

North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board

14th June 2019 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

Attendees

CDM Claire Dumontier- Marriage – Leigh resident
JL Julia Lanoue - TEP
AL Andrew Lawrence – Osborne Bros
CM Cllr Carole Mulronee – Leigh Society/LTC
Anna Anna Patel – NTFLAG
CR Caroline Reynolds – SBC
TR Tim Rignall - SBC
Giles Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine
Amy Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP
PW Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership

Apologies

AR Andrew Rattley – NTFLAG Chair
DG Daryl Godbold – Trawlerman
TF Tanya Ferry – PLA
JS Jonathan Sedgewick – Mike’s Boatyard
JS (Seafish) Julie Snowden – Seafish
AT Cllr Ashley Thompson - SBC

14:30-14:35 **Chairman’s welcome, February minutes** – no comments.

14:35-14:45 **Chair votes for 2019/2020**

CM put forward as Chair – 6 votes unanimous agreement.

14:45-15:50 **Projects update: Current budget**

Referring to the budget handout - most of the projects are running behind schedule and few have been claimed for, these need to pick up the pace for Dec/Jan deadlines.

Anna explained the shortfall of roughly £1400 within the Leigh Heritage Centre - Maritime Interpretation Programme project, there are a number of activities including community engagement and oral histories for a book, education pack, new Old Leigh town sign.

(NB: The shortfall including match funding for the Old Leigh sign the project is short ~ £3000.)

Queries around reducing the budget? As funders have submitted a percentage of the activities if we reduce the budget the funding amount is reduced as well, therefore a proportional amount of match will always be required. Ideas for fundraising:

- Suggestions to Crowd Fund,
- AL suggested Osborne’s could donate and local pubs and businesses could do the same.
- Folk Festival June 2019 – Have a stand and try to raise some money? Leigh Society, collection boxes in the local cafes for LHC. Crooked Billet – singers etc. to nominate LHC as the charity this year.

Ideas will be discussed for fundraising. Priority however is to get the project mobilised with the different delivery partners including Age Exchange to make sure that all can be delivered in the timescale.



Projects update: Southend-on-Sea infrastructure projects

There are three Southend-on-Sea Borough Council infrastructure projects that have started or are starting.

1. Leigh Creek dredging feasibility stage 2 – Split into two projects for funding purposes, sampling beginning with the PLA within the next few weeks
2. Energy Appraisal - Siemens appointed and the Council will begin the process of appointing them in a couple of weeks
3. Design for Cockle Wharf – Trial holes to be carried out soon, Mott Macdonald to do most of the work but preparing the specification for Marlborough.

All of these projects are finishing around the end of this year / early next year. Anna and Giles of NTFLAG are meeting monthly with SBC team and Mott Macdonald to ensure steady progress of the projects and all parties are up to date to follow these tight timescales.

A Southend Borough Council representative will be meeting those on Cockle Wharf next week (20th June). Matt Phipps to be the point of contact for Cockle Wharf users.

All results from the three projects will be fed back to the Board. The end result will be providing an evidence base for future projects to put forward for funding such as to the Southeast LEP, hopefully the studies will show long-term goals and quick wins that Southend Borough Council can put in place. Until the work is completed however it will be difficult to pre-determine what the results will be in terms of likely development of business cases.

Queries around communications for the projects – Leigh Times etc., Press release around the projects, AL suggested an update at the Osborne Cockle Festival August 17th but also to showcase the film. CR suggested speaking to Alison Dewey of Tourism and include Helen from LTC in any conversations as well from a Leigh perspective.

Projects update: Leigh on Sea Brand and Perception Study

Anna updated on the branding study working with Mindfully Wired Communications. Outputs include; public perception on seafood and Leigh fisheries, a report via survey and market research, results will be in terms of branding impact and development of a marketing and communications strategy, incorporate newsletters, local partners, website, and an increase in online presence.

CR explained that there is a rebranding exercise happening currently from SBC and that the Leigh comms strategy should be complementary with the Southend strategy. The Leigh branding strategy is actually ahead in terms of timescale of the wider Southend strategy.

Members made comments to ensure that Leigh does not fade into the background when integrating with the Southend rebrand and that it does not need to necessarily align with the Southend brand as identities of the two areas are very different.

There is some Perception work already completed in relation to Southend 2050, CR to send report to Anna.

Projects update: Environmental Data Coordinator

Background to the funding: remaining Marketing and Training budget added onto this project in order to extend the role.

JL ran through the project so far, what she found and what she hopes to complete, a hand-out was provided. Next steps for this project include comparisons of the physical data with the fisheries data



from the EA and CEFAS. Reports and pamphlets coming shortly to show those results, following that a comparison between anecdotal data and the fisheries data locally.

AL mentioned that the water classes locally have changed, making a difference for the cockles and PW mentioned data collected in the 1980's from HR Wallingford and whether it would be good to make comparisons with that data as a baseline.

Amy mentioned that TEP may be part of a larger monitoring project taking part along the Thames, with a possible monitoring station on Southend Pier, to feedback in the October meeting as to whether this will be going ahead.

Projects update: Leigh Library Gardens Development

The proposed art project with Metal Culture was declined by the MMO in March before the final deadline to submit funding applications. Therefore, as Leigh Library gardens was the backup project it was submitted – to be completed in November 2019. The building will have a fisheries/maritime-focus as the majority of funding is from the North Thames FLAG. The outputs will be to complete around 19 events yearly over the next 5 years (food, educational, marketing, historic etc.) and room hire will be free for the fishing industry but charged at a reasonable rate to the rest of the community.

It will need to be determined who is going to manage bookings and take the lease, Southend Borough Council would not be charging rent and it would be on a non-repairing lease.

Projects update: Funding beyond 2020/2021

FLAGs will finish in March with roles finishing at the end February in order to claim in time. Over the next few months the FLAG team will fundraise for a part-time coordinator to continue the work, based out of the Library Gardens building, to liaise with the industry, partners such as Southend Borough Council and to fundraise. Seafarers UK has invited Cultural Engine to put the proposal forwards but match funding will also need to be sought.

The bid will be for an 18-month position and may cover the gap between fisheries funding rounds. Conversations will need to be had with Southend Borough Council about their role or contribution towards the role.

GT mentioned that the Leigh CCT will start again when the FLAG finishes depending on future funding for the coordinator role.

15:55-16:00 Any Other Business

Leigh on Sea fisheries film – currently there is only a Youtube link to the film. The film is for educational purposes as opposed to a tourism video. The film needs to be shared on social media – Anna to contact the White Bus to have a final online link for businesses, at the Cockle Festival, Village Green, to link up with The Living Thames film?

A narrative will be emailed out a long with the final version of the film.

FLAG Cooperation Event will be on the week commencing 21st October, FLAG team will call on people for it, tours, speakers etc.



PW explained that the bridge onto Two Tree Island had been completed and that raising the issue through the FLAG had helped to ensure the necessary work was undertaken by the Council.

Next meeting 6th September 2.30 – 4pm, Leigh Community Centre.