 Litter of the Thames - Meeting Minutes

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

## 8 March 2017, 14:00-15:30

**Attendees 24 Nov. 2016**

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| **Name** | **Organization** | **Initials** |
| Maria Arceo | Artist | MA |
| Arturo Castillo Castillo | Imperial College London | ACC |
| Paul Clark | Natural History Museum | PC |
| Dorata Czuperska | Hubbub | DC |
| Luke Douglas | Clear Public Space | LD |
| Kim Ferran Holt | Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) | KFH |
| Tanya Ferry | Port of London Authority (PLA) | TF |
| Paul Hyman | Active 360 | PH |
| Helen Jordan | British Plastics Federation | HJ |
| Alexandre Julliene | WAterTrek | AxJ |
| Jon Guest | Canal & Rivers Trust | JG |
| Donata Magrin | Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) | DM |
| AJ McConville | Thames21 | AJ |
| Ali Murrell | Riz Boardshorts | AM |
| Alex Mortley | PLA | AxM |
| Tim Norwood | PLA | TN |
| Anna Saltmarsh | ZSL | AS |

**Apologies/Absent 24 Nov. 2016**

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| **Name** | **Organization** |  |
| Emma Barton | Royal Yachting Association | Apologies |
| Adam Batchelor | Great London Authority | Apologies |
| Quentin Brodie Cooper | Zilch UK | Apologies |
| Brian Clark | British Marine Federation Thames Valley | Apologies |
| Rob Francis | Kings College London | Apologies |
| Beth England | London Aquarium\_Merlin Entertainment | Apologies |
| Sue Kinsey | Marine Conservation Society (MCS) | Apologies |
| Damien Lesnieswki | Royal Holloway | Apologies |
| Tomas Maes | CEFAS | Apologies |
| Kyle Maglione  | Water to Go |  |
| Gerard Morgan | Transport for London (TfL) |  |
| Dave Morritt | Royal Holloway | Apologies |
| Carolyn Newton | The Whale Company | Apologies |
| Carol Quamina | Cross River Partnership | Apologies |
| Claire Shrewsbury | WRAP | Apologies |
| Jennifer Sibley | London Councils  |  |
| Elanor Swan | Paper Cup Recovery and Recycling Gp. | Apologies |
| Darren White | Tideway  | Apologies |
| Severin Vasselin | WaterTrek  | Apologies |

The minutes of the 8 March meeting are reported as:

**Introductions**

Introductions were made of all attendees and the Litter Forum welcomed new members:

Anna Saltmarsh as the representative for Zoological Society of London working with the #OneLess campaign on monitoring SUPB in the Thames.

Dr. Arturo Castillo Castillo of Imperial College London working with an Ocean Plastics Solution Network to bring cross disciplinary research to bear on this issue.

We also met 2 PLA environment team members:

Alex Mortley who is applying a hydrodynamic model to track the fate of litter in the Thames

Tim Norwood who is facilitating to help the Litter Forum formalise a Litter Strategy by which we will help deliver the Thames Vision 20135.

**Reading of the Minutes**

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** |
| Paddle & Pick Planning | Active 360  | Ongoing and incorporated in to the Plastic Ocean Festival |
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**Outstanding Actions**:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Forum member** | **Action status** |
| Compile & Disseminate results from Vision of the Thames Litter Strategy. | Duncan Tysall/Tim Norwood | DONE |
| 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.  |
| Pursue more alignment with MCS/MLAN re: rivers and estuaries.  | Various members of the Litter Forum | Ongoing engagement with Thames21 MCS MLAN |
| Gauge interest from PBA for Thames Watch monitoring | Brian Clark | Ongoing- BC / PBA initiative to gauge the costs of to operators due to litter and waste management reduction |
| 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 | CLOSED |
| Raise Cafe Accreditation scheme with contacts | Tanya Ferry; Gerard Morgan | CLOSED |
| Tideway to fund curriculum development for Sewage related debris | Pat Fitzsimons | YTT\_CLOSED |

**Presentations**

Alex Mortley – PLA – Thames Tidal Dynamics

* Thames is a macro-tidal estuary with peak tide between London Bridge to Woolwich tapering towards Richmond.
* Thames has a large tidal excursion of 16 km
* Multiple factors affect the movement of objects in Thames
* Model covers 400 sq. mi from Teddington to the N. Sea
* Test objects travelled within the flooding and ebbing tide covering ground from Kew to Purfleet.
* Test objects will ‘fall out’ of the flow if they encounter an obstacle, sink, become entrapped
* Thames would appear to be a net sink for material (within the constraints of the model) indicating that material could degrade before exiting the estuary.

Questions/Discussion

* Test objects do not reflect the physical attributes of potentially littered items, and they are the size of a small boat.
* Potential to revise model based on the location of inputs (i.e. land based sources), volume of litter and rate that it is entering the Thames.
* PC has a student request to work with the model and will email Alex separately

Paul Hyman – Active360 – Paddle & Pick Thames Relay 2016

* Paddle & Pick Spring 2016 was a multi-site, multi-partner event to raise awareness of plastic litter in the Thames
* Starboard, leader in SUP boards, designed a paddle specifically for picking up litter while on a board and were active supporters/sponsors of the events
* Thames Relay – September 2016 with Totally Thames – Source to Sea – started in Cricklade the 1st navigable point in the Thames and didn’t see evidence of litter until Reading.
* Relay ended with the Big Ben challenge which included a professional level competition and Tideway’s CEO paddling in a suit
* Foreshore Festival also in September during Totally Thames attracted 5-10k people and had many supporters including the RNLI
* Planning 2017 Thames Relay and the Foreshore Festival with Tideway & Thames21
* Already underway with planning Spring 2017 Plastic Ocean Festival to include the Paddle & Pick activities running from April –Sept. into Totally Thames
* WaterTrek is also starting work in Myanmar in mangrove conservation

Questions/Discussion

* Align activities with litter monitoring and bottle collection for #OneLess, Thames 21 and Riz Boardshorts

Tim Norwood – PLA – Litter Strategy

* Follow on from work initiated by MSc student Duncan Tysall in Aug. 2016 litter forum meeting with wide ranging inputs from litter forum members.
* TN has created a framework for coordinating the work of the Litter Forum into a Litter Strategy with 3 strands of work:
	+ Combat land based sources of litter to the Thames
	+ Remove existing litter in the Thames
	+ Education and outreach, raising awareness of the issue of litter in Thames
* Litter Strategy will be the process by which the Litter Forum reports on its progress in achieving the Thames Vision 2035

Questions/Discussion

* Litter Strategy also gives a framework by which we can align the Thames work with MLAN and other national and regional level strategies - KFH
* Will need Litter Forum to dedicate a meeting to building the strategy by developing targeted actions to tackle litter in the Thames - AJ
* Want to be sure we are using same standard categories and common elements in use in other work to refine and focus our strands – AJ
* TN will need to gather info on all of our work streams to integrate into strategy
* TF wants to present the strategy at the plenary in July to show how the Litter Forum is helping deliver the Thames Vision 2035.

**Sector Updates**

Academic

* ACC/ICL are interested in linking the faculty expertise in modelling, socio-economics and marine environments to local initiatives for collaborative work on sources, path and fate of litter from land based sources, behaviour change to marine plastics pollution.
* Thames 21 recently hosted an MLAN evidence group meeting for collaboration between academics and NGO’s with specific focus on Costas Velis at Univ. of Leeds and the ISWA Marine Litter Iniative
* PC/NMH – Alex McGoran MSc student of DM/RH received NERC funding to continue work on ingestion of microplastics in Clyde & Thames and have a 2nd PhD award open for work in Clyde for futher comparisons.
* ZSL has a collaboration with Univ. of Exeter to research ingestion with CSIP

Industry

* British Plastics Federation/HJ
	+ Working with MCS education programme CSI (Clean Seas Investigators) now out in 10 schools. Includes webinars on how it came to the sea and the value of the materials with schools submitting campaign to make improvements to win.
	+ Operation Clean Sweep – nurdle hunt has seen a big increase in participation
* PLA/TF
	+ Cleaner Thames campaign is ongoing
	+ Liitter monitoring - PDC’s with time-lapse camera deployed over a long time frame to get better data & looking at potential to crowd source image analysis - RH may have a student to help with PDC work
	+ Rope recycling initiative
	+ Fishing for Litter initiative
* Riz Boardshorts/AM – Took part in Whale Fest Incredible Oceans event at ExCel – working on creating a value chain and change the mind-set of end users on value of plastic

User/Public Engagement

* #OneLess/KFH
	+ Continued coordination of Litter Monitoring
	+ Systems Change – creation of Systems Map and Leverage Points upon which pressure can be brought to bear to shift the system away from single use and to a refillable culture *– request for this this to be sent to litter forum members to identify their place in the system and any leverage they may have to influence the system*
* Thames21/AJ –
	+ Continued coordination of litter monitoring hubs at 3 established sites with trained teams that work independently to do clean-ups and bottle counts
	+ Working with 6 schools in around city airport expansion with each one doing a project
	+ 1st April – Wet Wipes Big Count
	+ 2nd Sept. – Big Count to include Big Bottle Count with #OneLess
* Watertrek – expedition to Myanmar for mangrove planting and conservation and planning a paddle around EU to talk about Plastic Pollution *(c-updates on SUP marathon with The Whale Company)*
* Active360 – Working with Tideway to engage rowers in plastic pollution and litter picks through UK Olympian Andy Triggs Hodge
* TF notes that the rowers are changing their procedures for events to be more rigorous in their waste management and promotion of litter issues in Thames.
* Way to Eco/DM – has launched a phone app to help local authorities engage residents and make recycling easy
* Clear Public Space/LD – Romania work is going well and now working with Westminster schools looking for materials geared towards 8 yrs. of age.
* Hubbub/DC
	+ Café cups trial is going well
* FFS is to launch this year with GPS tracking of land based litter to track path to Thames.
* Launching FFS Zones with installations:
	+ St. Katharines Dock
	+ Thames Path between London Bridge & Tower Bridge
	+ London Bridge Station Walkway.

**Thames Litter Strategy**

Dedicated Meeting- 3 May 10:00 at Tower Pier.

**Events/Group Commitments**

The calendar of events is available on the Litter Forum website:

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

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