

**Hayle Area Plan Partnership**  
**HERITAGE, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT DELIVERY GROUP**  
Held at Passmore Edwards Institute on 8 December 2008

**Present:**

John Bennett (HAPP), John Pollard (Hayle Town Council), Ian Toy (Towans Partnership), Georgina Schofield (Hayle Archive), Peter Jamieson (Save Our Sands), Tim Hocking (Save Our Sands), Nancy Chadwick, Jim Chadwick, Tom King and Jane Sharp (HAPP Manager).

Guest speaker: Dave Clarke (Principal Countryside Officer for West Cornwall, CCC)

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Chairman's welcome**

MB welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speaker.

**3. Protection and Sustainable use of Dune Habitat – Dave Clarke**

Hayle Towans is the second largest dune system in Cornwall (after Penhale Sands). They are 5km long and 2km wide and for such a small calcareous area, they contain 20% of recorded flora in Cornwall. Most of Cornwall by comparison is acidic, so these calcareous soils are special. Historically speaking, its poor agricultural soil has been industrialised (sand extraction, dynamite works, etc) and so there is a lot of rubbish left behind. Unsympathetic development has been allowed and there are huge access/parking issues to resolve.

Threat 1 = visitor pressure

- criss-cross paths (though fewer paths to the west)
- erosion
- dog mess (brings organic matter in which changes the soil composition & plantlife)
- caravan parks

Threat 2 = natural succession

- rabbits (help keep grass short and allows plants to grow)
- woodland (land is trying to revert to woodland)
- scrub (important for birds, etc)
- fragile environment

Solution 1 = site management

- grazing animals on the SSSI helps improve the condition of the Towans. This has been happening on Lethlean, Mexico and Phillack Towans. Good husbandry is important. Done through Countryside Stewardship.
- signs and waymarks
- monitoring numbers of visitors and impact of grazing
- zoning helps keep people in 'honeypots' and 'protect' the rest

Solution 2 = education and interpretation

- events, such as moth evenings
- guided walks and talks
- working with schools

Solution 3 = community engagement

- Towans Partnership
- working in partnership
- building relationships with land owners, businesses, community, etc

Solution 4 = designation and ownership

- SSSI has legislative measures
- LNRs (Local Nature Reserves) help management
- legislation provides powers
- control through land ownership – CCC owns some areas of Towans

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● grazing regime</li> <li>● improved community engagement</li> <li>● people care</li> <li>● legislative framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● recreation / development pressure on open spaces</li> <li>● lack of commitment from statutory bodies</li> <li>● very fragile environment</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● money to fund mitigation measures</li> <li>● local partnerships focussing on better protection of Towans and beaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● increasing population in Hayle and the CPR area</li> <li>● increased pressure of tourism</li> <li>● Towans already at capacity</li> <li>● lack of resources</li> <li>● conservation versus economic regeneration (quality of life as well as having money in packet)</li> </ul>

There was a general discussion and the following issues were discussed:

- a) Policing is a problem.
- b) Want to discourage cycling.
- c) Boardwalk – would need to be selective and careful.
- d) Skylark populations but no up-to-date figures.
- e) Lot of holidaymakers just go on the beach, not onto Towans.
- f) Haven is promoting wildlife, with 2 Gold Awards recently.
- g) Dunes travelling in NW-SE direction.

#### **4. Copperhouse Dock**

There was a discussion about what we want to do in this area.

***In the short-term***, the main thing is to clear away rubbish. The main vistas and actions we should consider are as follows:

- Bridge – both sides to – Lethlean Lane;
- Both ways from the Co-Op bridge;
- Copperhouse Pool (dock gate – stepping stones pathway) so can see the gates from Black Bridge;
- maintain the harbour walls after vegetation is removed;
- have a sill at the end so there is a layer of water present, rather than repair gates.

*In the longer-term*, we really want the lock gates repaired, however this would be expensive to do. An aspiration is a walkway across the top of the lock gates.

**Potential partners:**

- Co-Op. Probably own the land behind their store and also the lock gates.
- Cinnamon Trust. Keep their land tidy.
- Hayle in Bloom. This is an opportunity to link with this group and to provide a new focus for 2009 when they are going to represent the South West.

**Action: John Bennett to contact the Co-Op and ING**  
**Action: Establish a volunteer group to help clear vegetation**

## **5. Hayle Town Trail and Blue Plaques**

### **5.1. Trail**

John Bennett handed out copies of the THI Hayle Walks booklet. Everyone agreed that the final product was very impressive and that we could use the information it contained to produce a leaflet(s) using a precis version.

In addition, there are a number of old walks leaflets for Hayle. These include:

- Hayle Town Guide's trail
- Brian Sullivan's out-of-print and out-of-date leaflet
- Shirley Oliver's walks (Ramblers type)

**Action: Jane Sharp to get quotes for new leaflet(s)**

The Chamber of Commerce would like to update and reprint their leaflet listing Hayle businesses. This should be referred to the BEE Delivery Team.

**Action: ask Charlotte Chadwick, PDC, if she is aware of potential funding.**

### **5.2. Plaques**

John Bennett explained that 21 of the new plaques would be within the WHS area and that we had permission to use the WHS logo on them. There was a discussion about the colour of the plaques and the requirements for using the WHS logo.

We needed to remember that Listed Building Consent was required for placing plaques on listed buildings – we therefore need to check if existing Listed Building Consents are still valid or obtain new Consents.

## **6. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be 7.30pm on Monday 9 February at PEI.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.