

THE FUTURE OF THE SEVERN ESTUARY LEVELS RESEARCH

The Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee was founded nearly 30 years ago as a group of people with a shared interest in the geology, archaeology and history of this remarkable collection of wetlands. It has never been the equivalent of a local history society and has no institutional core. Careful management, successful conferences and fund-raising means that SELRC has a healthy capital reserve. However, over recent years it has proved harder to serve our members with an annual journal and field visits, though the annual conference continues to attract high-quality speakers and is well-attended. It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit officers to the Committee, as these people's time becomes ever more pressurised. This is the time to consider how the Committee operates, and try to introduce efficiencies by making better use of digital media, without diminishing the service we offer our members.

We would be very pleased if members could answer the following questions and make any additional comments they may have on the future of SELRC. Please reply to: Rick Turner, 175 Stanwell Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3LN, e-mail: rickturner62@gmail.com, by the end of August 2014.

Should SELRC become an e-community, where members are on a list contacted by e-mail rather than posted reminders?

If we become an e-community, how would we reach members without access to, or who are not in a position to use a computer?

If we become an e-community, should we abolish the annual membership fee and only charge for events and paper publications?

The Committee has decided to put all the articles from journals 1-20 on the SELRC website as pdfs, so that they have a wide availability. Do you have any comments?

After the publication of the next journal (no. 23), should we publish our journal digitally as downloadable typeset pdfs, e-mailed to members, rather than have it printed and distributed? After what period should we post them on the website?

How can we make our website more lively and interactive? Would you be willing to contribute news, photos and web-links to

a web-editor?

Do you have any other comments to make on the future of SELRC?

Many thanks for your help,
Dr Richard Brunning, Chair

