Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales

Board Meeting

16th October 2013

Paper Title	**Newborough**
Paper Reference:	NRW B (O) 46.13
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Purpose of Paper:	To provide the Board an update on the position at Newborough Forest and Warren 2013/14.
Recommendation:	To note the contents of the paper
Decision Required:	N/A

Impact: To note – all headings might not be applicable to the topic	**Impact on the Environment**: Effective use of our income will ensure that scarce resources are focussed on delivering priority outcomes. **Impact on the Economy**: Effective use of our resources ensures we demonstrate value for money to customers that we charge for our service. **Impact on Community**: Effective use of our resources ensures that we maximise the benefits to communities. **Impact on Knowledge**: n/a

Issue

1. To provide the Board with an update on the issues at Newborough Forest and Warren to the end of September 2013.

Background

2. Since 2000 FCW and CCW had been in consultation over the Forest Design Plan (FDP) for Newborough Forest in order to address the various issues over the SAC/NNR being in unfavourable condition and how best to resolve these issues.
3. In 2002 FCW/CCW set up the Liaison Partnership (LP), a group which represented all the local stakeholders, to negotiate a way forward, and to formulate a new FDP.
4. The main issue with the SAC/NNR is that the forest has stabilised what was a mobile dune system, and was potentially adversely affecting the water table within both the forest and warren area.
5. Despite many meetings with the LP and open meetings with the local community, no agreement on a way forward has been agreed.
6. FCW/CCW asked WG to undertake a review of the science involved and to arbitrate on possible solutions to the problem.
7. WG carried out this review with an interim report being published in mid September 2013. This recommended 2 small areas of clearfelling (approx 6 ha) to be felled this coming winter as test area.
8. These areas will be monitored and further recommendations will be made by WG following monitoring and evaluation.
9. The WG report was presented to the local community on September 11th at a public meeting.

Proposals and Next Steps

10. The public meeting raised various issues
    - Felling operations
    - Benefit to the local economy
    - Recreation facilities at Newborough
    - New NRW resource plan

Felling Operations:
These will be programmed in with the currently agreed ongoing thinning operations, and will take place this winter between January and March, timing is weather dependent. The timber will be felled by a local contractor from North Wales, and we are investigating selling the firewood to a local merchant from the island.

Benefit to the local economy:
The tender for the beach concessions was let for one year only due to time constraints. This was won by a local contractor from Maltraeth. This has been very successful enabling us to extend the contract over the winter period, supporting 2 jobs over the winter. We have just started the procurement process for a long term contract, 5 years, for these concessions. To date we have 9 interested parties all from Ynys Mon.

Currently we manage the facilities at Newborough via NRW's nationally procured service contracts. As from 1st April 2014 we will be able to withdraw from these contracts and procure these services locally from the Newborough/Maltraeth/Dwyran area. This will provide an opportunity for up to 2 jobs throughout the year.

Recreation facilities:
The recently redeveloped car park and trails at Newborough have significantly increased visitor numbers to the site, we currently only have 2 months worth of figures but indications are that numbers for the year will be up approx 50k, with an associated increase in income for NRW.
We will be meeting the local community council and Ynys Mon CC to discuss opportunities for the area to benefit from this increase in visitor numbers and how best NRW can assist in promoting the site.

NRW Resource Plan
We are currently starting the process to create a new Resource plan for the NRW estate at Newborough this will include both the forest and warren areas replacing old FDP and Warren management plans. This will one of the first resource plans for NRW and will embed the ecosystem approach into our new resource planning process.

Risks

11. Delay in implementing the WG report actions could result in EU intervention.
12. The monitoring and evaluation process will be open and transparent to ensure potential future operations are understood by the local stakeholders

Financial Implications

13. Limited as the forest operations will be self financing.
14. Potential costs for non forest operations such as clearing stumps etc although we are investigating markets for firewood and wood chips on the island
15. Increase in income from the car park approx £50k, we have a 5 year commitment to spend a proportion of this within Newborough forest and warren as a condition of the EU funding.

Communications

16. Communications of the issues contained within this report have been reported to the Executive Team during September, and in more detail to individual Directorate teams.