



## **North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board**

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

### **Attendees**

<b>BA</b> Cllr Bernard Arscott – Leigh Ward	<b>Amy</b> Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP
<b>CB</b> Colette Bailey - Metal	<b>AR</b> Andrew Rattley – NTFLAG Chair
<b>CDM</b> Claire Dumontier- Marriage – Leigh resident	<b>CR</b> Caroline Reynolds – SBC
<b>TF</b> Tanya Ferry – PLA	<b>JS</b> Jonathan Sedgewick – Mike’s Boatyard
<b>JL</b> Cllr John Lamb – SBC Leader	<b>JS (Seafish)</b> Julie Snowden - Seafish
<b>AL</b> Andrew Lawrence – Osborne Bros	<b>Giles</b> Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine
<b>CM</b> Cllr Carole Mulronev – Leigh Society/LTC	<b>MS</b> Mick Sharp – Watermans Assoc Shoeburyness
<b>Anna</b> Anna Patel – NTFLAG	<b>PW</b> Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership

### **Apologies**

Richard Eves – Leigh Fishing	Matthew Smith – MWS Shellfish
Daryl Godbold – Trawlerman	

### **11:00 – 11:05 Chairman’s welcome**

**December minutes:** agreed and no comments

**Projects** - Revisit allocations and final approvals of full budget

#### **1. Maritime Interpretation**

A suggestion to change the Maritime Interpretation project by separating the art piece part of the budget into a new project, with Metal as the applicant. Estuary festival (funded by the Cultural Development Fund) would provide the match funding for this project as long as it is in keeping with the festival, that will be taking place in 2020.

There were discussions around previous ideas for sculptures and art pieces that had been dismissed. Space is an ongoing issue in Old Leigh and a festival or event could be delivered instead, this could then be repeated as a legacy project for the NTFLAG. There were discussions around linking it to the cockle festival or a memorial to lost fishermen, balancing the focus between loss and celebration of the industry. It was noted that this would be harder to fund and plan in the time available.

CB noted that bronze sculptures would cost more than the budget allocated at present.

#### **Approved**

Agreed that Giles will work with Metal to develop the project and Amy too to engage Gulbenkian around Ocean Literacy and the SDGs linked to fisheries.

#### **2. Infrastructure projects**

a) Leigh Infrastructure Feasibility – Stage 2:



Amy discussed the issues with this project (high cost for a feasibility study) and that the MMO may need to visit Leigh Port to see why this is necessary. If the board are in full agreement for this project, then a new LDS review will need to be submitted as to why priority 2 funds need to be moved into priority 1 and explain the underspend in priority 2. There may be options to either stagger or split up the project to decrease the full cost.

There were concerns raised that this project would not cover all licenses and regulations required for dredging, especially regarding the protected designation around the creek.

The project also has a longer timeline than the FLAG allows, this will need to be negotiated.

JL reminded the board that for future LEP funding, match funding will be required and will focus on areas that have opportunities in economic growth and can demonstrate business cases. TF – The PLA has an investment fund and commercial fund for environmental gains and public good launching this year, which this project could match with. Another suggestion was that dredging match could come from the local levy funding from EA flood mitigation.

TF will review the proposal and get back to CR (SBC) on Tuesday morning regarding licenses and regulations.

Issues around the selection of feasibility projects that the board have approved – Anna explained that there are no projects that are ready for delivery that have come forwards and therefore the board will need to prioritise the following Priority 1 projects.

Queries regarding if there is an environmental project for Priority 2 - there is one environmental project that has come forwards, but this could be submitted under the core/wider scheme.

A board member emphasised the importance of getting this feasibility work done whilst we have specific funding available for the fishing industry.

The Board discussed at length different options for spending the remaining funds in P1 and the transferred funds from P2 if agreed by the MMO:

- Option 1 – spend all remaining funds on taking Stage 2 Leigh Creek Feasibility study to the point where all consents can be applied for i.e. surveys, tender design and EIAs completed.
- Option 2 – Split the remaining funds between the Stage 2 Leigh Creek Feasibility study and as many other projects as possible (pending the decision by the MMO on the LDS review).
- Option 3 – don't spend any more money on the Stage 2 Leigh Creek Feasibility study and focus on other projects.

**The Board voted 9-1 to pursue Option 2.**

2) Energy appraisal:

Energy has become the priority locally with 2-3 power cuts in the last week in the Old Town and therefore is relatively urgent for local businesses. Southend Borough Council are looking for 75% funding for this project – which would include workshops, engagement, desktop study etc.

JS suggested a survey on the voltage of Old Leigh businesses.

3) Cockle Wharf design:



The design would be carried out by Southend Borough Council and could be completed by late summer, 2019. It would address the issues of the lack of space, uneven surfaces and turning circle for artic lorries on Cockle Wharf.

#### 4) Slipway lights:

This has increased in price from the December meeting, looking at lighting the slipway and areas of the car park that could hold storage in the future.

Concerns raised that the environmental regulations will not allow for any lighting on the slipway at Two Tree Island and that it would be a mistake to designate funding there.

Suggestions that for the energy appraisal there should be contributions from the hospitality sectors in the industry, however there is little time to raise match funding at this point.

#### 5) The bridge from Old Leigh on to Two Tree Island:

The bridge is in a critical position, the council has allocated £64,000 for maintenance which has been commissioned, there is also a small sampling cost for where the pontoon will be installed. The bridge is sturdy enough to be maintained and not replaced, therefore the bridge will need to be stripped and re-painted in which the FLAG could provide some match funding.

The £4000 FLAG funds to help with the erection of the pontoon – **approved**.

It was agreed that the board do not want to commit all remaining funds to the money on creek feasibility would like the study to reach as far as possible e.g. all surveys needed to get to the environmental impact assessment.

**The board voted** on their priority projects for the NTFLAG to fund with funding remaining from delivering part of the feasibility study to consent stage (e.g EIA) – on receipt of PLA insight and approval and applications ready to submit.

1. Top priority – Pontoon
2. Energy Appraisal
3. Design of cockle Wharf
4. Slipway lights
5. Bridge

£120,000 is required for the painting of the bridge, there was agreement to contribute any left-over infrastructure funds as long as this is no more than 50%. It was later noted that the bridge weight would not be able to be increased to above 7.5tonnes.

#### **Leftover training + marketing budget**

Priority 3 and 4: Marketing, training and skills – no additional projects have come forwards for either priority.

MS suggested some courses for new entrants moving into fishing, if these courses could be funded for them. Some of the courses may be included in the Training courses FLAG has funded, to be approved and starting soon.

PW asked regarding the Library Gardens building – the council would be looking for around £30,000 - £40,000 for match funding. If this were the case, decisions would need to be made over leases and how often the industry could access it.



It was suggested that these funds could be added onto the art piece for Metal as the current budget for this is low.

#### **12:25 – 12:35 Updates: Ongoing projects**

As the meeting overran it was agreed that Anna would include project updates in the minutes.

#### **12:35 – 12:50 Plans for 2019-2020:**

Next meeting: As no more meetings are required for project allocations but there needs to be some responsibility for legacy projects and fundraising. The board settled on early June as the next meeting date, Anna to send out date asap.

#### **12:50 – 13:00 Any Other Business:**

If the MMO require a visit to Leigh Port the board will be notified by email within the next two weeks.

#### **Project updates**

1. MSC Cockles  
On track, to be completed April 2019, part claimed.
2. Leigh Port Feasibility 1:  
Completed, not claimed yet.
3. Leigh Lib Gardens, FLAG Hub Stage 1:  
Completed, claimed and closed.
4. Environmental Data Coordinator role:  
Slight delay by 6 weeks, to finish end of March, part claimed.
5. Old Leigh Short Film:  
Delayed by 2 months, to finish end of February, part claimed.
6. Whelk Population Study:  
Delayed, started in October, no claims.
7. Old Leigh Spatial Plan:  
Delayed, to be completed March/April, part claimed.
8. Leigh Port Website Creation  
Approved, to begin asap on MMO sending through offer letter.
9. Leigh, branding, study, engagement and development  
Submitted January 2019.
10. Thames Estuary Small Fish Surveys  
Awaiting approval, to begin asap
11. Thames Estuary Marine Education  
Awaiting approval, to begin asap
12. Safety Equipment for North Thames Fishing Fleet  
Submitted beginning of Feb 2019.
13. Training Opportunities for North Thames Fishing/Maritime Industries  
Awaiting approval, to begin asap
14. Leigh Maritime Interpretation:  
Submitted beginning of Feb 2019.