD Inter – Departmental Board have still to be drafted and agreed.

3.10. The Chairman noted that the diagram indicated that the Chairman of the WFD Inter – Departmental Board had the right to attend CMF meetings and asked if this would be the case. Ken Bradley noted the Chairman's comments and said he would bring this to the attention of the Chairman of the WFD Inter – Departmental Board, Paul Simpson, Deputy Secretary of Local Government and Environmental Policy Group.

3.11. The Chairman said that any remaining 'matters arising' would be dealt with later on in the meeting.

4. Presentation : Approach to Coastal Management , Limavady Borough Council

4.1. Richard Gillen then gave a presentation to the Forum on the Limavady Borough coastline, highlighting the variety of uses, complexities of management and the potential for recreation, tourism/eco tourism and education. Whilst the Borough has around 37 kilometres of coastline Limavady Borough Council is responsible for the direct management of 6/7 kilometres primarily as a competent authority.

4.2. The entire length of coast has some form of protective environmental designation as well as a rich cultural heritage but there is little opportunity for this to be interpreted to visitors and users. Emphasis needs to be placed on why the area is special and therefore merits protection.

4.3. Approach to coastal management in Limavady could be described as micro ICZM given the range of uses and organisations with responsibility or interest in the coast. Key element is considering a triple bottom line of social, economic and environmental factors with respect to Council's approach to coastal management or projects that may impact on the coastal area.

4.4. The Chairman thanked Richard for what was a very interesting and informative presentation.

4.5. Members agreed that presentation highlighted the there were obvious benefits from managing such a coastal resource and the need for interested parties not to work in isolation but in partnership and in an integrated manner. The use of Interpretation Boards is also important if only to help raise awareness such as why certain areas are protected.

5. Clive Gilbert 'State of the Coast' - Update.

5.1. The Chairman explained that he had been in contact with Clive and that the 28th March has been pencilled in as a possible date for the workshop. He confirmed that the Ulster Wildlife Trust and WWF NI had kindly agreed to

cover Clive's expenses and the DOE would meet the cost of venue, invites, facilitator etc.

- 5.2. He went on to say that he was awaiting confirmation from a colleague in EEA as a possible speaker at the workshop and once confirmed the Programme for the workshop could be finalised and invitations issued.
- 5.3. The Chairman went on to say that with regard to invitations Clive suggests a maximum of 70/80 delegates and it was agreed that the CMF Officer would draw up a list of invitees from the ICZM database. A venue had yet to be confirmed.

6. PR\Publicity Sub Group – Update

- 6.1. A copy of the minute of the meeting of the PR\Publicity Sub Group held on 9th January along with a copy of sheet outlining possible logos for the CMF were handed out to members.
- 6.2. The Chairman then gave a brief synopsis of the meeting to members present referring to the minute where appropriate.
- 6.3. Having studied the various sketches it was agreed that one of the suggestions was a possible 'runner' [top right sketch on logo sheet] but further work was required. The Chairman having noted members comments agreed to have the preferred logo amended and submitted to members for further consideration.
Action: A copy of amended CMF Logo suggestions to be sent to members for consideration. [Chairman\CMF Officer]
- 6.4. The Chairman then introduced Nick Rogers, North Down Borough Council and a member of the PR\Publicity Sub Group.
- 6.5. Nick explained that during recent research into ICZM he discovered the existence of a video 'Our Coasts Have Seen Better Days' produced by Mostra Communication, an agency based in Brussels to provide better coverage of European issues and specialised in audio-visual production.
- 6.6. Members then viewed the video which lasts approximately eight minutes. It involves members of the Dorset Coastal Forum giving various commentaries on aspects on the work undertaken by the Forum. The overriding aim of the Forum is to promote a sustainable approach to the management, use and development of Dorset's coastal zone, which will ensure that its inherent natural and cultural qualities are maintained and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
- 6.7. There then followed an exchange of ideas which members felt that the PR\Publicity Group should consider. These included such topics as:
 - Expert Surgeries – such as involving local Politicians\Councillors – ICZM, links to Marine Bill, PPS2, PPS14, PPS 20
 - Case Studies

- Establish Area Forums to start involving stakeholders at local level and this should happen sooner rather than later
- Training Courses
- Neutral venues for meetings
- Best Practice Guidelines
- Public Education – drawing attention to what is there
- Diversification of fishing boats such as Eco tourist Boats equipped with a Remotely Operated Vehicle to allow passengers to see what lies beneath the waves. Experience of seeing our coast from the sea.
- Wildlife watching guided tours
- Northern Ireland Railways Coastal Train Trip in conjunction with Blue Badge Guides

7. Interreg IV Project – Update

Ken Bradley explained that he was working closely with colleagues in Environment and Heritage Service and their counterparts in the Irish Government regarding possible projects in the next phase of Interreg funding 'Interreg IV – 2007 - 2013'. He went on to say that he was awaiting confirmation from his ROI counterparts about the possibility of taking forward an ICZM based project to the value of 1,200,000€ Without their involvement the Project will fall. In the meantime Ken confirmed that he has set aside £50,000 year on year to meet the 25% government funding required under Interreg procedures.

8. Mechanisms for monitoring delivery of Northern Ireland Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy.

- 8.1. Members were given a copy of the proposed layout of a table/spreadsheet on which responsible organisations/partners will be asked to report on progress of the various objectives of the strategy. It was pointed out that with regard to the sections entitled 'Associated Actions' and 'Progress Report' these would be completed by the responsible organisation and not by the CMF Officer.
- 8.2. Members were in general agreement with the layout but felt that the real test would be how detailed the content of the responses received would be. It was suggested that rather than have the entire Progress Report box in filled in 'red, amber or green' the box should be subdivided with only a small portion in filled. This was noted.
- 8.3. Ken Bradley explained that the next stage would be to contact responsible organisations to determine the point of contact to liaise with the CMF Officer.
- 8.4. Ken went on to say that it would be his intention to have completed monitoring returns forwarded to Members prior to the Forum Meeting a head of each WFD Inter – Departmental Board meeting in order that the Chairman could be appraised of what issues/concerns Forum members want him to bring to the attention of the Board. To that end Ken added that members should have sight of the first completed progress report by May.

9. Any Other Business

9.1. The Chairman said that he had received a request from Karin Dubsy, Coastwatch Ireland to find out if she could sit in on one of the Forum's meetings as an observer. Members agreed that they had no problem with this but perhaps it would be of some interest to the members if she was asked to give a presentation on work she is involved in. The Chairman agreed to ask Ms Dubsy if she would be willing to give a presentation.

Action: To ask Karin Dubsy, Coastwatch Ireland about giving a presentation to the CMF. [Chairman]

9.2. Ken Bradley considered that it would be useful if Forum developed its own work programme and asked members if they would give some thought to the development of a future work programme for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: To consider development of a future work programme for the CMF. [All Members]

10. Date of next Meeting.

10.1. It was agreed to hold the 4th Meeting of the Forum on Wednesday, 30th May 2007, time and venue to be confirmed. It was also agreed that Members should hold the last Wednesday of each month as possible CMF meeting dates.

Action: To confirm venue and time of 4th meeting of the Forum. [CMF Officer]

Alan Hamilton

February 2007

