

Minutes – CPG Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism, 5th November 2013

Attendees

Stuart McMillan MSP (SMcM), Richard Millar (RM), Alvin Barber (AB), Capt Bob Baker (BB), James Stuart (JS), Sarah Brown (SB), Gordon Daly (GD), David Vass (DV), Graham Russell (GR), Ruth Briggs (RB), Sarah Cooke (SC), Pauline McGrow (PM), Graeme Duncan (GD), Campbell Gerrard (CG), Andrew Carnduff (AC), Amy Brown (AB), Gail Gibson (GG), Brian McLeish (BM), Fraser McAllister (FM), Colin Henderson (CH), John Clark (JC), John C Hamilton (JH), Marc Crothall (MC), Daniel Steel (DS), William Wilson (WW), Gavin McDonagh (GD), Simon Limb (SL), Martin Latimer (ML), Robert Kitchin (RK), David Carpenter (DC), Colin Keir MSP (CK), Annabelle Ewing MSP (AE), Colin Beattie MSP (CB), Frank Pullen (FP), Mike McGregor (MM), Frank Martin (FM), Paul Taylor (PT),

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies

Richard Alexander, Jackie Baillie MSP, Fiona McLeod MSP, Caroline Warburton, Mike Mackenzie MSP, Christopher Cutts, John Spencely, Iain Jurgenson, Stuart Smith, Helen McMeekin, Paul Bancks, David Scott, Murray Carmichael, Hugh Henderson, Tom Findlay, David Adams McGilp; Isabel Glasgow

The meeting was opened by Stuart McMillan MSP, Convener who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

These were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Martin Latimer Seconded: Sarah Brown

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. Cruise Scotland to be invited to the next meeting

SMCM reported that Richard Alexander is no longer the Chair of Cruise Scotland. Victor Sandison is the new chair and an invite will be sent to him to attend a CPG meeting in early 2014.

2. DAM to circulate Cruise Scotland showing spend per visit by email round the group

SB reported that David Adams McGilp sends his apologies for the meeting. SB further explained that the information being collated by the data sub-group will begin the process of providing this information. This action is therefore discharged.

3. Focus on the Forth to be added to agenda

This has been done and will be discussed under Point 4 of the agenda.

4. Circulate link to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee

The link has been circulated.

5. BMF Scotland and RYAS to liaise with Richard Millar (RM - Scottish Canals)

RM reported that a meeting was held with Ian Davison Porter regarding Business Improvement Districts.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are an interesting model to support the development of businesses either based on a geographical definition or by interest. It is possible a marine BID could be considered – based around marinas for example – and through the use of the legislation all those in scope would be compelled to pay the set contribution.

It was felt at this stage that further work would be necessary as a poorly conceived BID would do more damage than good. It was also observed that this model may, in the future, be something of particular relevance to Sail Scotland.

6. Annual Return amendments to be made

SB stated that this annual return has been amended and submitted. Thanks goes to RYAS and Pauline McGrow for their support in achieving this.

7. Data Sub Group to be established

This is covered under Item 2 of the agenda.

8. Proposal from Tom Findlay to have CPG Vortal

SMcM reported that it is possible to have a vortal; however it was felt that the group is not ready and does not have the capacity at this time to have an external communications tool. Tom Findlay will continue to do his blog but it will not be linked to the CPG at this time. SMcM to write to Mr Findlay to express their thanks but decline the offer.

9. SL to report back to CPG on progress of work on strategic elements for Tourism 2020

This is covered under Item 2 of the agenda.

10. SB to send out separate weblink for Marine Scotland contacts to the group

Discharged.

11. Suggestions for invitations for representatives of organisations to the next meeting to SMcM

Discharged

Data Sub Group Report

NB please see data sub group powerpoint slides

SB reported that a data sub group was convened to look at data gaps with regard to marine tourism and recreation in Scotland and what data already exists. SB expressed her thanks to everyone who has assisted in gathering the information and gave particular thanks to BMF, Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland.

SB stated that more than sixty documents had been gathered covering marine tourism and recreation in Scotland since circa 2004. SB noted that the sample sizes upon which data are based are generally small and analysis varies markedly. The information was gained from a range of sources including Scottish Enterprise, SNH, Visit Scotland, RYA and BMF.

Filing the Data Gap

SB stated that research is to be commissioned on recreation and tourism and this will be co-ordinated by the Firth of Clyde Forum and supported by Marine Scotland and Scottish Government and the Crown Estate. The project will aim to create spatial information in the form of maps as well as important economic impact baselines for the tourism and recreation sectors.

JS stated that this single piece of research can lever and encourage marine investment and he gave huge thanks to everyone who helped.

ML endorsed JS's comments and gave vote of thanks to SB and to everyone who assisted. ML emphasised that we need to look at the nature of data, feed in data and work hard to encourage people to support the data collection work. SB stated that the outputs from this work will assist with funding applications as well as inform strategic development of the sector.

SL asked what the timeline is for this. SB stated that it will take 6-9 months to appoint consultants and gather the information once the budget and specifications have been agreed. M Mc requested that the presentation be circulated round CPG.

SMcM echoed comments made and that this is a huge opportunity and further stated that there has been a concerted effort of the sector through the CPG over the last 4-5 years. The work that has been carried out by Sarah Brown and team in collating this information has been significant.

SMcM asked for clarification about 3rd bullet point under SNH section on page 3 and also Page 4 (SB responded that it was a typo which would be amended in the final report), 4th bullet point "Scottish Canals Economic and Social Monitoring framework – not yet published (RM responded that this report was now in the public domain).

Tourism 2020

SL reported that at the end of July, the Scottish Tourism Alliance and Highlands and Islands Enterprise created a strategy for the boating sector. Sail Scotland and BMF Scotland are working on a 3 year plan and this is awaiting final approval. He further noted that Scottish Canals now have a place on the BMF (Scotland) Board. On 7th November, there will be a further meeting to share strategy, define roles/aims and complete sector strategy.

3. **Presentation from Skills Development Scotland, Lawrence Durden**

LD provided a presentation on the work of Skills Development Scotland. Please see attached presentation. He further highlighted the following –

- SDS work with the tourism sector
- Have a skills investment plan
- Skills force website www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk
- There is an Employability Fund
- Tourism industry has the highest uptake in Independent Learning Accounts.
- They work with:
 - Modern apprentices and small businesses.
 - Management/Leadership and Apprentice
 - Social Media/technology.

There is also a Tourism Leadership Group and we could possibly look into a sub group to see how we can influence the Skills Investment Plan. LD stated that there is additional information available on the Scottish Tourism Alliance website.

There then followed an opportunity for questions.

Frank Pullen asked about languages and whether this has been identified as a priority? LD stated that the area of their focus was culture, although he also stated that languages are important.

Annabelle Ewing MSP asked what is the link between tourism and Skills Development Scotland and on a day to day basis and how does it link to the tourism sector? LD stated that SDS works with professional bodies to provide awareness on what we are doing and there are a number of initiatives working with the Tourism Team within the sector and Government.

MC stated that the language element is done through Scottish Tourism Guides and that there is also a link to education and languages. There is also a Tourism Skills Group. LD stated that engagement at a local level is very effective. M C stated that they are keen to speak to schools and colleges.

JS asked what do you need from the sector so that marine tourism can be involved? LD stated that the sector needs to find out what skills challenges there are. LD stated that they would be keen to be involved on the skills side.

Colin Keir MSP stated that there is a huge infrastructure of traditional industry around boat yards. He asked what sort of uptake there was and are there any companies in these boat yards for example with engineering opportunities? LD was unsure how many marine businesses had signed up but that he would see if he could provide data to Mr Keir.

ML requested a meeting with LD to discuss further.

4. **Focus on the Forth**

Forth Ports – Captain Baker

Captain Baker provided an insight into the work of Forth Ports. He outlined the following –

- Forth Ports have a commercial arm with ports in Rosyth and Methil
- Facilities are leased out to yacht clubs.
- Their involvement does not extend to recreational boating.
- Cruise Liners in two main areas, Leith, Rosyth.
- Forth Rail Bridge a focus of activity.

Due to the bridge being built 35 cruise ships have gone into Leith with a small number in Rosyth. Larger vessels can be difficult; the physical dimensions can prove to be a challenge. There needs to be investment in deep water berths.

- The statutory arm is through the Harbour Authority with the aims of achieving safe navigation, conservation and safety for all users of river. There is a navigation centre in Grangemouth.
- They have a good working relationship with clubs and there are regular liaison meetings with all stakeholders. There is lots of capacity for many boats to use the river.

Presentation by Forth Estuary Forum by Graham Russell/Ruth Briggs

RB outlined the work of the Forth Estuary Forum and provided a background history to the organisation and outlined the aims of the forum.

- They provide a forum for national and local bodies that have an involvement with the Forth and an annual conference is held.
- Strategic view – sustainable management, annual business plan.
- Flagship Projects – working with parks developing access from land to water.
- Litter Programme – developing policy.
- Help visitors and local residents.
- Climate change – work with community councils and local businesses.
- They received funding from Marine Scotland and seek to deliver against Government priorities.
- Forth Estuary Forum has provided comment on National Marine Plan and Scottish Marine Region Boundary Order.
- The 20th annual conference will take place on 28th November where focus will be on energy development.

Marine Watersports Presentation – Graham Russell

GR explained that he sits on the Management Group for Marine Leisure. He provided an outline on the marine water sports in the Forth area.

- The Forth covers Forth/Dunbar, Stirling to Fifeness.
- It is very well used by local people.
- Transport links are good.
- Marine water sports are very important to the Forth.
- There is a whole range of recreational activities including rowing, kayaking and sailing.

GR stated that there are a wide range of youth organisations with a wide range of social backgrounds involved with the Forth. The area is used for a variety of sailing/power/slipways/boat storage/boating with visitors and cruise ships.

Risks are cost of dredging/storm damage/historic harbours deteriorating and listed buildings.

Sarah Cooke – Edinburgh Council

SC is the Tourism Officer for Edinburgh Council. She explained that they are involved with the following –

- 2020 Tourism Strategy
- Cruise tourism
- Leith/Rosyth docks/areas
- Cruise Europe/Forth Ports – to attract conference to Edinburgh.
- Improve cycling area on the promenade.

Port Edgar

SC reported that Edinburgh Leisure has withdrawn from Port Edgar Sailing School. The marina has been taken over by Port Edgar Marine Ltd and this will come into effect on 1st April 2014 with £1.2 million investment for capital dredging. There is a 30 year lease dependant on bringing investment into the area. The staff are under TUPE – Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment).

JP Watersports was successful in securing the bid for the sailing school. They are a local enterprise and were chosen for the sports that they would bring to the area.

5. Facilitated discussion - Firth of Forth, Opportunities and Threats

Annabelle Ewing MSP asked about tourism potential and what scope there was for people coming along to use boats? GR explained that there are people who charter boats and Sail Scotland advertises these opportunities. We need to make it attractive for people to visit the area and there is a lot more to do to encourage people to come to events.

JS stated that the cruising market is a greater challenge. The development of Port Edgar is very important. The Forth is a different option to the west coast for marine activities of all varieties. We have to look into how we turn it into a destination and tie in with different activities/attractions.

SC stated that there is work going on in the promenade and explained that this is a long term goal to get funding and work with the local community. JS asked if yachts feature? SC explained that water tourism forms part of the strategy and is on the agenda. JS asked how we engage in the process. RB suggested that the Forth Estuary Forum Code of Guidance for boats/facilities could be further developed and asked whether this could be resourced?

ML stated that we need to involve the marine industry and promote ways to learn to sail and he would be keen to be involved in water sports access discussions.

Annabelle Ewing MSP stated we should look at sailing lessons and look to encourage people to stay over longer periods. ML said that he would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

FM provided a background to current situation at Granton/Forth Corinthians/Port of Leith and reported that they currently have 500 members with unlimited enthusiasm however the planning system provides a high degree of uncertainty. He further explained that the Granton Masterplan was led by housing development with water sports activities having taken a back seat. He reported that there were 80 visitors from Europe in the last year and they have received feedback from them on the poor state of the harbour. Alvin Barber asked whether there was anything that Forth Ports could do to help the situation. Captain Baker stated that Forth Ports are happy to engage in discussion about Granton Harbour however a high level of resource required for these works (£70K). FM commented that he was not critical of Forth Ports but rather the planning system.

F Mc asked whether there could be a deep water berth put in Cockenzie? Captain Baker said that he was aware that other operators have looked at this option from a renewable energy perspective. Captain Baker stated that you would have to go out quite a way to get a deep water berth and have a causeway and this would also involve dredging works.

Colin Kier MSP asked for more detail about the decision regarding the company successful in securing bid for Port Edgar Sailing School? Sarah Cooke stated that she will look into this and will feed back to the group.

GD stated that there are a number of training centres available for learning to sail and that there has been a campaign to get moorings at Stirling. Discussion is currently taking place with the Provost at Stirling and it will become an added destination.

JS stated that we need to encourage organisations in recreational boating/marine tourism to invest and to identify big partners such as Edinburgh Council/Forth Ports and local councils. Sarah Cooke stated that Edinburgh Council/Forth Ports are working together to move forward. JS said that we need to look at all recreational boating, cruising boats, visitors and residents.

PT stated that he wholeheartedly supports JS comments and suggested a group to take this forward.

RM reported that there was a water space study carried out in 2006 and in Bo'ness Harbour a lot of ground work has been done.

SMcM gave his thanks to all those who presented.

6. Round Table Updates/Events/AOCB

- GD reported that this summer the Seagull Trust cruises carried over 24,000 disabled passengers free of charge.
- MC reported that Scottish Tourism Week will be held on 12/13 March 2014 and sought for the CPG to support and align their activity with it.
- ML commented that the BMFS have positioned the development of Marine Tourism as the central strand of their activity and, with RYAS, have managed to support Visit Scotland in the development of the National Tourism Development Framework; which now makes considerable reference to opportunities in marine tourism.
- RM reported that the Helix Canal is completely constructed and will open in April 2014. RM encouraged people to note this date and encourage boats to the canal. SB suggested that April meeting could be held at the Falkirk Wheel to tie in with the opening. RM to check capacity.
- Commonwealth Games 2014 - JS reported that there will be a flotilla in conjunction with Glasgow Life as part of the festival programme for the Commonwealth Games and on Saturday 26th July, the flotilla will head up the river to the Pacific Quay. SMcM gave this thanks to JS and team in the huge effort in putting this together.
- SMcM introduced Daniel Steel, new CEO of Sail Scotland to the Cross Party Group. Daniel Steel provided some information on his background and stated that is an exciting time to come into the sector and he recognised the role of the CPG and that some of the re-organisation of marine and tourism in Scotland has been galvanised by the various people round the table.

Daniel Steel further stated that there is a large membership and we can draw on them and help shape work going forward. SMcM asked if a presentation could be made by DS on behalf of Sail Scotland at future meeting. DS agreed.

- SMcM reported that he has received a request from Iain Hurrell at Marine Blast seeking support for his marine app. It was agreed that information could be circulated to the group but that the CPG was unable to endorse any particular business. SMcM will write to Iain Hurrell to inform him of decision, information on the app to be circulated.
- SMcM introduced John Clark as the new contact for CPG in his office and stated that he would circulate John's email address around the CPG.

7. Future Business/Strategy/2014 Meeting Dates

A discussion took place on future dates for the meetings. It was agreed that the meeting dates take place on the following dates –

- 29th January at the Scottish Parliament
- 2nd April at Falkirk Wheel (to be confirmed)
- 18th June at the Scottish Parliament

SMcM closed the meeting and gave his thanks to everyone for their contributions.

(Please also see Summary of Actions)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	Cruise Scotland (Victor Sandison) to be invited to meeting in early 2014 by Stuart McMillan	Stuart McMillan	5/11/13
2.	Stuart McMillan requested that names be put in full on the agenda.	Pauline McGrow	5/11/13
3.	Stuart McMillan to write to Mr Findlay to express their thanks but decline the offer.	Stuart McMillan	5/11/13
4.	Data Sub Group presentation to be circulated	Sarah Brown	05/11/13
5.	Data Sub Group to provide further update to future meetings.	Sarah Brown	5/11/13
6.	British Marine Federation Scotland to meet with Skills Development Scotland	Martin Latimer/ Lawrence Durden	5/11/13
7.	It was agreed that both Sail Scotland (Daniel Steel) and British Marine Federation Scotland would make a presentation at a future meeting to offer a complete picture of the activity and support being offered to the industry.	Stuart McMillan	5/11/13
8.	Stuart McMillan will write to Iain Hurrell from Marine Blast to inform him decision taken on marine app.	Stuart McMillan	5/11/13
9.	Email address for John Clark to be circulated round.	Stuart McMillan	5/11/13
10.	Suggestions for future agenda topics to be emailed to Sarah Brown.	ALL	5/11/13
11.	Richard Millar will share headlines on Scottish Canals – add this as an item on future agenda.	Sarah Brown	5/11/13