

**North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

1st December 2017 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

**Attendees**

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| --- | --- |
| Claire Dumontier- Marriage - City of London BID | Andrew Rattley – NTFLAG Chair |
| Nick James – Leigh resident | Caroline Reynolds – SBC |
| Cllr John Lamb – Leader of the Council | Alison Semmence – SAVS |
| Andrew Lawrence – Fisherman | Mick Sharp – Watermans Assc Shoeburyness |
| Cllr Carole Mulroney – Leigh Society/LTC | Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine |
| Luke Osborne – Fisherman | Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership |
| Anna Patel – NTFLAG Animator | Sara Wordley – MMO Coastal Officer |
| Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP |  |
| **Apologies** |  |
| Cllr Bernard Arscott – Leigh Ward | Tanya Ferry - PLA |
| Richard Eves – Fisherman | Cllr Ann Holland – SBC Portfolio holders |
| Pat Fitzsimons – NTFLAG Vice Chair/TEP |  |

**Introductions**

Chairman opened the meeting, read apologies and accepted the minutes of the 29th September.

**Coastal Community Teams**

Giles presented about the Leigh CCT;

* The North Thames FLAG was a priority in the in the CCT Strategy
* Route to influence the Council and Govt (national and regional) as DCLG/Local Enterprise Partnership main mechanism for gaining investment in coastal areas,
* Funding through the CCF and HLF a possibility
* Shoeburyness CCT has a priority to deliver the Heritage Centre.

**Updates - Projects**

**Leigh Infrastructure feasibility study:** Accepted by the MMO and offer letter sent. Slow start at SBC due to staff changes, waiting for a timeline and to start the project officially – it is important that SBC lead this project not FLAG staff. FLAG Infrastructure WG will be informed of a meeting in Jan to help steer the project. The project will include public consultation – the board need to attend consultations and encourage others too.

PW asked regarding data collection for MM – **FLAG to ask Frasle’s formally for geese dataset if MM require it.**

JL asked about issues with SBC; Caroline and John to help move this project forwards. **Caroline to speak to Neil at SBC regarding timeline for MM Infrastructure project.**

**MSC Accreditation for Thames Estuary Cockles:** Waiting for MMO offer.

**Leigh Library Gardens:** Just been submitted.

**KEIFCA – Whelk Study:** Anna is working with IFCA/University of Essex to get the application together for approval at January board meeting.

Anna to update JL with IFCA project progress if experiencing any delays.

**Updates – Funding**

EMFF now funding Engines – for details check on the MMO/EMFF page or with Anna. 30% funding available for private applicants. Anna can send out the details if needed.

Processing and Marketing priority of the EMFF Core fund is running low – applications in for early 2018. PLEASE NOTE: Dec 15th EMFF have suspended applications until further notice.

**Updates**

FLAG team visited Hastings FLAG. Interesting projects such as documentary. Fishermen’s Protection Society – mechanism for collaboration with the Council, paying fishermen a percentage of revenue from the car park by the beach where they launch, selling merchandise, films etc.

**Updates – Budgets**

Anna presented FLAG budget and core projects. In future to present projects with a shellfish/finfish split.

**Projects: Expressions of Interest**

No conflicts of interest declared.

1. **TEP – Data management role;**

Amy ran through the TEP Data management role, this role can be FLAG funded 100%, total FLAG cost at £24,152 – the change was noted. Questions and queries included outputs and future funding – This study is the first for the research priority and will determine future funding, projects and even fisheries management and bylaws. Outputs will be recommendations for future studies or research. A lot of the data needed is public and has not been analysed previously, some is private.

**All approved.**

* TEP meet with DPWorld twice a year to speak about projects. DPWorld may be able to provide funding for infrastructure projects such as defence or port improvements.
* It was noted that DPWorld are experts in habitat offsetting.
* Amy to update the board with the Fish Hatchery project which DPworld had a feasibility study completed for, by a student from Portsmouth University in 2015.

1. **Unknown applicant – Old Leigh Documentary**

Anna explained the documentary idea – currently unknown applicant and 25% match funding is needed.

* Match funding ideas; Jamie Oliver, Seaworld, Adventure Island, Southend BID - Airport investment
* The importance of getting schools involved from the beginning is important.
* Producing a 1-minute version for different purposes such as in local cinemas/before films.
* White Bus Company are local so good to support, will be professional therefore better not to use College/University students.

Anna/CE to write up full brief to bring to next board meeting with the full application.

**All approved.**

1. **Eastern Seafish Training Association – Training scheme**

Anna explained the scheme. Formal apprenticeships were investigated but they are not eligible under EMFF. However, it was agreed that it would be worth doing, to find out what would be eligible for funding.

* This scheme can used as a trial and showcased.
* ESTA need to investigate whether they can be flexible with lessons, how to accommodate for entrants dropping out and going to sea before signing up.
* Issues around taking new entrants out before they have Seatickets, regarding insurance. Anna to speak to MCA regarding insurance with new entrants on board, also ask other FLAGs what they did around this.

ESTA need a Leigh base to help promote, market and even recruit. It is important that organisations assist in this as it is likely to be unsuccessful without local assistance.

**All approved.**

**Horizon Scanning**

**CCTV cameras in Old Leigh** – SBC installing 2 already: Cockle area is already covered in cameras, Heritage centre covers Strand Wharf. Problems may be in Bell Wharf beach – this is where one SBC camera will be.

**Steps on Southend Pier** – If improved these steps could be used to land, anglers or pleasure trips. Anna to check eligibility.

**Noticeboards**: LTC reviewing all the noticeboards and looking at putting one in the old town. SBC are looking at removing their boards but will consider new boards if strategically placed and somebody is updating them. LTC has a volunteer that keeps theirs up to date. CDM has also volunteered.

**Loan scheme for fishermen waiting on grant claims** – all board members to consider

**Fishermen’s Protection Society** – all board members to consider.

**Any Other Business (AOB)**

* Amy asked the board to consider their network and experience around the FLAG ready for the LDS review.
* Anna to include update of projects in next update prior board, show finfish/shellfish split.
* CDM asked about beach cleans, contact Anna regarding coordinating cleans.