



North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board

18th May 2018 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

Attendees

BA Cllr Bernard Arscott – Leigh Ward

KA Katrina Baddow – MWC

CDM Claire Dumontier- Marriage – Leigh resident

RE Richard Eves – Leigh Fishing

NJ Nick James – Leigh resident

JL Cllr John Lamb – SBC Leader

AL Andrew Lawrence – Osbornes

CM Cllr Carole Mulronev – Leigh Society/LTC

Anna Anna Patel – NTFLAG

AN Aoife Ní Neachtain – Natural England

Amy Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP

AR Andrew Rattley – NTFLAG Chair

CR Caroline Reynolds – SBC

JS Jonathan Sedgewick – Mike's Boatyard

MS Mick Sharp – Shoeburyness Watermans Assc.

MaS Mattew Smith – MWS Shellfish

Giles Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine

PW Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership

SW Sara Wordley – MMO (Coastal Officer)

Apologies

Tanya Ferry – PLA

Pat Fitzsimons – NTFLAG Vice Chair/TEP

Alison Semmence – SAVS

13:00 – 13:05 Chairman's Welcome

Minutes of 23rd March 2018

13:05-13:15 Chairman elections

13:15-13:30 Updates - Projects

Leigh Infrastructure feasibility – collating the feedback from the studies, project scheduled to finish in July 2018.

Leigh Library Gardens – Initial planning feasibility likely to be completed end June, beginning of July.

Enquiry about the anti-social behaviour in Library gardens, whether the hub would have a CCTV camera with the garden building? The SBC upgrade of CCTV are scheduled for 2019/2020, so if not included in this it would be a stand-alone system. - **CR** will check if the Gardens are included in Council plans and if so whether installation can be brought forwards (prior to any consideration of whether it is relevant for future FLAG funding).

MSC Accreditation cockles – due to end Feb 2019, draft report in 3 months

Data management role – Approved by the MMO, should be finishing Oct 2018, in time for the next meeting. The coordinator may contact board members over the summer regarding data. *Post Meeting Note: The role will be finishing in January 2019. However, the preliminary work will be completed and ready to present to the Board in October when we can discuss any gaps, the way forward and recommendations.*

Spatial Plan – NTFLAG team engaging with potential consultant specialist organisations who may be able to carry out the work. Leigh Town Council will formally engage.

Updates - Budgets

Anna ran through the budget breakdown for each priority, highlighting £440,557 remaining.

Amy gave an update on the management and administration budget.

Amy reminded members that the budget needs to be committed by end of March 2019 and confirmed that HM Treasury has underwritten the committed funds therefore funds will remain with the NTFLAG even after Brexit.

Two Tree Island

Power to Two Tree Island car park so that it can be utilised for storage and some minimal fishing activities by the industry (an accessible alternative to Old Leigh). Anna explained the rough breakdown of the cost of delivering power to the site to gauge the interest within the FLAG Board. Storage containers are also an additional potential cost. Discussions with Council staff (Foreshore) had suggested that there was 'no appetite' within the Council for any future use of Two Tree Island for industry and other maritime uses. However, it is important for the FLAG to have a view on this, as there had been previous progress towards this approx. 20 years ago (proposal and information supplied from Daryl)

SBC are looking for a new pier and foreshore office by Two Tree Island with facilities for vessels. Board members agreed that this would be useful due to the lack of space on Old Leigh for storage. Could the Cllrs help push forwards the need for storage?

AR: There is significant concern over lack of storage space for the fishing and maritime industries in old Leigh. Clarity from the Council on Two Tree Island as an opportunity needs to be a matter of urgency. Storage, power, lighting washing down, and some space for repair of nets etc. Could the development of this area of Two Tree Island be phased?

JS: Could we build a pontoon at Two Tree Island like the one at Paglesham?

JL: Match funding is not in the Council's Capital Programme for this financial year, therefore match funding would be an issue even if FLAG or wider EMFF could provide up 50-75% of the funding. If there was the potential for a project, then discussions could be had about including the project in the Capital Programme for future years, although there are no guarantees of this at this stage. Fishing industry has wider benefits the area to the area so projects like this are potentially important.

Queries again regarding the Bridge to Two Tree Island and what weight it can hold. Clarity in the discussion that large vessels would not need to be accessing the site over the bridge.

For this project to get off the ground some clarity from the Council that there is an 'appetite' and that there can be collaboration with the industry locally. **JS** and **AL** both clear that this would be a space they would use and would be very helpful for the wider industry.

NJ highlighted our lack of time, whether we should prioritise this and if SBC could prioritise this project. **CM** – FLAG projects and developments need to be feeding into Council Local Plans where possible.

General agreement from FLAG Board that there certainly is 'an appetite' for this project, at least to scope out the possibilities now that there is an outline cost.

Anna to set up a Two Tree Working Group to get this project moving – Friday afternoons (end June). GT will chair. Decision of FLAG funding for an SBC-led project to be decided end of July.

Project Expressions of Interest and applications

Pier Steps:

If the pier steps were included in the planned Pier renovation programme, then this wider project could potentially be SBC match fund the steps. This needs to be investigated now that there is a cost for the work on the steps.

JS: It would be great for the industry to have access to the Pier via the steps as provides another option.

MS: Agreed would be great to have the option for the industry and many other users as well. Improvements should be made to general Pier maintenance.

JL mentioned that ongoing maintenance of the steps will always be a challenge for the Council and creates costs beyond the initial capital works. JS explained that Mikes Boatyard could do this work as they carry out other similar tasks already.

JL: got to remember that the Pier is a Listed Building so care needs to be taken relating to any plans for steps and other projects.

The approach by the FLAG and the Council to funding the Pier Steps and match funding to also be discussed at the Two Tree Island meeting as many of the people who have an interest are the same. As with Two Tree Island aim to resolve the issue by end of July 2018.

Leigh Port Partnership Coordinator and Website Development:

Anna ran through the need to for the LPP coordinator to assist with training developments for the area, to set up and administer a fishermen's association and feed into a new website.

LPP have the funds to maintain the website and/or match funding could be provided by Seafarers.

All approved the project.

Mindfully Wired Communications – Marketing, Communications and Branding for Leigh on Sea fisheries.

Katrina Baddow ran through MWC experience working with fisheries, inshore fishermen, POs, UK and European work.

JL: mentioned a connection with the North Sea Commission, and that the Thames should become part of the North Sea route. This promotes fisheries and encourages tourism.

Discussion on the full scope of work and whether there could be a more limited scoping period. All recognised that rate for work was very competitive.

It was agreed that MWC would conduct an initial 'pre-brand perception analysis' project over the summer - straight to full application – all approved. However a public body applicant and £1000 match funding is required before this project can begin.

This perception change study would show an initial way forward for marketing and branding – a report and recommendations would be produced, and the FLAG Board can decide when this has been completed whether to continue.

Economic Study of Leigh on Sea fisheries

Giles ran through the study and the increase in costs from the initial estimate. The University of Greenwich (working with Cranfield University) have suggested consultancy rates as a way of moving the project forwards, as Universities can require significant time to process projects and can add on significant sums in overheads. University of Greenwich are experienced in terms of understanding and recording wider social and cultural benefits of fisheries, and Cranfield have the experience to translate this into economic benefits as well.

The Board agreed that the project was important, but it is more expensive that had been initially agreed to in the EOI, the NTFLAG team need to reconsider this.

The Board would also like to see more of a partnership approach with an organisation who are keen to better understand the economic importance of the Port and Fisheries to the wider area – as opposed to a consultancy project.

General reflection from the Board that the Council's Economic Development Team could be more involved in this as the Board recognise the need to analyse the value of the Port, Fisheries and Maritime Sectors to the wider economy – not least as this will be part of any future evidence base for future investment in the Port.

GT and **CR** to organise a meeting with others from the Council's Economic Development team as appropriate, and other Board members who are interested in this including a representative or two from LPP.

Amy – New Economics Foundation are an organisation who could undertake this study. Amy will make an approach recognising they have potential match funding from their Blue New Deal programme.

Priority 3 remaining funds

£43,000 remaining for this priority.

Depending on the MWC projects carried out – recruitment drive projects could be used in priority 4.

AOB:

ILO188 coming in Oct 2018, changes to mandatory items coming into effect Oct 2019 – please get in touch with Anna for health and safety grants. **Anna to email JS ILO188 details.**

JS – surveying entrance to the Ray, team to ask PLA what is currently happening – Tanya Ferry.

Next meetings:

Oct 12th 1-3pm, Dec 7th 1-3pm

Likely to have emergency summer meeting in July/August. However, the MWC report will NOT be completed in that time as the applicant and NTFLAG team need to find an applicant and £1000 match funding.