Litter of the Thames - Meeting Minutes

## PLA Offices, Pinnacle House, 23-26 St Dunstan’s Hill, EC3R 8HN

## 22 Aug. , 2016, 1:00-2:30 pm

**Attendees 22 Aug. 2016**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Initials** |
| Maria Arceo | Artist | MA |
| Gavin Ellis | Hubbub | GE |
| Tanya Ferry | Port of London Authority (PLA) | TF |
| Kim Ferran Holt | Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) | KFH |
| Rob Francis | King's College London | RF |
| Emma Harrington | Thames21 | EH |
| Jon Guest | Canal & Rivers Trust | JG |
| AJ McConville | Thames21 | AJ |
| Francisco Morcillo | British Plastics Federation | FM |
| Ali Murrell | Riz Boardshorts | AM |
| Carolyn Newton | The Whale Company | CN |
| Naresh Patel | Kings College London | NP |
| Laura Scheimeder | Maria Arceo Project Management | LS |
| Matt Spencer | Kings College London | MS |
| Duncan Tysall | Kings College London | DT |
| Jess Wade | Kings College London | JW |
| Severin Vasselin | WaterTrek | SV |

**Apologies/Absent 22 Aug. 2016**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** |  |
| Emma Barton | Royal Yachting Association |  |
| Adam Batchelor | Greater London Assembly | Apologies |
| Brian Clark | British Marine Federation Thames Vally |  |
| Paul Clark | Natural History Museum |  |
| Quentin Brody Cooper | Zilch UK | Apologies |
| Alison Debney | Zoological Society London | Apologies |
| Christina Dixon | World Animal Protection (WAP) |  |
| Beth England | London Aquarium\_Merlin Entertainment | Apologies |
| Paul Hyman | Active 360 | Apologies |
| Sue Kinsey | Marine Conservation Society (MCS) | Apologies |
| Damien Lesnieswki | Royal Holloway |  |
| Tomas Maes | CEFAS | Apologies |
| Kyle Maglione | Water to Go | Apologies |
| Gerard Morgan | Transport for London |  |
| Dave Morritt | Royal Holloway | Apologies |
| Carol Quamina | Cross River Partnership | Apologies |
| Claire Shrewsbury | WRAP | Apologies |
| Elanor Swan | Paper Cup Recovery and Recycling Gp. | Apologies |
| Darren White | Tideway | Apologies |
| Adrian Whyle | Plastics Europe | Apologies |

The minutes of the 22 August meeting are reported as:

**Introductions**

There were several new forum attendees. This included both new representatives of member organisations and others re-engaging with the forum to promote collaboration on a Thames Litter Strategy. Members are reminded that one representative is ideally attending while other staff can be on circulation list as venues are limited for large meetings.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Litter Forum has thus far convened 7 previous meetings since October 2014.

Actions from the previous minutes in May 2016 were addressed.

The updated Terms of Reference (TOR) were agreed.

All minutes and the TOR are available on the website at the Thames Litter Forum: <http://thamesestuarypartnership.org/projects-and-services/networking-groups/litter-forum/>

**New Actions:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Forum member** | **Action status** |
| Compile & Disseminate results from Vision of the Thames Litter Strategy. | Duncan Tysall | Outstanding |
| Calendar of Events Updates | ALL | Please review on the litter forum webpage and email KFH any relevant events or links that you would like to see included. |
| Members Chart Updates | ALL | Please review your details in the Members Chart on the litter forum webpage and email KFH the details of your role to be added. |
| Disseminate Fish Hackathon Info | Jess Wade | Please email info to interested parties. |
| Express interest and share the link for Thames21/OneLess Big Count | ALL | Please follow link:  <http://arcg.is/2bW9OYy>  to the web site and submit an entry with your availability. |

**Outstanding Actions**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Forum member** | **Action status** |
| Pursue more alignment with MCS/MLAN re: rivers and estuaries. | KFH | Ongoing |
| Gauge interest from PBA for Thames Watch monitoring | Brian Clark | Outstanding - BC will re-engage with PBA |
| Raise issue with the Paper Cup people and send info to GM to liaise with pier cafe proprietors | Tanya Ferry, Gerard Morgan – KFH Agreed to try & re-engage perhaps through the Oneless project from Marine CoLAB | Outstanding - Will attempt to re-engage through OneLess , CrossRiverPartnership, GLA & Hubbub contacts |
| Raise Cafe Accreditation scheme with contacts | Tanya Ferry; Gerard Morgan | Ongoing |
| Tideway to fund curriculum development for Sewage related debris | Pat Fitzsimons | Outstanding  KFH will contact Scott Young to ask for funding. |

**Presentations**

Gavin Ellis – Hubbub [http://www.hubbub.org.uk/](http://www.hubbub.org.uk/%20)

*“We make environmental matters matter, creating fun campaigns that people latch onto and which go on to have a life of their own. We take a fresh approach to communicating environmental issues, focusing on people’s passions such as fashion, food, homes and neighbourhoods.”*

GE presented a new campaign ‘For Fishes Sake’ – a campaign contracted by the PLA for behaviour change and awareness in re: to plastic litter and its pathways to the Thames.

* Campaign has 2 phases:
  + 1st – Observational Research – to look at what is being littered and why, to then target those behaviours.
  + 2nd- Raise Awareness – to the amount of litter that is entering the Thames and the value of the river as a habitat for wildlife.
* Goal/Objective of the campaign is a collaboration of the ‘unusual’ suspects/ organisations to address the issue.
* Several preliminary ideas for the campaign were previewed including: ‘Fish Slap’, Zorbing, GPS tracked litter, and ‘plastic’ served Fish & Chip pop-ups.

Questions/Discussion

JW of KCL made mention of a Fish Hackathon through the US Embassy.

Action: JW will pass on email information.

Rob Francis, Senior Lecturer in Ecology, Kings College London

*Lectureship in Ecology at King’s College London since 2004. Rob has published over 45 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and two books, including work on Urban Landscape Ecology.*

RF presented his proposal for monitoring plastics as sediment analogue with the Thames catchment

* Similar in processes to urban river sediment cascades
* Difficult to get input but can do accumulation and breakdown
* Proposed quantification of plastics debris budge for major urban river catchment:
  + Classification & Quantification of Plastics- how much, what type & where?
  + Hydraulics & Dynamics – how does it move as a sediment analogue?
  + Citizen Science for monitoring plastic debris –potential for more accuracy?
  + Plastics transfer & loss – how quickly does it break down and get lost from the system?
* Proposed driftnets and sediment sampling @ tributaries for inputs

Questions/Discussion

TF pointed out complications is quantifying inputs from all of the discharges into the tidal Thames between tributaries.

JG pointed out dangers of working in the Brent, as it is on autofeed to reduce flooding pressures in the headwaters. As well there are planned dredging works.

Maria Arceo – Artist <http://www.mariajosearceo.com/>

*“Spanish artist based permanently in London, who uses installation, sculpture, photography and film to explore close interactions between the human manipulation of the natural world and Nature’s response to these interferences.”*

* Has a multi-stage project in the works with Kings College London to be their artist in residence for a year. The project will use the arts for engagement on plastics pollution in the River Thames.
* Will collect plastics from every accessible beach from Teddington Lock to the Sea with students and volunteers and keep all the plastics to make a huge installation in London visually displaying the litter footprint of London in the Thames to raise awareness.

Questions/Discussion

MA is looking for a warehouse storage space for the litter that is accessible to the river for convenience.

MA also has a small boat that she will use to collect litter, she is looking for a financial sponsor who can donate funds for the boat and it’s storage and maintenance.

TF pointed out complications of licensing etc. for boat and qualified operators.

MA is in consultation with the EA over permits to work with waste/litter.

**Marine Litter Action Network (post meeting note)**

* The annual meeting was held May 26, 2016. The final report from this meeting is now available on the Thames Litter Forum web page.
* MCS has decided to pursue 2 work streams based on input from members at the annual meeting;
  + Litter Innovation Award – to better recognise the work of our volunteers and supporters, as well as stimulate and reward innovative approaches to combating litter both at source and once in the sea.
  + The Water Code – to create a suite of simple pollution messages that would really drive home the central idea: wherever you are in the country, in the city, at home or on the beach your actions have an impact on rivers, beaches and the sea.

**Sector Updates**

Academic Updates

* No representatives available to report. Work on fish gut contents and litter monitoring methods and strategies within academic members acknowledged as ongoing.

Industry Updates

* British Plastics Federation reports work on Defra’s National Litter Strategy, collaboration with Hubbub, and ongoing work in support of MLAN.
* PLA reports no major incidences due to litter in the Thames.

User/Public Engagement

* Thames21 continues to develop their litter monitoring strategy.

Riverwatch has opened up the Big Count from 10-18 Sept. to include SUPB monitoring for the #OneLess campaign. Volunteers will be needed, and there is a web site to submit your interest to participate: [http://arcg.is/2bMHXKp and the Thames21](http://arcg.is/2bMHXKp%20and%20the%20Thames21) events calendar can be found here: <http://www.thames21.org.uk/events/>

* The Whale Co. is launching a school arts education project for ocean literacy with an event during Totally Thames: Making meaning of ocean pollution, 18 Sept. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-meaning-of-ocean-pollution-totally-thames-tickets-26439482203>
* WaterTrek will launch the SUP Source to Sea: Thames River Relay 1-24 Sept. during Totally Thames includes other events with Thames21 & Tideway at Tidefest and BlueTalks.

<http://totallythames.org/events/info/source-to-sea-thames-river-relay>

* Maria Arceo will launch her yearlong plastics art project with Kings College London Sept. 30 with a Thames21 litter pick at Millwall, Isle of Dogs.

National Evidence Group update

* No Updates

**Vision of the Thames Litter Strategy**

The PLA has been developing with stakeholders a collective vision for the Thames. Many of the members of the forum were involved in the development. The Thames Vision was launched in July with Goals across a number of sectors, like port activity, recreation and environment. There is an overarching Strategic Goal for Environment & Heritage within the Thames Vision; *The cleanest Thames since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats and awareness of heritage* with five specific priority actions

The litter forum will be involved in delivery of the 4th action plan;

*improved water quality by a range of measures including reduced litter in the river.*

* The Litter Forum is being invited to write the strategy to reduce litter in the river, and report to the wider stakeholders on the progress, which will increase engagement of the role of the forum and its member organisations.

The overarching long-term goal of the strategy was discussed and agreed upon as 'Eliminate litter in the River Thames. To reach this goal a one year action plan was discussed and agreed upon as ‘Reducing the sources of litter and maintaining effective delivery of litter clearing.’

Workshop on definitions of Actions to achieve Strategic Goal

* Four action areas to achieving this goal were discussed and members brainstormed on delivery mechanisms.
* The action areas are: Public Attitudes, Monitoring, Collaboration, and Litter Clearing.
* DT compiled a list of suggestions for each component.

Action: Compile & Disseminate results from forum workshop of the Thames Litter Strategy.

**Events/Group Commitments**

There is now a calendar of events available on the Litter Forum website:

<http://thamesestuarypartnership.org/projects-and-services/networking-groups/litter-forum/>

Action: Please send updates and links to KFH to be included in the calendar.

**Actions/Future Directions for the Litter Forum**

* Workshop on delivery of Actions to achieve strategic goal.