

Abereddy Access Meeting

The Square and Compass Inn 06/12/10



Minutes

Present

Tom Luddington (POCG), Richard Ellis (NT), Andrew Tuddenham (NT), Rachel Eyles, Matt Eyles, Jethro Moore (Adv Beyond), Cleo and Jordan & Rellie (Celtic Quest) Margaret Jenkins + Colin Jenkins (Manor Farm), Ian Meopham (PCNPA), Sophie Hurst (Preseli Venture), Steve Quinton (POCG). Richard Cheney (Extreme Team), Jon Owen + Gethin Jones (Morfa Bay), Martin Leonard (Sea Kayak Guides/Newgale YMCA)

Apologies

Alec Williams (Sealyham), Lou Luddington, (TYF) PAC

Minutes of previous meeting

JO questioned why Morfa Bay was not listed as one of the 3 main users of Abereddy as they use the site a lot, especially on Saturdays. This needs to be factored into the booking system. It was explained that there are the three main users who use the site on most days during the season - Sealyham, Celtic Quest and Adventure Beyond. It is likely that a season ticket will be available to these three high level users based roughly on the cost of having a space booked most days throughout the season, although this cost may be capped and is yet to be confirmed. All other centres wishing to use the site commercially would be participants in the scheme, and have to be 'National Trust license holders' (see below) and would pay £10 for each half day slot booked. (A minimum charge may be necessary to cover administration costs). Visiting centres arriving on site with no genuine prior knowledge of the scheme would not be turned away, but instead be asked to pay £25 one off fee for the day, and given notice to contact Landowners / National Trust / Outdoor Charter to gain relevant permissions / license / membership before retuning with another group.

Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

History notes have been circulated by RE
RE and AT reporting back on NT licensing (see below)

Meeting Goals

(Issues still to be resolved following meeting 28/10/10)

1. Finalise parking charges for all types of commercial users (Rachael, Colin)

2. NT licensing system (RE/AT)
3. Marking of minibus parking slots (how to mark/sign, where, how to enforce?) (All)
4. How this will affect other activities such as launching of kayaks by TYF, Preseli, Adv Beyond etc. (All)
5. How to inform/sell the system to outside groups (All)
6. Develop an on-line booking system that will allow regular users to block book but also reserve slots for other centres to book the site when weather is rough. (All)
7. Policing of the system – how will this work.

Issues from last meeting (as above)

Pt. 2 National Trust licensing system

RE and AT explained proposed licensing system to operate for next season. Key points are:

- Applies to commercial operators using Aberdeiddy for coasteering
- £50 annual fee
- Operators must be a member of POCG
- Operators Need £10M public Liability Insurance (discussed reducing requirement to £2 /5M more in line with [AALS](#) requirements?)
- Operators need evidence of skills and competencies (could be satisfied by an AALA license, TL suggested that an agreement to follow National Water Safety Forum guidelines might cover this but AT suggested that they needed actual evidence of qualifications, so AALS license would be required (or equivalent i)
- Operators Need a Risk management Policy
- Operators must adhere to any specific requirements or restrictions
- This is only for Aberdeiddy for coasteering at the moment but it is likely that NT will expand this type of arrangement, there may be arrangements in future for “premium user” arrangements where new sites might be kept for exclusive use (for a fee!)
- The NT will take more responsibility for safety management of the site (e.g. repairing the jump sites and installing an interpretation/information sign)

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A document outlining the proposal in more detail has been given to TL

Pt. 1 Charges

This will be £10 for a “Slot” for all ‘signed up’ companies (NT Liscence / Land owner permission holders) which is for a group of up to 15 clients when booked using on line booking system (see below). A £5 charge for extra vehicles/trailers was considered to be unnecessarily complicated for the coming season. Further car parking charges for second vehicles / client parking may become necessary as and when the car park reduces in size significantly.

If a centre has more than 15 people, this would require 2 ‘slots’ to be booked. It was agreed that the system needs to be as flexible as possible to allow for 75 people to go coasteering at Aberdeiddy on the busy days. The booking system should therefore have capability and flexibility to adjust to allow for more ‘sessions’ if any of the five allocated sessions book up with less than than 15 people. For example, if one slot is taken, but with only 6 clients, then a

further slot with a maximum of 9 clients could be made available. It was felt that as long as the total number of clients coasteering on any given half day did not exceed 75, then that would ensure that the main issue of overcrowding was being dealt with by the management system.

Groups that turn up to go coasteering on the day without any prior arrangement / NT licence etc would have to pay a £25 one off fee for the day, and also agree to use booking system / obtain NT license prior to arranging future visits. Info on the scheme (leaflet) would be given to visiting centres by Matt E (Manager ice cream van) but also by centre staff who might be operating at the venue. Leaflets to be drafted by group (lead by Rach E, with support from National Trust, O. Charter and working group) for explaining this system to visiting groups.

Operators will need to have a sign on vehicle (if they have no logo on side) so that it is clear which companies are there.

Note: Enforcement and collection of fees will remain the responsibility of the landowner although assistance from outdoor activity providers will be much appreciated to drop leaflets / inform visiting centres.

Pt. 3 Allocated Parking area

It was decided that an area could be marked off to the right of car park entrance (rough area marked on map below, size and exact location to be confirmed...



Pt. 4 Other Activities

At present, it was thought that there was not a significant problem with commercial kayaking / surfing groups as use is currently infrequent, and that it would be better to sort out the coasteering issues this year before looking at kayaking and surfing.

Pt 5 Informing other operators / Publicity about the new scheme

It was suggested that the booking system could be housed on a website which would have all the info about the scheme on it. Publicity about the scheme and the website would be done via POCG, word of mouth, leaflets to be produced by RE, Coast to Coast article, the on-line booking system and the ice cream van.

Pt. 6 On-line Booking system

TL demonstrated an existing system that could be bought for approx. £500 + VAT. This would allow registered users (via password) to book sessions (5 available for each morning, afternoon and evening) on payment using paypal. Centres could pre-book slots (up to 3 out of 5 could be booked in this way, leaving 2 that could be booked on short notice for other centres. The booking system needs to be able to record expected group size so that if operators only have a few people, other operators may be able to take more people. The maximum number of 'booked' clients was agreed to be 75.(This follows discussions about some flexibility in first year of operation.) RE and CJ are investigating a bespoke system that could be developed by an external IT consultant by Feb. 2011. This would be more costly but could be designed to be specific to this situation, and is likely to be the best way forward considering the level of flexibility and functionality that will be required of the booking system.

The on-line booking system would also include links to the POCG and all coasteering providers that are participating in the booking system. This might encourage people who google information on coasteering at Abereddy to book with these centres. It could also be used to help discourage people to coasteer on their own without a guide.

The NT outlined plans to have a new sign located just after the footbridge leading to the lagoon, which would give advice to general public on the site specific dangers (rock fall / deepwater) at Abereddy, and to encourage public to go coasteering with an organised group. Sign would show the proposed new website address for management scheme, so website would need to have a list of all participating centres.

Pt. 7 Policing

See above. This would rely on trust and all stakeholders working together. It would be impossible to create a system that prevents any abuse without a lot of expenditure and an enforcement person on site all through the season, so 'self management' and regulation of the new system through continued close working relationships & POCG meetings will hopefully be the best way forward.

Other discussions

The duration of the payment/booking period will be 1st April to 30th October Inclusive

TYF and PAC have decided to avoid using Abereddy as a coasteering site in the busy season in order to reduce pressure.

There is an urgent need for new rough weather sites to be investigated so that businesses can continue to operate given that there will be less capacity at Abereddy. A working group including TL, the National Trust, National Park and SQ are working on this to help centres identify possible new sites that will not cause unacceptable impacts on the environment/habitats etc.

CJ re-affirmed the aim of the scheme which is to protect the site and maintain it as a recreational resource for all, not just as a commercial activity centre, and is pleased with collaborative working and progress to date at these meetings.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th Feb. 2011

6.00pm for 6.30pm start, provisionally at the Square and Compass (No cawl next time but Pub is serving food from 6pm)