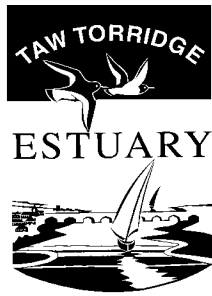


TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 29th. MARCH, 2008



www.ttef.org.uk

- **DMF: Devon Estuary Partnerships – Consultation:**
- **DMF: Coastal Zone Management and the LAA:**
- **Devon Maritime Forum – 15th. May, 2008:**
- **AONB/Biosphere Reserve: Discovery Day:**
- **ND Biosphere Reserve: Strategy and Action Plan:**
- **Proposed Barrage in the Taw Torridge Estuary:**
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- **CPRE: Litter – A Major Coastline Problem:**
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- **Information Items and Newsletters:**
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DEVON MARITIME FORUM: DEVON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIPS - A REVIEW OF FUNDING AND FUTURE OPTIONS

Following the pre-consultation stage and the joint response by the Devon Area Estuary Officers, this consultation document, commissioned by the Steering Group of the Devon Maritime Forum to address the funding issues faced by Estuary Partnerships in Devon, has now been finalised and released for wider consultation.

The consultation firstly sets out the present position, and then identifies possible scenarios that might deliver financial stability for Devon Estuary Partnerships in the future.

The document contains information on:

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
- the roles of Estuary Partnerships
- their funding arrangements and funding partners
- suggested future solutions and funding options
- various potential future scenarios:
 1. Estuary Partnerships as Businesses
 2. Tiered system of funding
 3. Harbour Authorities take over funding
 4. Complete withdrawal of funding
 5. Dedicated Estuary Officer – e.g. within AONB
 6. Charitable Status
 7. Status Quo Remains
 8. Voluntary Partnerships
 9. Core Funding from new sources, such as Defra and the Local Area Agreement

Initial Recommendations:

- agreement needs to be reached between funding bodies and partnerships on the best way forward

- Estuary Partnerships in Devon need to work together, thereby presenting a coherent and consistent voice
- a clear format needs to be established for any formal working agreements
- A sub-regional organisation can facilitate actions at a County level

The deadline for responses to this Consultation Paper is:

Friday, 2nd. May 2008

so please let me have any comments you wish to make through the TTEF by Friday, 25th. April 2008

Copies of the Consultation have been made available by e-mail to all of the TTEF representatives, organisations and agencies. Printed copies of the consultation can be obtained from:

Jim Masters
Devon Maritime Forum Co-ordinator
c/o Devon County Council
Lucombe House
Topsham Road
EXETER
Devon. EX2 4QW
Telephone: (01392) 383231
e-mail: jim.masters@devon.gov.uk

DEVON MARITIME FORUM: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Devon Maritime Forum has recently published a further paper, this time on Coastal Zone Management and the Local Area Agreement.

The Devon Area Estuary Officers' Group will be meeting again next week to discuss this paper, and how to integrate marine and coastal issues within the emerging Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Community Strategy. Any comments and suggestions from the Group will be submitted to Devon County Council before the consultation deadline in middle of April.

In addition to this, Devon Strategic Partnership ran a conference in Exeter yesterday to consult partner councils, organisations and agencies on the draft of the Local Area Agreement. Jim Masters represented Devon Maritime Forum at the Conference, and I represented the TTEF.

DEVON MARITIME FORUM: SPRING FORUM MEETING – 15th. MAY 2008 ROYAL WILLIAM YARD, PLYMOUTH

The theme for Devon Maritime Forum's Spring Meeting will be: "Pulling Together – the Marine Bill and Opportunities for Integration on the Devon Coast". The programme for the day will include a boat trip around Plymouth Sound, and it is hoped that the Plymouth MP, Linda Gilroy, will be able to attend.

This meeting will provide an early opportunity to discuss and explore the draft Marine Bill, following its expected publication in early April.

Places are limited to 100 delegates and registration will cost £30. If you would like to attend, please contact:

Jim Masters,
Devon Maritime Forum Co-ordinator
(01392) 383231

jim.masters@devon.gov.uk

for a copy of the registration form. Completed booking forms must be returned by Friday, 9th. May at the latest.

**NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING
NATURAL BEAUTY/
NORTH DEVON'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE:
DISCOVERY DAY – MILKY WAY THEME PARK**

Our congratulations to the AONB and Biosphere Reserve Teams on a most successful and enjoyable event at the Milky Way Theme Park, Higher Clovelly on Sunday, March 16th. Over 4,000 adults and children attended, and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.

Due to the generosity of the Milky Way owners, Trevor and Martin Stanbury, entry was free, and there was a wide variety of stands and activities to interest everyone, regardless of age. Our thanks are due to Tony Pratt, Richard Butler, Geoff Day and Chris Hassall for their help on the TTEF stand during the day, and to David Graham and the Amphibious Trials and Training Unit Royal Marines at Instow, once again, for the loan of their stand.

**NORTH DEVON'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE:
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2008-2012**

Dr. Mike Moser, Chairman of North Devon's Biosphere Reserve Partnership launched the Biosphere Reserve Strategy for Sustainable Development and its accompanying Action Plan at the Discovery Day on 16th. March 2008. Copies of both of these documents can be found on the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service website:

www.devon.gov.uk/ndccs.htm

and printed copies can be obtained from:

Bideford Station
East-the-Water,
Bideford,
North Devon. EX39 4BB
Telephone: (01237) 423655

**PROPOSAL FOR A BARRAGE ACROSS THE
TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY:**

At the last TTEF meeting in January, following an article in the North Devon Journal about a proposal for a Barrage across the mouth of the Estuary, I was asked by members to make further enquiries.

It was, therefore, coincidental when I was invited by Denzil Bath of the Bideford Chamber of Commerce and Industry to attend the Chamber's Annual General Meeting on 4th. March 2008, to listen to Mr. Keith Apps of Fullabrook Farm speak on renewable energy, with a particular focus upon projects proposed for North Devon, including that of a Barrage across the mouth of the Taw Torridge Estuary.

With regard to the proposal for a Barrage, Mr. Apps told the meeting that he has already applied to the Secretary of State for a licence, and has had talks with Torridge District Council. Some survey work has been completed on birds, migratory fish and silting, and some patents have been obtained. He stated that the proposal could have the potential to create 36 full-time jobs, and employ 2,000 construction workers.

Mr. Apps reported that a completed Barrage would require 10 years for completion and have a design life of 120 years. He envisaged the Barrage extending from Airey Point on Braunton Burrows to the Pebble Ridge on Northam Burrows. The

proposed Barrage would make provision for sluice gates, and would have a lock, or locks, on the western (Northam Burrows) side, allowing for the passage of boats and ships. The tide would have a 2-hour time delay, having been contained for 2 hours before being allowed to run through the turbines and producing an expected installed capacity of 99 MW of electricity. Barrages create electricity day and night, and use both the flood and ebb tides.

There could also be the opportunity to create a railway from the new Taw Bridge to Chivenor for transporting building materials, which could then be loaded onto barges to be taken across to the site.

No plans or drawings of the proposal were available at the meeting.

After the meeting, I gave Mr. Apps the contact details of the TTEF.

Our thanks to Denzil Bath and to the Bideford Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their invitation to attend this talk.

**MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY:
SILVER JUBILEE 2008**

This year is the 25th. Anniversary of the Marine Conservation Society. To celebrate the occasion, the Society is collecting people's memories, photos, films, experiences and opinions of the sea and the coast – they want to look back over the last quarter of a century and reflect upon how our seas, shores and wildlife have changed in this period. You can help by uploading your memories, photos and opinions onto their website:

www.mcsuk.org

You will also be able to visit the "Sea&Me" photo, memory and opinions galleries on the MCS website.

The Society will also be looking forward at the pressures that our seas may face in the next 25 years, and how we can all work together to protect them.

**CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND:
LITTER – A MAJOR COASTLINE PROBLEM**

Robin Hogg, Chairman of the Plymouth & South Hams District Group of CPRE, has written to Bill Bryson, CPRE Chairman, and Geoff Monck, Chief Executive of CleanupUK, on marine litter in order to encourage both CPRE and CleanupUK to extend their national campaign on litter to include marine litter on the coast and in the seas. He uses the Yealm Estuary as the main example, but extends the argument to include the Erme, the Avon, Kingsbridge, Salcombe and the Dart. He does not mention the Taw Torridge Estuary in North Devon by name, but he does urge CPRE and CleanupUK to include coastal litter in their national campaign. Copies of this letter are available upon request.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:
WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

An Action Planning Workshop for the Water Framework Directive was held at the Riverside Conference Centre in Exeter on 28th. February 2008.

The first phase of the Water Framework Directive will run from 2009 to 2015, and by 2015 all waters should be of "good status". The Environment Agency has identified the following issues as significant in the South West:

- abstraction and flow issues
- agricultural land use and forestry – sediment, nitrates, phosphates, pesticides, organic pollution

- urban drainage and highway runoff – sediment and metals
- nutrients from waste water – phosphates and nitrates
- our industrial legacy – minewaters and metals
- biological effects of alien species, commercial fishermen, etc.
- physical modification of rivers, coasts and estuaries

The various workshops held during the day gave the delegates the opportunity to contribute to the planning process for the Water Framework Directive. We were able to ensure that estuaries were well represented.

Further information on the Water Framework Directive can be found on the Environment Agency website:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

PROPOSED HOVERCRAFT OPERATION IN THE TAW ESTUARY:

I received a telephone call on 3rd. March 2008 from an operator who was proposing to operate Hovercraft from the slip at Chivenor Business Park throughout the year, starting in May or June 2008, for corporate training days.

The potential operator owns four Hovercraft, of which he is, at present, considering using two – a 2-seater and a 5-seater – in the area between Chivenor and Fremington Quay. It is envisaged that a trained driver, who has both a current Class II Power Boat Licence and a RYA Day Certificate, would always be present. The two Hovercraft involved have top speeds of 20 to 30 mph.

The operator promised to send the TTEF a copy of his business plan as soon as it was completed. He assured me that this Business Plan would contain full details of noise, routes, speeds, etc. He was uncertain as to whether he would require an Environmental Impact Assessment for this potential operation. If an EIA is required, he will make this available to the TTEF as well.

The operator was already in contact with North Devon District Council.

As soon as a copy of the Business Plan is received, all TTEF members will be informed.

EROSION OF NORTHAM BURROWS: RECENT STORM DAMAGE

The high tides and gales around 10th. and 20th. March have caused considerable erosion and damage to the Pebble Ridge on Northam Burrows, both in the vicinity of the Westward Ho! slipway, and in the area near the north end of the ridge, adjacent to the disused landfill site.

We have received photographs of the damage to the northern end of the ridge and have forwarded these to Devon County Council, Devon Waste, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Torridge District Council, Geoffrey Cox MP and others.

You may also have seen the news item on the Pebble Ridge and Northam Burrows on BBC Spotlight, where pictures of the erosion and damage were shown. Shawn Corin, the Northam Burrows Warden, was interviewed.

We were pleased to hear that Torridge District Council has now issued a statement saying that it would be working on preventive measures prior to the Spring Tides in May.

For your information, an extensive series of dated, fixed-point comparative photographs, clearly showing the erosion and the incursion into the Burrows since early 2006, can be viewed on the website:

www.northam-devon.co.uk

Before the next TTEF meeting, I shall be contacting all of the agencies involved in Northam Burrows for updates on the current position.

NICKY SPURR: VISIT OF FORMER ESTUARY OFFICER:

Those members who have been involved in the TTEF for some years will be pleased to know that our former Estuary Officer, Nicky Spurr, paid a visit to North Devon two weeks ago. She was very fortunate that her visit coincided with the AONB/Biosphere Reserve Discovery Day Event at the Milky Way, and she was able to catch up with many of her former colleagues and friends at the Event.

I also met up with Nicky for the day, later in the week, and she was very interested to know how everyone was and what had been happening in North Devon since she left. She sends her best wishes to you all.

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL: RELAUNCH OF NDDC IMAGE

North Devon District Council is re-launching its image in order to make it easier for its customers to identify the services it provides. It will now be known as “North Devon Council”.

This new brand has been developed following extensive research, the results of which showed that the existing image was not working and that customers were confused about who the Council was.

The implementation of the new brand will be phased in over the next 12-18 months in order to keep costs down. Existing stocks displaying the North Devon District Council brand will be used up before anything displaying the new North Devon Council brand is issued. It is estimated that the phased implementation of the new brand will save the Council in the region of £50,000.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND NEWSLETTERS:

Campaign to Protect Rural England:

Devon Branch
Annual Report 2007
and

Annual General Meeting – Monday 7th. April at 2.30 p.m.
at Exeter Racecourse, Kennford, Exeter

Guest Speaker: Mr. Campbell Dunford, of
C.E.O Renewable Energy Foundation

Food News:

Your Guide to the Best Eating in the South West

including information on the
Taste of the West Trade Show for food, drink and catering
buyers: 21st. and 22nd. April 2008

www.tasteofthewesttradeshow.co.uk

To receive a copy of Food News, contact:

samantha@saltmedia.co.uk

Bideford 500

A Unique Maritime Inheritance:

Public Meeting on Saturday, 12th. April at 2.00 p.m.

The Burton Art Gallery, Bideford.

Researcher, Pauline Smith, will present her findings and show how Bideford's significant maritime heritage and unique achievements over the past 500 years can be celebrated and

tailored into an economic regeneration blueprint. This will be followed by an opportunity to pose questions to a selected panel

CONSULTATIONS:

North Devon Council:

Draft Guidance on the Use of On-Site Renewable Technologies:

<http://northdevon-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/re/dre>

Deadline: 10th. April, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

North Devon Council:

Draft Development Brief for North Devon College Site:

<http://northdevon-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/dbndc/dbndc>

Deadline: 10th. April, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

If you wish to make comments through the TTEF, please let me have your comments in good time before the date of the deadline.

TTEF WEBSITE:

Amongst the information contained on the TTEF website,

www.ttef.org.uk

copies of the following are also available:

- Taw Torridge Estuary Users' Guide: containing
Estuary Code of Conduct
Estuary Zoning System
Estuary Speed Limits
- Taw Torridge Estuary Free Registration Scheme:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Incident Log:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Moorings Code of Practice:
- Taw Torridge Estuary Crab Tiling Code of Conduct:
- TTEF Management Study for Braunton Marsh:
- Taw Torridge Estuary: Geomorphology and
Management: Executive Summary:
- All recent TTEF Newsletters:
- All recent TTEF Minutes:
- Regular Reports and Information on:
Braunton Burrows
North Devon's Biosphere Reserve
Bideford Harbour and Estuary Pilotage

DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:

Monday, 21st. April, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple
Monday, 21st. July, 2008 at the **Civic Centre, Barnstaple**
Monday, 20th. October, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple
Monday, 19th. January, 2009 at Bideford Town Hall (AGM)
All meetings commence at 7.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

The July meeting would normally be held at Bideford Town Hall, but this venue is not available. We are grateful to the Civic Centre in Barnstaple for allowing us to use the Taw Room instead



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