



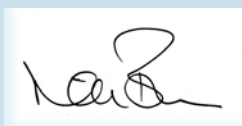
## All Aboard at Westminster!

### Welcome to the Spring 2014 CPN Newsletter

The last few months since the 2013 Annual Forum have been a busy time for the new Coastal Partnerships Network Committee.

This past winter has shown just how valued our coasts and estuaries are; for their economic, cultural and natural importance. We have also seen how dynamic an environment this is, how it changes and how we are all affected by that change process.

I hope you enjoy reading what we've been up to and look forward to receiving your comments and input to our work going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall'.

*Niall Benson, CPN Chairman*



### Key Contacts

#### Chair

Niall Benson, Durham Heritage Coast  
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#### Vice Chairs

Tony Child, NE Kent MPA  
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Sue Hawley, Isle of Wight Estuaries  
[susan.hawley@iow.gov.uk](mailto:susan.hawley@iow.gov.uk)

Caroline Salthouse, NW Coastal Forum  
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On 17<sup>th</sup> March our Chair, Niall Benson met with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, George Eustice, MP. The meeting was requested by Niall on behalf of CPN. Jill Goddard, outgoing Executive Director of TEP and her incoming replacement, Pat Fitzsimons were also present, along with other members of the TEP team and the CPN Vice Chair, Caroline Salthouse.

This was not just another office-bound talking shop; Jill harnessed the full power of the Port of London Authority and we were treated to a return trip on a PLA patrol craft from Westminster Pier to Canary Wharf!

The Minister was briefed by Jill and the team on the wonderful work of the TEP, which provided a great introduction to the work of Coastal Partnerships across the country; each one different, each one special, but all with the coast and the participation of people in common.

The discussion then moved on to CPN, covering a wide agenda including the proposed EU Directive on Marine Planning, no longer to include Integrated Coastal Management and how this lost opportunity is regretted by coastal partnerships. We discussed the MMO's programme for Marine Plans and how coastal partnerships could assist in the effective development and delivery of these. We also covered European Marine Site governance and the ever present difficulties around finance, but also explored their benefits and value.



Other topics covered included the early success of the 'Coastal Concordat' in reducing bureaucratic burdens and how coastal partnerships are engaging with the Catchment Based Approach to river and coastal water management. The concept of Citizen Science was discussed and how this developing field could and should feature much more strongly around our coast. We

have an amazing body of volunteers and the introduction of rigorous scientific practice adds considerable value to the quality and use of data collected and not least adding immeasurably to the volunteer experience. Supporting this work from on a national scale was emphasised, hopefully not too strongly!

From a CPN perspective this was a thoroughly successful briefing meeting with a senior politician and his department. This success was solely down to Jill's original suggestion, the super TEP team and to the generous hosting of Port of London Authority and to their excellent staff. Thank you to all.



# Action Planning for the Future

At our last Annual Forum (Southampton, October 2013) a new committee was established:

## Chair:

Niall Benson, Durham Heritage Coast

## Vice Chairs:

Caroline Sallthouse, North West Coastal Forum (also CPN Treasurer)  
Tony Child, North East Kent Marine Protected Area  
Sue Hawley, Isle of Wight Estuaries Project

## General Committee Members:

Jane Cunningham, Manhood Peninsula Project  
Midge Kelly, Exe Estuary Partnership  
Graeme Smith, Teign Estuary Partnership

## Advisory Member:

Prof. Anthony Gallagher, Hamble Estuary Partnership

## CPN Action Plan 2014

Together we have used the outputs from the workshop sessions at the Annual Forum to produce the plan which is available to view on the CPN website and by [clicking here](#). The plan covers outward facing activity such as representation and championing coastal partnerships, sharing best practice, and internal business activity such as developing professional standards. It also includes a section on resources.



## National Links and Policy Work

Since the Forum we have been busy developing / maintaining links at national level; Niall has attended the Local Government Association's Coastal Special Interest Group, Caroline has attended 2 meetings of the newly established Estuaries and Coasts Subgroup of the National Liaison Panel re the Water Framework Directive, at the last one giving a presentation on coastal partnerships and the value of working with them (and CPN) as part of the catchment based approach. Tony attended a Defra Coastal Local Enterprise Partnership meeting in January to explore how coastal LEPS can include coastal and marine considerations within their strategies and possible roles for coastal partnerships.

On the policy front, we had a flurry of activity to attempt to retain Integrated Coastal Management in the proposed new Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning. Niall sent a letter arguing the case for its retention to all the English coastal Euro MPs. This was part of a wider effort across Europe by a range of concerned organisations but our pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears; rumour has it that most cogent references to it have been stripped out and replaced by much weaker text referring to the 'land sea interface'. We await the revised text with interest.

We are assisting Dr Steve Fletcher at Plymouth University with a workshop exploring the future of coastal partnerships as part of the MarCoPol conference 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June (see [conference website](#))

## Partnership Details

Keep these up to date - please check what is on the CPN website for your partnership (and ensure you are listed!). Also let us know if there is anyone else who should be on the CPN circulation list. Send any updated contact details to Caroline by [clicking here](#)

## Annual Forum 2014

This will be in Autumn 2014 and we would like to avoid clashes with other Coastal Partnership events. ***If you are planning an event in the autumn please let us know the dates*** so we can avoid them. Send any information to Caroline by [clicking here](#)

## General News

### Terrestrial Planning

The Planning Advisory Service has updated their National Planning Policy Framework Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist to include marine planning. See the [PAS website](#)

### Marine Planning

England's first marine plans (East Inshore and Offshore) have been formally adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Owen Paterson. See the Marine Management Organisation's [website](#)

### Consultation

Defra is seeking views on implementing the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** in the UK - closes 12/05/14. See [consultation website](#)

### EU Maritime Planning

The European Commission welcomes the EU Parliament's adoption of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, see the [Commission website](#)

### Call for Papers (closes 31 July)

The Institution of Civil Engineers' 8<sup>th</sup> Coastal Management Conference, September 2015: **'Coastal Management 2015 – Changing Coasts, Changing Climate, Changing Minds'** See the [conference website](#)