

LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON ANNUAL UPDATE 2018

INTRODUCTION

This year's beach recycling was successfully completed in March. The cost and contributions are listed below: -

FUNDING FOR 2017/18 BEACH RECYCLING

Source	Amount
Gov Grant (41%)	£60,799
Partnership Contribution (59%)	£88,776
Surplus from 2016/17	£37,572.17
Balance for 2017/18	£51,203.83
EWCM CIC	£21,203.83
Anglian Water	£25,000
BCKLWN	£5,000
Total Cost	£149,575

The work was completed just in time before a large storm dubbed "Beast from the East" hit the shoreline. Environment Agency (EA) Officers visited soon after the storm cleared and assessed the sea defences. While some beach material was removed, the sea defences are still higher than before the work was started. No further work is required at the moment and the EA will keep monitoring the sea defences levels.



The beach recycling was completed again in March 2018 due to the contributions from various sources. This was the second year in a 15-year programme to maintain the existing flood defences along the coastline.

Beach recycling – each year, usually around late February/early March, the EA with Government funding have, through a contractor, moved shingle from Snettisham scalp and repaired storm damage along the shingle ridge that provides the local sea defence between Wolferton Creek and South Hunstanton. The contractors repair damaged areas and re-profile the beach to maintain the sea defences

Beach recharge – is carried out when there is no longer enough beach material to continue recycling activities. Beach recharge involves importing material by taking material from offshore and pumping it onto the beach. Beach recharge has previously been carried out in 1990/91 and 2005/6.

FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE

The current funding from various sources is ensuring that the annual beach recycling occurs. Looking forward, we need to plan to fund the predicted beach recharge in year 6 (2022). The beach recharge is likely to cost up to £2.4million.

The CIC has a current balance of £445,896. We have also obtained up to £300,000 grant from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy fund. We have started to build up a reserve and this will be put towards the beach recharge when required. However we cannot be complacent and need to continue the good work.

We still need your support each year to ensure the beach recycling continues and that we have sufficient funds to carry out the beach recharge in four years' time in 2022.

You can make your voluntary donation here www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/175/local_sea_defences_funding



WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

You can keep up to date on how the strategy is being implemented by reviewing the information on the dedicated webpage here www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy

The borough council is also drawing up a Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan for the Cliffs and sea front promenade flood defences. There is a dedicated webpage here www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/631/hunstanton_coastal_management_plan

WORKS ON OR NEAR THE SEA DEFENCES.

Last year we reminded occupiers of beach front properties about the need to consider what works can be completed near to the beach front. Unfortunately some property owners in the Heacham area have decided to remove some of the dune material in front of their properties. This is not advisable.

The beach and shingle ridge between South Hunstanton and Wolferton Creek helps protect people and 2,935 properties from tidal flooding. Each year annual beach recycling is needed to replenish material after the winter and spring tides have eroded the defences. If this activity ceases, it could result in an immediate increase in flood risk.