

## English Riviera Destination Management Group

### Meeting Notes

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am-12pm

#### Agenda

##### 1. Welcome & apologies

RD welcomed all to the call.

Attendees: Rebecca Davies, TDA; Lynn Stephens, SDC (Chair); Martin Thomas, Torbay Culture; Nick Powe, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark; Steve Reynolds, TBF; Nicky Harding, Meet Devon; Kevin Mowat, Torbay Council.

Apologies: Carolyn Custerson, ERBIDCo; Cllr Swithin Long, Torbay Council; Jim Parker, Torbay Together; Gary Calland, National Trust;

Absent: Damian Offer/Alan Tyerman, TCCT; Alan Denby, TDA; Adam Luscombe, Torbay Council.

##### 2. Minutes & actions from last meeting

RD went through the actions of the last meeting;

- Action point 3a, RD completed.
- Action point 3b regarding Torbay Together representation, MT will action following today's meeting.
- Action point 3c, completed, RD will share the draft communications plan and DMG article in tomorrow's Torbay Weekly.

##### 3. Partner Updates

- RD shared key partner updates in advance of the meeting. The new style agenda will focus on meaningful discussions, where decisions need to be made and collaborate on projects.

##### 4. Discussion Points

a) Nicky Harding - Meet Devon. [Please refer to presentation sides and notes].

- SR: Great to see NH back in action and to continue the service.
- NP: Good and to see all venues to benefit.
- KM: Good to see. It has been a difficult period. KM would also to invite NH to take part in the Council's Event Strategy consultation, looking to develop a more professional approach and will arrange this with Phil Black. **Action KM.**  
KM also gave detail behind discussions taking part with the Council and Parkwood for the RICCs future. DMG partners gave their feedback and support for retaining the centre for future events, which needs investment, confirming large spaces are necessary, the market will return, and the new hotels will also raise standards and encourage business visitors. RD also confirmed business events align to the Government's Tourism Sector Deal, Tourism Zones, DMP and the Council's ambitions to be a premier destination.
- LS thanked NH for the presentation and is supportive of the partnership approach which will benefit all of Torbay and the wider economy.

- LS asked Partners if they were all happy for Nicky to remain on the DMG in her new position at Meet Devon. All supportive and agreed. **Action: Decision Made.**

b) Nick Powe - National Centre for the Stone Age [Please refer to sides].

- NP confirmed this is a working title for the project and he is looking for ideas and support from partners to take the project forward, last slides detailing 'what next'.
- LS: Grippled by presentation, exciting and thought provoking opportunity, immersive experience. Once concern to feedback on is accessibility, transport and local access.
- SR: Asked how much this would cost, NP costs are TBC.
- MT: Supportive of the ambition, vision and positivity and aim for the Place is important. Needs to be a partnership approach. Needs to have strategic alignment, with cultural vision and for the DMG, how do we help? Challenges around three main areas politics, credibility of place and legacy. Politics - understanding the potential, positivity, need strong messaging, political future proofing and support for new vs existing attractions/businesses. Credibility - we need to build the reputation of place and authority to do it well and deliver it. Legacy – utilising Great Place Scheme programme lessons learnt to support future projects.
- All supported and positively agreed there is scope to explore the detail.
- NP: what we need to do now is to explore sustainability options of how to take the project forward.
- KM: We need to join up strategic vision, joining up organisations to take projects forward into one vision for Torbay. At a cross roads now with the Heritage Strategy and Events Strategy out for consultation. Mentioning 'Local Motion' investment as a separate conversation to have with AD and NP. **Action KM/AD/NP**

c) Lynn Stephens - Skills and Workforce Development

- LS gave a skills update from SDC including a big surge in Hospitality Management enquires and registrations.
- The College is seeing more school leavers which is a positive sign of improved confidence in the sector and the future opportunities Torbay has with the new hotels investments. The Level 4 qualification developed with the new hotels is also going well.
- Adult learning campaigns are increasing with upskilling and retraining opportunities. Lots of funding at the moment including Kickstart Scheme, apprenticeships and opportunities with the Adult Education Grant.

d) Kevin Mowat - Goodrington Beach water quality

- KM gave an update on the recent issues associated to Goodrington North (Cantina end) beach water quality which has steadily worsened. Environment Agency test results are pending and the cause needs to be identified before appropriate action is taken – the worst case scenario is to close the beach for water access with signs being put up next year, this is naturally not something that anyone wants to happen. There is a thought this may be related to dogs mess on the beach, however nothing is known yet and we need to wait for the EA results. A decision will need to be made early next year what to do and there will be a risk management assessment to ascertain the less damaging option. RD asked for this to be on the next Agenda, KM also suggested to invite Simon Pinder, Marine Leisure & Beach Services Manager to give an update. **Action KM/SP.**

## 5. A.O.B

- Partners agreed to push back and rearrange 18<sup>th</sup> Nov meeting to accommodate the Christmas break. **Action RD**
- SR confirmed LS speaker slot at TBF Breakfast Bites on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- LS confirmed the new agenda format will continue, it worked well today and thanked all for partners for their contribution.