

The GRAB Trust

GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

Beaches and Marine Litter Project

News Release

04 July 2005

GRAB a Beach event and help

The GRAB Trust is holding an evening event on Tuesday 19 July to highlight the potential loss of bathing water status at Machrihanish Bay when 3 guest speakers will be describing the different aspects of this huge and special beach.

You will be able to take part in the Beach Brainstorm to find ways of documenting beach usage and save the bathing water status. You'll also get chance to have your say on ways to improve the beach for the future.

The GRAB Trust manage the Seaside Award Beach at the Machrihanish village end of the Bay and have been asked by Clean Coast Scotland to submit an application if the bathing water status, as designated under the Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC, is to be retained. The application must provide documented evidence that the beach can meet the identified bathing water criteria of at least 150 users per day at peak times as set by the Bathing Water review panel.

Karen Judd, Beaches and Marine Litter Officer at the GRAB Trust said: "The application process provides an ideal opportunity for local people to get involved and help shape the future of one of the best beaches on the West Coast of Scotland".

As a bathing water, the water quality is regularly sampled by SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) and if the status is lost, sampling may cease. The Seaside Award is run annually by Keep Scotland Beautiful and recognises well maintained resort and rural beaches that pass the EC Mandatory water quality standard. Without water quality data, the future of Argyll and Bute's only Seaside Award beach is uncertain. Whether you use the beach at Westport or Machrihanish or run a business which benefits from the prestige of having an award winning beach nearby, if the status is lost, it could affect you.

So come along to the event which will be taking place between 7-9 pm on Tuesday 19 July at the Community Education Centre, Campbeltown. Alternatively contact, Karen Judd, Beaches and Marine Litter Officer at the GRAB Trust on 01631 569188 if you can help.

