



North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board

12th October 2018 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

Attendees

BA Cllr Bernard Arscott – Leigh Ward

DG Daryl Godbold - Trawlerman

SH Stewart Horne - SBC

AL Andrew Lawrence – Osbornes

Anna Anna Patel – NTFLAG

Amy Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP

CR Caroline Reynolds – SBC

JS Jonathan Sedgewick – Mike’s Boatyard

MS Mick Sharp – Watermans Assoc Shoeburyness

GS Garry Stickland – SBC

Giles Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine

PW Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership

Apologies

Tanya Ferry – PLA

Richard Eves – Leigh Fishing

Claire Dumontier- Marriage – Leigh resident

Cllr John Lamb – SBC Leader

Cllr Carole Mulroney – Leigh Society/LTC

Alison Semmence – SAVS

Aoife Ní Neachtain

Andrew Rattley – NTFLAG Chair

Mattew Smith – MWS Shellfish

13:00 – 13:05 Chairman’s Welcome

Giles was chairing the meeting in the absence of Andrew Rattley and Cllr Mulroney. He passed on the apologies for those who could not make it to the meeting. Two members have left the FLAG board – Nick James and Alison Semmence. Alison Semmence is leaving her post at SAVS.

Minutes of 12th May 2018 – all approved and no questions.

13:05-13:50 Project Expressions of Interest and Full Applications

EOI: Training Programme

It has taken around a year to get a training programme off the ground and almost no applicants have come forward to develop or deliver a bespoke training programme that responds to local industry needs. This list of training courses for existing fishermen (offering to staff, new entrants and to diversify) has been devised by Anna through consultation with the industry.

- A lead applicant is needed for this project, ideally public body, in order to receive a higher funding rate (i.e. 75% requiring only 25% match)
- Discussion regarding private applicants – Leigh Port Partnership or Osbornes, the remaining investment could be between trainee and employer. PW asked if the college could be the applicant – the college does not sit on the board and would not be their role.
- It was suggested that SBC could be the applicant, take the responsibility for management with Anna. CR agreed in principle, as long as no liability and that funding will cover all of the costs. Anna to confirm process with CR.

Action: Anna to pick up with Caroline to put in the application and AL to add to the courses.

- DG suggested that different industries required different training – Anna has liaised with the industry and will liaise with Osbornes to include additional courses.
- CR made the point as to who qualifies for the training – it will be for employers, employees and new entrants.

Looking to run from January – May 2019. All approved and passed the full application.

Full Application: Thames Estuary Marine Education – Essex Wildlife Trust

- Anna ran through the project proposed by Essex Wildlife Trust, few comments from the expression of interest.
- SBC will help with linking with local schools.
- Coastal awareness courses to potentially follow.

Agreed and approved.

Full Application: Thames Estuary Small Fish Surveys – Essex Wildlife Trust

- This is to be delivered alongside the above project.
- MS raised the question about the data – as a pilot there is uncertainty as to what will be collected but it will be made public.
- EWT are an excellent organisation to carry out this work as they are working with several local organisations regarding surveying e.g Essex University and KEIFCA in North Essex rivers.
- Concerns over the number of volunteers listed, 10-20 to come out at the end of project. EWT have a suite of regular volunteers trained in scientific surveying and reporting.
- Worth noting this project is a pilot for EWT and may be developed in the following year after the FLAG has closed. Costs include project development.
- It is important to include local partners e.g anglers and fishing community who have the knowledge.

Agreed and approved.

Full Application: Maritime Interpretation – Cultural Engine CIC

- Anna explained the project, CE experience in running interpretation projects and what would be included as well as all of the local partners already involved in Heritage in Leigh (e.g Leigh Soc, Maritime CiC, LPP etc.).
- Giles explained why CE is leading it – no other organisation has come forward. CE would be very happy for another organisation to take responsibility for leading this element of programming and leading on applications to HLF.
- Concerns were raised regarding the commitment from Leigh Society to review and renew the current exhibitions in the Heritage Centre and whether this might undermine a key part of the proposed plans.
- Should a heritage interpretation programme be successful it could lead to a larger legacy project.
- Concerns that the interpretation needs to be based on real local knowledge and that those running a heritage project should seek engagement with the fishing and maritime industries to hear and record local stories and knowledge.

Agreed and approved.

Two Tree Island Development – Garry Stickland and Stewart Horne

Pier and fishermen's steps on the Pier - steps will be part of the capital works within the next couple years (dependent on funding).

GS explained the issues regarding Old Leigh, essentially that there is very little resilience in the power network, electricity infrastructure is at capacity (many companies have their own generator due to regular outages). GS has been in contact with UKPN to understand the costs of upgrading the power infrastructure. UKPN have no incentive to invest 'up-front' unless there is request from elsewhere.

Two Tree Island overview: no power, water, the main car park is on the Castle Point Borough boundary but owned by Southend Borough Council. The two electricity substations are on the north side of the railway line and a cable would need to run down to Two Tree island. However, the lack of resilience in the wider network means a new substation would be needed which could cost up to £360,000.

Alternative power solutions could be renewable energy that would need to be scoped out in terms of viability, size, budget and stakeholder engagement. There are a couple of options to explore which could include wind turbines, solar panels and untapped electricity on railway lines. There are no plans at all for any of this and therefore options would need to be scoped out if they appear viable.

Concerns raised over environmental regulations, e.g. liaison with Natural England and also the sea defences around Leigh and Two Tree Island. Amy suggested accessing EA funding (Water Improvement projects) for flood defence work.

It may be possible for a proposal for lights on the slipway to be developed (potentially utilising solar) to be decided at a separate Infrastructure/Two Tree island meeting.

Two Tree Island Bridge survey – Waiting on the results whether the weight warning is still required and whether any upgrading work may be required.

JS suggested laying the cable to Two Tree Island ready for future investment? Or investment into digging the trench etc. Soil samples will need to be taken prior to this as well as water supply surveys (also some done previously). Possibilities of digging one trench, laying one cable with water and sewage in the same trench – to be discussed in the working group.

Action: Organisation of Two Tree Island/Infrastructure meeting in October

Project updates:

1. Leigh Infrastructure feasibility: Complete, SBC to release report when completed.
2. Leigh Library Gardens Stage 1: Complete, looking at stage 2.
3. MSC Accreditation: Near completion, draft report through.
4. Data Coordinator: delayed but started – the staff member was introduced, and she ran through what she has been doing so far. Meetings coming up with partners to collect data and fishermen interviews in the next few months. Amy to contact Sophie De Clers regarding local anecdotal data.
JS requested a follow up on the Hadleigh Ray survey request – [Anna actioned](#).
5. Whelk population study: delayed, beginning at the end of the year.
6. Old Leigh Fishing Film: Filming has begun, completed beginning of next year
7. Old Leigh Spatial Plan: consultations in the next few weeks
8. LPP / Association Website – Application submitted

9. Marketing/Branding perception study – No applicants that could provide the £1000 match funding, TEP can be lead applicant if the board choose to go for the full brand as no match funding is required for this type of project.

Amy summarised what the project would look like and roughly how much it would cost. Details of the brand will be emailed out to the board to decide on whether to go forwards with the project. The board members will have two weeks to read over the details and decide if they would like to approve the project.

Remaining funds and projects

There are only two more board meetings remaining, December 2019 and late January 2019 before project applications need to be submitted and approved by the MMO by end of March 2019.

AL: Osbornes looking to expand and develop new processing lines in Old Leigh – Daryl and Matty both recognised the importance of a proposed Osborne’s development for a new processing plant and line. Osbornes are one of two businesses processing locally which is important for the identity of the area. This will need to be discussed at the Infrastructure working group meeting as Infrastructure would be the only priority this could possibly align with and then decided on the projects that are funded.

Anna explained that the processing funds in the wider/core scheme have closed.

CR – To have a meeting to discuss business grants in relation to Osborne’s ambitions to develop

AOB:

Safety equipment - Fishermens Assc. can do a joint grant application for safety equipment. When the first date is announced then everybody to bring webpages/quotes for what they need.

Next meeting: Friday 7th December 11am-1pm, Friday 1st February 11am-1pm