



Management Scheme

HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP
6.30pm, 15th September 2005
Hessle Town Hall

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions and apologies
- 2) Minutes of the meeting, 9th June 2005 (previously circulated)
- 3) Matters arising from the minutes
- 4) Humber Management Scheme – (Chris Manning)
 - (a) Launch of the Humber Management Scheme
 - (b) Codes of Conduct – distribution and updating
 - (c) New Office
 - (d) Monitoring & Review of the Management Scheme
- 5) Promotion 2005/6
 - (a) Grimsby Fishermen
 - (b) Humber Rescue
 - (c) Low Tide Day – 27th May 2006
 - (d) Marine week, (was 6th to 14th August 2005)
 - (e) RNLI
 - (f) Talks to other groups
- 6) Press cuttings
- 7) HAG Business
 - (a) Officers 2005/6
 - (b) Constitution/Insurance if an update is available
 - (c) Membership/Communiqué circulation
- 8) Any other Business
- 9) Next Meeting
- 10) The Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy – (Philip Winn, Environment Agency)
- 11) Humber Environmental Data Centre – (Clare Langrick)

HUMBER



Management Scheme
Meeting of the HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP
6.30pm, 15th September 2005
Hessle Town Hall

Attendees:

Nev Jones	Chairman of HAG
Walter Houlton	Hull Civic Society
Daryl Burdon	Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies
John Rowley	Joint Vice-Chairman HAG
Jim Gowans	Barton & District Angling Clubs
Dave Mouncey	Humber Yawl Club
Martin Broadbridge	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Richard Clarke	Vice Chairman of HAG
Adrian Koster	Ecosystem Agronomist

In Attendance

Chris J Manning	Humber Project Manager
Clare Langrick	Humber Environmental Data Centre
Philip Winn	Environment Agency – Vice Chairman HERAG
Jon Capel	Kingston Upon Hull City Council - HERAG

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Kate Jennings	English Nature – maid of honour
Ben McCarthy	English Nature – giving Kate's talk at Grimsby
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB – annual leave
Maurice Labistour	Royal Yachting Association - annual leave
Helen Fenwick	WAERC - teaching
Pro Mike Elliott	Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA

Philip Winn of the Environment Agency and Clare Langrick of the Humber Environmental Data Centre (arrived 8pm) were introduced and welcomed to the meeting

2. Minutes of the meeting 9th June 2005 (previously circulated)

It was agreed that these were a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

The redesign of the Codes was praised by HAG members, who had enjoyed the launch and appreciated the chance to play a leading role in the presentations. Philip Winn stated that HAG is a fundamental part of HMS and its involvement in such events was essential. The presentations were considered to have provided an informative start to an enjoyable evening. It was noted that Elliott Morley had enjoyed the visit, not leaving until very late, however it was unfortunate that other

guests had not had the same freedom to explore The Deep as the ministerial party. Chris explained that the opening of the restaurant had limited access to part of The Deep in the evenings. A vote of thanks was given to Chris for his efforts in arranging the launch.

4. Humber Management Scheme

A Launch of the Humber Management Scheme Chris apologised for the slight lateness, and for the unfortunate need to rearrange the seating so that guests could not all be seated through the presentations.

B Codes The only substantive change made by HERAG was the insertion of “Comply with the Humber Navigation Byelaws 1990, available from ABP Humber Estuary Services (see Contact List)”. HAG’s work had been appreciated and the codes were now widely distributed, however, we are still looking for suitable outlets via clubs etc. Unfortunately, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust was not willing to distribute the Codes, as a collage of pictures can be interrupted as associating wildfowling with Spurn. It was considered that this was an unfortunate interpretation, and noted that HERAG were taking this up with YWT. Media coverage of the launch/codes had included: Scunthorpe Telegraph, Grimsby Telegraph and BBC News. A later RSPB Press release on Avocets included promotion of the Codes. Web site usage had increased from c400 per month during 2005, to around 700 during the period of the launch, and the higher usage was sustained during August, probably due to the promotion of the HMS via the codes.

C New Office HMS are now located with Humber INCA, and due to move into an office at Water’s Edge Visitors Centre, next week. This location is far more convenient for access to the Humber EMS and should facilitate contact with HAG members.

D Monitoring & Review of the Management Scheme Chris explained that HMS was now operational and activity for many parts of the Action Plan is taking place. An interim review of progress was ongoing, annexes such as the MoD could easily provide qualitative data on their activities on the EMS.

HAG’s help was requested with the Recreation and Tourism Action Plan, many activities such as walking, horse riding are difficult to quantify, while some such as water sports and motorised recreation are believed to be increasing. HAG members were asked to keep simple logs when undertaking their day-to-day activities and then these could be used to inform decisions, such as potential activity zones, implemented with evidence based change.

The HMS annual report will be produced in March, documenting work over the previous calendar year.

5. Promotion 2005/6

Events such as; Grimsby Fishermen, Humber Rescue, Low Tide Day, Marine week, and RNLI events were briefly considered for next year. Opinion is required on the most suitable event for HAG participation. It was stated that linking into national programmes of events was more likely to generate publicity via journalist’s reports due to local linkages

Talks to other groups, Chris had talked to the Lincolnshire Naturalist Union in March and was due to speak to the Market Rasen Group of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in February. It was agreed that members should report talks that they give to outside groups – useful information re publicity and to avoid duplication.

6. Press cuttings

HAG's assistance was requested in collecting press cuttings that mention the Humber EMS or Management Scheme, these would enable the effectiveness of the publicly to be monitored and may assist in future funding applications.

7. HAG Business

Officers 2005/6 Richard Clarke resigned as Vice Chairman, noting that having two vice chairmen was confusing, he and John had served in these position since 2001 and he felt that with the Launch and Codes now finished HAG needed a simpler structure. Nev proposed a vote of thanks to Richard for all his work.

After a short decision both Nev Jones (Chairman) and John Rowley (Vice Chairman) were unanimously elected for a further year.

Constitution/Insurance if an update Legal opinion had been obtained, this suggests that expert insurance advice is sought.

Membership/Communiqué circulation. It was noted that since HAG's formation in November 2001 58 people receiving Communiqué had not been contacted. In August a telephone survey was undertaken, 29 had been contacted:

- In 2 cases, staff contacts had changed, (Tourists Information Office, Cleethorpes and DFDS Tor Line)
- 1 wanted communications to cease.
- 3 added to the email circulation list
- 1 is now a HAG member, Mr J B Williamson, Metham, Goole

Most expressed support for HAG and gave a variety of reasons why they couldn't attend meetings, however, they felt involved and able to voice concern if they didn't support HAG work. The Government Office Yorkshire & Humber said: "we continue to find the agenda and minutes invaluable as one means of keeping in touch with current and on-going development of the Humber Management Scheme". It was suggested that the members receiving communiqué might better be described as corresponding members when future revisions are made to HMS structure. Organisation receiving Communiqué: Barrow Village Community Café, BP Works, , CEFAS Lowestoft Laboratory, CPRE, DFDS Tor Line, Environment Agency, European Secretariat, Frank Hill & Son, GOYH, HM Coastguard, Hull Friends of the Earth, Hull Natural History Society, Huntsman Tioxide, Immingham Town Council, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Keadby Wildfowling and Conservation Society, Land Use Consultancy Services, Lower Ouse Internal Drainage Board, Maslen Environmental, National Farmers Union, NRG Killingholme Power Limited, The City of Hull Environment Forum, The Humber Wildfowl Refuge Committee. The South Holderness Countryside Society, Tourists Information Office, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust

8. Any Other Business

Defra have a regional consultation group, a paper on character areas and CAMEO Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations, more details are being sought.

The 2003 - 2004 Low Tide Bird Counts on the Humber Estuary has been published English Nature Research Report (ENRR No 656: Humber Estuary Low Tide Count Programme 2003 - 2004). Copies are available from English Nature's Enquiries Service (Tel: 01733 455101 or Email: enquiries@english-nature.org.uk)
A press release will be issued when it is published on the web.

The 2005 Humber Conference is on 30th November, presentation will include a topical one on the Codes.

9. Next Meeting To be determined

10. The Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy – (Philip Winn, Environment Agency)

Philip outlined the problems and constraints, rising sea levels, low and old embankments and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

The key issues are:

- Impact on European sites (SPA/SAC) habitat creation
- Managing water levels flood storage
- Social equity low standards, local acceptability

The producing of the strategy has included, producing the Shoreline Management Plan, CHaMP. The aim of the strategy is:

- Maintain sustainable line of defences around the estuary
- Consider setting line back locally:
 - to replace lost inter-tidal habitat
 - to provide flood storage to help manage water levels where cost of maintaining defences exceeds potential losses
- Examine other ways of limiting flood risk to fair and reasonable level 5 year programme costing £74 million

Copies of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy are available from the Environment Agency, HMS or they can be down loaded via a link on the HMS web site <http://www.humberems.co.uk/>

11. Humber Environmental Data Centre – Clare Langrick

Clare explained that the idea for the HEDC came about from 2 inter-related needs: Readily available & quality controlled data for EIA for Humber organisations and Information for Humber & regional strategic planning by LAs, YF, Humber Forum etc. A feasibility study had been undertaken in 2003 but it was not until Humber INCA offered support in 2004 that a successful bid could be submitted, with staff appointed in June 2005.

The Aims of HEDC are:

Translate the huge amount of disparate environmental data on the Humber
Assist commercial ventures & policy makers into making informed decisions
Promote environmental awareness

The focus is on storing the environmental data which is required rather than ALL data.

Key Activities to date are:

Encourage the sharing of information

Facilitate access to key data

Enable developers to quickly evaluate & realise opportunities

Enable current operators to facilitate compliance with legislation

Establish stronger links between industry & environmental regulators

Link with other regional record centres

Data suppliers/users include: the four Unitary Authorities (strategic planning), Consultants, Education use, English Nature, Environment Agency, Industries & other organisations, Other Record Centres, Regional Hub and importunately Volunteer Recorders.

The next steps are move to Water's Edge Visitors Centre, continue communicating & building links with data suppliers & users, development of website, database & GIS and preparation of data exchange agreements.

Contact: 01652 631520

Chris J Manning,
September 2005