

Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth  
 Longroom House  
 RM Barracks Stonehouse  
 Stonehouse  
 Plymouth  
 PL1 3RT

QHM 532/7

9 June 2011

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2011 IN THE MO49 CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present	Representing	User Group
Cdr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master - Chairman	MOD
Mrs K Curry	Coastal Planning Co-ordinator	Plymouth City Council
Mr C Bush	Mayflower Marina	Recreation
Capt P Renshaw	539 ASRM	MOD
Cllr M Yates	Calstock Parish Council	Parish Councils
Lt Cdr R Smith	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master	MOD
Mr C Turner	Tamar Protection Society	Landscape Conservation
PC Vanstone	MDP Marine Unit	MOD
Cllr M Benson	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Parish Councils
Ms C Hollis	Public Protection Service	Plymouth City Council
Mr A Hutchings	Maker with Rame Parish Council	Parish Councils
Mr C Moyse	PPSA & Plymouth Rowing Forum	Recreation
Mr J Tuvey	ABSAC (Plymouth)	Recreation
Mr W Blagdon	British Marine Industries	Marine Commerce
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commission	Marine Commerce
Mr M Goble	Plymouth City Boatmaster	Plymouth City Council
Mr G Baker	Plymouth Sciences Partnership	Scientific Research
Ms J Simpson	Minute Secretary	MOD

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
RM Hovercraft Presentation	Prior to the meeting the Royal Marine hovercraft gave a demonstration on the water outside MO49. Capt P Renshaw from 1 AGRM then gave a short presentation on the hovercraft and how it will be used once the Royal Marines move into Weston Mill.	
Port Health Functions	Ms Christine Hollis from Plymouth City Council's Public Protection Service gave a presentation on the work and responsibilities of the service. Further information can be found at Annex A attached and on the website: <a href="http://www.excelpublishing.co.uk/magazine/APHA-handbook/">http://www.excelpublishing.co.uk/magazine/APHA-handbook/</a>	
1. Introduction.	a Cdr C Necker welcomed those present to the meeting and asked individuals to introduce themselves and to identify their parent organisation.	
2. Apologies for Absence.	a. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr G Black (NE), Mr D Curno (RYA), Mr P Wiseman (Michelmores Hughes), Mr R Halliday (DofC), Mr J Hepburn (MP), and Mr A Rye (PSA). It was reported that Mr M Kester had retired as City Boatmaster and was replaced by Mr M Goble.	

3. Notes of the previous meeting.	The notes of the previous meeting held on 17 February 2011 were accepted with the exception of Mr Guy Baker's organisation. The correct title for his organisation is the Plymouth Sciences Partnership and not the Marine Biological Association.											
4. Matters arising.	Para 10d. Cllr Benson reported that the Weir Quay slipway has suffered recent damage. Capt Renshaw assured Cllr Benson that all the RM landing craft crews have been informed that they are not to use Weir Quay for their exercises without permission. QHM stated that any concerns should be addressed to RM Turnchapel.											
5. SAC Matters.	In Mr Black's absence, CPC included the SAC Matters in her own TECF report.											
6. TECF Matters.	CPC's report is attached at Annex A.  In Paragraph 4, CPC reported that Finding Sanctuary have proposed that the Tamar Estuaries be considered as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) as it is the only known breeding site for the Smelt. CPC asked Mr Baker to investigate whether Plymouth Marine Science Partnership had any data on Smelt breeding activity, distribution and habits.	Mr Baker										
7. Dredging	<p>a. DQHM reported that the dredging in the Naval Base, Millbay and Queen Anne's Battery has now finished. The next area to be dredged will be Weston Mill ready for the DLCCP move. DQHM reported that sampling has been done and they are now awaiting the results. Capt Charlesworth reported that Yacht Haven Marina are hoping to do some water injection dredging in the near future and has asked them to keep him informed.</p> <p>b. The MMO Rame Head Disposal Site Report which came out in February stated that the disposal site complies with the law and is within the recommended levels. The full report can be found on the MMO website. <a href="http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm">http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm</a></p> <p>c. Rame Head Disposal Site Meeting – please see section 7 of CPC's report (attached).</p>											
8. Water Events	<p>a. DQHM reported that the Water Events Diary for 2011 can be found on QHM's website <a href="http://www.ghmplymouth.org.uk">www.ghmplymouth.org.uk</a> which includes all the regular yacht races that take place each year.</p> <p>Other events are:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="389 1668 1252 1836"> <tr> <td>P1 Superstock Power Boats</td> <td>– 16 – 17 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plymouth Regatta</td> <td>– 30 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fastnet Finish</td> <td>– 16 August 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firework Competition</td> <td>– 16 – 17 August 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>America's Cup Event</td> <td>– 10 – 18 September 2011</td> </tr> </table> <p>b. DQH explained that the America's Cup Event will take place over 9 days in September but the infrastructure will be arriving in Millbay Docks from the end of August. During the event there will be a large screen on Plymouth Hoe and the screen in the Piazza will also show the event. Further discussion followed on the event.</p>	P1 Superstock Power Boats	– 16 – 17 July 2011	Plymouth Regatta	– 30 July 2011	Fastnet Finish	– 16 August 2011	Firework Competition	– 16 – 17 August 2011	America's Cup Event	– 10 – 18 September 2011	
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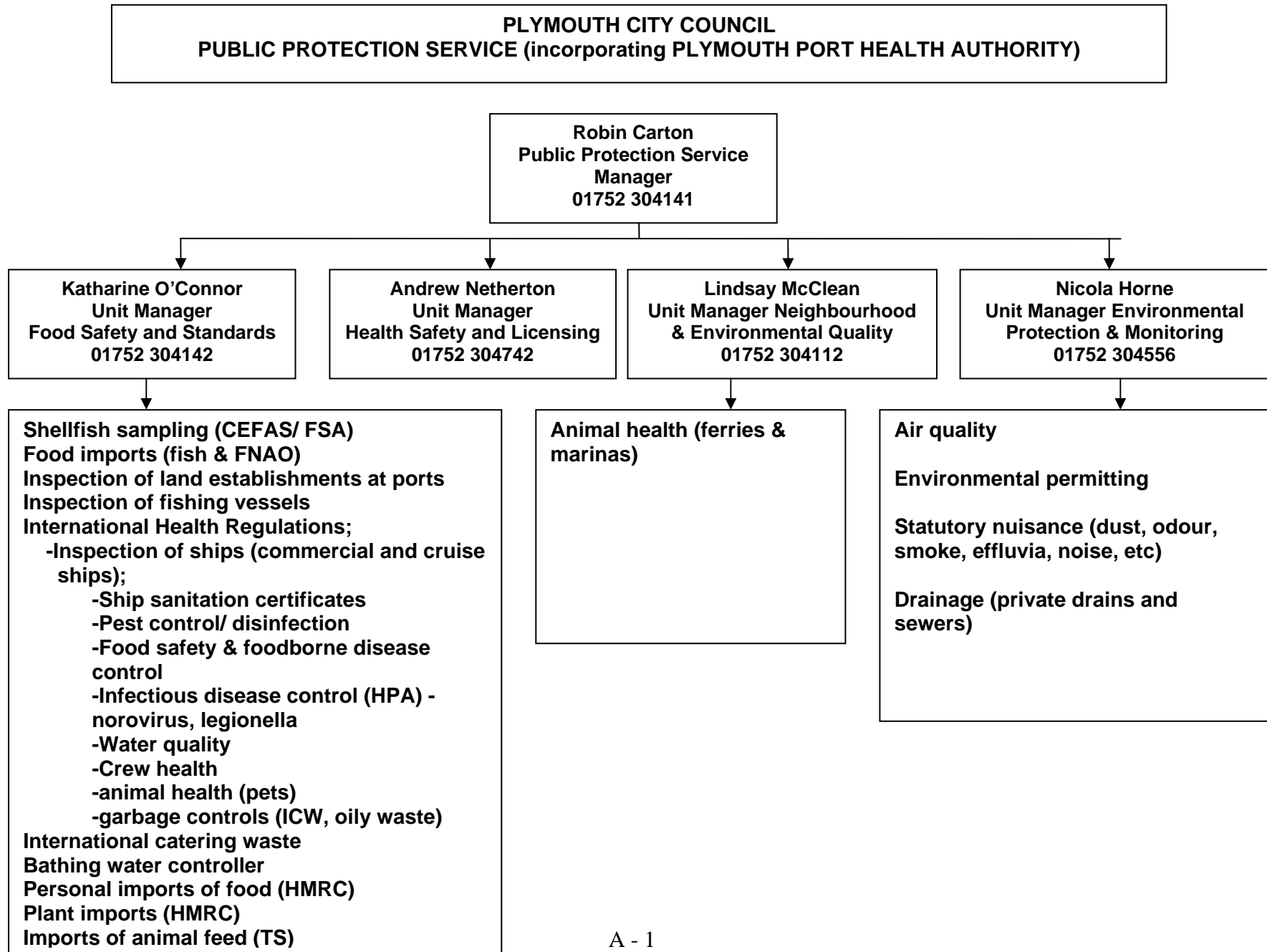
	<p>c. Chris Moyse reported that the West of England Rowing Championships will be taking place on Saturday 11 June north of Laira Bridge. This annual event continues to grow and this year approximately 200 crews will be taking part.</p>	
9. Mount Edgcumbe BioBlitz	<p>At the last meeting Mr Baker mentioned that the Plymouth Sciences Partnership were thinking of carrying out a BioBlitz in the Plymouth Area. A BioBlitz is a 24 hour nature recording exercise by marine and terrestrial experts to take records of wildlife above and below the water. This has been arranged for Friday 30 September to Saturday 1 October in the Mount Edgcumbe area. They are inviting members of the public to join the experts to carrying out the survey. Discussion followed on the event and what permissions may be required to carry out the event. Mr Baker agreed to forward detailed proposals to QHM once known to ensure the event is conducted safely.</p>	Mr Baker
10. Any Other Business.	<p>a. Charles Bush asked if Sarah O'Leary from the Waterfront Partnership could be invited to attend the meeting. QHM and CPC agreed to invite her to do a presentation.</p> <p>b. Cllr Yates asked if the pleasure boats that go up to Calstock still carried out disaster exercises. Discussion followed on the risk assessments of these boats and DQHM agreed to look into the history of the tripper boats and check with the MCA on the granting of licenses.</p> <p>c. DQHM reported that the new QHM website is now up and running. <a href="http://www.qhmplymouth.org.uk/">http://www.qhmplymouth.org.uk/</a> This site is easier to access, allowing people to sign up to the website to receive the Plymnavwarns and Notice to Mariners by email. It also contains links to other environmental web sites.</p> <p>d. Cllr Benson reported that he has been elected to stand on the TECF as the representative for his Parish.</p> <p>e. Ms Hollis reported that the PCC have been approached for planning permission for an ice cream boat to operate in Plymouth around the marinas etc. Discussion followed on the merits of an ice cream boat and what licences and permissions they would require. Mr Goble agreed to look into this and CPC will discuss it further with Ms Hollis.</p> <p>f. Mr Moyse reported that the water skiers north of Laira Bridge are not keeping within their designated areas which is causing problems for the rowing club. He has been reporting the incidents to Longroom Port Control, who have passed the information onto the MDP Marine Unit, investigating the incidents when they have had a boat in the vicinity. Mr Moyse has also been sending photographing evidence of the offending boats to DQHM. PC Vanstone suggested the club contacted the MDP Control Room direct in future, as well as LRPC, in order to get assistance more quickly.</p> <p>g. Mr Tuvey reported that a gil net has been found and he wondered who was responsible for removing them. DQHM explained that any net that is not being tended is illegal and should be reported to the Longroom Port Control (LRPC) to arrange for it to be lifted. The Environment Agency will then take it away and destroy it. DQHM confirmed that the net in question has already been removed.</p>	<p>QHM/CPC</p> <p>DQHM</p> <p>Mr Goble/ CPC/Miss Hollis</p> <p>Mr Moyse</p>

11. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="384 224 1302 412"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="384 224 798 280"><u>PPMLC</u></th> <th data-bbox="805 224 1302 280"><u>TECF</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 291 798 324">1400 on <b>13 October 2011</b></td> <td data-bbox="805 291 1302 324">1015 on 14 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 324 798 358">1400 on <b>9 February 2012</b></td> <td data-bbox="805 324 1302 358">1015 on 10 November 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 358 798 392">1400 on <b>14 June 2012</b></td> <td data-bbox="805 358 1302 392">1015 on 8 March 2012</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on <b>13 October 2011</b>	1015 on 14 July 2011	1400 on <b>9 February 2012</b>	1015 on 10 November 2011	1400 on <b>14 June 2012</b>	1015 on 8 March 2012	
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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

**ANNEX A**



## **ANNEX B**

**TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM**  
**c/o DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT**  
**Plymouth City Council**  
**Fl 08, Civic Centre**  
**Plymouth**  
**PL1 2AA**

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## **PPMLC Thurs 9 June 2011**

### ***6. TECF Matters: Report of TECF Coastal Planning Co-ordinator***

#### **1. Coordination of Management Framework for Tamar Estuaries**

- **Devon Maritime Forum** are looking to produce a single document detailing the marine assets for Devon.
- **Cornwall Local Development Framework:** TECF submitted detailed comments to the Cornwall LDF in order to ensure that coastal and marine issues are fully represented.

#### **2. Tamar Estuaries Management Plan 2012 – 18**

Work is currently underway drafting the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan for 2012 – 18. It has been agreed that the most efficient way of doing this is a basic refresh of the existing Plan; updating the document to reflect new legislation and introducing some key priority actions. It is anticipated that consultation will take place in Autumn.

#### **3. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**

The Marine Management Organisation's marine licensing arrangements came into force at the beginning of April 2011. This resulted in some considerable changes, so if anyone is thinking of carrying out a marine development then it is recommended that early discussions are held with the MMO in order to fully understand the implications. New powers include fines and legal action for failing to comply with the new regulations.

#### **4. Landscape & Biodiversity Conservation**

- **Saving Seahorses:** The National Marine Aquarium is looking to establish a new project looking at eelgrass beds and seahorses. Since this is one of the features for which Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries is designated, TECF will be working to support this initiative in order to improve the management of this valuable resource.
- **Finding Sanctuary and Marine Conservation Zones**

Finding Sanctuary proposed that the Tamar Estuaries be considered as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) due to it being the only known breeding site for the fish Smelt. A very quick consultation was carried out through TECF and in response the proposed designation was amended to reflect the SSS1 boundaries. TECF also requested further scientific research in order to improve our understanding of the smelt population; its distribution and habits.

The other MCZ close to Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries is the proposed Whitsand Bay MCZ, which has the potential to impact on the Rame Head disposal site.

Overall the Finding Sanctuary project is nearing its conclusion and there are now no more opportunities to influence the content of the developing Network of MCZs. The only issues left to consider will be the conservation objectives and management measures, and it will be important that the members of TECF continue to have an input into these as they could have a direct bearing on their operations. These conservation objectives are currently being drafted by Natural England and will relate to the species and habitats for which each MCZ has been designated.

The current timescale is for the final public consultation on the proposed network of MCZs will take place either towards the end of 2011 or early 2012.

## 5. Education & Awareness

**Blue Sound:** Work is continuing to engage young people with their local marine environment. The Project Officer, Bex House, has put together a programme of events, training courses and schools sessions over the summer. The website has also gone live which will feature a guide to the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and panels are due to go up on both the Torpoint and Cremyll Ferry. Further details from [rebhou@mba.ac.uk](mailto:rebhou@mba.ac.uk) or from the website [www.bluesound.org](http://www.bluesound.org)

**Pottery Quay Clean Up:** In April a community beach clean took place at Pottery Quay, just north of where the Torpoint Ferry comes in. This was a terrific community event run by West Country Housing Association. A whole lorry full of rubbish was pulled out of the area by local people as well as a community service team, there was a BBQ and Blue Sound ran the interpretive events for the youngsters.

**Plymouth Wildlife Trail:** a new leaflet has been produced as part of the Plymouth Summer Festival. The leaflet features a trail around the city centre and the Waterfront and is aimed particularly at families. For the first time it includes information on the European Marine Site.

**New Logo for the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site:** A competition has been run to design a logo to represent the European Marine Site. The competition has been run by TECF in partnership with the Marine Institute, National Marine Aquarium and Marine Biological Association and the brief was to come up with one image which represents the full diversity of the European Marine Site.

30 Entries have been received and a final judging panel will select the winning design over the coming weeks. The entries will be on show at the PPMLC meeting and views will be sought from members. The entries also featured at the recent World Oceans Day event held in Plymouth on Wed 8 June.

**World Oceans Day:** Plymouth City Council joined forces with the Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership to celebrate World Oceans Day in a showcase event of the Piazza. The event celebrated the city's leading role in marine research and showed people what they can do to help protect the oceans. TECF had a stand and used the opportunity to show the logo competition and invite comments.

## 6. Planning & Marine Licensing Issues

- Current planning and marine planning applications include the following:
    - **Turnchapel:** Preapplication discussions are currently taking place for a housing development in the old Quarry site at Turnchapel.
    - **Howards Quay Marina:** Whilst a planning application has been submitted, there are still issues related to the blast zone.
    - **Baylys Slipway** – the appellant has lost his appeal against the enforcement actions. The Inspector cited unacceptable impacts on the character and appearance of the area as well as unacceptable impacts on intertidal and subtidal land.
    - **Weston Mill: Landing Craft** – The planning application for a new landing craft facility in Weston Mill Lake has been granted. The work includes buildings, marina, slipways and dredging.
    - **Waste to Energy Plant:** The planning application has now been received for the waste to energy plant at the top of Western Mill Lake.
    - **Royal William Yard:** new walkway to go round one of the buildings and installation of pedestrian access through from Devils Point – this has been granted.
    - **Southdown Marina:** matters ongoing regarding unlicensed marina.
    - **Tamar and Tavy Viaducts:** Network Rail have submitted an application for a marine licence in order to repair the viaducts and railway embankments.
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## 7. Rame Head Disposal Site Meeting

The Marine Management Organisation have completed their review of the Rame Head Disposal site. Prof Micheal Elliot of the University of Hull carried out the work and came to the conclusion that based on the current scientific evidence “*there is little economic or environmental justification for moving the disposal site further offshore, into deeper water or for considering other onshore disposal options*”. He went onto say that “*if the material being dredged did have an economic value and use, then this should be considered but this is unlikely because of its nature. This would also have environmental consequences*”.<sup>1</sup> (Elliot & Mazik, 2011. pp81)

The work was endorsed by Dr Mel Austen, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the MMO Board who is based in the Plymouth Marine Laboratories. She went onto say that the conclusions drawn from the review from the analysis of the evidence in these studies and reports appear to be sound and sensible, that any observed elevations in silt and contaminants in the area could as likely derive from natural current-induced flows of

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<sup>1</sup> Elliot, M. and Mazik, K. 2011. *Rame Head Environmental Impact Study: Review of Evidence*; Report to Marine Management Organisation, Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull.

[http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/ramehead.htm](http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm)

Kaja Curry, Coastal Planning Co-ordinator, Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum, c/o Planning & Regeneration, Plymouth City Council, Civic Centre F18, Plymouth. PL1 2AA.Tel 01752 304339

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material and that there is little or no evidence of sustained ecological impacts. She also endorsed the view that there is no evidence to suggest that more recent litter drives from current or recent dredge material disposal practices.<sup>2</sup>

The Marine Management Organisation called a meeting in Millbrook which was held late in the afternoon on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting was to discuss, with local stakeholders, the findings of the report and talk about the next steps.

The meeting was well attended there was plenty of opportunities for the MMO to hear directly from local residents.

The meeting agreed to create a local group to pursue the concerns raised and the MMO have stated that they will continue to work with those who volunteered to join the group to help it establish itself.

Edward Shaw, Parish Councillor for Rame and Maker, offered to Chair the first meeting of the group and the MMO will be contacting the following people and organisations whom it was agreed at the last meeting would be invited, to confirm arrangements:

- Queen's Harbour Master and Commercial Harbour Masters (users of the disposal site)
- Crown Estate
- Plymouth Marine Science Partnership
- Natural England
- Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
- Cornwall Council
- Parish Council

Along with members of the local community who volunteered to join the group:

- Dave Peake
- Julie Elworthy
- Tony Steenhagen
- Councillor Brian Hobbs

It was also agreed that other organisations such as the Environment Agency and the MMO would be invited to advise the group as appropriate. The Rame Head pages of the MMO's website will be kept updated with the latest information.

([http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/ramehead.htm](http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm)) The terms of reference are to be agreed at the first meeting but it is anticipated that it will operate under Chatham House Rules.

Mrs Kaja Curry  
**Coastal Planning Co-ordinator**  
**Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum**  
**June 2011**

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<sup>2</sup> Marine Management Organisation, 2011 *Evidence Summary: Rame Head Disposal Site Review*. MMO  
[http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/documents/ramehead/evidence\\_summary.pdf](http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/documents/ramehead/evidence_summary.pdf)