



# TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE **ISSUE 24: SUMMER 2009**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 saw the successful launch of the TEF Management Plan at the Annual Conference at West Park Conference Centre in Dundee. Thanks to all those who attended, especially to those who gave presentations or chaired sessions, helping the day run smoothly. The Management Plan and conference attracted positive press coverage (see Item 2). Please get in touch with the Forum if you would like a Plan mailed to you. Otherwise, it can be downloaded from the TEF website.

Work has already begun on implementing the Actions laid out in the Plan; the progress of which will be regularly reported on via this newsletter. Please keep an eye on the website for more information on events and initiatives over the Summer as well.

Best Wishes,  
Laura (Project Officer)

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## 1: TEF UPDATE

- Last Steering Group meeting held on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009**.
- Thanks to all those who contributed towards printing costs for the Plan.
- TEF are now distributing copies of the Management Plan.
- New TEF Occasional Paper available to download on Forum website.
- TEF responded to the Rural Affairs & Environment Committee in its consideration of the Scottish Marine Bill.
- Next Steering Group meeting Oct 09.

Some of the TEF Conference 2009 Delegates  
A. Edwards 2009





## Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference and Management Plan Launch Report 2009

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee**

70 delegates attended this year's Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference in Dundee. The highlight of the event was the launch of the TEF Management Plan: a non-statutory document aimed at promoting future sustainable management in the Tay Estuary and along the adjacent coastline. The plan was drafted over 2008/9 following discussions at last year's conference and a period of consultation, attracting input from a wide range of stakeholders and individuals.

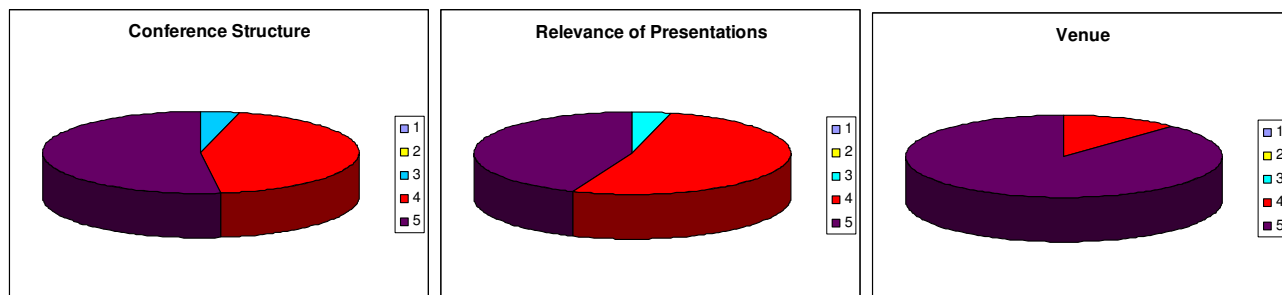
The Management Plan covers the region from the River North Esk on the Angus Coast to Fife Ness; including the Tay Estuary to Scone. It aims to unite the many initiatives operating along this diverse stretch of coast into a sustainable framework, ensuring future vitality of the region. Each delegate at the 2009 conference received a copy of the Management Plan with others being widely distributed in the forthcoming months in and around the TEF region and beyond.

The day was split into 3 sessions following the format of the Management Plan: Society, Environment and Economy. Speakers highlighted subjects raised during the TEF Management Plan consultation and review process, such as local management initiatives, renewable energy schemes, sea level change, addressing coastal access issues and beach litter, assessment and protection proposals for natural habitats and species, preservation of cultural heritage and coastal enhancement schemes. Delegates were also invited to contribute to SEPA's consultation on the Tay Area Management Plan.

The event and Management Plan received good press coverage from STV news, BBC, The Scotsman, Courier and Evening Telegraph Newspapers, radio stations Wave 102 and Tay FM.

2009 delegates represented a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations and feedback has been positive with attendees rating the conference structure, relevance of presentations and venue as follows:

(1-Poor, 5- Excellent)



Over the next year, Year1 Actions from the Management Plan will be implemented and reported on at next year's conference.

Suggestions for topics at future events:

- Fisheries
- Broughty Ferry Vision Project
- Riverside Nature Park
- Sea planes
- Marine Bill and Marine Management Organisation
- Saltmarsh habitat in the Tay
- Flooding Bill

### 3. Defra Consultation: Coastal communities to have their say

People who live and work in coastal communities are being invited to have their say in how their community can adapt to the challenges of coastal change and the impact this has on England's coastline.

With the risk of coastal erosion and flooding set to increase over the next 100 years, the consultation published by Defra on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 examines what managing coastal change could look like for individuals, businesses, local infrastructure and the historic and natural environment. It also sets out ideas on how the Government can best support local communities.

Ideas on assistance for communities, which could include 'buy and lease back' schemes for homes that will be lost to coastal erosion and grants to cover demolition and moving costs, are also considered.

Views are being sought on other ideas on adapting to the effects of coastal change, including:

- how local businesses should be supported;
- adaptation options for important heritage sites on our coastline should be made; and
- how to plan for changes to roads and other key local infrastructure.

#### **Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said:**

*“Coastal change and erosion threatens our coastal communities – and with a changing climate, those risks will only increase. We will defend where we can and we're investing record amounts in protecting people and property. But the sea will inevitably shape and mould our coastline, as it has always done, and we need the views of those who will be directly affected by the changing coastline on how we can adapt.”*

Mr Benn also launched an £11 million Coastal Change Fund, which gives local authorities the opportunity to 'test-drive' potential adaptation schemes in partnership with their local communities.

Successful local authorities will be able to use the fund to provide both immediate and long-term help to coastal communities. Schemes could range from helping restore coastal footpaths or maintain beach access points, to exploring innovative approaches where properties are at risk such as buy and lease back schemes.

#### **Mr Benn said:**

*“These grants will help local authorities to find creative ways of managing coastal change, as well as providing more immediate help. These pilots will help us to test some of the ideas currently being considered, to ensure that the measures we adopt are the most effective and best suited to local communities.”*

The consultation closes on 25 September 2009 and can be viewed at [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-change/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-change/index.htm)

## 4: OUT N' ABOUT 'N THE TAY!

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to encourage public involvement in the enjoyment of the Tay estuary and coastline. It highlights various attractions, walks, events and day trips for everyone to get out and about in their local region: this issue: **Seaton Cliffs Guided Walk**

### Spring along Seaton Cliffs



was a guided walk on Wednesday 6th May and was part of the Tayside Biodiversity Week. The walk follows the Angus Coastal Path along the top of the 400 million year old Red Sandstone cliffs, starting and finishing at Victoria Park, Arbroath. These red sandstone cliffs are undoubtedly the glory of the Angus coastline both for their striking geological formations like sea caves, natural arches and stacks, and their wealth of coastal wildlife.

The walk started in the sunshine at the end of Victoria Park (a good example of a raised beach) also at Whiting Ness you are able to see how these cliffs formed as a part of massive river delta, not unlike the one form by the Mississippi. As we walked up and along the coastal path we were able to get good views of some of the geological formations carved by the sea.

These have great local names such as the Needle E'e, the Mermaid's Kirk, the Blowhole and the wonderful sea stack, the De'il's Heid. We stopped to take in one of the best views along this coastline, looking north across the white pebble beaches of Cove and Carlingheugh Bays separated by the red sandstone formations called the Sphinx and the Camels Back. We then dropped down from the path to pay a visit to the Mason's Cave (a place of annual pilgrimage by the Freemasons of Arbroath), but when we were there we only saw a couple of nesting pigeons.

As we came back up to the path we had a walk around the Maiden Castle, one of three promontory forts in this area. With its trench and steep earth ridge, it would have been an area of safety 2000 years ago, that could be defended (more easily from one side only) against attack from seaborne invaders.

On our return we were able to get a good view of the Bellrock Lighthouse (200 years old, next year!) which lies 12 miles out to sea.

So we managed to pack a lot in to a two and half hour walk and I haven't even mentioned the great coastal wildlife that can be seen from this path. Great spring plants, coastal and woodland (too early for the orchids on this walk), nesting seabirds and if you're really lucky you may see the dolphins or even a whale! We even managed to get back to the car park before the rain started, great walk!



Thanks to Richard Averiss and Pam Coutts, Angus Council





# Snap a Prize



The Green Blue, the joint environment programme for the RYA and the BMF, wants all boaters to send their photos for their new photography competition 'The Good, The Bad and The Funny'.

Send in your photos of anything to do with the boating environment under the three titles and you could win yourself a great prize, maybe you will grab yourself the top prize of a fabulous waterproof Canon camera and

the chance to be featured in the RYA magazine, or a free wash and scrub with Dean and Reddyhoff, MDL or Quay marinas or some of the very latest Henri Lloyd kit.



Download the application form and rules of entry at The Green Blue website, [www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk) or email us at [info@thegreenblue.org.uk](mailto:info@thegreenblue.org.uk). Closing date is Monday 24 August 2009.



To join the mailing list of the TEF or to put forward your views, articles or pictures

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