

# Morecambe Bay Partnership Conference & AGM 23 October 2003

## Business Papers

### Agenda items

#### Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

#### Agenda Item 2

**Captain John Green and Colin Peacock** are willing to stand for re-election as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Morecambe Bay Partnership Conference.

#### Report on Partnership Activities

#### Agenda Item 3

##### Review:

The **Annual Report** reviews activities in the year to end March 2003.

##### Since the end of March 2002:

- **6500 copies of our Baywatch 7 newsletter**, focusing on our BeachCare programme and other issues affecting the Bay were circulated in August 2003.
- The **Cross Bay Walks** leaflet has been revised and 10,000 copies reprinted for national distribution. Thanks to Friends of the Lake District, SLDC and Arnside Parish Council for help with production costs.
- The **Sport and Recreation** Group held three very successful meetings. Topics under discussion included Windfarms, Scuba Diving in the Bay, Wildfowling, BeachCare and Zoning of Recreational Waters.
- **245 people have joined the Partnership as members** and made contributions of £2027 (to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003).
- Our **website** [www.morecambebay.org.uk](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk) received an average of 80 visits per week. The site is regularly maintained and the Bay By Day events kept up to date
- **Michelle Waller** joined us as Office Manager in February 2003.
- **Dominic Charkin** joined us as BeachCare Officer in May 2003. The project works to improve the appearance, amenity and access to the coastline around the Bay.
- **Susannah Bleakley** started maternity leave in June 2003, and now has a baby daughter. Susannah will return to work at the beginning of 2004.
- **Alan Chester** is acting Partnership Officer for the duration of Susannah's absence. As such, he has stepped down as a trustee.
- Trustee, **Geoff Paul** has taken over the role of Treasurer and supported the office one day a week working mainly on funding.
- **Chris Rowley**, Mermaid's Purse Officer, made strong progress with our education project. Nine schools have been involved in activities on the Bay to develop thinking skills. Milestones have included a Children's Conference in June and publication of a book, linked to a website, to support teachers in developing similar activities.
- As a registered charity, we qualified for and received an independent review of our management processes from **Charities Aid Foundation**. The Executive Committee are currently implementing some of the recommendations and will seek to continue the work of the consultancy in developing our fund raising strategy.

- The **windfarm proposal**, presented by Warwick Energy at our last Conference, received approval in March 2003. The DTI has designated the shallow waters of the NW Coast as suitable for further development of windfarms. Research into ways of using tidal and wave power is also continuing and may result in more green electricity in the future. We have positioned ourselves as a communication channel for the public consultation phases of future developments.
- **Publicity** during the summer has been extensive and positive and MBP enjoys an excellent relationship with the local press.
- A number of **topics** have arisen during the year including
  - Vehicle access and dumping at Pilling Sands
  - Peeler crab trapping at Roa Island
  - The proposal to construct a bridge from Heysham to Barrow
  - Concerns over a project to store Gas underground at Preesall
  - Jet ski usage on the River Wyre
  - Commercial Cockling across the Bay

### **Our plans for the coming months:**

Our newsletters, website, conferences and other meetings will continue to form the basis of our activities in providing a communications network. We maintain our position as a Consultee on coastal management via PISCES, North West Coastal forum and the Irish Sea Forum.

Alongside this work, there are three main areas we plan to concentrate our efforts on, in the immediate and medium term:

### **Development and fundraising**

- The Partnership is funded principally by local organisations. We work hard every year to deliver our projects and keep our costs down. The Trustees are working to secure our immediate and medium-term financial needs.
- We continue to identify new funding sources and make appropriate applications linked to our other development work.

### **Community Outreach and Beach Care**

- We have now secured funding for our BeachCare project for 2¼ years. The programme supports existing volunteer and community groups by organising litter picks and helping and supporting beach adoption around the Bay. It also aims to engage new groups, especially those from the disenfranchised sector and will work closely with other Cumbria Initiatives and ENCAMS.

### **Information and Interpretation Strategy**

- We wish to progress with our plans to improve information about the Bay. The Interpretation Strategy was finalised in May 2002. We aim to secure funding for the delivery of this work, although the proposed programme is beyond the reach of our existing funding and full implementation is likely to take some time.
- Discussions on establishing Morecambe Bay as a Regional Park have been ongoing for some time. A consultants report to NW Regional Assembly has very positive recommendations. We have given wholehearted support to this concept as delivery of the Interpretation Strategy would be a key component of such an initiative. The development of a NW Coastal Trail from Chester to Carlisle is also being advanced and would link various coastal Regional Park Resources.

**4a Notes of last meeting** for approval and matters arising**4b Resignation & election of Trustees**

The constitution allows for a maximum of 12 trustees. Our current Trustees are:

June Ashworth	John Green
Richard Greenwood	Tom Hayhurst
John Hetherington (Chair)	Phil Hurst
John Keen	Graham Maclean
Ged MacAllister	Margaret Martindale
Geoff Paul (Treasurer)	

Richard Greenwood and John Hetherington are retiring in rotation, as required by the constitution, leaving potentially three vacancies to fill. Richard has indicated his wish to stand for re-election but John does not seek re-election.

Trusteeship is open to any member of the Morecambe Bay Partnership, but must be agreed in writing by the nominee. We would ask that nominations be submitted to the Partnership Office with an outline of the nominee's interests by close of business on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**4c Report from Trustees**

The trustees present their Annual Report and audited Financial Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2003. *(a copy is currently available on the website and printed copies will be available at registration)*

**4d Review of finances and budget**

The estimated budget for the current financial year is shown below alongside the actual budget for the previous year.

	<b>Apr 2003 - Mar 2004</b>	<b>Apr 2002 - Mar 2003</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	£96,305	£58,445
Sales	£80	£359
Other Income	£3,305	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£99,690</b>	<b>£58,804</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Charitable Activities		
Staff Costs	£67,006	£41,685
Office Costs	£16,270	£7,989
Projects	£4,550	£8,687
Support Costs		
Equipment		£941
Recruitment		£1,096
Miscellaneous	£1,884	£511
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£89,710</b>	<b>£60,909</b>
<b>Net of Receipts less payments</b>	<b>£9,980</b>	<b>-£2,105</b>
<b>Cash Funds at previous year end</b>	<b>£33,383</b>	<b>£35,488</b>
<b>Cash funds at year end</b>	<b>£43,363</b>	<b>£33,383</b>

#### **4e Amendment to Constitution**

Our existing constitution was adopted in November 2001. One amendment is proposed.

#### **The existing constitution reads**

- 12.1 Any bank account in which any assets of the charity are deposited shall be operated by the Executive Committee and shall be held in the name of the charity. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such account shall be signed by at least 2 persons from 4 named signatories comprising 3 named Trustees and the Partnership Officer.

#### **The proposed amendment is**

- 12.1 Any bank account in which any assets of the charity are deposited shall be operated by the Executive Committee and shall be held in the name of the charity. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such account shall be signed by at least 2 persons from 5 named signatories comprising 3 named Trustees, the Partnership Officer and Office Manager. Cheques above £250 must include the signature of at least one Trustee.

#### **4f Auditors**

The Trustees propose that Fiona Parker, Group Management Auditor from the Management Audit Unit (an independent department) of Cumbria County Council continues as appointed auditor.

#### **4g Honorary Life Membership**

2002 saw the first nomination of Honorary Life Members of the Morecambe Bay Partnership. This is an initiative that we wish to continue and the Trustees unanimously propose that Tom Hayhurst be awarded Honorary Life Membership this year. This is following his long association with sailing and safety on the Bay as Cruising Captain of Arnside Sailing Club and as an auxiliary Coastguard. He has been a loyal supporter to the Partnership serving as a Trustee and as Chairman of the Sport and Recreation Group

### **Thank you to the conference sponsors**

We are very grateful for the support we have received in staging this years Conference both financially and practically. Without the commitment of Partners and members we would not be able to enjoy these events.