

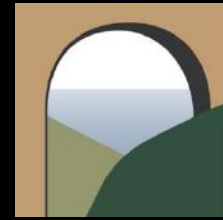
# Coastal Partnerships and their developing role

Niall Benson  
Durham Heritage Coast Partnership

**Chair**



2010



DURHAM  
Heritage Coast

After and Before

1992



# Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN)

## Aims:

- encourage the exchange of information and debate between Coastal Partnership Officers and increase opportunities for learning
- represent the interests of local coastal partnerships at national and European levels
- establish stronger links between local partnerships with other coastal stakeholders at national level
- encourage stronger recognition of the value of the work of Coastal Partnerships to their supporting Partners and other coastal stakeholders
- facilitate a more joined up approach to the management of coastal areas





# Current Activity

- Baseline Report for Marine Management Organisation,
- Use of Partnerships - South Coast Marine Plans
- The Annual CPN Forum in Southampton

**CPs very much have a role – locally grown, nationally important**

# Action Plan

- Local Government Association's Coastal Special Interest Group
- Environment Agency's Estuaries and Coastal sub-group of the National Liaison Panel for England.
- Coastal Communities Alliance
- Coastal LEP involvement
- Lobbying on MSP ICM Directive



# Facts of Coastal Partnership Life

- Long established that CPs have varying purposes; EMS, Forums,
- Common to all are engagement, awareness raising, education – **Social Involvement**
- Deliverables and services for public benefit
- Identified in Baseline Report that **no CP has business and commerce support as an activity**



# Looking Forward

- Austerity brings change
- Increasing risk aversity
- Also brings opportunity through necessity
- New ways of working

*e.g. Coastal Concordat - working together on coastal development consenting*

- So what are the opportunities?



# CPs - Challenges & Opportunities

- Establishing their professional and quality standards (consistency)
- Short termism;
  - *non statutory purpose, so fragile*
  - *ICM not statutory, paradox as UK is EU leader*
- Relevance to business and commerce
  - *Expertise, local social involvement & benefit*





# Partners - Challenges & Opportunities

- Austerity reducing capacity
- Delivering Sustainable Management
- The volume of policy for the coast and sea to be implemented
- Directing resource to best effect
- Comprehension and deliverability of Ecosystem Approach
- Wealth from marine exploitation all lands onshore
- WFD/MSFD – Social involvement



# EU Opportunity

- EU Directive on MSP and ICM
- New funding programme starting
- UK not as efficient at accessing these funds
  - CPs do have a sound record
- Opportunity to secure funds on a national basis to set agenda
- Social Involvement focus?



# Proposal

**To work with national bodies to develop and deliver:**

- New ways of working
- Test cases & pilots
- Extending comprehension of key adopted principles to wider audience
- Political awareness
- Making the most of available resources

CPN are rapidly moving to each of the key tables.

**Happy to talk..**  
**Keener on delivering...**





# Thank you

Niall Benson

Chair

E: [niall.benson@durham.gov.uk](mailto:niall.benson@durham.gov.uk)

T: 03000 268130

W: [www.coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk)

