

Bude Partnership

Theme Groups: Built and Natural Heritage



Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2007.

Present: David Chadwick (NCDC), Birgit Dell, Val Newman, Lucille Opie, Bryan Dudley-Stamp and Ali Rowe: facilitator.

Agenda:

- 1 What (if anything needs changing in preparation for the second public consultation event on 10th Nov?
- 2 What can be pulled out from the comments so far, and what research can we be carrying out now?
- 3 How and when will this group meet next?

1 Further Consultation Event(s)

The comments etc on the subject of the Built and Natural Heritage had been circulated before the meeting. It was agreed that since no comments had been received about it, Binhamy Castle should be included as a separate 'subject' on Saturday.

- 2 Discussion Based on the Comments Received so far** (To be read in conjunction with the précis of comments previously circulated.)

Crooklets

David Chadwick reported that NCDC have set aside money for development of the Crooklets beach area. This includes £1000k extra for the café, £50k for improving the beach huts at both beaches and £240k for a surf life saver centre, in partnership with the RNLI, including training facilities. This will allow improved access and the sorts of other improvements that people have asked for in our consultation. These are based on the 'Planning for Real' project that took place previously, of which David has the results.

Maer Down Beach Walks North to Northcott / Dogs on Beach

It would not be possible to improve the access to the north end of the Crooklets beach from the downs to allow walk along the beach towards Northcott, (as requested by one disabled resposdee) as this cliff is National Trust property. However, the problem would be solved if Crooklets was the beach on which dogs were allowed, instead of Summerleaze. It was reported that this had been discussed before and may be on the agenda again.

Heritage / Coast Information Area(s)

This was agreed to be a wonderful idea, and Val suggested that the old Forge/Old Museum could become a heritage/wildlife centre. (This was Val's second great idea of the day.) It was reported that the Council had written to the Canal Society asking whether this building could be used as a canal centre. It was agreed that the building could easily serve as both.

It was also agreed that there could be signs explaining flora/fauna and geology etc at different sites, e.g. on the Downs, at gates. The Coast and Countryside Service was mentioned and Ali will contact them. (Action: Ali) It was noted that there is a plethora of good information leaflets at

the TIC but local people – and others – may not think to go there to look for them, and the various information media are not linked to each other.

Castle

Concern had been expressed that the Castle, although re-developed wonderfully – is divorced from the community. The ramp at the back seems too steep. There are not enough visitors going to the Castle.

3 Future Meetings:

It was agreed that Ali should send copies of the minutes to all those on the Economy, Employment and Skills Theme Group who had not managed to attend today, for their comments and information. All members will communicate with each other on their actions etc between now and the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Theme Group was penciled in for **Thursday 3rd December (9.30):** provided everyone can make that date and it is agreed that a meeting is needed.