

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the 10th Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC Liaison Group meeting held on the 12th September 2005 (starting 7pm) at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.

Present:

Bill Miller-Jones	Diver and Boat User	
Rod Gritten	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(SNPA)
Lucy Kay	Countryside Council for Wales	(CCW)
Alison Hargrave	SAC Officer	
Cllr Caerwyn Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(chairman)
Bill Bracewell	Aberdyfi Partnership	
David Archer	Snowdonia National Park Authority	(SNPA)

Introduction

Caerwyn Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also congratulated Alison on her wedding and wished her and Chris a happy marriage. Alison explained that Dr Peter Lloyd had recently stepped down as a Liaison Group member and had nominated Mr Richard Twinning, Development Officer for the WYA, to take his place. Caerwyn asked if the group was ok with this and the group agreed.

1. Apologies:

Jeff Morgan	Welsh Water	
Peter Wight	Gwynedd Council	(GC)
Gruff Jones	Keep Wales Tidy	
Jill Whipp	Environment	
Andy Jeffery	Outward Bound Wales	
Cllr Ray Quant	Ceredigion County Council	
Lorraine Hill	Environment	
Mike Thrussell	Fishing	
Dr Peter Lloyd	WYA	
Mr Richard Twinning	Development Officer for WYA	
Craig Rockcliff	Environment Agency Wales	(EAW)
Mike Parry	Llŷn Fisherman's Association	
Alf Bowen	Aberdyfi Partnership	

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Item 5 (Alison to pass the query re legislation regarding right of way on the foreshore to the Maritime Services department at Gwynedd Council): Alison has spoken to the maritime department at Gwynedd Council and they have said that they are willing to take and discuss any issue or comments. People can do this by either getting in touch with Barry Davies (maritime department) or Alison could put you in touch with Barry.
Action completed.
- 3.2 Item 6 (Alison to contact Ray Quant for a copy of the CD on artificial reefs and make the information available to the Liaison Group): Ray has sent in a copy of the Borth Reef newsletter that outlines the proposed project. Alison has sent out a copy to all Liaison Group and Relevant Authority members. Extra copies are available from Alison both as hard and electronic copies.
Action completed.

- 3.3 Item 6 (Alison to contact Alf Bowen for a copy of the report on siltation in the Dyfi estuary and make the information available to the Liaison Group): Alf sent Alison a copy of a report entitled 'Aberdyfi Wave Climate Study'. Alison will send out hard copies with the minutes of this meeting. Electronic copies are also available for those interested. **Action completed.**
- 3.4 Item 6 (Liaison Group members who wish to set up a working group for any specific issue to contact Alison): Alison explained that a meeting had been held to discuss lost lobster pots and ghost fishing. It was well attended with representatives from the Liaison Group, Relevant Authorities Group, Fishermen, Fisherman's Association's, Sea Fisheries Committee and Anglesey Sea Zoo present. The group came to a decision to concentrate on three areas:
- o Biodegradable clips to attach to the lobster pots – The Llŷn Fisherman's Association is looking into this, they are at the stage where they are applying for funding
 - o Educating boat users by putting up posters and handing out leaflets at marinas (they will include maps that show the location of lobster pots) – NW&NWSFC have already begun this
 - o To look into starting a project that will link local fishermen and divers (in the hope that divers will locate and tag lost pots) – Alison will be looking into this working with others who attended the meeting

The group decided that it wasn't necessary to hold more meetings regarding these matters; they felt that an email group would work better. If at any point an issue arises or one of the above projects don't go to plan then a meeting will be arranged.

Bill Bracewell apologised that he was unable to make the lost lobster pots meeting. He explained that in his opinion (as a boat user) that the marker buoys are too small. He added that this is a big problem.

Bill Miller-Jones explained that lobster fishermen are keen to use methods that will reduce the likelihood of lobster pots being lost. It is a substantial financial loss to fishermen when they lose pots. He added that bad information and education was partly to blame. He also explained that many methods had been tried such as innovative weighty ropes. Bill Bracewell asked why they didn't always use heavy rope. Bill Miller-Jones answered saying that when a buoy is lost it is easier to find a rope that floats. Bill Bracewell suggested that flags should be used when potting off shore to make the buoys and lines more visible to other sea users.

Interest has also been expressed in forming a sub group to deal with climate change issues.

ACTION: Alison to keep the group updated on various sub groups that have formed to tackle certain issues.

- 3.5 Item 6 (Alison to arrange a presentation on climate change; Mike Bower to give Alison the contact details of his climate change contacts; Rod to give Alison a copy of his seminar for distribution): Rod Gritten gave a presentation on climate change in June. The presentation was excellent but unfortunately there was a very low turnout, which was a great pity. Alison suggested that Rod could give the presentation during on the Liaison Group meetings. Rod is still in the process of summarising his presentation so it could be run by others. This was proving difficult as Rod did not have any presentation notes pre-prepared and the presentation is very visual and really needs someone who is able to talk along to it.
- ACTION: Alison to see if a presentation during a future Liaison Group meeting would be feasible and well received. Alison to send out copies of the presentation summary when it has been completed.**

4. Update from the SAC Officer on work undertaken since the last meeting, progress with the Interreg project being run by Gwynedd Council and funding for the SAC Officer post

4.1 Update from the SAC Officer for April – July 2005:

Alison gave a brief update on the work that has been undertaken since April of this year.

4.1.1 Implementation of the agreed work programme Nov04 – Mar06: Alison explained that the next 6 monthly update on the implementation of the agreed work programme will be produced in October of this year. Reminders have been sent out via email to those with targets to be completed by October.

4.1.2 Raising awareness activities: Alison outlined some of the raising awareness targets that had been carried out:

- (i) Issue three of the newsletter has been produced and distributed.
- (ii) A very successful Wales Biodiversity Week took place in June where the SAC hosted many events including a rock pool safari, seawatch, volunteer recruiting event, biodiversity fair and a marine day. Jeff informed the group that Welsh Water had undertaken activities to promote Wales Biodiversity Week. Rod added that SNPA also did a lot of work towards this week of activities especially through organising the biodiversity fair
- (iii) A schools project was launched to raise awareness about local biodiversity, both marine and terrestrial. 60 sessions were held across 40 schools. Alison took Ysgol Edern on a field trip to a local rocky shore to learn about the animals that live there and how they have adapted to their environment. The BBC came to film the session for a children's news programme called 'Ffeil' aired on S4C.
- (iv) A new SAC poster has been produced through Natur Gwynedd (Gwynedd's local biodiversity action plan). These posters had proved to be very popular and have been distributed at various locations and are available free of charge – contact Alison for copies.
- (v) Leaflets that outline walking routes for the Llŷn coastal path have been produced and are available from Alison.
- (vi) Shows / other events: Lucy mentioned that CCW had a stand at the Llŷn Sea Food Festival where SAC material was displayed and she gave a talk on local marine wildlife. SAC material was also displayed in the GC tent at the Eisteddfod.
- (vii) Alison informed the group that she had recently attended the Marine Mammal Medic course.

4.2 Update on the Interreg IIIA project – 'Living Coasts Living Seas':

4.2.1 Alison explained that in July of this year the GC Interreg IIIA project to raise awareness about Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC had successfully secured Interreg funding. The Irish partner are Fingal County Council where the main contact is the County biodiversity officer. GC had received a further letter suggesting that they submit a revised bid to enable them to take the theatre project over to Ireland. However Fingal County Council (the Irish partner) felt that they didn't have the capacity to do so since they have only a single biodiversity officer working on implementing the project. GC are waiting for the official letter before they begin work on the project. Fingal County Council has already begun working on the project already.

4.2.2 The first step in starting the project is for GC to recruit a part time project officer who will be based in GC. Alison will keep the Liaison Group updated with progress with this project.

ACTION: Alison to keep the group updated on progress with the Interreg IIIA raising awareness project.

4.3 Funding for the SAC Officer post:

4.3.1 Lucy explained that the funding for the Alison's post of SAC Officer comes to an end in March 2006. Lucy explained that it is vital that further funding is secured for this post as so much has been achieved since Alison has been in post and the relevant authorities group and Liaison Group know the problems of taking forward the work without someone fulfilling this

post. Since Alison has been in post momentum has been gained in all areas of the SAC management work, in particular coordinating the relevant authorities and Liaison Groups, implementing the Action Plan, raising awareness and communication.

4.3.2 The current situation is that Alison has sent out letters on behalf of GC asking for confirmation of financial contribution for this year from the RAs. Letters have also been sent out regarding future funding. The EA received two letters from GC but said that they are unable to contribute due to future funds contributing towards the review of consents process as the main vehicle for the work in relation to the Habitats Directive. SNPA said they will contribute for a further three years at the same financial level. CCW agreed in principle to funding the post but will have to go through their internal resource planning process to try and secure the money. CCW had written to GC stating that they support the post in principle and this should help support the internal GC bid for funding. Trinity Lighthouse Authority agreed to contribute for the next three years.

4.3.3 Pete explained that he had submitted a bid for GC money last year but because the post already had money for that year it was not considered. He will be submitting a bid soon into the current bidding round. This will have to follow GC procedure and go through the necessary stages. If the bid is successful then he will find out in February. Lucy should find out late December to early January if the funding from CCW has been secured. Lucy explained that she will be doing all she can to secure the money over the next few months adding that the management objectives won't be fulfilled unless Alison is in post.

Caerwyn asked if it would help if the Liaison Group sent a letter to the EA. Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea.

ACTION: Liaison Group to write a letter to the EA regarding funding for the SAC Officer post. Is this going to go out under Caerwyn's name?

5. Issues raised by the Liaison Group – facilitated session

Caerwyn welcomed Lindsey Colbourne to the meeting explaining that she would be facilitating the next part of the meeting. Lindsey introduced herself, the programme and the aims of the session. The purpose of these discussions was to enable Liaison Group members and relevant authority representatives to discuss the issues raised by Liaison Group members in discussion with Alison and to identify possible ways of addressing these.

5.1 Discussing the Liaison Group:

The members were split into two groups and asked to discuss the Liaison Group and its possible role and activities and possible changes to the workings of the group. The following comments were given as feedback at the end of the discussion:

- o The group has evolved from having no trust and people being on the group for their own interest to people having more interest in the SAC generally and wanting to have an input. It has now evolved even further in that members of the group want to work with other members. It is motivating to have practical projects to work on.
- o People on the group need to be able to contribute in different ways e.g. through sub groups or by giving specific advice informally.
- o There should be bigger emphasis on the role of the members in 'educating' their networks / membership.
- o They value the opportunity to be able to sit back and wait until a real opportunity to get involved comes up.
- o Give people a chance to identify the issues they want to have tackled and then to convene a sub group which brings together the wide range of interests in that issue e.g. lost lobster pots.

- o Liaison Group seems to have evolved from 'Liaison' Group to 'Liaison' and 'implementation' group i.e. acting on issues that both the Liaison Group and Relevant Authorities Group raise.
- o Need to bring in other people to take part in these actions too e.g. fishermen, Marine Awareness North Wales, schools, gardening officer from SNPA etc.
- o The RAG could provide short updates to go out more regularly than the SAC newsletters. The Liaison Group can circulate these updates to their members / wider networks e.g. a summary of the annual update that outlines some of the key projects issues discussed.
- o Need to clarify individual roles on the Liaison Group e.g. are they representing a group of interests (that they are regularly in contact with informing them and finding out their views) or are they being relied upon being 'a fisherman' or 'a diver' i.e. an individual with a particular interest. Maybe we need both.
- o Either way the Liaison Group and the Relevant Authorities Group need to get a better idea of who and how many they are getting out to as a group.
- o How to inject the interest and passion back into the group? Will sub groups do this? Need to have people on the group who are committed to the area – this is their drive.
- o Perhaps consider more informal ways of working.
- o Could contact people directly by phone rather than asking people to fill in forms.

5.2 Identifying possible activities and roles for the Liaison Group:

The next step was to identify ideas for possible activities and roles for the Liaison Group. Lindsey produced a list outlining possible activities and roles for Liaison Group members and asked if there were any other ideas to be added to the list. Lindsey explained that the list she had drawn up went from point 0 to 9, with 0 being the least amount of effort required and 9 being the most amount of effort required.

1. Being kept informed
2. Overall watchdog
3. Providing information, advice and representing views to inform the RAG – particularly about what's happening on the ground and things missed by the RAG
4. Acting as a sounding board for RAG's ideas e.g. pointing out when the RAG isn't representing a range of views and also being able to say things that organisations sometimes can't.
5. Providing detailed comments on RAG work.
6. Evaluating progress on actions and success or otherwise of the process
7. Working with the RAG on a sub group
8. Acting as a communication link to and from the public and / or stakeholders.
9. Leading on a practical project / tackling issues of concern e.g. lost lobster pots.

5.3 How the Liaison Group could become involved in the tasks that are to be undertaken over the coming years:

The next session involved filling in a table, which listed the main tasks that the RAs have to do in the coming year, with the general role of the Liaison Group and specific interests of individual members.

Tasks to be undertaken by RAG over the coming years	Possible role of Liaison Group	Examples of activities (anything needed to aid this?)	Who might like to do what (anything needed to aid this?)
Management Plan <i>- Updating and adding the new features</i>	Acting as a sounding board and watchdog. It is the management plan that sets the agenda for implementation and unless critical actions	Could give broad comments before detailed work on this begins. RAs could ask Liaison	Most don't want the full documents; they just want to be kept informed with summary documents.

Tasks to be undertaken by RAG over the coming years	Possible role of Liaison Group	Examples of activities (anything needed to aid this?)	Who might like to do what (anything needed to aid this?)
	are identified here they won't happen. Also important because the Liaison Group won't get involved in implementation because they won't own it.	Group what would be an effective brief for the document and what level of involvement people want to have both as a group and as individuals.	Need a range of different methods on ways for the Liaison Group to become involved depending on the needs of the individual.
Action Plan <i>- Setting targets and compiling a timetable</i>	Acting as a sounding board and watchdog.	Getting both the Liaison Group and RAs to prioritise actions (to ensure people have a say and also to provide expert advice rather than the SAC Officer doing it alone).	Most don't want the full documents; they just want to be kept informed with summary documents. Need a range of different methods on ways for the Liaison Group to become involved depending on the needs of the individual.
Reviewing Progress <i>- With the implementation of the action plan</i>	Acting as a sounding board and watchdog.	E.g. evaluating the process – is it working etc. If things aren't working the Liaison Group could take it higher i.e. putting pressure on organisations either as individuals Liaison Group members or collectively.	Most don't want the full documents; they just want to be kept informed with summary documents. Need a range of different methods on ways for the Liaison Group to become involved depending on the needs of the individual.
Implementation <i>- Carrying out the targets in the timetable</i>	Acting as a sounding board and watchdog.	Forming sub groups to tackle issue of concern like the lost lobster pots (sub group already formed). Other issues that have been mentioned include: - climate change - jet skis and power boat use (code of conduct and perhaps personal presence on beaches) - codes of conduct in general	This would the require the group to work together initially to: - understand the problem, constraints, aspirations, real issues, what isn't sufficient, what already is planned - to come up with a plan of action to address the issue and the role that each person can play - bring in new people from outside the Liaison Group
Engagement and Communication	Acting as a sounding board and watchdog.	E.g. jet skis – cause damage to wildlife.	Feedback from Liaison Group to RAG on how

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- <i>E.g. raising awareness targets in timetable</i>		Education could be handled by sending out information and codes of conduct via jet ski networks.	well the group is functioning. RAG could provide Liaison Group members with a briefing note that members could put up on notice boards and send out with mailing e.g. on jet skis. It would help the group report back to its constituencies more regularly.

5.4 To finish the facilitated session Lindsey suggested that the group think about how the group could make the above suggestions work and how it could organise itself in the future. The following suggestions were made:

- o Introduce an annual meeting cycle
 - April – review detail of progress
 - October – looking forward, setting priorities for the timetable
 - Summer – organise a trip / presentation
- o How the meetings are run
 - Managing and differentiating between different types of discussion e.g. open sessions
- o Liaison Group member's role on the group
 - Remember each member could have a different role
- o Feeding back to Liaison Group members 'constituencies'
- o New members to the Group
- o Information to and from the Liaison Group

6. AOB:

6.1 Rod asked why marine SACs took a different management route to terrestrial SACs. Lucy explained that the Habitats Regulations include a provision for relevant authorities for marine SAC to come up with a method of management for the marine site, there isn't the same type of specific provision for terrestrial SACs. The Habitats Regulations do not state what type of management method a relevant authority group should use, but Government guidance on the management of marine SACs states that the relevant authorities group should consult with the public. This is why the development of the Management Plan and Action Plan for Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC followed the route it did with the establishment of the Liaison Group. Marine and terrestrial sites differ significantly in issues and also in ability to manage them. Marine resources are very much more open access resources, where on land there is a more specific system of land ownership by individuals and this has a big influence on how conservation sites are / can be managed. Terrestrial SACs are all underpinned by SSSIs and therefore have existing management in place. Lucy also explained how Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC received LIFE funding through the UK Marine SACs Project that had run from 1997-2001 and had been one of twelve pilot sites for developing management schemes in the UK.

6.2 Bill Miller-Jones formally thanked Alison for chairing the lobster pot meeting.

7. **Close of meeting & date of next meeting**

Caerwyn Roberts thanked Lindsey, Alison and the translator Eluned Edwards and for everyone's attendance and contribution during the evening.

The date for the next meeting is 30th January 2006 at 7pm at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.

8. **For further information:**

Interreg IIIA – general information:

www.interreg.ie/main.html

Reg 33 – downloadable copy:

www.ccw.gov.uk (then click on our work and protected sites)

Wales Biodiversity Week information:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk