

Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Cross Party Group for Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating and Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness, 30th September 2014

Attendees

Stuart McMillan MSP, Claire Adamson, MSP, Laura Booth, Sarah Brown, Steven Orr, Brian A Topping, Janet Castro, Michael Avril, Kevin Rahill, Alasdair Smith, Neil Hamlet, James McLachlan, Robbie Blyth, Gordon Daly, Graham Russell, Robert Kitchin, Martin Latimer, James Stuart, Richard Millar, Sheena Harper, Bryan Finlay, Wendi Cuffe, Peter Ashe, Pauline McGrow, Elizabeth Lumsden, Lawrence Durden

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies

Mike McGregor, Nick Underdown

The meeting was opened by Claire Adamson MSP Convener of the Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness Group and Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor of Cross Party Group for Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating who welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Scottish Parliament.

2. AGM

The AGM was held and the following appointments made –

Convenor

Stuart McMillan

This was approved

Deputy Convenor

Jackie Baillie MSP

Jamie McGregor MSP

Mike McKenzie MSP

Proposed: Martin Latimer Seconded: Gordon Daly

Secretariat

A discussion took place on this. JS indicated that he would be standing down but that Sarah Brown will continue but it would be good to have a second person to help broaden agenda discussions and contacts.

JS proposed that Jane Maciver from Stornoway Port Authority be approached to see if she would be interested in taking on this role. F Crighton stated that it is a particular busy time for the Stornoway Port Authority at the moment. SB stated that the purpose of the role would be to obtain ideas and contacts for putting together the agenda. SB stated that the CPG will continue to have admin support from PM and expressed her thanks to PM and RYAS for this support.

3. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

These were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: James Stuart

Seconded: Richard Millar

SMCM expressed his thanks to James Stuart for the substantial contribution he has made in his role as Chief Executive with RYA Scotland.

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. Joint CPG/Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness Meeting

Agenda was circulated.

2. SMCM to circulate minutes from Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness

SMCM reported that these have been circulated.

3. Suggestions to SMCM on youth groups that could be invited to CPG meeting for “focus on youth” agenda topic

It was agreed that this be kept as an ongoing agenda item.

4. Marine Tourism Conference - March 2015

This is covered under Item 7 on the agenda.

5. UHI BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism Degree Development

This will be covered at a later date.

Video Conferencing – anyone who expresses an interest, please pass details to SMCM to be considered for meetings and to be discussed with the SMCM explained that there is only one place that this can be conducted and that is in Committee Room 1. SMCM stated that he will continue to talk to MSPs.

7. RYAS Boating Survey link to be circulated

This has been achieved.

8. Marine Climate Change Booklet link to be circulated

This has been circulated.

9. Marine Tourism Strategy to be sent for critique

JS reported that this will be circulated on 13th October.

10. Marine Bio-security Planning Guidance link to be circulated

This has been circulated.

11. 2015 Meeting dates to be put together

This requires to be arranged.

4. Presentation by RNLI - Michael Avril

Michael Avril introduced himself as the RNLI Community Incident Reduction Manager for Scotland and North England and explained about his role and provided a presentation on the work of the RNLI. There then followed an opportunity for questions –

SMCM asked about the Respect for the Water Campaign. MA stated that this will be promoted by lifeboats, crews, education department.

MA stated that they are looking to have a “Respect the Water” Day and are looking to organise a launch next year.

SMCM asked if it is important to get messages across to children? MA stated that it is a longer term goal to make more people aware of the dangers and acknowledged that there is a huge untapped market. MA stated that they are working with Education Manager and are contacting schools in Edinburgh within 25 mile radius of Cramond Island and will provide opportunities to come out to speak.

SMCM asked about why new stations were opened in Stonehaven and Loch Ness? MA stated that due to numbers being rescued in these areas and due to storm damage the RNLI was asked to go in. MA stated that they have received requests to open new stations and they will look to see what resource they can provide.

JS stated that on national level there are 200 plus training centres and 140 clubs and we can tie into this process. There are also 10 sailing development groups which cover a slightly broader remit than sailing which would provide a broader boating network. JS will discuss this further offline with MA.

FC stated that Stornoway Port Authority are involved with the RNLI and they are looking at incidents and looking to incorporate smart phone technology. FC asked whose core responsibility it is for signage on beaches/rivers at danger points. MA explained that the Lifeguard Department have a look at different beaches, public rescue equipment and will conduct risk assessments and will report back to Councils. The Council would then make the decision based on recommendations. He stated that this this does not fall under the responsibility of the RNLI.

A discussion took place on whose jurisdiction it is. SMCM stated that this may be an area for COSLA to look at. SMCM explained that he sits on the regeneration group and he could raise this.

ML asked that we require to exercise caution when dealing with signage as caution/advisory. ML suggested that marinas could produce a handbook. ML stated that Aileen Monk from BMF Scotland can also put articles in through marinas.

RB suggested that we involve SEPA, “designated bathing areas”. The Access Code also stipulates that you require to take responsibility for your own actions. He further explained that rescue aids signage needs to be checked continually. The landowner/operator and the public all hold responsibility for this.

BT stated that education is important. The signage at the shore can be an issue especially if English is not the first language of the viewer.

MA stated that the RNLI signage is pictorial rather than wording. He also explained that in some areas if someone enquires via text message then if English is not their first language then they would get a response in their own language.

FC suggested putting a grid reference on the sign so that they can locate exact point of location. MA explained that every sign has a unique code and that the difficulty with the grid reference is that the latitude and longitude can easily be transposed. This code alleviates this problem by providing the exact position.

AS from Forth Ports stated that there have been incidents with small craft/yachts and they do not always get recorded within their reporting system. Marine report forms/accident reports are completed by MAIB but the Port Authority would also do the accident investigation. AS asked that this data is fed back to the RNLI.

SMCM expressed his thanks to Michael Avril for his very useful presentation.

5. Marine Recreation and Tourism Data Collection Project Update – Sarah Brown

SB provided an update on Data Collection for Marine Tourism and reported that the following actions had taken place – (Please also find attached presentation)

- SB introduced the company that has been awarded the contract LUC (Land Use Consultants). The project team includes Heriot Watt University and Aquatera. LUC also have extensive experience in both land and marine based projects. It was a competitive tender process. They are all water sports enthusiasts.
- SB expressed her thanks very much to James Stuart and stated that without his enthusiasm a lot of what has achieved would not have taken place.
- SB also gave her thanks to BMF, Sail Scotland, Crown Estate, Scottish Canals, WHAM and Visit Scotland.
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- There is to be a phased approach with Pentland Firth as the case study and followed by data collection in the rest of Scotland.
- The emphasis will be on the quality of the data collected.

SB provided an outline of data work –

- Spatial Information – GIS layers for National Marine Plan.
- Participation – how many, in what, where?
- Average spend and impact on economy
- Significant gaps in provision

SB outlined the project timeline and the following timeframes –

1. What are we asking	To be achieved by 2014
2. Data mining	2014
3. Data collection	2015, Pentland and then rest of Scotland
4. Web Tool	2015
5. Analysis and Reporting	2015

SB provided information on Spatial Information maps and Cruising Routes Atlas AIS data.

Key Documents

SB reported that the key documents will inform the process–

Scottish Enterprise, 2010, Sailing Tourism
 Scottish Natural Heritage, 2007, Marine and Coastal Recreation
 BMF/Partnership (Arkenfold) Participation Data, ongoing
 RYA, 2008, Cruising Routes Atlas
 Scottish Canals, Demand surveys, 2008

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

SMCM gave welcomed to Steven Orr from Land Use Consultants to the meeting.

SMCM explained that the CPG identified a gap in data provision some time ago and stated that there has been a lot of generosity from the various agencies to make this work. This is an example of what a Cross Party Group can achieve. SMCM gave his congratulations and well done to all involved and stated that he was looking forward to the final outcome. This piece of work will have a huge impact with public agencies.

JS stated that there are some inherent challenges however the information gathered will feed the National Marine Plan and can help us deliver aspects of the Marine Tourism Strategy.

6. Marine Tourism Conference

JS reported that SB/JS have reviewed the programme. The conference will build on discussions that took place following the first event that was held in 2013. The Marine Tourism Strategy is going out for consultation on 10th October for critique. We consider the topic for the conference to be “The Customer Journey” with max of 100 attendees.

- The target audience will be local authorities, government agencies and port authorities
- Discussion will take place on finalising the times for all the discussion groups and finalising the agenda.

A discussion took place on the funds required to run the conference. JS explained that we require £6K for food and PA system and to put in a level of project management. A date also requires to be set. JS confirmed that RYAS will be able to contribute £500. SB stated that Firth of Clyde Forum can offer in-kind support and some of SB’s time. The Data Project would also need to be on the agenda.

Action: SMCM will come back with a date for the conference. It was also agreed that we should write out to the CPG members to see if we can pull together resource to make this happen.

RM stated that he will discuss with Scottish Canals to see if they are able to support.

SMCM stated that the agenda looks good and has a different target audience from previous symposium.

JS stated that he will initiate discussions with Highland and Islands Enterprise and also Visit Scotland.

JS also asked SMCM if he could approach ministers to see if they would be able to attend. SMCM stated that he would require a steer as to who should be invited. JS suggested Fergus Ewing.

It was agreed that 4 workshops would be held at the conference each focussing on a case study. This would then form part of an action plan.

SMCM asked whether it would be worthwhile to cover safety as part of the conference programme. JS stated that he was not sure whether this would be relevant.

RM asked how can we engage MSPs to attend and whether it may be worthwhile having an event taking place over lunchtime. SMCM stated that they could do the photo call on the Thursday prior to the conference. CA stated that there is an events area outwith the Chambers and this could also include the safety element. ROSPA could also assist with this.

7. Round Table Updates/Events/AOCB

Coastal Communities Fund

SB reported that the Coastal Communities Fund has approximately £16 million to be given out in this final round (application window now closed). SB further explained that the fund faces an uncertain future but would bring an update as soon as it was available, possibly after the Westminster elections. All the funds require to be spent by the end of 2017.

SB asked that people pass on to anyone who has been awarded funding that if they are not going to meet their targets, they must inform the Coastal Communities Fund as then the money can be surrendered and reallocated.

SMCM asked when is the closing date for applications? SB stated that it is now closed.

Marine Protected Areas

GR stated that we now have a network of Marine Protected areas and there is good discussion taking place with SNH and Clyde Cruising Club and information will go into sailing directions. We require to have a look at how this will be publicised.

Commonwealth Flotilla

GR stated that he was bowled over by the large numbers of spectators. It was an extremely worthwhile event.

JS stated that they were absolutely delighted with the huge numbers of participants that turned out for the event. There were 2 feeder events with 100 people taking part. There were 1500 people in attendance at the ceilidh on the Friday evening. There were 500 guests between the 3 passenger boats on the Flotilla. 280 boats took part in the Flotilla. We also had a royal visit. We were stunned by the sheer volume of spectators, the official total spectators were 11,000 but unofficial figure was in region of 100,000 watching on the day.

JS stated that we now require to look at what happens next -

1. Challenge perception of boating, look to use the Clyde more.
2. Showcase the possibilities.
3. Start partnerships.

RYAS also worked with a number of partners including Glasgow Life, Inverclyde Council, Scottish Canals.

We are looking to assist with an event in 2018 in Dundee. We want to have some lasting legacy from this event.

SB encouraged members of the CPG to nominate the Commonwealth Flotilla for the sporting event of the year. <http://www.sundaymailsportsawards.co.uk/> (now closed)

SMCM stated that the Flotilla was an outstanding success. It was stunning to see the number of spectators and gave his congratulations to all who made the event such a success.

JS stated that it was a colossal piece of work and without a whole host of partnerships, this event would not have taken place. We had over 100 volunteers and received a quarter of a million of value in kind. JS gave this thanks to all who were involved.

Devolved Powers – Scottish Parliament

JS stated that we should give thought to the ambitions for devolved powers to the Scottish Parliament in relation to marine tourism impacts.

Scottish Canals

- RM reported that there is a new marina at Ratho.
- Bowling has also been upgraded.
- There have been 750, 000 visitors to the Kelpies since they opened.
- The transits of the Forth and Clyde have increased by 30%.
- The World Canal Conference is taking place in Inverness in 2016. There will be delegates attending this from across the world. GD reported that this is a worthwhile exercise, a lot of publicity for the city.

8. Future Business/Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd December 2014. SMCM asked for suggestions for youth topics and to pass these to PM.

CA thanked SMCM for the opportunity for the Safety Group to host the joint meeting. CA stated that an invitation will be extended to the CPG when water safety is topic on their agenda.

SMCM gave his thanks to all for their attendance.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	Approach to be made to Jane Maclver, Stornoway Port Authority for position on Secretariat.	Secretariat	30/9/14
2.	Suggestions to SMCM on youth groups that could be invited to CPG meeting for "focus on youth" agenda topic.	ALL	31/3/14
3.	<u>Marine Tourism Conference – March 2015</u> SMCM to come back with suitable date. Programme to be drawn up. Write out to Cross Party Group to seek funding to support the conference.	Stuart McMillan/Secretariat	28/1/14
4.	<u>UHI BA (Hons) Marine & Coastal Tourism degree development</u> - MF to present at meeting at a later date.	Myles Farnbank	31/3/14
5.	Video Conferencing - SMCM will continue to speak to MSPs.	SMCM	24/6/14
6.	Marine Tourism Strategy to be sent out for critique by 13 th October.	JS	24/6/14
7.	2015 Meeting dates to be put together.	Secretariat	24/6/14