



Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting
Wednesday 11th March 2009
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Headquarters,
Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG

Agenda

		Time	Lead
	Coffee and tea	09:45	
1	Welcome and Apologies	10:00	Isabel Glasgow (IG)
2	Minutes from last FoCF meeting and matters arising	10:05	IG/All
3	Chair Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamlash Bay Implementation Group • Project Manager Update • Finances • Scottish Marine Regions 	10:15	IG
4	Project Manager Recruitment & Finances	10:45	Ian Bray (IB)
5	Update from Core Group members	11:00	All
6	Any other business	11.30	All
7	Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2009 date and venue (depending on recruitment) 	11:40	All
8	Introduction to, and tour of, National Park Headquarters	11:50	Carron Tobin / All
	Lunch	12:20	All
	SSMEI meeting	13:00	John Donnelly / IG
	Close	16:30	

From Balloch Station it is approximately a 10 minute walk to the Park Headquarters.



Minutes of Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting

Wednesday 11th March 2009

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park HQ, Balloch

Present:

Isabel Glasgow (IG), Chair
Ian Bray (IB), SNH
Danielle Casey (DC), SNH
David Ross (DR), SEPA
John Eddie Donnelly (JED), SSMEI
Zoe Clelland (ZC), RSPB
Michelle Carroll (MC), Glasgow and the Clyde
Valley Structure Strategic Development Planning
Authority
Roger Horne (RH), Clydeport
Ethel-May Abel (EMA), Glasgow City Council
Ian Johnson (IJ), Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan
Mike Balmforth (MB), British Marine Federation
Patrick Stewart (PS), Clyde Fishermen's Assoc
Carron Tobin (CT) Loch Lomond & the Trossachs
National Park

Apologies:

Claire Pescod (CP), FoCF Project Manager
Paul Bancks (PB), The Crown Estate
Alistair Sinclair (AS), Scottish Creelers & Divers
Rhona Fairgrieve (RF), Scottish Coastal Forum
Mark Steward (MS) Argyll & Bute Council
David Mallon (DM), Scottish Government
Ken Clark (KC), MOD
Rebecca Dean (RD), Lighthouse Caledonia
Alice Bayles (AB), Scottish Government
Andrew Flockhart (AF), Caledonian Maritime Assets
Ltd
Alasdair Henderson (AH), Calmac Ferries
Jim Mackie (JM), Fisheries Research Services
Phil Alcock (PA), Scottish Government

ITEM 1: Welcome and Apologies

IG welcomed everyone present and informed the meeting of apologies received. Special thanks went to Carron Tobin for providing the venue for the days meeting and for agreeing to give the group a tour of the National Park HQs later in the afternoon.

IG then requested all attendees introduce themselves as there were a couple of unfamiliar faces round the table.

ITEM 2: Minutes, Action Points and Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes

No comments on November's minutes so these were signed off.

2.2 November Action Points

AP11/08 1	IG to liaise with MS about meeting ABC council.	Discharged
AP11/08 2	CP to investigate venues outside of Glasgow particularly the James Watt College in Greenock.	Ongoing
AP11/08 3	CP to look into the possibility of Inverclyde Council providing a conference venue free of charge.	Ongoing
AP11/08 4	CP to send CM information on past Scottish Enterprise funding and involvement with the 2007 conference.	Discharged
AP11/08 5	RF to discuss the possibility of Scottish Government support for the 2009 conference, particularly regarding Scottish Government presence at the event and giving an update on the Scottish Marine Bill process.	Ongoing
AP11/08 6	CP to further explore possible partnership work with the Ayrshire LBAP (coastal focus).	Ongoing
AP11/08 7	All to send CP copies of any website briefs/tenders their organisation may have used in the past.	Discharged
AP11/08 8	RG to send CP contact details for Magnox.	Discharged
AP11/08 9	CP and IG to speak to CT re partnership working.	Ongoing
AP11/08 10	RF to send CP an e-copy of the Marine Directorate organogram for circulation round the Core Group.	Discharged
AP11/08 11	MC to liaise with CP on the issues paper.	Discharged
AP11/08 12	CP to ask Core Group members for availability in the w/c 9 th March.	Discharged

- **AP Mar 09** – CP to re-circulate the Marine Directorate organogram to the Core Group.

2.3 Matters Arising

None.

ITEM 3: Chair Update

3.1 Lamlash Bay Implementation Group

IG could not make the first meeting of this group, however, PS was in attendance. The meeting went well to a certain extent. There was too much discussion about small details, such as the exact content of display and education material, that were not of importance to all members of the group. Issues surrounding the 'joint' status of the group did not seem to have recognition. It is doubtful that PS or anyone else from CFA will attend the next meeting on 18th March.

3.2 Project Manager

This matter will be picked up by IB under Item 4 – Project Manager Recruitment & Finances.

3.3 Finances

This matter will be picked up by IB under Item 4 – Project Manager Recruitment & Finances.

3.4 Scottish Marine Regions

Scottish Coastal Forum has organised a workshop for Fri 13th March to discuss the possible criteria of SMRs. CP and possibly IG will be attending, to contribute but also to listen to what others have to say. They will not be officially representing the Forum at the meeting, but they will provide feedback to the core group. CP and possible IG will convey the message that there is concern about the process surrounding the Scottish Marine Bill given the lack of detail available, poor consultation and few publications. MC will also be attending the workshop.

ITEM 4: Project Manager Recruitment and Finances

4.1 Recruitment

Unfortunately, CP has resigned as Project Manager. SNH is in the process of recruiting a replacement. IB thanked the group for comments on the job description. The advert will go live on Fri 13th March. RH commented that the person specification was impossible. IB explained that the replacement may not have all the competencies to start with but that the aim is for the person to achieve these whilst in post.

- **AP Mar 09** – DC to circulate round the group a link to the vacancy on the SNH website for members to upload onto their own recruitment systems.

4.2 Finances 09/10

IB and Cathy Tilbrook (SNH) had a meeting with DM, PA and AB to discuss financing the Forum. The Scottish Government offered £30k for project manager costs for 09/10 with the possibility that the same can be offered for 10/11. However, if funding is not forthcoming from SG for 2010/11, then SNH will cover this cost, up to 50% of the Project Manager costs. The Project Manager posts will be advertised as a 2 year post.

DR informed the group that SEPA has decided to change the funding of Coastal Partnerships for 09/10. Money will be put into a central pot to the work of Area Advisory Groups and their specific projects relating to the WFD.

IG commented that the SG money was good news for the wider remit of the Forum, i.e. work outside the SSMEI Clyde Pilot Project.

ITEM 5: Update from Core Group Members

DR

- SEPA ready to publish the results from the first round of classification.
- Outer and Mid Clyde have a 'moderate' status (water quality is good-high but the poor range of seabed invertebrates brings this down)
- This will be reported to EU working groups.

PS

- The members have appointed Dick James of the Northern Ireland Fisheries Federation as the deputy chairman. Scottish Government is advertising for a chairman.
- Consultants have been employed to produce a pro-forma management plan for the Clyde.
- This is PS's last Forum meeting. His replacement will be Archie McFarlane.

RH

- around 20 cruise ship calls planned for 2009 which will result in ~ 41,000 passengers passing through Greenock.
- Maintenance dredging is going on at King George V area, near Braehead, Rothesay dock in Clydebank.
- Received details of plans to lift an MV vessel from the river and place it in Loch Fyne to act as an artificial reef.

MC

- Production of Strategic Development Plan is underway. Content of plan being considered: which policies elements should it contain; should it be a vision with few policies and should it be linked to supplementary guidance?
- The aim is to make the plan strategic with few key policies. If an issue is not dealt with by a policy or mentioned in the text of the plan, then it cannot be dealt with as supplementary guidance. It is therefore important to be involved in the SDP process at the very early stages if there is a topic you feel should be included in the planning process at the strategic level.

EMA

- CWF will meet on 23 March to launch an advert campaign to improve the image and encourage use of the Clyde. Adverts will be displayed in bus stops, bus and train stations, and on buses.
- The Heritage Trail will also be launched at the meeting. The trail is from Glasgow Green to Dumbarton. It is a land-based River Clyde heritage trail with no marine element. The Communities Minister will be in attendance.
- GCC and CWF have reduced their budget for the River Festival and there will be no money from SE this year. The festival has now been split into 2 parts – Glasgow Festival on the River on 25-26 July, and Glasgow Festival on the Green on the 1st weekend in August.
- The Broomielaw Pedestrian Bridge and Quay wall will be opened sometime on April-May.
- A presentation on the Commonwealth Games was given to the River Users Group. Three preferred developers are preparing a masterplan for the village that is to be built. The plan will be skewed towards legacies of the Games. The village will be a high-security site due to the threat of terrorism, and part of the River could be closed too.
- The Transport Museum will be completed in 2010 and opened in 2011.
- The River Bus Report was presented to the City Council and has since been passed to SPT to take forward.
- A hydro cell for Carmyle has been presented as a development option to GCC Development and Regeneration Services.

MB

- BMF and the Scottish Boating Alliance have been involved in the Marine Bill consultation.
- Will be attending the Marine Scotland event on Fri 13th March.
- He will be trying to get support to market to the world Scotland as a boating destination. VisitScotland have refused support for 7 years but still trying to get them on side. The industry is significant and has potential for expansion. Need assistance to do this.
- Sail Clyde is a working group sponsored by Scot Ent Ayrshire, intended to support business and facilities development around the Clyde. Not much has happened since Aug 08 – no money, no staff. SE have employed a consultant to facilitate the group.

ZC

- Co-ordinating the Beach Bird Survey. This is to count birds affected by oil-spills that are washed up on the beach.
- Planning casework – Hunterston and East Garnock, Irvine Bay.
- Projects – Wildlife Festival (programme will appear on website soon), interpretation at Girvan for Ailsa Craig (failed to get BIG lottery money but still pushing forward with the project), and progressing with purchase of land at Irvine Bay (to manage bird interest there).

CT

- A Water Resource Manager has been recruited – Charlotte Ghaye. The National Park is characterised by water and the new manager will ensure closer involvement in WFD.
- Local Plan consultation now closed.
- Looking at improving marine access to Cowal area. Developing a project with SPT to put pontoons in at Arrochar. Ferry operators and Largs Marina are interested in this development.
- The Biodiversity Action Plan will be launched on 19 March at the David Marshall Lodge. The plan does have a marine element.

ITEM 6: Any other business

None.

ITEM 7: Next meeting

Afternoon of Monday 22 June. The SNH Clydebank office conference room has been booked for this meeting.

ITEM 8: Introduction to and tour of National Park Headquarters

CB informed the group that the building won many awards, including the Carbon Trust Award for being carbon neutral. In 2002, there were no obvious premises for park staff to occupy so staff were based in Balloch Castle and portakabins at the Old Station. In 2005, a business case was passed through SG and a budget of £9M was approved. Of that £9M, £1.2M went on VAT, £5M on the building, and the rest on legal fees, building controls, etc. Staff moved in in 2008.

Page & Park Architects won the tender to build the HQ. They show a good understanding of the Park and the need for sustainability. BREAM standards were used and an 'excellent' rating was achieved.

Of the approximately 120 staff in the building, 13 are SEPA, 1 is a police officer and some are NP Community Partnership staff. Local groups, such as Friends of Loch Lomond and Balloch Forum, also use the building and its facilities.

The front half of the building is completely secure. A new security system has very recently been put in place.

The Douglas Fir frame, which came from both Cumbria and Grampian, is the largest in the UK. NP staff were shown 2 other projects using this kind of frame. They demonstrated how the cracks which appear are characteristic of the wood and do not compromise the integrity of the frame. Citrus Spruce was not a viable option as each piece of wood would have to be tested.

An informal publication has been produced showing the progression of the building of Carrochan. A case-study type report is in final edit.

Summary of march 09 Action Points

AP03/09 1	Re-circulate the Marine Directorate organogram to the Core Group.	CP
AP03/09 2	Circulate round the group a link to the vacancy on the SNH website for members to upload onto their own recruitment systems.	DC