 Litter of the Thames – Litter Strategy Meeting Minutes

## Tower Pier, EC3N 4DT

## 3 May 2017, 10:00-11:30

**Attendees 3 May. 2017**

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| **Name** | **Organization** | **Initials** |
| Maria Arceo | Artist | MA |
| Nick Beevers | Thames21 | NB |
| Arturo Castillo Castillo | Imperial College London | ACC |
| Paul Clark | Natural History Museum | PC |
| Gavin Ellis | Hubbub | GE |
| Kim Ferran Holt | Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP) | KFH |
| Tanya Ferry | Port of London Authority (PLA) | TF |
| Paul Hyman | Active 360 | PH |
| Randa Kachef | KCL | RK |
| Peter Kohler | The Plastic Tide | PK |
| Debbie Leach | Thames21 | DL |
| Damien Lesnieswki | Royal Holloway | DL |
| Eleanor Mackey | The Plastic Tide | EM |
| Donata Magrin | Way to Eco | DoM |
| Dave Morritt | Royal Holloway | DM |
| Tim Norwood | PLA | TN |
| Rowena Schoo | BPF | RS |

**Apologies/Absent 3 May. 2017**

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| **Name** | **Organization** |  |
| Emma Barton | Royal Yachting Association |  |
| Adam Batchelor | Great London Authority |  |
| Brian Clark | British Marine Federation Thames Valley |  |
| Quentin Brodie Cooper | Zilch UK | Apologies |
| Luke Douglas | Clear Public Space | Apologies |
| Beth England | London Aquarium\_Merlin Entertainment |  |
| Rob Francis | Kings College London | Apologies |
| Jon Guest | Canal & Rivers Trust | Apologies |
| Sue Kinsey | Marine Conservation Society (MCS) | Apologies |
| Tomas Maes | CEFAS | Apologies |
| Kyle Maglione | Water to Go |  |
| AJ McConville | Thames21 | Apologies |
| Gerard Morgan | Transport for London (TfL) | Apologies |
| Carolyn Newton | The Whale Company | Apologies |
| Carol Quamina | Cross River Partnership |  |
| 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 3 May meeting are reported as:

**Introductions**

TF provided an introduction and the background for the litter strategy as part of the Thames Vision:

* Follow on from work 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
* Litter Strategy will be the process by which the Litter Forum reports on its progress in achieving the Thames Vision 2035

**Litter Strategy Review**

TN presented a summary of **4 Actions**:

* **Action: Baseline & evidence for informing the strategy**

Discussion

Baseline/Evidence will be different for certain types/categories of litter

DL – comment on unique challenges of the Thames that will need to be addressed in aligning with other beach oriented data gathering work

DM – commented on need to distinguish between academic research and citizen science data collection

PK/EM – Question on how statistically robust is current Thames21 baseline?

DL/NB – Thames21 have a 20 year baseline of Rapid Appraisal data that is gathered at the same time in the same method every year and currently working with a KCL MSc student to analyse this data as part of Riverwatch work.

TF – suggest split of this action into 2 to maximise academic opportunities to establish the baseline and confirm/refine current methodology already in place

Also want to split the evidence base into evidence of sources and evidence of impacts to include, social, economic and environmental.

TN – acknowledged lack of ‘space’ to ensure broad communications between members to coordinate work in delivery and increase capacity to communicate the value of work to public

TF – value, costs of object impacts to vessels, costs of debris/litter to navigation, costs to communities/individuals and recreation

TF – British Marine facilitate an annual survey with improving engagement to report on the impacts of litter and debris to industry.

DL – value should include cost of volunteer effort

* **Action: Combat land based sources of litter to the Thames**

Discussion

TF – On question of entry points and current model, owned by PLA/EA and held by HRW, it is a strong model with multiple sources of validation.

KFH – Developing land based citizen science data collection (bottle blitz) using SUPB as proxy to identify litter hotspots and track path to the Thames.

Suggested that this be moved to evidence and baseline.

TF – On question of BMP’s and waste management, likely the work of the forum will be passed on to waste management through LA’s, LWARB, WRAP etc. as forum and its members have network of contacts and relationships at LA & GLA level.

TN – This strategy will be Thames focused but will lead and align with regional and national strategies and campaigns such as DL suggestion to link with KBT and KFH suggestion to link with CaBA.

DL – Thames21 is heavily engaged with the Defra National Litter Strategy and will act as a conduit between this forum and Defra work.

Suggestions for BMP’s included smart bins with sensors (TN), a traffic light system sensor to indicate bin rubbish levels (EM) and a push for targeted allocation of funds for riverside bin cleaning (PH).

* **Action: Removal of existing litter in the Thames**

Discussion

Suggested that understanding lifecycle of litter in the Thames is evidence.

TF – Model currently suggests we are killing the Thames as it is not exporting.

Suggested that we are missing the pelagic/benthic component and need to look at ways to fill that evidence gap, TF - perhaps through examination of dredge material, PC – or with submersibles

DM – Model may still need to be refined as to confirm/deny the link to sea and export of plastics/pollution.

TN – BMP’s to reduce, identify, clean & remove litter by building capacity, for example as currently seen at Thames21 hotspots/hubs or with PDCs.

DoM – suggested we reach out to the professional waste management organisations such as CIWM, CIWEM, and ISWA to get help in identifying BMPs, technologies and innovations.

* **Action: Education & outreach**

Discussion

DL – on Community Engagement and Campaigning working group for National Litter Strategy, can facilitate alignment.

Suggested that we eliminate limiting language in terms of ‘London’, ‘riparian’ or ‘catchment’ in terms of engagement so as not to be constrained and to broaden reach and impact.

Suggested that individual organisations coordinate messaging about Litter Forum Strategy for promotions and marketing.

Suggestions for examining potential for values based messaging to improve the perception of the value of the Thames.

PK/EM – recommendations for using drone footage as part of engagement with school groups integrated with health curriculum. Advocate for maintaining environmental health in curriculum as part of a ‘proud to be…’ badge campaign.

EM – will send on behavioural insights research into anti littering behaviour social impacts from beach cleans

**Litter Strategy Follow-Up**

TN – will collate all of the comments and send around a revised litter strategy based on discussion today to be reviewed and revised amongst members.

Suggested that when Litter Strategy is agreed on, the details for delivery be given ‘space for discussion and collaboration’ potentially through the creation of task/action working groups.