

LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON ANNUAL UPDATE 2019

FUNDING FOR 2018/19 BEACH RECYCLING

The annual beach recycling was completed in March 2019.

- 580 loads of beach material were successfully moved.
- This equates to 8,120 cubic metres of sand & shingle.

The financial contributions this year were as follows:

| Source | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Government Grant | £32,107 |
| Anglian Water | £25,000 |
| CIC | £21,399 |
| Borough Council | £5,000 |
| Beach Hut Charge | £1,375 |
| Predicted Cost | £83,469.71 |

The total cost of works came in under budget at £78,985. The surplus will be carried over and used next year.

The amount of material at Snettisham scalp available to be recycled still remains viable. In August 2018 this was 172,698m³, compared to 158,579m³ in January 2006 (post beach recharge).

It would seem that the beach is going through an accretion phase, where it gradually increases. Depending on the next couple of years of monitoring data, we could consider delaying the “mini recharge” originally planned for 2022/23. The Environment Agency will continue to monitor and report back their findings.

BEACH RECYCLING

Each year, usually around late February to early March, the EA with part 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

Beach recharge is carried out when there is no longer enough beach material to continue recycling activities. Typically this involves importing material from offshore and pumping it onto the beach. However as the works planned for 2022/2023 or later are for a ‘mini recharge’, there could be the opportunity for land based delivery. Each option will be explored, with further work required to establish the economic, environmental and social feasibility going forward.





EAST WASH COASTAL MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

The East Wash Community Interest Company was set up to help provide partnership funding for the 15 year programme. It's a registered company with directors made up from local businesses and landowners who are potentially impacted by the change to flood defences. Contributions are made to the EWCIC and the money is then forwarded to the Environment Agency for the annual recycling works as required.

15 YEAR FUNDING PROGRAMME

We have now completed year 3 of the 15 year funding programme to maintain the existing flood defences between South Hunstanton and Wolferton Creek. We remain optimistic that the current system of part government grant and partnership contributions is working to raise the amount of funding required to complete annual recycling. The partnership funding through private donations, Anglia Water, Borough Council (including Beach Huts) and the East Wash Community Interest Company remain strong over the last three years.

FUTURE FUNDING

While the current funding programme is ensuring the annual recycling continues, we still need to plan ahead for a mini beach recharge, likely to cost around £2.4 million.

Anglian Water has included £316,000 in their budget for local sea defence work up to 2024/25 pending approval by OFWAT. If agreed, part of this money would be allocated to annual recycling and the remainder to the mini recharge.

The EWCIC have a current balance of £585,781 and this money could also be used towards the mini recharge.

The Environment Agency would lead a grant application for central government funding. The current level of grant for the recycling is 41%, the grant level for the mini recharge would be dependent on the application.

The Environment Agency has already allocated £300,000 from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for the mini recharge.

The Borough Council will consider a contribution to the mini recharge once the grant level has been determined and what shortfall, if any, is known.

WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

You can keep up to date on how the strategy is being implemented by reviewing the information on the 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 webpage here:

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/631/hunstanton_coastal_management_plan

