

# LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO  
SOUTH HUNSTANTON



**YOUR ROLE IN THEIR FUTURE**



EAST WASH  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
COMMUNITY INTEREST  
COMPANY



Environment  
Agency

love every drop  
anglianwater

Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



## INTRODUCTION

Existing sea defences between Wolferton Creek and South Hunstanton will only be maintained in future if local contributions are made. The minimum amount needed to do this is usually between £132,000 to £180,000 each year.

Larger caravan park owners and major landowners have already got together to raise some of the money needed by forming a Community Interest Company (CIC).

The larger sites have added a £50 a year charge to their rents which will be used towards the costs. To make sure that properties on our Wash coast continue to be protected other owner-occupiers and local businesses in the area also need to contribute.

Your voluntary contribution will assist towards making sure your property continues to be protected. **We suggest an amount of £15 for a beach hut, £50 for a caravan or chalet and £100 for a beach front property or small business. Every pound collected will support flood risk management activities carried out between Wolferton Creek and South Hunstanton.**

Any surplus money will be saved up for when additional expenditure may be needed to cover emergency repairs, to increase the standard of protection and contribute to a recharge.

**You can contribute directly either:**

**Online** – use the Council’s online form link to make your donation direct to the Local Sea Defences Fund.

**By cheque** – make cheques payable to the BCKLWN. Please write on the back ‘Local Sea Defences Fund’, together with your name and address.

We will publish a list of names of contributors to the fund (not the amount) unless you opt out.

## BACKGROUND

The Borough Council and Environment Agency (EA) prepared The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS). The WECMS, which was published in 2015, looked at the whole coast from Wolferton Creek to Hunstanton Cliffs (see map).



### *Wolferton Creek to South Hunstanton (Unit C)*

The strategy built on the Wash Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and came up with an integrated plan for the future management of the sea defences and adjacent land. The strategy set out options for coastal management for the short to medium term (25 to 50 years). The coastline covered by the strategy was divided into three areas as shown on the map. This leaflet focuses on the flood risk management activities from Wolferton Creek to South Hunstanton. The Wash SMP documents can be viewed here: [www.eacg.org.uk/smp4.asp](http://www.eacg.org.uk/smp4.asp) The WECMS documents can be viewed here: [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/WECMS%20Strategy.pdf](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/WECMS%20Strategy.pdf)



**1978 Flooding**

## CURRENT POSITION - WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON

The defences need continuous maintenance and EA contractors recycle beach material in February/March of each year after winter storms and spring tides have eroded the shingle defences.

**Recycling** involves annually moving sand and shingle from Snettisham Scalp, where it is naturally deposited by the sea over the winter, back to areas of the shingle ridge and beach that have lost material through erosion. It is then shaped by bulldozers to ensure the width, height and profile of the shingle ridge and beach is reinstated so that the ridge continues to protect the coastal community from flooding.

Beach Recycling = annual recycling of a shingle beach by bulldozers, dump trucks and excavators.



*Beach Recycling*

The Environment Agency monitors beach levels throughout the year to determine how much material will need to be taken from Snettisham Scalp and where it will need to be placed. Stopping the beach recycling could result in an immediate increase in the risk of flooding as the shingle ridge defence will continue to erode over time and would ultimately be breached.

**Beach recharging** is carried out when there is no longer enough beach material to continue recycling activities. Beach

recharging involves importing material by dredging material offshore and pumping it onto the beach.

Beach Recharging = periodically, barges dredge shingle from the sea bed and deposit on the shoreline. Timescales vary depending on storm damage and volume of beach material.



*Beach Recharge (Clacton-on-Sea)*

In May 2011, the government announced a new approach to funding projects in England that reduce flood and coastal erosion risks. The main objective of this new partnership funding policy is to offer communities the opportunity to invest in (and benefit from) local flood and coastal erosion risk management measures that could not be offered from central government funding alone.

Between 2013 and 2015 the recycling work has been paid for by Local Levy funding provided by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). The RFCC approved the use of Local Levy, alongside contributions from the Borough and County Councils, to extend the beach operation to March 2016. This funding has enabled partnership funding arrangements to be set up to continue flood risk management activities into the future.

## **FUTURE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH – WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON**

The strategic approach identified by the WECMS for South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek is to hold the current line for the foreseeable future. The detailed decision on how to hold the current line was beyond the scope of the WECMS and will largely be determined by the local community based on local preference and affordability. If the local community wish to improve the standard of protection, additional contributions would be needed.

## **FUTURE FUNDING – WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON**

Under partnership funding the works will only get a contribution from central government if local contributions are secured. The WECMS indicated that the hold the line option would be likely to receive a 25 - 30% government contribution. The remaining costs will need to be funded from partnership contributions.

The WECMS considered a wide range of funding mechanisms to try to be fair and equitable and finally recommended that a Community Interest Company (CIC) would be the most effective means to manage local funding contributions. A CIC is a not-for-profit company

## **COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CIC)**

The East Wash Coastal Management CIC was set up in early 2015. It is a means of gathering voluntary contributions from the main caravan parks and landowners.

Other interested persons can also contribute through the Borough Council funding webpage.

A Local Sea Defences Funding Group has also been set up with representatives from the CIC and:

- The Environment Agency
- The Borough Council and
- Anglian Water

Anglian Water has offered to contribute to funding, as has the Borough Council.

The Borough Council will collect funding contributions in liaison with the EA and the CIC. The Council will hold contributions in a separate fund and from there pay the EA for the annual recycling works. The Environment Agency will continue to provide technical oversight and oversee project works.

Any surplus money will be saved up for when additional expenditure may be needed to cover emergency repairs, to increase the standard of protection and/or to pay for beach recharge.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The CIC has received contributions from most of the main caravan park owners. The Borough Council will collect payments from beach hut owners that it rents sites to.

Other contributors including the King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board (IDB), the RSPB and utility companies are also being approached for funding.

Other voluntary contributions are now being sought from individual owner-occupiers and businesses to help secure the future of the defences. Your contribution will help to protect your coast.

## **KEEP UP TO DATE**

Keep up to date with progress by using the following web links:

Coastal Management - [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=27341](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=27341)

Funding Group - [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/seadefencesfunding](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/seadefencesfunding)

For further information please contact us at [floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk)