

Meeting of the Heritage, Culture and Environment Delivery Group
Tuesday, 16th October 2007

Present:

Georgina Schofield; Ian Toy; John and Rosemary Farrar; Tom King; Frank Scott-Mance; Bob Mims; Harry Blakeley; David Clough; Nancy and Jim Chadwick; Robert Jones; Jim Wright; D. Thomson; C. Clements; Tim Hocking.

Apologies for Absence were received from: -

Doreen Nicholas; John Bennett; Sam Lawley; John Pollard; Joe Colliver; Reverend Rosemary W?

The minutes of the previous were approved after some discussion as to their accuracy.

Matter arising from the previous minutes.

Save our Sands. G.S said that the Environment Agency had at a meeting, stated that the gate was no for sluicing. SOS does not agree. Although the gate is not designed for sluicing it is able to.

CWS had been written to again but had still not replied. It was stated that PDC are already involved and have offered some meeting minutes to confirm CWS ownership. GS is certain that they do own the pool and will search the archives to check. The Land Registry could be checked but may charge a fee and John Daniels should also be contacted regarding ownership.

It was stated that the Daniel's site would be developed soon.

Poo bins. There is no change.

Chris Fry should be invited to the next meeting to solve problems with rights of way. Maps are available from John Bennett and Brian Capper. It was suggested that someone from the group should join the Penwith Access and Rights of Way Group.

Save or Sand. They have offered to clear up the East Quay at their own cost but the offer was turned down by ING and ING have not fixed the wall.

As part of a discussion about sluicing tropical insects were mentioned again. JF asked if anyone knew what the population of mosquitoes might be. It was stated that Devon and Cornwall could have tropical diseases through these insects because of Climate Change not being treated seriously.

Ian Toy said that the County and Penwith are talking about the Towans management but there has been no agreement but maybe early next year before matters improve. There are no resources for day-to-day management and are not close to resolving the problem. D.C said that people should be made aware of developments and asked for their views.

Save or Sands. There is no licence to use a dredger in the harbour and will take months to attain. It was suggested that sand taken from the harbour should go back into the bay. Fishermen are concerned about the dangers of the channel and we must keep an eye on the development. There is a website with information available. www.soshayle.fsnet.co.uk

Bob Mims presented a report to the meeting detailing an option for sluicing the channel on the Lelant side of the estuary by using the Carnsew pool as a reservoir. The advantage of this scheme was to provide a tidal pool with a possible water turbine outlet for the generation of auxiliary electricity. The report follows :-

SUGGESTED DAM, SLUICES & PATHWAY ACROSS ACCESS TO LELANT POOL

The Hayle Estuary and Bar have always been restricted by continual movement of sand and silting up, which if left alone will result in the estuary, the Lelant and Copperhouse Pools and Hayle Harbour itself in returning to nature, silting up and becoming a marsh.

Historically Copperhouse Pool and Carnsew Pool have been used for sluicing to keep the Harbour area and navigation up the estuary and over the Hayle Bar operational.

However, sluicing as originally used is no longer used, or even possible, and the estuary and the course of the river is rapidly changing and silting up.

It has never been proposed to consider the use of the larger area of Leland Pool to keep the estuary clear although that the volume of water that could be retained at high tide levels is much greater than the volume of Copperhouse Pool and Carnsew Pool together.

The narrow entrance to Leland Pool between Dynamite Quay and the Cockle Bank to the Harbour could lend itself to the formation of a new Dam with Sluices designed to purge the estuary by the pressure of water that could be released at half tide level automatically every 12 hours.

The Spring tides in the area are in the region of 7.3 metres above datum and the Neap tides are in the region of 5.3 metres above datum with low water level about .300 meters. Therefore the area available within Lelant Pool, even at Neap tides, could result in a water volume of in excess of 1.5 Mil. Gallons.

If this capacity of water could be held back by a Dam and released through sluices at half tide, the power released would be on a straight line with the location of the notorious bar at the end of the estuary, keep the channel clear, open for navigation and control the migration of sand from St Ives Bay.

In addition to making use of the large volume of water available, a Pathway could be formed across the top of the Dam thus allowing the existing N.W. Coastal path to be diverted and shortened to avoid the existing long walk around Lelant Pool on the only route to St. Ives. This Pathway could also be part of the Cycle Track network, or even enlarged for a roadway, should it be ever considered to develop the area of Dynamite Quay and link it to the proposed Hayle Harbour development.

Power developed through the sluices could possibly be considered for the installation of turbines for generating electricity for powering the automatic sluice mechanism and supplementing the grid.

If it is necessary to provide access for craft into Lelant Pool, a Half Tide Lock could be provided, operated from half to full tide conditions with a lifting section over the gates for the pathway section.

At low tide Lelant Pool is a well used Bird Sanctuary, under the control of the RSPB, but there would be no change from the existing situation if the proposed Dam and Sluice system is introduced and the extra purging of the substrata may well improve the feeding provisions for the migrating birds.

(SWOT) Analysis.

Strengths.

Opportunity to maximise on the controlled retention of the natural resource of water.

Make use of the water to directly sluice the estuary and keep the formation of Hayle Bar under control and the channel navigable.

Provide a more direct course for the N.W. Coast Footpath to St. Ives by avoiding the present long route around Lelant Pool and through Lelant.

Possibility of allowing the proposed Cycle Track system to also share the access.

Form a more direct link between Hayle Harbour development and the Dynamite Quay area. (which is in the same ownership.) Allowing for possible future development.

Providing the possibility of providing a turbine system within the sluices to generate electricity to power an automatic sluice system, other local electrical requirements with any surplus to the national grid to supplement the proposed "wave hub" installation.

The development would ensure that the present erosion of the existing beach access from Dynamite Quay is overcome.

Weaknesses.

The area involved is owned by ING Estates, the owners and proposed Developer of the Hayle Harbour and the time taken to obtain Planning and other Approvals for the Harbour Redevelopment may delay any consideration of this project.

If no action is taken soon to provide a method of controlling the position of the Hayle Bar and the navigation of the estuary, the whole area is in danger of silting up and adding to the future Flood risk to Hayle and surrounding Areas.

The extra development costs for this project, over and above that of developing the Harbour could be a deterrent to any development of the project, without seriously considering the advantages and long term sustainability that could be achieved.

Opportunities.

To make use of the natural resources available.

As this proposal would help to overcome on-going and long term coastal and environmental problems of the Estuary, it may be possible for considerable Capital Grants to be available for the project from Government or EU funds.

If turbine generation of electricity is practical and can be introduced, further Grants may be available to support the provision of "green energy".

The Cornish Tourist Board may also be prepared to support the provision of a more direct N.W. Coast Path with financial support.

To provide yet another opportunity to improve the potential and status of Hayle Harbour and the Hayle Area generally.

Threats.

Possible lack of interest, or consideration of the benefits, by the site owners.

Local resident's objections.

Objections by the RSPB--- (although the present situation of Leland Pool should not be adversely effected by the proposals)

Possible objections or restrictions because of any triple SSSI status that may apply to whole or part of the site.

Save our Sands. It was stated that Copperhouse gate is definitely best for sluicing and the sand from the harbour is contaminated but the problem could be solved but ING are not interested in sluicing. PDC have said that Carnsew gates are listed and cannot be used. At the end of October the plans, which go on show at John Harvey House, may mention the re-introduction of sluicing by ING.

It was stated that Copperhouse cinema would be converted into 9 flats. The blue plaque on the cinema should be replaced.

It was asked why the litterbins are on the opposite side of the road to the fast food outlets.

Discussion regarding the Hawkins site is ongoing and that the Fire Brigade do not want the site.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 20th November 2007.