

**Notes from North Yorkshire & Cleveland Coastal Forum Conference, 26th
September 2007, Whitby Pavilion**

Attendees

John Leefe – Burniston Parish Council
David Pybus – Cleveland Potash Ltd
Nick Rosser – Durham University
Shirley Hesleton – Staithes Resident
Bob Briggs – Filey against dredging
Niall Carson – Whitby Beacon Town Forum
Wynne Jones – Whitby Beacon Town Forum
John Buglass – Freelance archaeologist
Stewart Rowe – Scarborough Borough Council
Sarah Housden – North York Moors NPA
Andrea McMillan – North York Moors NPA
Bernie Fleming – Natural England
Susan Wilson – Natural England
Geoff Hill – Parish Council representative – Scalby to Whitby
David Savage – Yorkshire Naturalists Union
Malcolm Hodgson – Cleveland & Wolds Way officer
Colin Horsley – Teesside Coastal ARC project
Rob Lunan – Redcar & Cleveland BC
Peter Barfoot – North York Moors NPA
John Farquhar – CPRE
John Beech – Coastal Unit, N.Yorks & Cleveland
David Tomlin – Redcar & Cleveland BC
Lynn Watson – Redcar & Cleveland BC
Peter Booth – Scarborough BC
Brian Watson – Newby & Scalby PC
David Sleightholme – Newholm Dunsley PC
John Armsby – Hinderwell PC
Chris Robinson – Filey Against Dredging
Jim Wingham – Saltburn PC

Peter Barfoot [acting chair] gave apologies for absence from Allan Patmore [Chairman of Forum] and Herbert Tindall [Chair of Executive Group]

Presentation were given in the morning by Stewart Rowe on the condition of Whitby's piers, Malcolm Hodgson on the Coastal Access Bill, Colin Horsley on the Teesside Coastal ARC project, John Buglass on Shipwrecks of the Yorkshire Coast and John Beech on Volunteer Intertidal surveying.

The afternoon session focused on gaining personal views of the coast based on the Forum's remit of **conservation, recreation, sea defences, natural processes, water quality, marine issues & economy & tourism** on the following 5 questions ;

1. What do you like about living & working on the coast ?
2. What do you dislike about living & working on the coast ?

3. What improvements could be made to the coastal environment ?
4. What improvements have been made to the coastal environment since 2002 ?
5. What else can the forum do for you ?

The comments received will form the basis of a bid for EU LEADER money for the region which will become available in April 2008.

Comments received were as follows ;

Q1.Likes ;

Sea environment and light quality, coast and adjacent National Park, Cleveland Way, historic towns with countryside in between, dramatic scenery, [largely] accessible, solitude, history, less crowded than south coast, absorbs visitors well, Skinningrove, Staithes history, beaches, variation in scenery, variety of different environments, quality of life, the sea, Whitby's heritage, Scarborough's history as a tourist destination, Robin Hood's Bay, Fylinghall school, coast has a 'magic' influence on the environment, mixture of industry & heritage, distinctive, fresh air, open vistas, bleak aspect, dynamic interface between land & sea

Q2 Dislikes ;

Poor transport on the coast – coastal dual carriageway, pressure for coastal defence, caravan sites, insufficient employment opportunities, unsuitable developments, traffic, conflict between different user groups, lack of links between Whitby, Scarborough & Filey, cold east wind, effect of night time economy on town centres, anti social behaviour, litter from fast food outlets, businesses only have 180 degrees where they can succeed, road network, cleanliness, more park & ride needed, parking problems, highway links between towns not good – rat run from Hull to Teesside.

Q3 Improvements that could be made ;

Path improvements on ROWs esp Cleveland Way, water quality at Staithes, maintain improvements in water quality and deal with remaining problems, have a no development strip along coast to improve landscape eg caravan parks set back from cliff at Gristhorpe, creation of a marine protected area and marine nature reserve, integrated traffic management system, better integration between different layers of local govt., development of sustainable inshore fisheries, preservation of the social, economic and religious heritage of the coast, preservation of local ecology, cleaning of beaches, access to services, public transport, parking, highways infrastructure, bypass villages, cash machine in village, low cost housing, better links to the motorway, S'bro needs a western bypass

Q4 Improvements that have been made in the last 5 yrs.

Improvement of water quality, seasonal employment has increased due to longer seasons, greater awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal area, yatching facilities have improved, imaginative coastal defence, a recovering north seas fishery, recognition of coast by Yorkshire Forward, raised profile of coastal geology, better coastal pathways & access, zoning of the coastal area

Q5 What else can the Coastal Forum do for you ?

Develop renewable energy projects – make region self sufficient by 2050, more communication with interested parties between meetings, increased representation of

Forum & transparency & improve links between Forum & Executive [and get to know what executive is doing] note of decisions & actions, introduction of no fishing zones and marine protected areas, liaison with coastal access officers when NE's coastal access project is developed more, Forum should investigate need for looking at dangerous beaches involving RNLI who are extending their beach guard force, education on safety issues, educate behaviour, publication of special events such as Dracula week at Whitby, New Year's Day dip at S'bro, publicise more refreshment places near the coast, publicise places of interest along the coast, Forum should keep an eye on wind turbine development re siting of structures, fishing & fish stocks, installation of more eco friendly power sources eg sea bed turbines, marine protected areas

Pet Projects from group 1

Local crafts & produce, locally made sold in local shops & cafes, instead of high local unemployment due to cheap mass produced imports, freeshare centre to swap things obsolete or no longer needed, St. Hilda's project building on history of St. Hilda eg St. Hilda's well @ Hinderwell, wooden boat festival in Staithes with coble & keel boat society, wooden boats, singing & re-enactments, marine eco tourism [provision of marine studies facilities and integration of existing marine interpretation] , education centre @ Skinningrove for all age groups.

Mr. Barfoot thanked attendees for their comments and suggested that these will be taken into consideration when making the EU LEADER funding bid.

Forum closed at 3.30pm