



## Kent Coastal Network

### **Minutes of Integrated Coastal Action Working Group**

January 18th 2011, County Hall, Maidstone

#### **Present**

Lisa Jenner, Natural England  
Sarah Anderson, KCC  
Mandy Broughton, Vattenfall  
Paul Rayner, RYA  
Martin Hall, Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway  
Sharon Russell, Environment Agency  
Tom Hawkins, Canterbury City Council

#### **Apologies**

Mark Harrison, Timescapes  
Lis Dyson, KCC  
Cheryl Parker, Visit Kent  
Mike Humber, Thanet District Council

**Chair** Chris Drake, KCC

**Minutes** Jacqui Taylor, KCC

### **1. Project updates**

#### a) Coastal Communities 2150 - Sarah Anderson KCC

This is an EA led project with KCC as a partner. There are 3 main stages; (1) identifying coastal communities at risk – what are the most vulnerable sectors/community; (2) develop innovative new engagement techniques, working with communities and (3) develop community led resilience plans.

In the process of looking for a project manager and hope to have the person in post at the beginning of April. Mapping work done by Christine Wissink has really helped with the progress and her maps will form part of the evidence base for the first stage. Initial meeting to take place in March. SA feels this group could provide useful input for the project.

#### b) North Kent Bird and Visitor Work 2010/11 – Martin Hall GGKM

Focus is the 3 SPA's in Thames, Medway and Swale area. Survey is examining wetland bird numbers in winter and why they are decreasing. Working through the North Kent Planning Group – Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, Swale, RSPB, Natural England and KWT – good broad range of people. Impact of individuals and combined schemes of land users will be examined. This is a costly piece of work. The information gathered will go some way to tackling questions which keep coming up on the long term effects of disturbance on bird populations.

Footprint ecology is surveying at 21 locations. Observers can view 600 metres and areas others can get to. It is not about counting birds, but identifying what happens to birds when they are disturbed, whether they fly off and then come back etc. Is disturbance causing an impact?

In 21 locations consultants are doing surveys of estuaries to build up where visitors are coming from. Second phase is looking at tidal phases, trend analysis in sailing clubs. This is based on a model developed for The Solent. The field work will finish at the end of March then the write up. Cost is £80,000, this is well supported by the Local Authorities, and each is putting £10,000 in. MB stated wind farms have over 5 years of information and surveys, if it is useful MH is more than welcome to use the information.

#### c) Enjoying Water – Paul Rayner, RYA

EA strategy put together for, Thames and Southern region; coordinated by the University of Brighton. Includes report of gap analysis for recreational facilities and identification of needs. Report is in near final version. Meeting was postponed due to snow; do not know when the next meeting is going to be. Funds may be limited; EA need to identify partners to ensure it is carried forward. Role for this group to be identified.

#### d) Coastal Actions for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) – Chris Drake for Cheryl Parker

Interreg 4A – Coastal tourism project, working with partners in Belgium and France. Contributing £6,000 to Kent Coastal Week. Shepway recreation strategy, looking at facilities and needs, has now been completed by the Tourism Company. Several other projects including report back on best practice across Europe and audit of views on walking/cycling network for Kent, to be feature at Kent Coastal Conference (end of 2011). Looking beyond water activities but also walking and others. Lonely Planet has been approached by to do a local guide for Kent coast as part of CAST.

#### e) Balanced Seas – Lisa Jenner, NE

Have got an extension to the length of the project, draft final recommendation is due 1/6/11, final due 31/8/11. Will still need to submit recommendations to Government on 1/11/11. Extension is due to Defra having questions around the project which need to be answered. LJ has now taken on the lead for

Balanced Seas for Natural England. Second progress report has been put to SAP (Science Advisory Panel). Feedback is that they are happy with the progress made and targets met, this is a positive step, and the next step is to try to join up the network. Working towards the third progress report to be with the SAP by 28/2/11. Local groups are looking at the data as there are gaps in it. Hiring a new GIS assistant because of the amount of data coming in. Regional site meetings still going on.

#### f) 21st Century Kent – Martin Hall GGKM

Document/vision by KCC and partners, was produced a year ago. A number of workshops looked at the different areas. Supported from Paul Carter down and use at Tory Party Conference. KES (Kent Environment Strategy) links to this, along with the regeneration framework (Unlocking Kent's Potential).

21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent features vision for Kent coast in 2030 – does this work require a policy/document champion to put things forward? Is there a role for this group?

NB - relevant links added here by CD;

<http://www.kentpartnership.org.uk/kp-strategies/>

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/community\\_and\\_living/regeneration\\_and\\_economy/21st\\_century\\_kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/regeneration_and_economy/21st_century_kent.aspx)

#### g) Kentish Flats Extension – Mandy Broughton KF

Vattenfall want to extend wind farm from 10 to 17 extra turbines. Need permission from Infrastructure Planning Commission. Have to conduct community consultation. Have sent KCC and Canterbury draft Statement of Community Consultation, they came back with their comments which have been put into the document.

Consultation 31/1/11 to 3/3/11. Next week 4 page adverts are going into the local papers, this will outline everything they are applying to do. There will be public information days in Kings Hall, Herne Bay and Whitstable. Try to get many people to make comments and get the hard to reach people.

If get the go ahead work will start by 2013. Wind turbines will be inshore of existing ones and taller. Vattenfall have not worked out who the turbine supplier will be but this gives the option to approach various suppliers.

NB Details now added to Kent Coastal Project Register:

<http://www.coastalkent.net/pr.php?id=19>

#### h) Additional updates from remainder of group

Sharron Russell; EA going through a massive reorganisation. They have put in post area management team, job losses in some areas. Attendance to this meeting is to observe and go back to her team to see if they have the best

representation. EA main coastal focus is WFD and flood management, money will be spent on these areas.

LJ – Natural England are going through the same process, looking to reduce their staff by 30%.

Tom Hawkins – Canterbury County Council  
Nothing to report; but this group is helpful for keeping up with coastal issues.

## **2. Core business**

### **a) Project Register – making use of this online tool**

Web resource for Kent Coastal Network was launched July '10.

Project register useful portal to update any local projects. Twelve entries have been added, mostly by CD which is not great usage. Over the next 6 months need to look at the opportunities to promote this tool further. Any newsletters, websites put advert for a free resource.

SA – monthly bulletin with a small paragraph, happy to put a link to this.

Medway Swale – CD to speak to Mark. Use for enjoying water projects. Any outlets or current projects?

**ACTION:** CD to draw up a list of publications and encourage uptake by a wider audience than KCN over the next six months.

### **b) Recap on terms of reference**

Looking at the work of this group against the Terms of Reference (TOR). Aims/role of steering group still relevant, but effectiveness undermined by lack of success so far with project register and lack of time available around table. Group networking and awareness raising is still of value to most of the working group.

### **c) Work plan Jan – June 2011**

See above action; ToR indicates full review of working group mid 2011 and examination of whether concepts such as Integrated Action Plan are still worthy of consideration. Marine and Coastal Access Act to be kept on agenda – marine planning, MCZ's and lines between MMO and local authorities. MH suggested gap analysis for coastal work is key. SA suggested need is to identify core pieces of work and out a business case forward.

No meeting date set, but CD will maintain contact with the group and set date for early summer at later date.