

Wales Planning Conference 2009

Seminar 8: Coastal Management

The Coastal Management Seminar was run by Alex Midlen, the Strategic Manager of CoastNet.

CoastNet is a not-for profit charitable network that brings together thousands of coastal and marine professionals, institutions and community members from the UK and worldwide who care about the diverse aspects of coastal living and management.

Unlike the first seminar that I attended, which followed the usual presentation style of lecture / slideshow, followed by a Q and A, the Coastal Management Seminar was completely interactive.

The group was split into two teams, each of which discussed the various terrestrial activities, and marine activities, around the coast which involve construction / extraction, change of use, or which would benefit from zoning for its control.

For example, marine activities included aggregate extraction, fishing both commercial and pleasure, and energy renewables. Terrestrial activities included harbour / marina development, port business and storage, and transport activities.

This was an excellent opportunity to put our brains into gear, and to fully interact with the other members of the team.

Once this task was completed each team put their answers onto flip charts, and marked with arrows the inter connections between the marine activities, and the terrestrial activities. For example aggregate extraction links to harbour development and transport activities.

The final task of the seminar was for each group to look at the key direct linkages, and secondary linkages of one activity. Team A looked at transport, and Team B looked at sand and gravel extraction. The aim of this task was to present a guide for an integrated transport system.

In conclusion this was an excellent seminar as it was completely interactive, and set at a lively pace. It really made delegates think about the interconnectiveness of marine and terrestrial activities, and the complexities of managing our coasts.

Michael Hughes