

LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON

WINTER UPDATE 2020/2021

FOREWORD BY COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES, NEW PORTFOLIO HOLDER



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Portfolio Holder for the work area that includes coastal planning and related matters. I'm not new to the Cabinet as I was already responsible for Commercial Services, but now will be Cabinet Member for Climate

Change as well. My remit includes, among others, climate change, air quality, carbon reduction, biodiversity and energy strategy, as well as the existing responsibilities of car parking, CCTV, ICT, cemeteries and crematorium, and shared services.

I would like to thank my predecessor in this work area, Councillor Ian Devereux, for the excellent work he did, and I hope to carry on in the same vein. I live in, and represent, a Ward close to The Wash coast at Terrington St Clement, so I am already aware of many of the issues. I also sit on both the King's Lynn Conservancy Board and the King's Lynn Internal Drainage board. I look forward to meeting those of you who are on the Stakeholder Forum, either virtually or in person, as soon as we can arrange this. In the meantime, I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you wish to get in touch my email is cldr.paul.kunes@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

CORONAVIRUS

The continuing coronavirus pandemic and its impact on officer and member workloads has meant that we were unable to have a stakeholder meeting in 2020. This update is intended to fill

the gap until we can hold a meeting. We hope to do this once restrictions are eased again.

BEACH RECYCLING AND RECHARGE

The annual maintenance of the shingle embankment and beach which helps protect people and properties from tidal flooding between Snettisham and Hunstanton commenced on Monday 8 February and was due to continue for three weeks. 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.

We have now received final confirmation of Anglian Water's partnership funding contribution of £20k towards the cost of this year's (2020/21) works. These were estimated, at the Funding Group meeting held on 13 October 2020, to be £93k based on the amount in the legal agreement.

The Environment Agency (EA) recently let the contracts for the volumetric calculations (to help decide where material can be taken from), environmental monitoring and some of the administrative tasks to keep the project legal to Jacobs and for the beach recycling works to Breheny under their new framework arrangements. The EA project manage the works to help keep costs down.

Transect surveys carried out by the EA have gathered information on the amount of material available for recycling. LiDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, is a sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser in order to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. This allows precise generation of three-dimensional information about specific areas or surfaces. These are also carried

out and may be used in the future for estimating the volumes of material available if the accuracy is shown to be comparable. The five-year rolling environmental assent period of the project has been extended by agreement with Natural England by one year to January 2023 as a result of constraints on EA laboratory capacity due to the pandemic.

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. This process is known as beach recycling.

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. A significant amount of funding has been collected by CIC over the last 4 years. The CIC provided funds to enable the annual beach recycling to continue and has built up a reserve for future works such as the beach recharge.

15 YEAR FUNDING PROGRAMME

We are now mid-way through year 5 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 and a half 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.

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

The CIC continue to put money aside each year which 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.

WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

You can keep up to date with the strategy's implementation through the webpage here: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REFRESH

The EA have led a review of the two Shoreline Management Plans in our area:

- SMP 4 The Wash covers the shoreline from Gibraltar Point to Old Hunstanton.
- SMP 5 North Norfolk covers Hunstanton to Kelling Hard

Both reviews have concluded that no major changes are required to the current policies.

COASTAL MONITORING

The Anglia Coastal Monitoring Group had its latest meeting on 10 December 2020. The following topics were covered:

Topographical Survey: Summer and Autumn data had been delivered and quality checked. It would be sent to the Channel Coastal Observatory (CCO) website shortly.

Aerial Photography: The Summer 2020 capture had now been delivered and would be sent to the CCO website shortly.

Hydrodynamics: Routine maintenance is ticking along. There were no major issues to report.

Wash Trends Report: The analysis was now complete, and a draft of the results was sent to all partners in late December to gather feedback on presentation and analysis style. A partners meeting would take place in January to incorporate local knowledge into the final summary element of the report.

Asset Condition Monitoring: An approach to coastal asset condition monitoring is being developed by the EA.

HUNSTANTON COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The borough council has drawn up a **Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan** for the Cliffs and sea front promenade flood defences and groynes. This area of work has been impacted by staff being redeployed due to the current Covid pandemic. Despite this, essential repairs have still been completed to the promenade and groynes as required. Further emergency repairs to the concrete groynes and the promenade are being carried out in early December and early January.

The RFCC Local Levy bids are being reviewed and we are considering the works that will be required going forward. A decision has been taken not to proceed with the Hunstanton promenade resurface. We are reviewing what work is required to the groyne field.

There is a Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan webpage: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/631/hunstanton_coastal_management_plan



For the Cliffs the focus at present is on establishing a monitoring process. To underpin this a baseline survey report was commissioned from the British Geological Survey (BGS), which was completed, and published on the website in May 2020. This will be followed by a 4-year monitoring programme, which will be funded jointly from the RFCC's Local Levy and the borough council. The BGS report analyses data from the previous LiDAR surveys in 2010, 2012, 2017 and 2019. See it here: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/851/hunstanton_cliffs_monitoring

Unfortunately, no LiDAR survey was completed during 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, so there will not be a 2020 report. We are hopeful that a survey may be completed during 2021 and that a further Cliff Regression report will be completed during 2021.