

TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 20th. December, 2005



- **Fast Leisure Craft Joint Working Party**
- **Appledore Quay Wall: Planning**
- **NDCCS: Draft Interpretation Strategy**
- **Meeting with TDC Chief Executive:**
- **Bideford Harbour Master: Report**
- **Dredging at Appledore: Report**
- **Environment Agency CAMS: Update**
- **Nuttalls: Barnstaple Western Bypass:**
- **Devon Living Coasts Conference: Report**
- **Devon Maritime Forum: Report**
- **Draft Marine Bill Newsletter: Issue 1**
- **Proposed Visit to Met. Office:**
- **Avian 'Flu: Update**
- **Date of next TTEF Meeting**

FAST LEISURE CRAFT JOINT WORKING PARTY

The meeting due to take place on Thursday, 8th. December was cancelled at the last minute. No further date was offered before Christmas, so this meeting will now take place on the next pre-arranged date, i.e. Thursday, 12th. January 2006. A report on this meeting will be available at the next TTEF meeting in January.

APPLEDORE QUAY WALL TDC PLANNING APPLICATION Application No: 2327/2005 Planning Officer: Mr. R. Williams

This planning application for the re-cladding of Appledore Quay Wall has now been lodged with Torridge District Council, and the plans can be viewed upon request at Riverbank House, Bideford. I have notified TDC that this application will be on the agenda for discussion at our meeting in January 2006.

NORTHERN DEVON COAST & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE DRAFT INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

Ben Totterdell has forwarded me a copy of the draft Interpretation Strategy, and he has requested any comments by 31st. December 2005. If your organisation would like a copy of the draft Strategy, please contact Ben at Bideford Railway Station:

e-mail: ben.totterdell@devon.gov.uk

phone: 01237 423655

MEETING WITH TDC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

My appointment to meet Mr. John van de Laarschot on Friday, 25th. November 2005 had to be postponed, and a further appointment has been arranged for Thursday, 5th. January 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

TDC BIDEFORD HARBOUR MASTER REPORT

Captain Roger Hoad was unable to attend our last meeting in October, and with his apologies he has submitted a report to update members on some of the items contained on the agenda for the meeting:

Appledore Slipway: Investigations are underway to make the slipway at Appledore a part of the Car Park Order, so that controls may be put in place.

Wrecks in the River: TDC has quotes for the clearance of wrecks in the river at Bideford, and Mr. Ray Webster is asking Queen's Counsel for an opinion on this and on the legalities of present houseboat moorings.

Houseboats: Another houseboat has arrived at Heanton, having been towed by there by a tug. Roger has notified NDDC of the arrival of the houseboat, and he will also be contacting tug owners.

Trinity House Survey: Trinity House will probably survey both the original channel on the Appledore side of the Estuary, and the "gut" on the Instow side.

Dredging at Appledore Shipyard: The dredging and removal of the hardcore from the now secondary western channel is very helpful, both for the channel itself and for access to the Fishermen's Co-operative, Hanson's Aggregate Wharf and for the Appledore Shipyard berths. Also, if the flow through the western channel can be improved, this will facilitate the passage of ships upriver to Bideford.

We are very grateful to Roger for his report.

DREDGING AT APPLEDORE

Deborah McLaren, Environmental Advisor on this project for Devonport Royal Dockyard, has informed us that all licences and consents have now been obtained for the dredging of the Bidna Gut. The material will be stored on a bunded area of the sand wing immediately upstream of the Gut, and will be taken to Swansea Bay Outer approved dumpsite before the end of April 2006. The stones ploughed out from the Bidna Gut in previous clearings constitute a navigation hazard, and these will be removed and taken to landfill.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment have now been approved, and a survey has also been carried out. Work started on 6th. December 2005, and dredging will cease by 20th. January 2006.

The launch of the hull from the Shipyard has been delayed, and will take place on 29th. January 2006.

Excerpts from Ms. McLaren's reports are **attached**.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CATCHMENT
ABSTRACTION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
UPDATE**

The final meeting of the CAMS Stakeholder Group, to discuss the consultation responses, took place on Wednesday, 16th. November 2005, and the final document is now being prepared by the Environment Agency. There had been a considerable number of responses expressing concern about the Water Availability Status allocated to the River Taw. The Abstraction Strategy will be reviewed every six years. For your information, Environment Agency contact details are as follows:

CAMS:

Georgina Gray (01392) 316039
Cams.devon@environment-agency.gov.uk

Licensing:

Terry Folland (01392) 316069
Nick Prall (01392) 316070

Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA):

Tamsin Howels (01392) 316095

Incident Hotline: (0800) 807060

**BARNSTAPLE WESTERN BYPASS:
UPDATE**

Mr. John Soper, the Public Relations Manager of Nuttalls, has very kindly sent me copies of their October and November Newsletters, containing information under the following headings:

Newsletter 8 (October):

- A39 Roundabout to Sticklepath Roundabout
- Sticklepath Roundabout to the River Taw
- River Taw Bridge
- North of the Taw Estuary
- Proposed Programme of Works for November 2005

Newsletter 9 (November):

- Montage of the progress of works achieved in the twelve months since the contract was awarded in November 2004

- A39 Roundabout Looking North
- Railway Embankment South of the Railway Station
- Railway Cutting and Sticklepath Roundabout
- Sticklepath Roundabout
- Sticklepath Link (West Tie-in)
- River Taw Causeway Looking North
- River Taw Navigation Channel & Lift Bridge
- Bypass North Tie-in to A361 Braunton Road

- Proposed Programme of Works for December 2005

All Newsletters are available on the following website:

www.barnstaplebypass.com

or from:

Edmund Nuttall Ltd.

Site Offices

Taw Wharf

Barnstaple. EX31 2AB

Telephone: (01271) 376368

Mr. Mike Phillips of Nuttalls will be giving us a presentation on this project at our next meeting.

**DEVON LIVING COASTS CONFERENCE
REPORT:**

I attended this very enjoyable and informative conference at the Met. Office, Exeter on Thursday, 26th. October 2005.

Please find the reports of the main speakers **attached**, for your information.

**DEVON MARITIME FORUM
REPORT:**

The Maritime Forum also took place at the Met. Office, on the day following the Living Coasts Conference.

It was agreed that, in the future, there would be an Annual Conference of the Maritime Forum, and that other meetings would be held as and when there were issues that needed to be addressed.

A meeting is to be arranged for April 2006, to discuss the Draft Marine Bill.

**DRAFT MARINE BILL NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1:**

To access this Marine Bill Newsletter, please log on to the Defra website and navigate to the Marine Bill homepage, where you will find a link to the Newsletter

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE MET OFFICE

Sadly, the Met Office has been so inundated with requests for tours, that they are unable to make any bookings for the foreseeable future.

UPDATE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

Following our last meeting, Tim Jones contacted me with a good source of up-to-date and clearly-explained information on avian flu': www.wwt.org.uk

DATE OF NEXT TTEF MEETING

**Monday, 16th. January, 2006
at Bideford Town Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

Please bring your diaries, as we shall be setting the dates of meetings for the forthcoming twelve months.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



Rose Day
Chairman

Taw Torridge Estuary Forum

The Crow's Nest

Marine Parade

INSTOW

Bideford,

North Devon. EX39 4JN

Telephone: (01271) 860686

e-mail: Geoff.Rose.Dav@ukgateway.net

website: www.ttef.org.uk