

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Joint Advisory Group

Notice of meeting

Lead Authority EIFCA 6 North Lynn Business Village Bergen Way, King's Lynn Norfolk,

PE30 2JG Project Manager Sam Lew Phone: Fax: 01553 772020

Thursday 13th July 2017 from 7:00 p.m.

In the Boardroom, King's Lynn Conservancy Board, Harbour Office, Common Staith, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1LL Tel: - 01553 773411

The Boards office complex is located directly behind the Corn Exchange on Tuesday Market place.

The best access is beside the Globe Hotel on the corner of **TUESDAY MARKET PLACE**, alongside the public toilets, *behind the Corn Exchange parking is free in the **KLCB** Car park* and plenty of space will be available. Pay parking is in operation 24 hours 7 days a week in any Council Car Park in Kings' Lynn.

AGENDA

1. Introduction

Welcome to new members - Roger Ward

2. Apologies

3. Matter arising: New appointments - Roger Ward

4. Race Bank Offshore Wind farm

Export Cables and Associated Activity - Roger Ward, Janet Blundell, Sam Lew, Captain Pat Jary Harbour Master and Lou Burton NE.

5. EMS Project Update: Sam Lew - Project Manager

Communications, Promotion and Outreach, Tourism and Recreation, Relevant Authority Support

6. Managing Fisheries in Marine Protected Area

Development of fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas: The Wash & North Norfolk coast, The Wash cockle fishery, Community Voice Method project update, Eastern IFCA Marine Protection update.

7. Natural England Updates including:

Conservation Advice Package, England Coast Path: Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge, New Designations Wildfowling Consents.

8. Dinah Smith KLJAG member

(KLJAG) Out and about in the Fens and East Coast

9 King's Lynn Conservancy Board

Relevant matters update Captain Pat Jary Harbour Master

10 Site Manager's Updates

RSPB Snettisham: Jim Scott

11. External Event Heritage weekend 2017?

12. AOB

I look forward to seeing you there

Janet Blundell

KLJAG Secretary

NOTES of the King's Lynn & West Norfolk Joint Advisory Group Meeting
held at The Conservancy Board, Harbour Office,
13th July 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Roger Ward (Chair)
Lou Burton (NE)
Judith Stoutt (EIFCA)
Samantha Hormbrey(EIFCA)
Richard Rockcliffe (KLCB)
Jim Scott (RSPB)
John Hiskett (NWT)
Steve Smith (FWA)
Cllr. John Grimwood (Chair,SBPC)
John Bridger (Hunstanton Civic Soc)
Joan Evans
Di Smith

Apologies

Peter Welberry-Smith
Dr Paul Richards
Prof Fred Cooke
Bryan Bowles

Janet Blundell (Sec.KLJAG)

Relevant Officers:

Capt. Pat Jary (newly appointed Harbour
Master KLCB)
Sam Lew (Project Manager) EMS

- 1. Introduction:** Roger Ward welcomed everybody and round-the-table introductions were made as usual
- 2. Apologies:** Recorded above.
- 3. Matters arising** from the last Meeting form the basis for the Agenda.
- 4. Race Bank Offshore Wind Farm (LB [NE]) :** LB said it was not appropriate for her to comment on the progress of the cable insertion as her information is not up-to-date. *Please see her Meeting Report below for further details.*

Lincs OFTO: We are aware that the Lincs OFTO is starting to consider operations and maintenance in the intertidal area. I currently have no further information on this.

- The final saltmarsh survey is due to take place in September this year – it is likely that the residual issues will result in NE advising the MMO that further monitoring is undertaken in 2022
- Please note that some sections of the marine export cables in the Wash have suboptimal burial – currently no proposals for these areas.

Race Bank: Going forwards project updates should be obtained direct from DONG Energy as NE's understanding may be incorrect or out of date

- It is our understanding that 22 turbines, 2 substation and one cable circuit have been fully installed
- The 2nd export cable has been jointed and installation will be completed by end of August 2017. They have learnt further lessons from the first cable installation and modified the tools to improve cable installation. MMO were the decision makers on this and were aware of Natural England uncertainties around the proposals as finalised.
- We have had discussions under our discretionary advice service that is commercially in confidence in relation to the first cable installation and we expect a formal consultation to be submitted in the next couple of weeks. I would suggest if more information is required on this, contact DONG energy directly.
- There will be a site visit in September to understand the impacts from the cable installation on the saltmarsh. We are aware of some recovery occurring, but it is not uniform.

LB added that she hoped the KLJAG had been contacted by Dong re the progress of the cable insertion, as this was now their responsibility to do so. She said another Marine License request to

the MMO is expected within the next few days. She said that a variation application for work at KP26 was already out for consultation. **RW** said Dong had not contacted him recently.

PJ reported that there had been some 'local difficulties' at KP26 when three hydraulic leaks occurred within a week. KP26 is within the limits of both the Port of KLCB & Boston Harbour. Together the Boston Harbour Master & the KLHM stopped operations. The DONG vessel then returned to base (Teeside)- (June 26th). They returned on July 3rd.

LB: DONG have applied to use a Multi-flow Excavator (MFE) at KP26? to retry the first cable burial to the correct depth. **JG** asked for an explanation of the abbreviation MFE, which she readily gave. **LB** emphasised that the application was not for a trial. **PJ**: didn't think it would be possible to achieve the 19/20m burial depth at this point.. **LB**: Various options for cable protection are being considered, but she reiterated that **NE** doesn't consent for cable protection in the Wash because permanent CP buried in a pristine environment such as the Wash cannot be removed. CP options include concrete matting (can flip over), semi-circular casing (needs to be pinned down), Gambian bags full of Norwegian granite, all of which are not applicable in the Wash. Preferred option: limestone cobbles, but too light & it winnows... for this reason cable protection is not included in the MMO application.

Other matters: On a recent visit **LB** made with senior NE members & the MMO to assess impacts on the marsh of the cable installation works for the Race Bank WF, it was considered that the restoration of the salt marsh would be difficult to achieve, if not impossible. The RSK monitoring of the salt marsh recovery will cease shortly.

Lincs OFTO: this is the final year for surveying the marsh. There are strong doubts that the marsh will ever fully recover. At this point **JB** said a KLJAG member had commented on a large number of samphire pickers during one recent weekend. **LB** reminded the Meeting that individuals are allowed 1 bag of samphire once per day. More than this is not considered to be for local use. **SL** asked about the status of the site. **LB** said it had moved down to being considered 'unfavourable'.

LB advised that the KLJAG should decide what their future engagement with DONG should be. It was their responsibility to provide updates of their plans, but to date, these have not been forthcoming. KLJAG needs to find a way, perhaps through the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA).

JB asked on behalf of an AG member about the Google site directing people to visit the Wash Nature Reserve along a gated route across private land, that causes inconvenience to residents who have to unlock the gate to let people back out. **LB** said the matter is in hand and NE is talking to Google

5. EMS Project Update: Rebranding: **SL** outlined the need for rebranding & showed a series of slides to explain how the logo was developed. He said the name was too long, the logo visually complex, there is little accessible literature explaining the workings of the management scheme & the website needs updating. He was given funding from NE to carry this out and described how the process was carried out. He reported a 25% response to the survey and a 50% plus response to the final name and strap line vote. He also said the website would be updated & have key sections that included Nature, Culture, Partnerships, About Us, Management, Publications, Sustainable Tourism, etc. It would be open for comment. The Meeting liked & accepted the new look, which would be launched at the Wash Week Inauguration Evening on **August 4th** at the Marriott's Warehouse, King's Lynn. **SL** referred to the flyer for Wash Week, which listed 50 events, and a copy of the NCP free guide, the *Norfolk Guardian*, in which he had written an article. The result of the photographic competition would also be announced during that event.

Tourism & Recreation: He was still awaiting a national synthesis of recreational disturbance monitoring and mitigation methods from *ABPmer* - a marine consultancy firm based in Southampton. The Natural England and Norfolk County Council funding bid via *Waddensea* (PROWAD) to develop communications tools, management of visitor number pressures & recreational disturbance, had unfortunately not been successful. He hopes to hold a Dog Walking workshop soon (dtba), to be held at Holkham. The Smart phone app idea has been put on hold as there is some doubt as to its appropriateness for the problem. **RR** asked about contact with sea-using clubs like ski clubs. **SL** said the Good Practice Guide (2004) needs updating and agreed it should

be in discussion with recreational sea users. **RW** referred to the success of this approach with the hang-gliding clubs on the N Norfolk coast, the KL&WNBC success with jet skis at Snettisham, and historic success with Heacham beach netters.

Relevant Authority Support: clearly-documented one page summaries explaining the role of RAs and why they finance **the EMS-MS**.

SL outlined his other activities which include using a student from the College of West Anglia, *Eleanor Rose*, to work with EIFCA & identity questionnaire work, using data from the branding report. He is looking at the Marine Protected Area governance with *Danielle Kopecky*, including MPA management research with *Olivia Shears*. &

the National Steering Group for MPA's together with EA, the Association of IFCA's, Defra, the MMO & NE. He has been in contact with *Bournemouth University* re general bird disturbance issues.

Management Scheme: review due by the end of March 2018 when the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ends. A Review of the **Annual Management Plan** needs to be more detailed. SL will look into the development of a monitoring catalogue to assist RAs in delivering their statutory duties.

6. EIFCA Report: JS: Managing Fisheries in a Management of Fishing Activities in European Sites

Progress to date: measures in place to protect MPAs (The Wash cluster MPAs)

Activities related to implementing management measures

- All feature-fishing interactions have been assessed and are currently undergoing a review process.

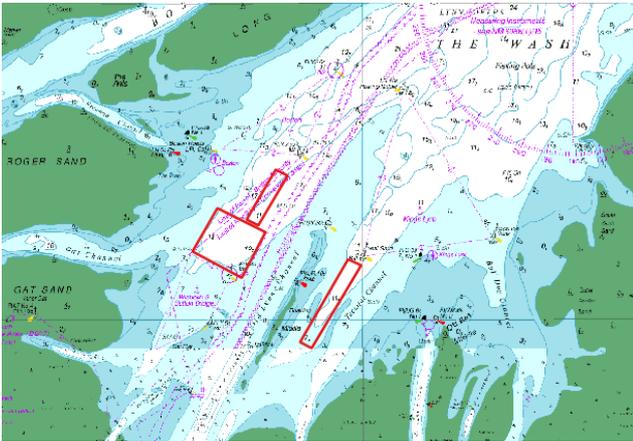
Shrimp management measures (shrimp trawling interactions with subtidal mud and subtidal mixed sediment):

Assessment conclusions: Cannot rule out 'no adverse effect'. Therefore, mitigation is required and will be applied via:

- Spatial closures (to protect most sensitive seabed areas)
- Effort management (via a new shrimp fishery permitting scheme).

The detail of these measures is currently being developed. Management of effort needs to occur outside the closures otherwise displacement could lead to increased efforts in this area. A full consultation will be undertaken before any fishery restrictions are implemented.

We are also committed to considering technical innovation as part of future management measures in the shrimp fishery. We cannot rely on gear improvements alone to mitigate impacts at this stage but trials of new gear are being developed with the fishing industry (European funding has been secured for this) and could be a part of the solution in the future. Eastern IFCA is currently mapping areas of seabed habitat within The Wash, aiming to find suitable areas for the shrimp gear trials. Three potentially suitable areas have been located, subject to "ground truthing" to determine seabed type. This involved the use of drop-down video cameras and grab sampling aboard the research vessel 'Three Counties'.



ii. Cockle Fishery

The Wash cockle fishery was opened on 20 June 2017. Following a bumper year in 2016, stock levels are once again very high and likely to support a significant fishery.

Key management measures set for the 2017/18 fishery include:

- Hand-worked fishing only
- Closed areas introduced to protect juvenile cockles and sensitive areas for seals during the most sensitive pupping/breeding season.
- A quota of 7,016 tonnes. The daily quota is 3 tonnes per vessel (an increase from the usual 2 tonne daily quota to allow full exploitation of the overall quota). This is informed by annual stock surveys.
- A requirement for fishers to provide weekly catch returns, which will be used to calculate remaining quota and ensure amount fished does not surpass the set limits.
- Management measures also set out that fishers may use a sea-anchor to slow vessels down and facilitate prop washing (preparing the ground for hand-raking cockles), however are not permitted to use any anchor that affixes a vessel to the seabed to do so.
- Fishers are provided with a code of best practice, and 'skippers packs' which set out all the key management measures. These are available on Eastern IFCA's website.

iii. Community Voice Method Project Update

This was a joint project between:

- Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA) and;
- The Marine Conservation Society (MCS), with assistance from;
- The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP).

The project sought to identify what people value about the coast and sea, what issues exist and what local marine managers (Eastern IFCA) could potentially do to resolve issues. It aimed to gather a broad spectrum of views, including those from people less used to participating in community meetings or consultation events.

A series of filmed interviews with local stakeholders and related workshops were held in EIFCA's district during 2016 (further background details about the CVM project can be found on the EIFCA's website: <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/>).

We look forward to sharing the final report with you in August.

The initial raw data from the CVM workshops was considered by EIFCA when developing their 2017/18 Strategic Assessment, (an annual priority-setting exercise) available at: http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Strategic_Assessment_2017_Final.pdf.

Following the publication of the CVM report, EIFCA aims to develop an action plan to address the **253 actions** identified by the CVM workshops, although we are very much applying the lessons we've learned through the CVM process to our ongoing working practices.

Student CVM project extension

EIFCA have been approached by a student from Plymouth University, Eleanor Kowalska O'Neil, who would like to do an extension of our CVM project focusing on 'the next generation'.

Eleanor's project is at an early stage and details haven't been confirmed – but it will seek to capture– ***what young sea users think of Marine Protected Areas.***

If you can think of any 'young folk' who might like to get involved please let Sandra Cowper at EIFCA know via email: sandracowper@eastern-ifca.gov.uk or by Tel: 01553 775321, it would be great to hear from e.g. young fishers, recreational anglers, RNLI, NGO's, people involved in the tourism sector etc, anyone from the 'next generation' with a marine interest who would be willing to take part in a filmed interview.

JG said he found the Sutton Bridge Workshop very informative, and was particularly impressed when speaking to one young fisherman about his work.

iv. Eastern IFCA Marine Protection team

A healthy relationship with local stakeholders and a thorough understanding of local fisheries is fundamental to successful fisheries management. The role of warranted Eastern IFCA officers (Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officers or IFCOs) includes liaison with local fishermen; inspection of licences, catches and fishing gear; and the communication and enforcement of a suite of local, national and European regulations relating to fisheries and marine conservation.

In May 2017, Eastern IFCA updated its approach to Marine Protection, moving away from a single "Area Officer" for different parts of the district towards establishing two "Area teams". Previously IFCO Jason Byrne was responsible for Lincolnshire/The Wash, and IFCO Ady Woods for north and east Norfolk. Now, additional Marine Protection officers will be seen on the ground, gaining a closer insight to fishers and fisheries in their areas. IFCOs will work in one of two dedicated teams, covering:

- the West area (Lincolnshire coast, the Wash and West Norfolk) and
- the East area (Wells, East Norfolk and Suffolk Coast).

IFCOs are happy to explain their role further or answer specific fisheries/conservation questions, so please do interact with them on the coast or at our King's Lynn or Lowestoft offices, via (01553) 775321.

7. NE Updates: LB

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

Natural England's pre-consultation advice was submitted to Defra at the end of February. Defra and the ministers are now in the process of deciding which sites and features should be put forward for formal consultation.

The sites that we have advised Defra on are the Alde Ore Estuary and Orford Inshore in Suffolk, and an additional feature of native oysters at Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ. If oysters at Cromer get taken forward to formal consultation they will likely have a 'recover' conservation objective, due to potential damage from cabling activities and bottom-towed gear (trawls and dredges). This means that there may be management implications for these activities.

Greater Wash Special Protection Area

Formal consultation on the [Greater Wash pSPA](#) closed on 17th of January. We have since considered and responded to all consultation responses which we have summarised in a report to Defra. This report will accompany our final recommendations to Defra which we aim to submit this summer for consideration by the Secretary of State for Environment.

Updated Conservation Advice packages

Invitation to comment closed on 23rd of June. Comments will be reviewed and where appropriate updates will be made to the draft Conservation Advice packages which include;

- The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC
- The Wash SPA
- North Norfolk Coast SAC
- North Norfolk Coast SPA
- Gibraltar Point SPA

- Inner Dowsing Race Bank North Ridge SCI
- Haisborough Hammond & Winterton SCI
- Orfordness Shingle Street SAC
- Alde Ore SPA
- Alde Ore SAC

The updates will be published in September 2017 alongside a new draft package for Cromer MCZ.

Wildfowling consents

The guidance document '*Natural England's approach to assessing and responding to wildfowling notices on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and European sites*' is currently being reviewed.

It's in part being informed by PhD research which found that in Poole Harbour at least, the current level of wildfowling is so low compared to other recreational activities that it (as well as disturbance in general) is not predicted to be affecting numbers of wintering waders that can be supported by the site. Discussions are ongoing as to how much this conclusion can be applied more widely and to wildfowl as well as waders.

Since the new guidance won't be ready in time for the renewals that are currently due, those affected have been/will be granted one-year extensions under the same terms as the existing consents. These are therefore likely to be used to pilot the new guidelines when they are ready next year. Asked for the FWA reaction, **SS** said they had read the document and were considering their response.

8. Dr Di Smith KIJAG member – Presentation: *Out & About in the Fens & East Coast*. Di Smith gave an interesting, informative and wide-ranging talk using a slide presentation about her interest, and subsequent involvement, in the Wash&NNCEMS over a number of years participating as a member of the KIJAG. It was a personal journey around the Wash, following her particular interests in the geology of the area & her subsequent degree, which focussed on roddens and silts, and later becoming involved with others in the monitoring of the wind farm developers' activities on the saltmarsh. It emphasised the importance of lay members of the Advisory Groups providing supporting information to the RA's through their knowledge and interests.

During the presentation when the sea wall at Wrangle was being shown, & answering a question about the raising of the sea wall, LB said 'borrow pits/ caused a lot of issues, one being that the sediments are not necessarily of the same sort when the soil for the raised bank is taken from the landward side. Farmers are also not happy about losing some of the acreage.

9. King's Lynn Conservancy Board: PJ reminded the AG that the weekend June17/18th June was the third occasion when a water-ski event had taken place at King's Lynn on the River Ouse. He reiterated that the success of the previous occasions was due to it being well organised and managed by the operators. He said there will be footage of the event on the new KLCB website. The Hunstanton water-ski event was planned for the weekend of July16/17th

Trade: PJ reported that trade this year has been the slowest for several years. For year 2017 the second quarter (6 month) figures show 77 vessels (28 down on last year) have visited King's Lynn. Cargo tonnage is down 54,000tonnes for the same period last year. However, he added that he was hopeful that this year's harvest, which is about to start, will improve the figures.

New website: PJ said he is continuing to receive favourable comments.

10. Site Managers Update: JS (RSPB):

1. Progress on replacement viewing facilities: The application for funding from Interreg – (a source of European funding for the project), to replace the two hides that were lost in the 2013 storm with one more resilient to floods, unfortunately failed. A crowd funder Appeal started on Monday 10th July (lasting for 1 month) and has already attracted significant support. £120,000 is the figure hoped to be raised. If the target figure is not achieved & no alternative funding is available, then other options will have to be considered, which probably will mean having to construct a less ambitious

structure, and the start may be delayed until 2018. The appeal can be found at:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/snettishamhide

2. Snettisham RSPB reserve: Following an inspection of the Salt marsh, up-grade grazing will begin again soon as a grazier has been identified who is ready to undertake this work. The last grazing was undertaken in 2010. An upgrade of the grazing infrastructure has been undertaken, so grazing should commence imminently for this season.

3. Breeding Season: This was a poor year due to there being high Spring tides in April, May & June, where everything was flooded, -on the saltmarsh. Also, some losses of ringed plover nests on the beach due to high tides. On the lagoons things have been better, though heavy prolonged rain, combined with high tides in late June, caused rapid increases in water levels in the lagoons which resulted in all of the lower level islands being flooded. These islands are the ones on which avocets nests, and all nests were lost. Black-head gulls and common terns mostly nest on the higher islands further out in the lagoons –these all survived.

11. External Event 2017: PJ outlined the work undertaken by his staff to clear and upgrade the Tower to make it ready for visitors during the Heritage Open Day. It is intended that groups of five, with an escort, will be able to ascend the Tower. This is dependent on numbers of available staff & volunteers able to support. There are also H&S concerns which involves taking out extra insurance. RW outlined the part the AG members will play if the intention to re-open the tower takes place. Further discussion will take place between Cpt Pat Jary, the KLCB him and RW. If any AA member is willing to help, please contact Janet Blundell via email: janet22446688@gmail.com. Further details will be circulated via the KLJAG email system.

AOB: JB asked about the missing gate near the East Lighthouse, Sutton Bridge, which provides access to the Wash Nature Reserve. LB said she was aware it had been re moved & that it has been noted.

SL asked for KLJAG support his idea to circulate full reports that the RA's would present at an AG meeting to be prior to the Meeting, so that members could read them beforehand. RW (chair) was surprised that SL had raised this here because he and JB (Sec) are awaiting a meeting with SL to discuss this. RW added that our practice had been to ask RA's to provide them to the Secretary either before, or at the start of the meeting, to help with recording details. RW said he felt that either members would either be overwhelmed, or not attend the Meeting. The KLJAG practice had been carried out successfully over a number of years & gives members a chance to discuss openly with RA members issues that concern them.* SL added that both the Boston & Wells AG members had agreed this. **{Footnote: these Notes include for the first time the actual full RA reports. Comments about their usefulness/helpfulness to KLJAG members would be appreciated.}*

The meeting ended at 9.15.pm.

12. Date of next meeting: TBA.