

## DUDDON ESTUARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee meeting held in the Rankin Room, Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness on 11 November 2010 at 7:00pm.

Richard Scott, Walking to Health (Chair)  
Brian Crawford, Millom Town Council (Vice Chair)  
Jenny Wain, CCC / DEP Secretariat  
Bob Mandale, RSPB member  
Derek Lyon, Friends of the Lake District  
George Cubiss, Ramblers Association  
Mandy Knott, NW Sea Fisheries Committee  
Pauline Preston, Kirkstanton Residents /Friends of Millom Station  
Paul Pearson, CCC (notes)

Wendy Battersby, Millom Without PC  
John Turner, Lonsdale Estates  
Mary Jardine, Broughton Traders  
Jack Park, Copeland BC/Millom LNR  
Joss Curwen, SLDC  
Michael Jackson, Kirkby Ireleth PC  
L Cragg, Kirkby Ireleth PC

#### 1. **Introductions and Apologies.**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves. Apologies were received from Cam Ross, Bill Shaw, Carole Hodgson, Phil Clague, David Southward, Bob Morris and Brain Wright.

#### 2. **Presentation by Brian Crawford – North West IFCA update**

Brian has been elected to the new North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) Board. He currently holds a similar position with the Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee. The IFCA will give the Duddon Estuary better continuity as the Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee covered the area north of Haverigg and the North Wales and North West Sea Fisheries Committee covered the area south of Haverigg.

The new board held its inaugural meeting on 2 November, where the business of setting up the authority and appointing its Chairman and committee were decided. The Chairman is Cllr Tom Glover, Vice Chairman is Cumbria County Councillor Tony Markley. Dave Dobson was appointed the Chief Fishery Officer (he currently has the same role for the Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee). The committee is made up from a mix of representatives and organisations including: marine scientists/ biologists, commercial and recreational fisherman, fishery officers, local authorities (Cumbria has two LA representatives). There will be stakeholder involvement from Natural England and the Environment Agency.

IFCA will come in to force from 1 April 2011 and its authority extends from the Solway, in the north, to the river Dee on the Welsh borders in the south, and includes all coast and estuaries from the high water mark to up to 6 miles out at sea, a coverage of 600m<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Mandy Knott – “Getting to know me” Presentation**

Mandy introduced herself and gave an insight into the work she is currently doing in the area with the North West Sea Fisheries Committee. She is the Implementation Officer for the committee and is assisting in the transition process from NWSFC to NWIFCA. She has also been contracted, on a temporary basis, to redefine the application for the Morecambe Bay Fishery Order.

The Order will permit a more rigorous management all of mollusc in the Bay by embedding best practice and a legal framework that develops and sustains a modern fishery. Licences will be limited and given to those fishermen that have had permits to work in the Bay for the past 6 years. Fees from the licences will go to support the financing of an enforcement officer.

Mandy has held several meetings with stakeholders throughout October including wildlife trusts and AONB's to glean further information and to inform them of the progress made to date. Mandy is hoping to produce a draft Order to submit to Defra in early 2011, which following consultation should be approved and implemented by September 2011.

Mandy is looking to the Partnership to provide contacts for companies / organisations that access the estuary and whose work, now or in the future, may impede the finalisation of the Order. Jenny is to provide a list of offshore wind operators and utility companies that the Partnership closely deals with.

Rob Eccles has been replaced by Colin Britton. Colin started working with the organisation in November Mandy/Jenny to open dialogue with him, re attendance of future Partnership meetings.

### 3. **Minutes of last meeting held 14 July 2010.**

Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. **Matters arising**

Most of the matters arising are covered by agenda items. It however was noted that:

- £250 funding was agreed by the committee for the Friend's of Millom Station to assist with purchasing of two interpretation boards for the station platforms.
- Water main problems at Millom – United Utilities have liaised with the Chairman's Working Group and aware of our concerns, Natural England is involved and has been advising United Utilities on the proposals.

### 5. **Annual Report**

The report was circulated, with agenda papers prior to the meeting, and it was agreed it gave a true account of the work the Partnership has supported, consulted on and involved with during the past twelve months.

### 6. **Budget**

There is an accrued balance of £4,910. No income from Partners, with the main expenditure being room hire, refreshments, website and web hosting fees. The £250 grant to Friend's of Millom Station will be shown in next year's budget figures.

### 7. **Re-election of Vice Chairman**

In the absence of any nominations, Brian was asked if he would consider another term as Vice Chairman, he agreed and was re-elected.

### 8. **Standing items**

#### **Energy Infrastructure**

##### **Nuclear New Build Re: Consultation**

Government has announced its response to the earlier consultation on the National Nuclear Energy Policy Statement and potential new nuclear power station sites. It is now re-consulting on a revised statement. This continues to identify land adjacent to Sellafield as having potential. However, the proposal for Kirkstanton has been removed from the statement as it is considered that the improvements needed to transport infrastructure and the national grid are unlikely to take place in the 2025 timeframe for new build to come on line. It was also considered that it would be difficult to mitigate adverse effects on the setting of the Lake District National Park due to the small amount of coastal plain available between the fells and the sea. It is likely that RWE will be putting in a submission to Government requesting Kirkstanton remains as a potential site.

It was agreed that the Partnership would not submit a response to this reconsultation. If individual organisations submit comments it would be useful to copy these to the Duddon Secretariat, for information.

##### **Managing Radioactive Waste Safely drop ins**

The MRWS (Managing Radioactive Waste Safely) group are holding a series of drop-in sessions around the county during November and early December to give the public and stakeholder groups an opportunity to raise questions on the issues surrounding the process of finding a site in England to store radioactive waste in the future. The community drop-in events will include displays, a short presentation and there will be representatives from Government and the NDA at this meeting. Dates and times for the meetings in our area:

Friday 19/11/10	– Millom Network Centre	– 12pm -8 pm
Saturday 20/11/10	– Barrow - The Forum	– 10am – 4pm
Tuesday 30/11/10	- Kendal Town Hall	- 12pm – 8pm

##### **Grid Update**

The Partnership is now part of the Grid stakeholder group and will be represented by Jenny Wain and Brian Crawford at Castle Green Hotel for the next engagement workshop on the 8 December. If anyone has a question to be raised at the meeting please send to Jenny before 7

December.

### **Duddon Tidal Feasibility Study**

This study was being funded by NW Development Agency. In recent months funding by Government has been reduced to development agencies which has caused delays to finalising the study. At present there is no timescale for completion of the study.

## **Marine & Coastal Issues**

### **Marine Management Organisation (MMO) site visit**

A meeting and site visit was held with the CEO of the Marine Management Organisation in the summer with Richard Scott and Brian Crawford. Since then the CEO and the Chairman MMO have both stepped down. The East of England has been designated as the first area to have a marine plan. The Marine Consents Officer, Jeremy Evans, has contacted us and is interested in attending a Partnership meeting next year.

### **Marine Coastal Zones**

Data and information is still being collected from organisations. Some members attended a workshop on 2 October where the main attendees had been sea users. Further one to one meetings are likely to be arranged with individual groups during late Autumn. The final draft zone areas will be published in 2011. The zones identified at present are some way offshore. It will be interesting to see if there are any areas closer to the Duddon in due course.

### **Coastal Access**

The first area in Cumbria will be from Whitehaven to Allonby. Work will possibly commence in April 2011. It is unclear when other areas of Cumbria will come forward.

### **Flood Defence – Kirkby in Furness**

Jos voiced his concerns on the limitations of the Shoreline Management Plan in relation to the Duddon Estuary. Network Rail is set to spend £2m on improvements to the line around and including Kirkby in Furness. Jos proposed that the Partnership should encourage Network Rail to consider incorporating foot/cycle route facilities whilst making these improvements. The group agreed to send a letter to Network Rail. Jos was asked for some written text to be included in the Partnership letter.

## **Nature Conservation**

### **Millom Nature Reserve**

It's again been a poor year for natterjack toads with breeding ponds drying up. Bill Shaw is looking for suitable sites to introduce new scrapes on the Ironwork site and Haverigg dunes. The LNR has been awarded £46k grant from the Community Spaces to support further work on the site. The money has been designated to improve the paths around the reserve and gates to ease vehicular access. Starting in December the work hopes to be finished early in the New Year. The Friends are arranging a launch at the kite festival in May 2011.

### **Unauthorised Activities**

Nothing major to report on, however, there is still concern with netting on the estuary with salmon and bass being the targets. The Partnership had previously been assured that the fishing in the estuary was permitted and those fishing, on investigation, had the appropriate licence. The committee did ask Mandy Knott to flag up there concerns with the new fisheries officer Colin Britton (Rob Eccles replacement).

## **Rail Liaison**

### **Upgrade West Coast Mainline**

National Rail has over the years invested considerable amounts on improving facilities and rolling stock. GNWR are proposing new routes from London, which will include stations along the west coast mainline, but the proposals exclude Millom Station. Copeland Borough Council, Millom Town Council, Friends of Millom Station and Parish Councils in and around Millom are writing to Alliance Rail Holdings Ltd to voice there concerns and it was decided that the Partnership too would write to strengthen the "voice".

**9. Dates of Next Year's Meetings**

Dates and times for your 2011 diaries. Venues to be arranged and confirmation will be sent out early in the New Year.

Tuesday, 15 March 2011	2pm
Wednesday, 13 July 2011	7pm
Thursday, 10 November 2011	2pm

Possible speakers include National Grid, Marine Management Organisation and Cumbria Rivers Trust.

**10. AOB**

**Sea wall – Hodbarrow**

There are issues with the sea wall defences at Hodbarrow caused by tidal erosion and river heights, which are undercutting the blocks to the sea wall. Residents of Holborn Hill are concerned regarding flooding. Part of the wall is privately owned but the majority is owned Copeland Borough Council who is responsible for the surveying and looking after the fabric of the wall. Committee agreed to send letter to Copeland BC and Environment Agency raising our concerns.