

LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON

ANNUAL UPDATE 2020

CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus pandemic led to the cancellation of both the Funding Group and Stakeholder Forum meetings that were due to be held in March. This update is intended to fill the void until we can hold face-to-face meetings again.

FUNDING FOR 2019/20 BEACH RECYCLING

The annual maintenance of the shingle embankment and beach which helps protect people and properties from tidal flooding between Snettisham and Hunstanton was completed in early March. The works are funded from Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA), together with contributions from the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, the East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company (CIC) and Anglian Water.

This year it is estimated that the recycling reinstated 6,500m³ of sediment into the shingle ridge sea defence. Two low spots over a length of 150m were also reinstated to full height using small plant and machinery.

The cost of this work was £99,500. The financial contributions were as follows:

Source	Amount
Government Grant (FCERM GiA)	£40,302
Anglian Water	£25,000
CIC*	£0
Borough Council	£5,000
Beach Hut Charge	£1,375

** no CIC contribution was required this year as the actual cost for the previous year had been less than the estimate, resulting in a surplus amount that could be used against this year's costs.*

The amount of material at Snettisham Scalp available to be recycled is still viable. During the February 2020 works, 6,566m³ of material was taken from The Scalp and transported back to the north. This figure is less than last year (by approx. 20%) because less material had migrated down to The Scalp. This does not mean that we have lost material from the system this year, just the distribution of material is different. This year, more material had remained on the beach in front of the ridge which resulted in more bulldozer movements to push it back up to the ridge. The annual assessment as to how much material has been lost since the last recharge will be carried out later in the year.

As discussed in the previous meeting, the amount of available material is similar to that recorded immediately after the last recharge. This information led us to decide to push back the beach recharge by one year to 2023/2024. The EA will continue to annually monitor and assess the amount of beach material and feed this information back to the Funding Group to make a collective decision on when the recharge should take place.

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

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.

EAST WASH COASTAL MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (EWCM CIC)

This was set up to provide partnership funding for the 15-year beach recycling and recharge programme. It is a registered company with directors from local businesses and landowners. Local businesses potentially impacted by any change to the flood defence make contributions to the CIC. Landowners also make voluntary contributions which are collected by the Internal Drainage Board and then paid into the CIC accounts.

15 YEAR FUNDING PROGRAMME

We have now completed year 4 of the 15-year funding programme to maintain the existing flood defences between South Hunstanton and Wolferton Creek. We remain confident that the current system of part Government Grant and partnership contributions will continue to successfully raise the amount of funding needed to complete the annual recycling. The partnership funding collected through private donations and from Anglian Water, the Borough Council (including beach huts revenues) and the CIC has remained strong over the last four years.

FUTURE FUNDING

Whilst the current funding programme is ensuring the annual recycling continues, we still need to plan for a future mini beach recharge. The beach recharge is likely to cost around £2.4m.

Anglian Water's ability to contribute through the next 5 years was confirmed recently through the Water Industry Regulator, OFWAT (subject to internal approval).

The CIC have a current (February 2020) balance of £643,370.66 and this money could also be used towards the mini recharge.

The EA would lead a grant application for central government funding for a recharge. The current level of grant for the recycling is 41% (rounded figure), the grant level for the mini recharge would be dependent on the application, though it is likely to be at a similar level.

The EA has already secured £300,000 from the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) 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.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MANAGED REVENUE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

This section includes updates on FCRM GiA and/or local levy funded maintenance projects to sustain the standard of service of flood and coastal risk management assets.

KING'S LYNN 2019/20 SPRING/ SUMMER PACKAGE OF WORKS

Heacham Dam Hard Defences

Works were completed at Heacham Dam, which involved the repair of previously damaged concrete revetment erosion protection measures, incorporating rock armour measures to prevent future undermining.

Kala Jugga Sluice Embankment, Heacham

Works have been completed to repair a 50 metre slip which had occurred to the embankment.

Heacham Pill Box Field

Bank raising works were completed to the embankment.

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 has also drawn up a Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan for the Cliffs and sea front promenade flood defences and groynes. There is a dedicated webpage here:

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

In relation to the Cliffs the focus at present is on establishing a monitoring process. To underpin this a baseline survey report has been commissioned from the British Geological Survey (BGS), which will be published shortly. This will be followed by a 4-year monitoring programme, which is likely to be funded jointly between Local Levy and the borough council.