

DUDDON ESTUARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:

(<http://www.duddon-estuary.org.uk/>).

Minutes of the Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee Annual General Meeting held at the Millom Network Centre on Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Brian Crawford, (Chair), Millom Ironworks Local Nature Reserve (MILNR)

Derek Lyon, (Vice-Chair), FoLD

Barry Doughty, Barrow Borough Council, Dalton PC

Wendy Battersby, Millom without PC

Ian Cragg, Kirkby Ireleth PC

Michael Jach, Kirkby Ireleth PC

Jos Curwen, SLDC

Nicola Evens, Natural England

Jack Park, Copeland Borough Council & Millom TC

Mhaire Maclauchlan, RSPB, Hodbarrow Nature Reserve

Neil Forbes, National Trust

John Turner, Lonsdale Estates

(Comments were expressed at not receiving a map or directions to Millom Network Centre. The Chairman apologised for this oversight. However, a map is included on the Centre website as printed on the Agenda.)

1. Introductions and Apologies:

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and acknowledged apologies that had been received from the following:

Brian Wright, Millom without PC

Ian Dixon, NWIFCA

Ian Cameron, South Cumberland Wildfowlers Ass.

Rachel Osborn, Copeland Borough Council

Janice Cumming, Askam & Ireleth PC

Mr. Hickley, Woodland Trust

Adam Larbalestier, EA

Bill Shaw, ARC-Trust

Holly Latham, Natural England

John Murphy, Barrow Borough Council

Alison Earnshaw, Copeland Borough Council (Please may I give you my apologies for the Duddon Estuary Partnership meeting this evening. I am not able to attend (on behalf of Copeland Planning Policy Team) due to a prior engagement. This would have been my first DEP meeting. John Hughes retired at the end of August and asked me to attend in his place. I intend to come to all future meetings where possible. Please can I ask that my email address is added to the minute's mailing list.)

Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Presentation:

As no other speaker had been confirmed, the Chairman gave an update following the National Grid meetings he had attended at Kendal on behalf of the Duddon Estuary Partnership.

This concerned the reduction from 6 options to two options for the link from the proposed new nuclear power station at Moorside to National Grid connections at Harker, north of Carlisle and to either Heysham or further south. Full details are available on the National Grid North West Connections website.

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/MajorProjects/NorthWestCoastConnections/Documents/Index.htm>

The National Grid's Strategic Options Report (SOR), which sets out its views on Strategic Options for the project following consultation, is available to view on the project documents

page. The Consultation Feedback Report (CFR) is also available, which summarises responses to consultation and provides feedback from the project team about these responses.

National Grid will now assess the two Strategic Options being taken forward to identify potential route corridors where new infrastructure could be located. Work will now focus on looking for onshore routes to the north of Moorside where there is the potential to follow the path of existing low voltage power lines which are operated by Electricity North West.

To the south of Moorside, National Grid will also consider routes where there is the potential to follow the path of existing power lines in addition to studying possible routes offshore through the Irish Sea and across Morecambe Bay.

There is a great deal of opinion in favour of a south sub-sea route. However, I would just like to indicate the cost implications of the two options.

The overland distance from Moorside to Heysham is about 75km. Establishing a connection by cables and pylons following the existing 132kV route will cost £1.6 million per km or about **£120 million**.

If this route was by undergrounding at £18 million per km, the total jumps up to **£1350 million or £1.35 billion**, a factor of eleven times.

Obviously, there could also be a combination of these two methods but the cost will be still far greater than by just pylons.

Considering an offshore option has various factors to include. The route length will be almost doubled to about 150km due to having to go beyond the firing range at Eskmeals and the wind turbine farms off Barrow to come ashore between Fleetwood and Blackpool. There will be 4 cables which will have to be specially armoured to protect them so vastly increasing cost per km. The cables will be in two pairs separated by 300 metres. The electricity generated at Moorside will be at 400kV alternating current (ac) and will have to be converted to super high direct current (SHDC) at Moorside and converted back to ac when it comes ashore. Four converters will be required at a current cost of £200m each, total £800m. When the cost of cable plus installation is totalled, the cost of this option will be in excess of **£2.5 billion**. Quite a difference to the cost of pylons at just **£120m**. This cost will be added to consumer's electric bills. Therefore if this option is decided on then expect your annual electricity bill to rise very significantly.

I will not go into the ecological implications of the electromagnetic field generated by the SHDC in the sub-sea cables, which could possibly create a barrier to fish migration for 40+ years, but it could have the potential to wipe out populations of salmon and sea trout in south Cumbria rivers as they depend on the Earth's natural electromagnetic field to navigate to and from rivers. Discussions at the workshops indicate a direct current induced electromagnetic field corridor width of up to 600 metres due to spacing of cables and the strength of the electromagnetic field.

Also discussed was that if the land based option to follow current pylons is considered to Barrow or the Furness Peninsula, a cross-Morecambe Bay initiative must be investigated. It was stated that this could be by either 16 subsea cables or two x four metre diameter tunnels under the Bay with five metre towers at intervals as emergency exits for workers/maintenance teams.

I will be attending a further meeting in Kendal on November 19th. It is anticipated that the final route proposals will be put out for public consultation about May 2013. I will be inviting National Grid to attend one of our meetings in 2013 to present these proposals.

3. Minutes of last meeting held 18th July 2012:

Agreed as a true record, proposed by Derek Lyon, seconded by Jos Curwen and signed off by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising:**
 - a. Item 4a: CRUG: No further information has been received on issues raised.
 - b. Item 6b: Interpretation Panel for Kirkby: No further progress made on this item.

5. **Partnership Secretariat:** Following further discussions with Paul Pearson and David Southward MBE, CCC, it appears that CCC will cut off all support to the DEP in the very near future. This means Paul will not attend any future meetings or be able to offer office support and CCC will not be offering financial support or our account management. The Chairman was able to discuss this situation with Richard Newman of Cumbria County Council at the last National Grid Meeting at Kendal. Support from Paul in his distribution role to the DEP may be ongoing. Following discussions with Cumbria Voluntary Services (CVS), the Chairman reported that they are willing to become the accountable body for the DEP. This information has now been passed onto CCC to process. There have been no volunteers to take on the Secretary's role or to take minutes at meetings so the Chairman has no alternative but to continue his difficult task of Chairing the meeting and taking relevant notes. Members must be aware that this could lead to omissions or sometimes incorrect notes taken.

6. **Adoption of Terms of Reference:** A draft ToR has been prepared and circulated to all members of the DEP. It was proposed by Barry Doughty and seconded by Derek Lyon that this is adopted, all agreed.

7. **Memorandum of Understanding:** A draft MoA has been prepared and circulated to all members of the DEP. It was proposed by Barry Doughty and seconded by Derek Lyon that this is adopted, all agreed. The Chairman will remove DRAFT watermark and pass MoA to NE and the EA for signatures in due course.

8. **Standing items**
 - a. Budget: The current DEP balance stands at £4154.68.
 - b. Annual Report from the Chairman:
Since the last AGM of the DECC at Kirkby in Furness on November 10th 2011 and my election as Chairman, it has been quite a busy period. This was not helped by the loss of support from Jenny Wain and Richard Newman and that Paul Pearson would no longer attend meetings to take minutes and produce them, but would continue to circulate information to members. This service could end today. I have held discussions with Cumbria CVS who have agreed to be the accountable body for our accounts. I have informed Paul Pearson and Richard Newman of this and they are dealing with the transfer of funds. I have had circulated many documents received of relevance to the DEP to members electronically. I produced draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding as already discussed.

Since November 10th 2011, I have attended the following meeting of relevance to the DEP:

- 23rd November, the AGM of the Duddon Rivers Association at Broughton.
- 24th November, a meeting of the Copeland Coastal Partnership at Muncaster.
- 6th December, a full members meeting for the NWIFCA at Morecambe.
- 14th December, a meeting with Jenny Wain at Ulverston to discuss ongoing issues following her departure.
- 9th January 2012, a meeting of the NWIFCA Technical, Scientific and Byelaws sub-Committee at Carnforth.
- 18th January, a meeting with Diane Ward and Rachel Osborn of the Copeland Coastal Partnership at Bootle.
- 19th January, a meeting in Millom with Leslie Talbot, Duddon Estuary Bathing Waters Projects' Team, together with Adam Larbalestier EA and Steve Ford from ADAS, if you remember Leslie gave a presentation to the DEP on the 10th November meeting. This was a follow up to arrange a further meeting set for the 1st March to outline plans and agenda.
- 20th January, as Chairman of the Millom Ironworks Local Nature Reserve Management Committee, I attended a meeting in Millom to discuss plans for the new UU pipeline that

will cross the Reserve to take extra groundwater to the treatment plant and hence into the Duddon Estuary.

- 17th February, a meeting of the NWIFCA Technical, Scientific and Byelaws sub-Committee at Carnforth.
- 1st March, the Bathing Waters Project Workshop in Millom, concerning the three beach sites in the Duddon Estuary.
- 6th March, AGM of Furness & South Cumbria Fisheries Consultative Committee.
- 13th March, the National Grid Workshop in Kendal.
- 15th March, the initial meeting workshop of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership in Penrith.
- 16th March, a full members meeting for the NWIFCA at Morecambe.
- 20th March, Meeting of DECC at Barrow.
- 22nd March, Morecambe Bay Partnership at Morecambe. This covered H2H and introduced the Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary Local Nature Partnership (MB&DE LNP). (About 200 stakeholders attended).
- 14th April, AGM of Millom & District Angling Association.
- 6th June, a meeting of the Furness & South Cumbria Fisheries Consultative Committee.
- 12th June, AGM of the NWIFCA and its Technical, Scientific & Byelaws Sub-Committee, followed by normal meetings at Morecambe.
- 12th July, Senior Strategic Stakeholder Meeting of Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary Local Nature Partnership & H2H at Carnforth. (14 attended)
- 18th July, Meeting of DECC at Broughton in Furness.
- 29th August, a meeting of the North West Fisheries Consultative Council.
- 18th September, a meeting of the Furness & South Cumbria Fisheries Consultative Committee.
- 25th September, a meeting of the North West Fisheries Consultative Council.
- 9th October, a meeting with United Utilities concerning works to improve drainage and waste treatment from Millom into the Duddon Estuary.
- 23rd October, the National Grid Workshop in Kendal.
- 5th November, the National Grid Workshop in Kendal.

Brian was requested to record the thanks of the meeting for his efforts on their behalf.

c. Energy Infrastructure Update: National Grid: As above.

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/MajorProjects/NorthWestCoastConnections>

d. Marine & Coastal Issues:

- (i) NWIFCA: <http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk>. The Chairman was unable to attend the last NWIFCA meeting so no update is available.
- (ii) MBP: <http://www.morecambebay.org.uk> Information as per July minutes.
- (iii) Copeland Coastal Partnership:
<http://www.copeland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2245>
Funding for the Copeland Coastal Partnership: They have applied for funding through the Coastal Communities Fund. This is to deliver a number of projects aimed at enhancing and celebrating the coast. The projects will be led by a number of partners, but all are mutually supportive. The outcome of the bid will not be known until December. They are currently working on another bid through the Copeland Community Fund to match the Coastal Communities Fund bid, as even if successful with the Coastal Fund, they need match-funding in place to implement.
- (iv) Coastal Partnership Network: Newsletters distributed to DEP members.
http://www.coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk/search/mapsearch.php?cpn_area=15
- (v) North West Coastal Forum: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk>
Newsletters distributed to DEP members.
- (vi) Environment Agency: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk> no updates available.
<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/working/together2012>
This information has already been circulated to DEP members.

e. Nature Conservation:

- (i) Millom Ironworks Local Nature Reserve:
<http://friendsofmillomironworkslnr.btck.co.uk>

United Utilities have now finished the work on the Reserve. They found an old drainage pipe that they were able to fit the new pipeline inside so saving time and disturbance to the Reserve. Lots of amphibians found in the traps, reported by Bill Shaw.

(www.arc-trust.org)

- (ii) Hodbarrow Lagoon Nature Reserve:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/h/hodbarrow>

Following the appointment of a new warden, (mhairi.maclauchlan@rspb.org.uk), Mhaire Maclauchlan gave an update as to recent activities and local community involvement. Not only are there major improvements being made in the Mainsgate Road car park and paths in the Reserve to make it easier for buggies and wheelchairs to get around (helped by the South Copeland Disability Group), the RSPB are also having a serious look at the island. Tornado Wire is kindly donating enough fencing to make a trial 'floating fence' to deter predators from invading this protected area. Again, the two island 'horns' will be detached with deep channels for the same purpose.

- (iii) Natural England: Holly Latham reported "I have recently started as the Marine Lead Advisor working on the stretch of coastline between the Duddon estuary in the north and the Wyre estuary in the south. Could you please add me to any relevant mailing lists or circulations?"

- (iv) Natural England: Steve Benn reported "As a part of my role in managing the Duddon Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR), I am considering updating the two large multi-organisational signs at Broughton Square and Foxfield Station. From Natural England's perspective these signs are out of date as they still show the old English Nature logo's, also it is necessary to update the NNR information. I am aware that the original signs still hold logo's and web addresses from "Hidden Britain", "Lake District Peninsula's" and "Lake District Gateway", and before I undertake any work I am attempting to contact all parties to advise of my plans. At this stage I have sent a web request to "Hidden Britain" asking if they want to comment on a draft sign and advising that I will only be including the Natural England logo. I can report they responded quickly indicating they would "...do some pr and publicity about the new interpretation". I have searched the web address for the Lake District Peninsula but cannot find anything at Broughton (only Ulverston). Likewise I cannot find who I should contact on the Lake District gateway web site, if you are able to pass on any contact details for these two groups that would be helpful.

Finally Brian could you advise if you (i.e. Duddon Estuary Partnership) wish to comment on the new sign and if so I will send you a copy for comment once I have a draft ready – though I cannot put a date on this as yet."

Following a discussion it was agreed to support Ben in his project.

- (v) Cumbria Local Nature Partnership: report stated that "In July of this year I emailed you all with the welcome news that the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) had been given official LNP status by the Government, following a short pause for breath over the summer things are once again progressing. Starting this week I will be working as Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Manager on a part time basis. Key to this role will be taking forward the priorities for the CLNP outlined in the application to DEFRA for LNP status (still available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lm61atd2y2sdqhx/Cumbria%20Local%20Nature%20Partnership%20Application%20Final.pdf>).

This includes establishing a CLNP Board, appointing a Chair, developing key messages for the CLNP and confirming its vision for Cumbria's natural environment. In addition to the above the CLNP along with the other seven LNPs in the North West has been represented at meetings with DEFRA helping to identify their priorities for working with LNPs and how best to support the fledgling partnerships. These meetings may continue with the potential to form a regional forum for LNPs however this is subject to a review of regional environmental partnerships by North West Environment Link and the Green Infrastructure Unit.

In early October all forty-eight LNPs attended the LNP Welcome Meeting in Westminster hosted by DEFRA. There LNPs got to network with each other and meet staff from DEFRA's policy teams. DEFRA staff updated the LNPs on what's going to

happen over the next few months including providing further guidance on how LNPs might deliver in addition to that already issued on planning and designating future Nature Improvement Areas. The Tavistock Institute also in attendance outlined how they will be reviewing the establishment of LNPs and over the longer term evaluating their economic, social and environmental impact.

I will be updating you all regularly over the next six months including outlining how you can get involved and help the CLNP reach its full potential. In the meantime if you have any questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch."

- (vi) Sandscape: Vegetation habitat mapping now completed. In addition a hydrology scheme is in progress. The area is very wet at the moment as expected. A new Management Plan should be drafted by the end of 2012. About 330 waterjack toad strings observed leading to about 5000 toadlets.
 - (vii) North Walney NE Reserve: A new management plan for this area is in hand. Please keep an eye out for any invasive species such as Chinese Mitten Crabs.
- f. Unauthorised Commercial Activities – none reported.
- g. Rail Liaison:
- (i) Jos stated concerns about car parking at Kirkby still ongoing. The main drain under the railway at Foxfield has collapsed and is not safe. CCC agreed to sort out and flush out monthly. Also new signal system is being installed.
 - (ii) Jack Park reported that Millom Station has won another award.

9. Any Other Business:

- a. Barry asked for all local parish councils to be kept in the DEP loop.
- b. Barry reported on flooding in Dalton and local villages. Help is being given by bringing various agencies together including community bodies. Part of the problem is due to uncleared ditches.
- c. Coastal protection: There was a general discussion on this important topic.

10. Dates of DECC Meetings for 2013: Suggested:

- a. Tuesday March 19th 2pm, at Dalton Drill Hall (Via Barry Doughty) (map required)**
(Drill Hall, Nelson Street, Dalton in Furness, LA15 8AF: Tel: 01229465842, Fax: 01229465842)
- b. Wednesday July 17th 7pm, at Victory Hall, Broughton-in-Furness (map required)**
(Station Road Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria LA20 6HN. Tel: 01229 716908)
- c. Thursday November 7th 7pm, Millom Network Centre (map required)**
<http://www.millomnetworkcentre.co.uk> Tel: 01229 719650

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those attending and for their input and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Apologies for any incorrect or missing information but it is difficult to Chair a meeting and take full notes.

It will be appreciated if any member bringing reports or updates could bring a hard copy or email to me.

Brian Crawford

Chairman DEP/DECC

crawford-brian@sky.com (please note new email address.)