

Beach Liaison Group Meeting

Friday 11th July 2025

2pm

Venue - Wembury Marine Centre

Minutes

Attendees:

Coral Smith (CS) (Chair)	DWT Wembury Marine Centre
Jake Taylor-Bruce (JT)	DWT Wembury Marine Centre
Sarah Brown (SB)	Local Sea swimmers
Jess Tatton-Brown (JTB)	National Trust
Matthew Voller (MV)	National Trust
Rob Price (RP)	Environment Agency
Andy Brown (AB)	Wembury Sailing Club
Peter Bromley (PB)	Wembury Sailing Club

1. Apologies:

- Cllr Alison Nix (SHDC/WPC)
- Belinda Kemp (St Werburgh Church)
- Samantha Barnes (NT)
- Tom Stansell (CW)
- Tom Hibbert (CW)
- John Stansell (CW)

2. Actions arising from last meeting:

- Mewstone Sign – NT will erect this season. **DONE**
- **ACTION CS** to try to seek a response and invite someone from SWW at next meeting. **REMOVE ACTION**
- Dog bins - Still waiting on an update from Cllr Nix regarding the Dog Poo bins – **ACTION CS** to contact Cllr Rix. **ACTION DONE - EMAIL SENT April 24.**
- **ACTION CS** to ask WPC to invite someone from Fort Bovisand/SWW to present to WPC and/or BLG. **CARRY FORWARD VIA CLLR STANSELL**
- PN wanted to remind members that there are also legal restrictions around fishing in particular – please report to IFCA – photographs/evidence required. **ACTION CS** to attach enforcement poster - <https://images.app.goo.gl/dAFoitKZbcMW9ADR8>
- Question about seaweed collection – **ACTION CS** to insert response based on CoC and NT
- **ACTION CS** to urge WPC to seek meeting with SWW and EA to clarify all of the above

- **ACTION CS** to urge WPC to seek answer as to why Wembury isn't being tested (is it because of treatment works) and if not, then can daily SWW testing take place and results shared?
- 'Yealm Catchment Plan' is hoping to combine citizen science water quality data from various sources – Diane Castle from Yealm Estuary to Moor is taking the lead and will be attending Wembury MCA AGM tonight. **ACTION CS AND PN** to liaise with Diane.
- CS mentioned difficulty in getting community event posters into WPC noticeboards. **ACTION Cllr Stansell** to take this back to WPC and ask for community event posters to be supported in noticeboards.
- Landslip in car park on beach side – likely due to water run-off from car park and field above. Fence has been moved inward – still a bit of work to do. JP mentioned behind the shop is very soft and concerned that it may slip and/or safety hazard. **ACTION NT** to organise reccie of pipes at low tide.
- The new path in lower mill meadow is being washed out again at the bottom of Church Road- culvert under road is tiny and stream height is higher than the road. NT un-blocked all culverts and will get a contractor in to create more space to bring water off the road. This issue is not a result of anything happening on NT land – simply too much water coming down with nowhere to go. **ACTION ALL** members please take photos and report to DCC Highways – it is their responsibility
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>
- DWT & NT are a partner and NT have an apprentice as part of this, who is learning countryside skills. Lots of free courses for local residents to get involved with. **ACTION CS** to insert link to project page - <https://www.southdevon-nl.org.uk/projects/life-on-the-edge/>
- JP would like to be copied in on events – what is happening and when. **ACTION CS and SB** to share 2025 events details with all partners.
- **ACTION all partners** to send CS all 2025 events details please.
- **ACTION CS** to include guidance from Cornwall Seal Group RT – 'Give Seals Space' -
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oT390e4HIVrl7A0_q2uLChup49AI8ED3
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oT390e4HIVrl7A0_q2uLChup49AI8ED3
- Emergency phone – regularly reported as failing but when checked it is usually working. WPC are considering replacing handset. Salcombe Harbour are responsible for the line. WPC to consider whether it is necessary to keep the line, esp. given the issues with the line. Open Reach stated there are 2 lines in the box in café courtyard, - 1 is for café so the other must be for the emergency line. **ACTION CS** to seek update from WPC about replacement and whether WPC want to keep it going.
- Link to Tamar Abstraction Licensing Strategy – which covers Wembury area. Water resources are a huge issue now, with climate change increasing strain on resource, and therefore it is important people engage with this. **ACTION partners to read and share** as appropriate
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tamar-abstraction-licensing-strategy/tamar-abstraction-licensing-strategy>
- EA report on salmon stocks has been published – bad news for salmon – bycatch (at sea) is a huge issue. Factory Trawling going on in the Atlantic. Fisheries colleagues are working on this, not RP. **ACTION PN** to seek update from Matt Healy or share notes from TECF meeting where it was mentioned. CS has found this - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-of-salmon-stocks-and-fisheries-england-and-wales-2023>

3. Updates from Stakeholders:

Water Quality Update – Rob Price – Environment Agency

- Yellow Fish Campaign - grateful to NT for allowing project to trial posters in two drains in the car park. Raises awareness of what we put down drains and that they drain straight into the water course. Also thinking about how we use water – when we add to already stretched systems, e.g., during heavy rain. Visitor engagement with boat users – pump don't dump!
Phase 2 will hope to include high footfall areas at top of village.
ACTION CS to insert link to yellow fish campaign: [Yellow fish remind people how they can reduce sea pollution - GOV.UK](#)
- Hoping to move beyond to do more engagement around Wembury Stream – bovine and misconceptions (Church Road) are the two main sources of pollution – dog & equine pollution evident also, so engagement and awareness there could also help the problem.
<https://marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/2018/10/24/bag-it-and-binit4beaches/>
- Q around bathing water alerts – how do they work and can we monitor the number of days (and dates) Wembury Beach pollution risk forecast signs are erected to feedback to group periodically. Partners can access the SWIMFO website at any time to see how many pollution risk forecasts have been issued. **ACTION CS** to include link: [Bathing water profile](#)
- National performance on regulation of water industry <https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2025/03/17/4000-inspections-and-counting-how-were-driving-water-industry-performance/>
- EA working on Yealm to reinstate saltmarsh – Angus Garber – it's one of the best examples of intertidal saltmarsh in the whole of South Devon
- Increased visits to 4000 water asset companies – 38% not compliant, 18% of which seriously non-compliant, which have had action taken against them. New benchmark of 10,000 visits over the next two years
- EA 5 year-plan has been released – **ACTION RP** to send link:

National Trust (JTB & MV)

- Community litter picks happening monthly and having a good turn out – still collecting dog poo bags despite bins on main beach and Wembury Pt. NT staff and vols doing lots to try and solve the issue.
ACTION All please share picks with community: [Community litter pick | National Trust](#)
- Lots of awesome events going on over summer hols thanks to Sam B going on over the summer hols.
ACTION CS include link to NT website: [Events at Wembury](#)
- Repairs to sea wall complete – will buy time whilst NT decide about what to do with the toilets.
- Current budgetary issues and national re-structure within NT could mean it's unlikely that much will happen in the coming year.
- New NT coastal management plan indicates changes to assets as a result of climate change.
- NT and DWT partnership working really well at Wembury Marine Centre
- Partnership work on Mewstone confirms presence of rats – upcoming meeting to discuss findings and options.

- Partnership work with EA for Mill Meadow Wetlands Project going really well – events coming up to increase community engagement including a dragonfly making events (see previous link to NT events page)
- JTB trying to get DCC Highways to finish improvement to access road.

Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group (PN)

- IFCA reporting – see above & [Reporting Illegal Fishing | Devon & Severn IFCA | Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- AGM last November – John H will be standing down as Secretary and group are seeking a replacement.
- Meeting with Amelia Sturgeon from TECF – very supportive of Wembury and it will be featured in their new management plan.
- PN is Wembury rep for TECF and CS/CC is rep for PPMLC – two major committees – giving a voice for Wembury MCA
- Code of Conduct for MCA is being revised – to make simpler, more direct and more visual.
- WMCA AG continue to respond to IFCA and others on fisheries management consultations – e.g., vivier equip boats for crab potting.
- PN seeking new secretary as JH standing down this year.

Devon Wildlife Trust/Wembury Marine Centre (JTB & CS)

- Peak school season coming to an end.
- Weather has so far been better than last year (!)
- Rainbow sea slug find on first snorkel safari of the season was very exciting.
- NT partnership/office co-location has made comms much easier and more efficient.
- Work on Mewstone declining seabird populations – see above comments.
- Q about avian flu – still around (nationally) but not linked to Mewstone declines which have been longer term
- DWT new marine strategy
- DWT Bottom towed gear campaign and marine appeal. **ACTION All** please share the below links:
 - [Save our seas - Ban bottom trawling | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)
 - [Code Blue: Save Devon's Seas | Devon Wildlife Trust](#)
- National Marine Weeks coming up 26th July – 9th August – see website and help promote events [National Marine Week | The Wildlife Trusts](#)
- Wembury Pirate Day – BH Monday 25th August **TBC**

Wembury Sailing Club (AB & PB)

- Hopefully the boat park is being used more over summer due to the good weather.
- Kayak spaces have filled a few empty boat spaces.
- People can apply from out of parish (25%)
- Rosta for locking the gate has been working really well.
- No events planned this year.

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- Discussion around mass events which are so great for community engagement, but individuals are struggling to keep them going either due to lack of volunteer support or H&S/liability requirements, e.g., NYD Swim, Plymouth Sailing Regatta.

Sea swimmers (SB)

- Swimming has been really good over the past month or so.
- Lots of people swimming early in the morning
- Some locals, some out of village
- Litter has been ok other than poo bin being filled with litter.
- NT plan to change lid to make it more difficult.
- Partners feel generally the litter has reduced on beach, though potentially increased in car park.

AOB

- RP mentioned reporting of pollution incidents – can now be done online as well as phone <https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem>

Date of next meeting

- ACTION CS to send date to members - **THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2025 10am**