

## **North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group Board**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 | Leigh Community Centre Room 6

### **Attendees**

**EFB** Emma Falconer-Bucklitsch – Marine Management Organisation

**JL** Julia Lanoue – TEP Data Coordinator

**CM** Cllr Carole Mulroney – Leigh Society/LTC

**Anna** Anna Patel – NTFLAG

**Amy** Amy Pryor – NTFLAG/TEP

**TR** Tim Rignall - SBC

**AT** Cllr Ashley Thompson – SBC

**Giles** Giles Tofield – NTFLAG/Cultural Engine

**PW** Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh Port Partnership

### **Apologies**

**AR** Andrew Rattley – Leigh Port Partnership

**DG** Daryl Godbold – Trawlerman

**TF** Tanya Ferry – PLA

**CDM** Claire Dumontier- Marriage – Leigh resident

**JS** Jonathan Sedgewick – Mike's Boatyard

**JS (Seafish)** Julie Waites – Seafish

**CR** Caroline Reynolds – SBC

**AL** Andrew Lawrence – Osborne Bros

**14:30-14:35** **Chairman's welcome, June minutes** – no comments, approved.

#### **14:35 - 14:50 Leigh Branding – Feedback**

Mindfully Wired Communications completed the pre-brand perception study at Leigh Regatta in September. They have produced a report on their results as well as ideas for the brand to run through.

The results of the survey show a positive connection locally with the fishing and maritime communities, the results will inform the communications strategy for the brand.

Decisions need to be made on the colours and themes that have been suggested.

**CM** thought that 4 colours were too many and that yellow, orange and the dark green (and perhaps a blue as well). They also felt that the colour scheme is too similar to the existing artwork in Leigh.

**CM** also noted the importance of looking at the Leigh boats.

Next steps involving the branding website – There is a risk that there could be too many websites promoting the Leigh brand. Giles suggested that the brand website could be used as a communications strategy, key messages and how best to advertise Leigh on Sea maritime and fisheries for local businesses as well as using the brand as a local business (whatever sector they are representing).

The brand, website and communications strategy should be taken to the Southend Place Marketing group, with endorsement from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, which would also avoid duplication. Check if Caroline Reynolds could be the liaison for this and feedback to Anna.



### **14:50 – 15:00 Leigh Library Gardens Building - Activity Plan**

The building will be complete by the end of November. Leigh Town Council are in the process of securing the lease from Southend Borough Council. Within the targets and benefits of the project are to run a certain number of events. However, these events need to be run by businesses, organisations, individuals etc. and not rely upon the FLAG team to organise this. Essentially those who had/have ideas need to start acting on them and have them ready for next year and committed to key dates where possible.

**PW** asked regarding training events in the Leigh Library Gardens building – Training associations will need to book these directly with Leigh Town Council, or this could be done through Leigh Port Partnership to act as a group.

Examples for maritime/fisheries education events could include Old Leigh Book launch, heritage trail, branding work etc.

**CM** asked about producing a program, to let the community know which days it would be available etc. as the core reason for the space is fisheries. An outline plan can be sent to Helen at LTC and she can liaise with the Parks team at SBC. Once the building is complete an advertisement will be sent out locally and a letter written to all fishermen explaining that they are welcome to use the space.

**AT** asked regarding the FLAG timeline. The end of February is the end of the FLAG staff members, the official financial part of the process will end at the end of March.

**PW** asked about a Leigh Port Partnership member of staff – funding bids are currently being written to continue the animateurs role but not for LPP. LPP have not been active recently, particularly in relation to FLAG legacy and continuation of local capacity and funding beyond the FLAG period so there cannot be any confidence that LPP have a key role to play at this stage.

### **15:00 – 15:40 Project & Budget Update**

#### Leigh Port infrastructure projects

Leigh Creek Surveying and Modelling projects:

Delayed because of surveys, permits (MMO, PLA), the claims will be running to schedule as Mott Macdonald are working an existing framework with Southend Borough Council.

Cockle Wharf re-surface design:

Delayed as runs alongside the above projects but should not cause any problems in funding as the project was moved into the core EMFF scheme which can run into 2020.

Energy appraisal:

This project started last month and will be finished in December. Stakeholder events to explain the way forwards will happen into 2020 but the key stakeholder events to gather information will be conducted in November. All businesses in Old Leigh will need to consider power issues throughout the last year, ideally dates and what happened etc., the more details the better. Please spread the word! Southend Borough Council will be leafleting through doors to make residents/businesses aware of this. Commercial and industry will need to come before the residents – they are likely running and require more power.



Anna and Giles have a monthly meeting with Southend Council and Mott Macdonald. There is a weekly call between Southend and Siemens that Giles will join when necessary.

### Environmental Projects

The University of Essex and Environmental data coordinator projects have come to an end. The board need to decide the best way to present the results to the board and industry, those who the projects affect or interest. The whelk project by University of Essex was joint with KEIFCA and so it was decided that working through KEIFCA would be the most appropriate communication for the results of this project – as few whelk fishermen attend the FLAG board meetings anymore.

**Action:** Anna to ask Kent and Essex IFCA to present at an authority meeting.

**JL** presented the results to the second part of the project, which was comparing fisheries data with physical data, again there were trends to be seen but due to the gaps in the data, conclusions would be difficult. **JL** explained the lack of communication across the river to share data and collect data for a reason. **JL** has been liaising with the EA who are aware of the gaps in data.

**Amy** added that this lack of data has impacted management decisions and that TEP are holding a data forum meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. **Amy** explained that TEP are part of a monitoring project across the Thames and she will be pushing for a monitoring site in Southend on Sea. The results of these projects suggest that TEP could produce a management plan for a robust estuarine environment monitoring project, evidence of which could be fed into the MMO for future plans and build on the case for the importance of estuaries. **Amy** will add in a management plan and further TEP actions at the end of the Environmental data conclusions for the board.

### **15:40 – 15:50 Future Funding**

#### **MFF funding**

This is a bridging fund, which will be administered by the MMO again between EMFF and equivalent UK replacement in 2021. The MFF is expected to last one year and importantly, applicants cannot be public, this is only for private applicants at the usual for 50% rate.

**EFW** added that there is an extra £700,000 for fishing safety and improvements for vessels.

#### **Beyond the North Thames FLAG**

The FLAG team are writing a bid to continue for capacity for partnership working between the industry and the local authority, to make the case for future funding but also grant aid for the fishing industry locally.

**PW** asked if LPP could apply for this. Due to the lack of capacity within LPP and action to plan for the future beyond the FLAG it is difficult to see how an LPP application could be taken forward.

**TR** is leading the conversations at Southend Council regarding infrastructure issues. They are looking at other funding such as SELEP outside of fisheries funds.

### **15:50-16:00 Any Other Business**

#### **England FLAGS & MMO visit**



All the other FLAGS that visited were impressed with the area, the projects and how this FLAG has produced projects that were community led, serving an area instead of just focusing on individual businesses.

### **MSC Launch**

MSC accreditation certified for Thames Estuary Cockles, the launch organised by LPP is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Amy:** 2021 is the English Year of the Coast, start thinking about events and activities.

**TR:** Southeast LEP chose coastal communities as a priority for their future strategies, so this is a good future strategic link to consider for all partners interested in securing investment in coastal/maritime project.

End of FLAG event: Suggested 28<sup>th</sup> February, to be confirmed.

**Final Board Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2.30 – 4pm, Leigh Community Centre OR Leigh Library Gardens**