



News and Events Update

January 2012

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the January edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. Click the links to read the full articles on our website. Please also please find attached a PDF version with full articles, if you prefer to download and read at your leisure.

Kind regards,

Alasdair, NWCF

NWCF News

SUSTAIN news

January 16, 2012

The latest SUSTAIN English national newsletter is available to download here: [SUSTAIN e-news 2](#). This summarises the progress made to date by the partners – which include the North West Coastal Forum working with Sefton Council – and showcases work taking place in Sefton on the Landscape Partnership Scheme, as well as some of the exchanges of good practice that have been taking place in the SUSTAIN partnership.

The SUSTAIN project is all about assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy on the coast and 12 partners from across Europe are involved in developing a toolkit for local authorities. For more information on SUSTAIN see the [project page](#) or visit www.sustain-eu.net - the multi-lingual project website which has recently been updated with a wealth of new information on partner activity.

Regional News

Formby Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade

January 17, 2012

United Utilities have announced a £2.5 million improvement scheme for the Formby works at Altcar Lane. This will include 4 new screens, a new pumping station and associated works and will ensure that wastewater entering the Alt will be of better quality, meeting strict EU standards on ammonia levels. See the [United Utilities](#) website for further details.

Royal Navy Surveys Mersey for Mines

January 13, 2012

The Royal Navy's minehunters HMS Brocklesby and the Sandown class HMS Grimsby were in the Mersey at the end of last year, surveying the river as part of an anti-terrorist planning operation. The project is part of a UK-wide survey of the country's harbours and approaches and survey information will update a database that will be used if any future operation needs to clear seaways and maritime infrastructure.

A video of the activity in the Mersey is available on the [BBC website](#)

NW-IFCA Update

January 11, 2012

The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NW-IFCA) are currently assessing the Ribble cockle fishery after its **closure in November** last year due to intense fishing. There is concern that the stocks may have been further reduced by the gales in early January and it is unlikely that the fishery will open again this season.

A mussel fishery on the Dee at West Kirby is due to open on **Monday 16th January**, for which a permit is required. Full details on how to obtain this are available on the [NWIFCA's website](#).

West Lancs Consultation on Local Plan

January 11, 2012

West Lancashire Council have opened a consultation on their Local Plan Preferred Options. The 15-year plan was originally consulted upon in May 2011 and the latest plans contain changes as a result of the comments, including a higher housing target and the release of green belt land for houses and the development of Edge Hill University.

A full list of the changes, and all plan documents, as well as instructions on how to comment can be found on the [West Lancs Website](#).

The consultation runs from **January 5th to February 17th 2012**

Fylde Coast Sea Defences to be Replaced

January 3, 2012

Blackpool and Wyre councils have set aside a budget of £70-£100m for the rebuilding of sea defences on the Fylde coast. The project at Anchorsholme, Blackpool, involves the reconstruction of 1km sea wall and promenade, whilst at Rossall, Fleetwood, 1.9km rock armour and sea wall will

be constructed. The council has opened the tender process for the work, which closes on February 22nd.

More information can be found on the [Place North West website](#).

Blackpool Regeneration Project Approved

January 3, 2012

Blackpool Council has granted planning permission to build the first part of a £220m regeneration project for the city centre. The scheme will include a new Sainsbury's store, the refurbishment of a multi-story carpark, and a new council office building.

More details can be found on the [Place North West website](#)

Outer Solway Offshore Wind

December 16, 2011

DONG Energy have begun a feasibility project to investigate the potential for an offshore windfarm in the outer Solway Firth. The study is set to continue for the next four months and DONG have indicated that local consultations will be conducted in the new year.

For more information, visit the [project website](#).

National News

MPs Recommend Draft Planning Framework Changes

January 3, 2012

A Commons Select Committee reviewing the draft of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have stated that the default answer of 'yes' to development should be removed, as it "carries the risk of the planning system being used to implement unsustainable development". The review also said that the phrase 'significantly and demonstrably' must also be removed from the presumption that all planning applications should be approved unless the adverse effects 'significantly and demonstrably' outweigh the benefits, because it adds a further barrier to the achievement of truly sustainable development.

More details, including the full report, can be read on the [Parliamentary website](#).

International News

European Marine Social Survey

January 11, 2012

A European-wide survey into what the public values in the marine environment and governance has been published. The study, part of the [KnowSeas project](#), which is supported by the European Commission's FP7, interviewed 7000 individuals from 7 countries (1000 from each), including the UK, and the results highlight the importance of education and communication in driving ocean

citizenship.

The study, *Public Perceptions of Europe's Seas – a Policy Brief*, can be downloaded in full from the [KnowSeas website](#).

Open Consultations

[Revocation of Regional Spatial Strategy](#)

Click link above for more information - **closes 20th January 2012**

[West Lancashire Local Plan](#)

Click link above for more information - **closes 17th February 2012**

Conferences and Events

For information on upcoming relevant conferences and events, please visit the Events page on our webpage: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/>