

1. Meetings

Duddon Estuary Partnership (DEP) main consultative committee continued to meet three times at halls around the Estuary, at Askam 15th March, Millom 13th July and Kirkby, 10th November 2011. Two of the meetings were held in daytime, a move away from evening meetings, which were difficult for some members. The officer Working Group met once in Ulverston, but was dispensed with later in the year and no more meetings of the group will be held unless there is a specific need. DEP members participated in various consultations on developments likely to affect the estuary and its catchment.

2. Finance

The balance of £4893 was carried forward and only minor expenditure of £454 was made during the year which was for room hire, printing and annual website hosting fees. The Partnership has an accrued budget of £4439. This is held by Cumbria County Council. A finance summary dated 31 October 2011 is attached to this report.

3. Activities of the Partnership 2010 -2011

Included:

- Continuing to support for the management and enhancement of the Local Nature Reserve at the Millom Ironworks. There was movement on greater security from illegal motor vehicle use, by locking gates at key entry points. Members were saddened in October by the death of Bob Mandale of Haverigg, activist and long standing DEP supporter.
- Raising awareness generally, promoting good practice and acting as a conduit for raising management issues with a range of organisations in the Duddon.
- Providing visitor information on display boards at key gateway points to the estuary and the DEP website.
- Engaging with the Marine Management Organisation, raising awareness of the role of the Partnership responding to Marine Bill and coastal consultations and following the progress of the Marine areas designations.
- Responding to the Government's consultation on nuclear new build, highlighting the issues and constraints to developing a power station at Kirksanton. This site was subsequently removed from the Government's list of potential sites, but the planned new nuclear power station adjacent to Sellafield will have infrastructure impacts on the Duddon estuary, eg the consultation on the enhancement of national grid electricity along the coast.
- Supporting Cumbria Coastal Rail Partnership and community groups working to improve stations around the estuary. Problems continue with the inadequate capacity of the Northern Rail trains on the Cumbria Line.
- Further review work on the 2010 feasibility study of a tidal barrage across the Duddon Estuary and the impact of offshore wind energy developments.
- Discussing and taking action on other issues of interest and concern including rail liaison, shell fish gathering, unauthorised commercial bait digging and vehicle use, coastal defences, and planning applications and policy. Some concern was raised about the impact of kite surfing on seabirds.
- Maintaining the DEP website to provide up to date information on the work of the partnership and make links with other coastal partnerships.

4. Officers

Richard Scott (Cumbria CVS) was re-elected as Chairman at the AGM in November 2010. Brian Crawford of South Cumbria Seaports Association continued as Vice Chairman.

5. Secretariat

Cumbria County Council continues to provide the secretariat to the Partnership, allowing approximately 10 days of staff time for this service. Additional staff resources are still limited and restrict significant project development.

6. Membership

We are most grateful for continued staff support from partners and attendance at meetings. Funding has not been received from any partners this year again as we have not anticipated embarking on new project ideas requiring cash support. Partners are invited to make project proposals specific to the Partnership or to a wider body such as the enlarged Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership. It is important to keep close working links with the statutory bodies, but staff changes are not conducive to ongoing relationships. In the next year there are likely to be significant initiatives relating to partnership working in conservation of designated areas, in which DEP will have to examine its role.

7. Position of Chair

DEP rules declare that I have reached the end of my term of office, so I will be stepping down from my chairman's role at this November meeting. I'd like to thank all the people who have personally contributed to DEP during the years and especially to Jenny Wain and Paul Pearson for their valuable time. I will continue to take as active a role as I can to enhance the enjoyment and sustainable use of this unique piece of environment we have in our care.

Richard Scott
DEP Chairman
4th November 2011

Budget

DUDDON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP		CCC 5865101
	ITEMS(£)	BALANCE
EXPENDITURE		
Room Hire	23	
Printing	250	
Computer Software	180	
Catering	1	
Total	454	
INCOME		
c/f from 2010/11	£4893	
TOTAL INCOME	£4893	
TOTAL EXPEND	454	
TOTAL	£4439	£4439