



Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting

Tuesday 25th November 2008

SNH Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, G81 2NR

Agenda

		Time	Lead
	Coffee and tea	10:00	
1	Welcome and Apologies	10:30	Isabel Glasgow (IG)
2	SSMEI Update	10:35	John Donnelly (JD)/All
3	Minutes from last FoCF meeting and matters arising	11:15	IG/All
4	Chair Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Conference 2008 • Annual Conference 2009 	11:25	IG
5	Project Manager Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loch Fyne ICZM Plan Consultation • Firth-wide interpretation plan • Ayrshire LBAP • Forum website • Budget Update • Funding for FY 2009/10 	11:45	Claire Pescod (CP)
	Coffee	12:15	
6	Presentation 1: Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Carron Tobin, LLTNP	12:30	Carron Tobin
	Lunch	13:00	
7	Presentation 2: The Climate Challenge Fund Jon Rathjen, Greener Scotland Directorate, Scottish Government	14:00	Jon Rathjen
8	Update from Core Group members	14:30	All
9	Any other business	15:00	All
10	Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2009 date and venue 	15:10	All
	Close	15:20	

Both speakers, Carron Tobin and Jon Rathjen, will join us for lunch.

Please note that the nearest train station to the SNH office is Singer Station which is a 5 min walk, Clydebank Station is approximately a 15 minute walk.



Minutes of Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting

Tuesday 25th November 2008

SNH Office, Clydebank

Present:

Isabel Glasgow (IG), Chair
Claire Pescod (CP), FoCF Project Manager
Carron Tobin (CT) Loch Lomond & the Trossachs
National Park - speaker
Catriona McLeod (CM) Scottish Enterprise
Elaine Cameron (EC) EnviroCentre – pm only
John Eddie Donnelly (JED), SSMEI - Item 1 only
Jon Rathjen (JR) Scottish Government - speaker
Mark Steward (MS), Argyll & Bute Council
Michelle Carroll (MC), Glasgow and Clyde Valley
Structure Plan Joint Committee
Rhona Fairgrieve (RF), Scottish Coastal Forum
Roger Horne (RH), Clydeport
Ron Gilchrist (RG) Fairlie Organic Growers,
observer

Apologies:

Alistair Sinclair (AS), Scottish Creelers & Divers
Allen Doyle (AD), SPT
David Ross (DR), SEPA
Ethel-May Abel (EMA), Glasgow City Council
Ian Johnson (IJ), Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan
Kate Thompson (KT), SSMEI
Ken Clark (KC), Ministry of Defence
Mike Balmforth (MB), British Marine Federation
Patrick Stewart (PS), Clyde Fishermen's Assoc
Paul Bancks (PB), The Crown Estate
Zoe Clelland (ZC), RSPB

ITEM 1: Welcome and Apologies

IG welcomed everyone present and informed the meeting of apologies received. In particular IG welcomed Catriona McLeod the new Scottish Enterprise rep on the Forum and Ron Gilchrist who attended as an observer with a particular interest in the two presentations. Thanks to SNH for the use of the meeting room. Thanks also to CP for all her work on the conference which was an excellent event.

IG informed everyone that she would again chair the meeting as Ian Bray, Chris Nevin's replacement, who will take over the role of Core Group Chair does not take up post until 1st December.

ITEM 2: SSMEI Update

JED gave an update on the SSMEI. The date for the next SSMEI meeting has had to be changed due to St Andrews Day, the meeting will be held on 10th December instead of 1st December. The policies and proposals and sectoral plan papers will now go out on 3rd December. JED thanked everyone for commenting on the previous papers.

JED and KT are now looking at policy proposals against each sector as a matrix instead of a very large matrix of how each policy affects another. JED and IG explained that there will be more narrative inbetween the chapters than there currently is to help the plan flow and read better. RF commented that she used a slide from JED's last paper in a presentation she gave to the Coastal Partnership Working Group the previous week which she and CP had attended – it was a very useful slide explaining where the SSMEI plan fits into international, national and local policies.

There was a brief discussion of the importance of recreational boating in Scotland and its importance in the Scottish Marine Bill. There will be a debate on the importance of recreational boating in Scotland in parliament on Wednesday 26th November.

IG emphasised that it needs to be highlighted that marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is not taking over the on-land planning. IJ is in the process of setting up a meeting with councils so IG can meet and update them and explain where the plan fits in a non-technical way. IG will explain MSP in the context of terrestrial planning and will emphasise the importance of them responding to the consultation. MC and GCVSPJC will be included in the arrangements. Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) held similar meetings with Councillors during the River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) process and it was thought that meetings with ABC council and IG would also be a beneficial.

- **AP Nov 08** – IG to liaise with MS about meeting ABC council.

RG felt that dockside recycling facilities should be a way forward and included in the Clyde MSP. JED explained that this was initially explored for the plan and that in the National Planning Framework discussion document, industries that develop a lot of freight should be encouraged to locate near docks.

ITEM 3: Minutes, Action Points and Matters arising

3.1 Minutes

Apart from a typo on page 5 there were no comments on the September minutes and they were signed off.

3.2 September Action Points

AP09/08 1	All to feedback to JED if they want more inclusion of current policies in the plan.	Discharged
AP09/08 2	CP to circulate the write up of the Ayr SMB event to workshop facilitators. Any other Core Group members who would like a copy contact CP.	Discharged
AP09/08 3	EMA to contact Clyde Waterfront to ask about exhibiting at the conference.	Discharged
AP09/08 4	EMA to ask Warren McIntyre if James Curran from the Sustainable Development Commission had confirmed he would speak at the conference.	Discharged
AP09/08 5	MB to send an update for Clyde Breakers.	Discharged
AP09/08 6	GP to look into an article possibly on the development of Largs Pier.	Ongoing
AP09/08 7	MB to send CP 100 copies of the Sail Clyde strategy.	Ongoing
AP09/08 8	CP to circulate November meeting venue once confirmed.	Discharged

3.3 Matters arising

IG gave a brief update on the Lamlash Bay Working Group (LBWG). At the last Core Group meeting we were awaiting the outcome of the consultation on the No Take Zone (NTZ) in Lamlash Bay. A conclusion has now been reached and the NTZ in the northern part of Lamlash Bay has been established. There has been a suggestion of infringements however this is not for the Forum to follow up. *[Further details can be found in the Autumn 2008 edition of Clyde Breakers including a link to the Order on the Office of Public Sector Information website – CP]*

ITEM 4: Chair Update

4.1 Annual Conference 2008

It was a very good Annual Conference with high quality speakers, we got to grips with the acoustics, there were a lot of exhibitors and workshops were informative and interesting with good discussions. Overall it was a great success; the only down point was that it wasn't very well attended, there were around 70 delegates which is fewer than past conferences. It is difficult to determine the reason for the lower than normal turnout however some thought that it was due to a number of climate change focused events held in October/November as well as the fact that people may have heard enough about climate change and were 'climate changed out' as CP put it.

A small surplus was made on the event which will be fed back in to the Forum's core work, approx £3300 was taken from delegate tickets and exhibition space.

4.2 Annual Conference 2009

IG thanked CP, RSPB and Glasgow City Council for their help with organising the event and providing a venue. IG asked the group if they thought that the Forum should continue to hold an Annual Conference, or if instead more, smaller, local Information Events should be held throughout the year. IG also asked that if another conference was to be held should it again be held in Glasgow.

4.2.1 Should the Forum hold an Annual Conference in 2009?

It was thought that 2009 is an extremely important year to have a conference and showcase the Forum's work and brand, particularly as the Marine Bill will be much better developed. The conference is the one time of year that members get to rally and network and this is very important. A conference is good to keep the profile of the Forum up and its

brand out there. It was decided that the Forum would continue to hold an Annual Conference.

4.2.2 The 2009 Conference Venue

Regarding the venue, it was thought that this depended on the conference topic but wherever it was held it must have very good (public) transport links. Erskine was suggested as a possibility as it is relatively easily accessible from the whole of the Firth. It was thought that it would be good to have it outside of Glasgow for a change. Although the City Chambers are an excellent venue (and are provided free of charge) the acoustics are just too bad to warrant a return. Greenock's James Watt College was suggested as a possible venue. Greenock Town Hall, the Victoria Hall, was suggested as another possible venue – this would be a good way to include Inverclyde Council and they may provide the venue free of charge.

- **AP Nov 08 2** – CP to investigate venues outside of Glasgow particularly the James Watt College in Greenock.
- **AP Nov 08 3** – CP to look into the possibility of Inverclyde Council providing a venue free of charge.

As a guide the 2009 conference will be held sometime during the weeks commencing the 9th and 16th November – ideally not a Monday or a Friday.

4.2.2 The 2009 Conference Subject

Suggestions included the Scottish Marine Bill which should have royal ascent by the end of 2009, MSP, IFGs if up and running in the Clyde by then and the Largs Pier development. It was thought that MSP would be the most topical and could include lessons learned from the SSMEI plan development as well as information from the consultation and future implementation as well as an update on the Marine Bill process and Marine Scotland from Scottish Government if possible. A field event was thought useful to showcase something on the Clyde, perhaps a tour with the Inverclyde tourist group. A 2 day event was discussed which has its limitations due to Project Manager time, but it was thought that a 2 day event including a field trip and finishing at lunchtime on the second day should be looked into. IG highlighted that if we were to hold a 2 day event then considerably more Core Group input and help in organising the event would be needed. The option to expand the Conference Dinner (currently for Core Group Members, speakers and sponsors) so that it was open to all was discussed, however this entails its own logistical problems and time limitations.

CM was asked if Scottish Enterprise would again be able to help financially or by offering staff time to help as they did in the past for the 2007 conference.

- **AP Nov 08 4** – CP to send CM information on past Scottish Enterprise funding and involvement with the 2007 conference.
- **AP Nov 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.

ITEM 5: Project Manager Update

5.1 Loch Fyne ICZM Plan Consultation

Argyll and Bute Council recently produced an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan Consultative Draft for Loch Fyne. CP attended one of the public meetings in Strachur and asked MS to give a brief update on the plan and the consultation.

The draft plan went out to consultation on the 24th October for an 8 week consultation until 19th December. The plan is available on the ABC website. A few paper copies are still

available and it is also available on CD from MS. 140 people are on the contact list for the plan and received information on the consultation and it was also advertised in local papers on both sides of Loch Fyne. Community Council were not very involved at the start of the process but they are becoming more involved. Two public meetings have been held with around 20 people at each. The aim of the meeting is to inform people of the consultation and what the plan involves so that they can then submit their own response to ABC.

Scottish Creelers and Divers (SCAD) were at both public meetings however there were no representatives from the trawl sector or Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA). Trawling in upper Loch Fyne is a concern which has been raised by the community and by SCAD at the meetings. So far people are looking to the ICZM plan to do something about fishing in the Loch, however the plan has no powers over fishing and therefore can't do anything to regulate fishing. The plan is voluntary and has no statutory powers. Scottish Government and the proposed Inshore Fisheries Groups are the organisations for managing fisheries, not ABC through the ICZM plan.

The plan identifies development and recreation opportunities in Loch Fyne. Some of the comments in the public meeting were concerning divers blocking drives and gates etc as well as fires in inappropriate places and a number of access issues. Restrictions on the use of the Loch can be done through ABC.

Several one to one meetings have also been set up to discuss the plan in more detail. The consultation responses will be analysed Dec/Jan and it is hoped that it will go to committee early next year (March/May).

The plan will be used as supplementary planning guidance. It focuses on aquaculture and identifies opportunities and constraints for future use. There is also information on who should be consulted in addition to statutory consultees and a section on recommendations and good practice. The plan should be used in conjunction with a development plan.

This is ABC's first ICZM plan, one for Loch Etive will also be produced, however Loch Etive has different issues from Loch Fyne including mussels and salmon.

5.2 Firth-wide interpretation plan

A paper was circulated in advance of the meeting which had been drafted by Sarah Watts the Interpretation and Education Officer with SNH. The paper was to highlight the possibility of working up a Firth-wide interpretation plan for the Forum which could ensure consistent messages in future interpretation as well as identifying pieces of work for future funders.

With some input from CP the brief could be expanded into a full plan which could also be used to inform partners' work. It was decided that it would be useful to develop the plan although it was not thought to be a high priority for FY09/10.

5.3 Ayrshire LBAP

CP has been exploring the possibility of working with the Ayrshire LBAP on their coastal butterfly project. Work to encourage volunteers to get involved with the survey work as well as to provide information on the coastal part of the LBAP could be achieved through partnership work with the Forum on for example a leaflet which included a send in survey form.

The work would be a good link to the LBAP and could increase awareness of the Forum through an area not previously explored. It was thought important that the work was in partnership with the LBAP and other organisations if possible.

- **AP Nov 08 6** – CP to further explore possible partnership work with the Ayrshire LBAP (coastal focus).

5.4 Forum website

The Forum's website is in need of updating due to (amongst other reasons) a number of problems with the html code. CP will write a brief for a new website design and re-vamp which will hopefully include the ability for people to sign up to receiving e-alerts when the website is updated as well as the ability to produce an e-newsletter at regular intervals based on updated website content. CP will follow this up internally with SNH. Place Book Scotland have recently developed their new website and may be able to offer some input. Robin Turner of NTS may be able to recommend web designers.

- **AP Nov 08 7** – All to send CP copies of any website briefs/tenders their organisation may have used in the past.

5.5 Budget Update

The Forum is on track to fulfil its budget commitments for FY2008/09. The conference brought in £3300 which is enough to pay for conference costs and leave a small surplus to be put back into Forum core work costs.

We are delighted to inform everyone that Clydeport have decided to resume funding the Forum which will include a payment for FY08/09. It is thought that this is mainly due to the successful brokering of meetings to discuss inner Clyde dredging between SNH, Clydeport, EnviroCentre and FRS and work towards publication of a leaflet/briefing note on best practice and a case study for dredging in SPAs and the associated Appropriate Assessment requirement.

5.6 Funding for FY 2009/10

In FY09/10 the Forum will receive funding from the Crown Estate (£3K paid at the end of the year) and Clydeport (£3K) and SNH (match funding up to approx £27.5K – details tbc). SEPA are not able to provide any funding for work with the 2 local Area Advisory Groups. CP is in discussion with the Fisheries (Conservation) Division about provision of funding for the Forum's work with the Lamlash Bay Working Group and its future role. CP will also approach Scottish Government Marine Directorate about the funding shortfall for FY09/10. It is very helpful to have confirmation from Clydeport that they will again contribute to Forum costs before CP approaches Government. CP's contract with SNH finishes in March 2009 and she is looking into the possibility of its extension.

A letter is due to be sent out in the New Year to private companies and public bodies involved with the Forum to ask if they would like to contribute a 'voluntary membership fee'. This is a result of previous Core Group discussions when it was decided to drop the individual, NGO and community group membership fees but continue with the private company and public body fees on a voluntary basis. Please contact CP with any queries.

- **AP Nov 08 8** – RG to send CP contact details for Magnox.

ITEM 6: Presentation 1: Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park

Carron Tobin from Lomond & the Trossachs National Park gave a very interesting presentation on the new Park Headquarters, the aims of the Park, sustainability issues within the Park and waterborne transport including promotion of the ferries to Dunoon and Cowal as an entrance to the Park rather than driving all the way round from Glasgow and beyond.

- **AP Nov 08 9** – CP and IG to speak to CT re partnership working.

ITEM 7: Presentation 2: The Climate Challenge Fund

Jon Rathjen from Scottish Government's Greener Scotland Directorate which sits within Sustainable Places, gave a very interesting presentation on the Climate Challenge Fund.

The fund has £27.4m and runs until March 2011. Guiding principles of the fund:

- There must be significant carbon emission reduction as the central focus, but also bring wider environmental, social and economic benefits.
- It must be community based and have the community at the centre of decision making.
- It should seek to improve quality of life, now and for future generations.

The fund cannot fund energy generation equipment but can provide money for studies for it. It can fund 100% of project costs. 36 projects have been funded since June 2008 including a 'tin can church' in Glasgow. The fund's admin team are based in Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) in Stirling. The fund can pay for communities to visit other communities who have been successful in getting funding to learn about new projects and possibilities. There is no problem with running an identical project. The fund usually pays one month in arrears if an organisation has funds, however if they have no funds it will pay in advance.

The key – bid early and big large.

More info – www.infoscotland.com/climatechallengefund or phone KSB on 01786 471 333.

CP has a copy of Jon's presentation including further info on the exemplar projects; contact CP if you would like a copy.

The fund has recognised that there are organisations who do not qualify as community groups but who can help groups initiate projects, offer support, arrange events and disseminate information. Previously these groups have not been able to access funding from the fund, however this will soon change – watch out for further information.

ITEM 8: Core Members Update

RF

- There were 300 responses to the Scottish Marine Bill (SMB) consultation and 8000 responses from campaigns including PETA and Scottish Environment LINK.
- 21 public consultation events were held with over 700 attendees.
- Thank you to the Local Coastal Partnerships for their help arranging consultation events.
- RF (and CP) attended the English Coastal Partnership Working Group meeting in Carlisle recently. The meeting highlighted that Scottish LCPs are way ahead of English CPs however there is still room for improvement in the way of further training.

RF to send CP her SMB e-update for inclusion.

- **AP Nov 08 10** – RF to send CP an e-copy of the Marine Directorate organogram for circulation round the Core Group.

RH

- RH's recent work focus has been on the tug boat sinking. Clydeport are in the process of going through all the risk assessments.
- Over the last 12 months there has been a new, larger team of marine officer pilots with a new role of getting out into the community and liaising with tugs. It is hoped that this will lead to better relationships with the marine community.
- Just to reiterate that Clydeport is part of Peel Ports and property management is separate from marine management.

MS

- His recent focus has been the Loch Fyne ICZM plan as previously discussed in 5.1.

EC

- EC (EnviroCentre) is focussing on green roofs. For more info go to www.livingroofs.org
- EC is looking into setting up a Green Roof Forum and hopes to hold a conference on the subject.

MC

- An Environmental Issues paper for the Strategic Development Plan is being produced.
 - **AP Nov 08 11** – MC to liaise with CP on the issues paper.

ITEM 9: Any Other Business

None

ITEM 10: Next Meeting

The March meeting will be held in the second week of March, the week commencing 9th March, in the National Park Headquarters in Balloch and will include a tour of the new Headquarters.

- **AP Nov 08 12** – CP to ask Core Group members for availability in the w/c 9th March.

Summary of November Action Points

AP11/08 1	IG to liaise with MS about meeting ABC council.	IG/MS
AP11/08 2	CP to investigate venues outside of Glasgow particularly the James Watt College in Greenock.	CP
AP11/08 3	CP to look into the possibility of Inverclyde Council providing a conference venue free of charge.	CP
AP11/08 4	CP to send CM information on past Scottish Enterprise funding and involvement with the 2007 conference.	CP
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.	RF
AP11/08 6	CP to further explore possible partnership work with the Ayrshire LBAP (coastal focus).	CP
AP11/08 7	All to send CP copies of any website briefs/tenders their organisation may have used in the past.	All
AP11/08 8	RG to send CP contact details for Magnox.	RG
AP11/08 9	CP and IG to speak to CT re partnership working.	CP/IG/CT
AP11/08 10	RF to send CP an e-copy of the Marine Directorate organogram for circulation round the Core Group.	RF

AP11/08 11	MC to liaise with CP on the issues paper.	MC/CP
AP11/08 12	CP to ask Core Group members for availability in the w/c 9 th March.	CP