



## HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

6:30pm, 21st May 2008.  
Swanland Village Hall, Swanland.

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### Agenda

1. Introductions and apologies. Chair
2. Matters arising from the last meeting. Chair & Project Officer
3. Introduction of new HERAG Chairman and AGM report. (20.03.08). David Patrick
4. Tidal Power in the Humber Howard Nimmo - Pulse Tidal
5. Codes of Conduct update – review of options Kat/Group
6. Internal Drainage Boards & The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh Project Chris Manning
7. Signage P1 feedback and P2 Plan Kat/Group
8. Any other business  
- *Your ideas for future agenda items?* Group
9. Date and venue of next meeting.



**HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP**

**Minutes of the Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008  
6:30pm at Swanland Village Hall, Swanland.**

1. Introductions: Each attendee formally introduced themselves at the meeting.

Attendees:

Phil Cowing	Associated British Ports (Ex HERAG Chair)
Kat Sanders	Humber Project Officer
John Rowley	HAG Vice Chair
Adrian Koster	HAG Chairman
David Patrick	HERAG Chairman
Chris Manning	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Steve Webb	Humber Parasailing
Andrew Gibson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Spurn)
Barry Upton	Hull & East Yorkshire Wildfowlers
Martin Broadbridge	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Nev Jones	Ex HAG Chair
Emma Hawthorne	Natural England
Phil Arnott	Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Association of Sea Anglers

Apologies:

Sgt Chris Hine	Humberside Police
Phil Winn	Environment Agency (HERAG Vice Chair)
Tony Newiss	Humberside Police
Anna Moody	Alkborough Flats Site Manager
Bill Rigby	City of Hull Environmental Forum
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA
Daryl Burdon	IECS, Hull University
Jon Capel	Hull Naturalists Union
Helen Fenwick	Hull University

Adrian Koster started the meeting by inviting each attendee to introduce themselves. Kat presented the apologies. Adrian Koster enquired as to Helen Fenwick's designation at Hull University. Kat noted that she find out and confirm this in the minutes.

**Action Point Kat:** Confirm the representation of Helen Fenwick on HAG

**\* Helen used to represent WAERC (Wetland Archaeology and Environments Research Centre) based in the Geography department at Hull University but she has now moved to the History Department.**

## 2. Matters arising from the last meeting.

Adrian guided the group through the minutes for the last meeting; the group agreed that they provided a true reflection of the business discussed. The following was noted:

- Andrew Gibson reported that on the matter of wildlife crime, increased presence by the Police helicopter has greatly reduced the problems with Motor vehicles at Spurn. He also noted that despite struggling to get a member of Humberside Police to attend a meeting, he felt that HAG's efforts have been extremely useful in raising the profile of wildlife crime around the estuary within the police agenda. There is regular dialogue between offices and HAG members and officers are now fully aware of the meetings and respond with reports of their activities if they are not able to attend.

This increased awareness has benefited Andrew in his post as Outer Humber Officer for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, as he is now equipped to issue a police warning notice which informs offenders that they are potentially damaging a protected site and warns them that their vehicle may be seized if they continue. Andrew noted that he would provide Kat with a copy of the notice to send out with the minutes for reference.

**Action Point Andrew/ Kat:** Provide Kat with a copy of the Police Warning to be included with the HAG minutes for reference.

*File link: Example of Police Warning notice being used successfully in Spurn area to deter motorcycles in sensitive areas.*



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- Chris Manning responded to Andrew's comments and agreed that the work by neighbourhood officers is extremely useful in making a difference locally. He noted however, that in order for the issues to inform change i.e. gaining a dedicated wildlife crime officer for Humberside, formal reports must be submitted to the police and given associated incident numbers.

BAP reporting: Emma Hawthorne, Natural England reported that no feedback had been received from HAG.

Phil Arnott noted that Smelt and Shad are present in the Estuary and due to temperature changes; the estuary could soon be suitable for bass spawning.

Andrew Gibson, talked about a problem related to snake pipefish in the estuary, a species which has out competed sand eels and is now affecting the sea birds which feed on them. The pipefish have a much lower calorific value and do not provide the necessary nutrition for successful breeding of many seabird species.

Nev Jones noted that many of the estuarine species have erratic breeding patterns and suggested referring to IECS for further information and historical data from which to formulate lists.

Adrian Koster asked Emma Hawthorne how HAG and Natural England should proceed with the issue. She requested that HAG members formulate a list of sub-tidal species known to be in the estuary and forward to Kat or Emma before the next meeting. The lists can then be used at the next meeting to discuss the setting of SMART targets.

**Action Point HAG:** Formulate a list of sub-tidal species known to be present in the estuary and any ideas for associated targets. Submit to Kat or Emma by September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008. Refer to UK Biodiversity Action Plans: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/newprioritylist.aspx> for further information.

### 3. Introduction of new HERAG Chairman and AGM report (20.03.08).

Chairman, Adrian Koster explained to the group that at the previous HERAG meeting, Chairman Phil Cowing stood down from the position due to increased work load and other commitments. Phil Cowing (present at the meeting) noted that since the HERAG meeting in March, the extra work he was dealing with had been cancelled and that if in 12 months time the group was in agreement he would consider taking the position up again. In the interim period, however, David Patrick had been elected as Chairman of the group and invited to the HAG meeting to introduce himself and provide a summary for the HERAG AGM. David noted the following:

- Employed by JBA Consulting as Principal Analyst within the Environmental Division, been in post 15 years and based in Doncaster. (Previous hosts of the HMS Project Manager).
- Responsible for current drainage systems around the Humber Estuary. Main role is to provide environmental management as well as hydrological management.
- Represents drainage boards on a team of ecologists managing systems in the region.
- HERAG AGM in March held at JBA Consulting in Doncaster.
- HMS proceeding well and financially very strong with continued support from HERAG partners.
- A business plan for the scheme has been produced to facilitate the continued support of partners and inform the work plan for the scheme over the next 3 years. Plan includes a number of projects including updates of codes which will require the support and advice of HAG.

### 4. Tidal Power in the Humber.

Unfortunately Howard Nimmo from Pulse Tidal Ltd was not present at the meeting.

### 5. Internal Drainage Boards & the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh Project.

Chris Manning, (Environment Officer) had kindly offered to attend the HAG meeting to provide a presentation on the work of Lindsey Marsh drainage boards and also the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh Project which he was involved with. Chris' full presentation can be downloaded from the HMS website: [www.humberems.co.uk](http://www.humberems.co.uk)

The group asked questions following Chris' presentation, notably:

Adrian Koster asked Chris whether the maintenance of ditch banks (mowing) undertaken by the drainage boards posed a threat to water vole populations. Chris: No adverse affects.

On the point of mink affecting water vole populations, Barry Upton asked. '*What do you do with the mink once they are caught?*' Chris: They are dispatched. Another way to help control the mink problem is to assist with the recovery of otter in the county. They co-compete with mink and so by increasing the otter population it also helps conserve water vole populations. The EA are currently doing further studies into the population dynamics of otter.

Andrew Gibson: *Are there sufficient graziers to sustain the LCGM Project?*

Chris: Yes! Although the higher level stewardship schemes will help with this. The progress made with the project thus far has indicated that there should be no problem meeting the set targets.

## 6. Signage Phase 1 feedback and Phase 2 Plan

Kat provided an update for the group to explain the status of the signage project. She thanked the group for all their help with phase 1 and reported that it was completed during April 08 (Story included in latest Ebb & Flow newsletter). She reported that good feedback had been received on the phase 1 signs from parish councils and members of the public and she encouraged any HAG members who live or visit the sites to report back on any damage etc. Kat showed a map of the completed phase 1 sites and the proposed phase 2 sites and noted that further correspondence would be sent out by email as phase 2 progresses.

*File link: Showing completed phase 1 sites and proposed phase 2.*



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## 7. Codes of Conduct Update.

Kat explained that at the previous meeting she had asked the group to review the Codes and bring ideas for an update to this meeting. She noted that the update was to be included in the Business Plan and therefore to be undertaken throughout 2008 to coincide with the launch of the signs. Kat provided the group with some 'mock up' versions of designs that the updated codes could adopt.

Kat noted the following:

- Three possible formats suggested.
  1. As original – A5, folding leaflet, just change content.
  2. Envelope style - Outside cover laminated, inside pages like a book. Pocket sized.
  3. Crib cards – A5, individual laminated pages, held together with plastic ring.
- Less than 800 copies of the original Codes remain. Some of the content is now out of date; requires updating and new information adding.
- Format to be more 'user friendly' smaller, pocket sized, some weatherproofing. Aimed at *Users* of the estuary.
- Originally 25,000 copies printed. Suggest 5,000 – 10,000 copies as reprint to allow feedback to be gathered and more regular review.
- Suggest individual members/organisations on HAG adopt single pages to review. Possible workshop to do this?

\* There was limited time to fully discuss item 7 and although comments were received by HAG members, a decisive plan of action was not agreed.

**Action Point Kat:** Discuss format with individual HAG members and start review process. Funding to be approved by HERAG which will dictate final format etc.

#### 8. Any other Business.

- Steve Webb informed the group of recent publicity he had received recently by 'Enjoy England' and its presenter Simon Calder. The programme had focussed on Hull and East Riding and included Humber Parasailing as a case study attraction in the area. Further info on [www.enjoyengland.com](http://www.enjoyengland.com). Steve also informed the group of plans he has to expand his business and re-brand as 'Humber Experience' to include water ferry services to/from locations around the estuary including waters' Edge and the Deep. Steve also hopes to incorporate a bicycle hire service aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing traffic in the city and encouraging visitors to see the area's natural attractions using pedal power!. Steve welcomed comments from the group and others on his plans and was happy to discuss any concerns people might have.

#### 9. Date of next meeting

The next Humber Advisory Group meeting will be held on the South bank at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre at 6:30pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008. The date, time and venue for this meeting will be confirmed by email nearer the time.