



Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2008

Friday 18th April 2007, West Park Conference Centre Perth Road, Dundee

Report

Over 65 delegates attended this year's annual Tay Estuary Forum Conference in Dundee. The day was split into 3 sessions: *Planning and the Community*, *Diversity and Access* and an afternoon session, "*Towards a Tay Estuary Forum Management Plan*". Feedback has been encouraging with delegates supportive of the proposed Management Plan with many offers of text, images and data to include in the drafting stages. There was a good geographical coverage of speakers, from local environmental initiatives to Scotland-wide schemes/ studies.

The Project Officer's Update illustrated work done to date by the Forum and future plans, in which the Management Plan features predominantly, during 2008/9.

Session 1: Planning and Community

Tom Ball (University of Dundee) reviewed findings from a SNIFFER-funded study looking at coastal flooding incidences along the Scottish coast. Peter Marshall (Dundee City Council) then went on to describe the development of the Dundee City Region Strategic Plan. Maureen Burgess provided an excellent example of a community-led initiative, the Newburgh Community Trust and its future plans. Finally, Kenny Taylor (SEPA) followed on from last year's River Basin Planning talks and gave an account on progress made to date.

Session 2: Diversity and Access

Fiona Manson (SNH) introduced the Marine Wildlife Watching Code and explained how it can be adopted in Tayside followed by Mark Simmons (Tayside Geodiversity) who spoke about Tayside's geological heritage and the importance of preserving such sites. RSPB Scotland's Claire Smith gave an informative presentation on Sea Eagles and the successful re-introduction of the birds along the East Coast of Scotland. Julian Inglis (Fife Coast and Countryside Trust) spoke about Tentsmuir Interpretation Plans to be implemented over 2008/9 and finally Kate Morison (Fife Coast and Countryside Trust) updated on progress of the Tay coastal path to Newburgh.

Session 3: Management Plan

Three groups (Estuary, TEF North, TEF South), representative of the 3 geographical regions of the TEF discussed major initiatives, areas of complimentary or competing activities within their area and how they would wish to make use of the final plan within their individual organisations. After 45 min discussion, all groups met back in the main auditorium for an open forum which pulled together common themes from the groups and identified the necessary "next steps" in drafting the plan. Focus groups were mentioned as a way of reviewing each regional draft before being compiled as the final plan.