

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FUNDING GROUP

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above held on Thursday, 9th February, 2017
at 1.00 pm in the Chief Executive's Office**

PRESENT: Paul Burrows (Environment Agency), Ray Harding (Borough Council), Lucy Harper (Environment Agency), Peter Jermany (Borough Council), Mike McDonnell (CIC), Kerry Rhodes (Anglian Water), Dave Robson (Borough Council)

		<u>ACTION</u>
1	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>There were none.</p>	
2	<p><u>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 14th December 2016 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
3	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p><u>(i) Coastal Policy for Planning</u></p> <p>The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan had been adopted. The plan was now in the process of being reviewed and comments were invited for policy suggestions and a call for sites. Until the review had been adopted all Planning Permissions would be based on the existing adopted Policies.</p> <p><u>(ii) Report to Cabinet</u></p> <p>Dave Robson confirmed that a report had been presented to Cabinet on 31st January to provide an update on Local Sea Defence Funding. The Cabinet were supportive of the funding which had been raised.</p> <p><u>(iii) Local Levy Application</u></p> <p>The application for Local Levy Funding had been successful.</p> <p><u>(iv) Norfolk County Council</u></p> <p>Reference was made to an email from the Leader of the Council regarding Norfolk County Council's involvement which had been circulated with the minutes from the previous meeting. It was confirmed that Norfolk County Council had no statutory responsibility</p>	

	<p>for coastal flooding or erosion. Paul Burrows explained that they would still benefit from the work being done to local sea defences and should be encouraged to be involved.</p>	
4	<p><u>BUSINESS CASE UPDATE</u></p> <p>Paul Burrows confirmed that the 15 year Business Case had been approved and financial agreement had been approved, pending sign off of the legal agreements. The Business Case covered the annual recycling works and a mini recharge, if required, in approximately year six.</p>	
5	<p><u>RECHARGE WORK UPDATE</u></p> <p>Paul Burrows informed the Group that at the January RFCC meeting £300,000 had been secured for the period up to 2023 for the mini recharge. If the mini recharge was not required during this period, the funds could be rolled over to contribute towards the main recharge.</p> <p>The Group was informed that there was currently still a funding gap of approximately £200,000/250,000. It was hoped that some of this could be offset by contributions, but work would be required in the future to meet the funding gap.</p> <p>Mike McDonnell reminded the Group that he had previously queried who would be responsible for emergency repairs and Paul Burrows explained that he was in the process of preparing a briefing note, which should explain arrangements.</p>	
6	<p><u>LEGAL AGREEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Group was informed that solicitors from the Borough Council and the Environment Agency were finalising legal agreements and everything was on track for the agreements to be signed on 14th February 2017.</p> <p>The Borough Council would then put in place legal agreements with the CIC and Anglian Water.</p> <p>The Group discussed Appendix 2 of the Legal Agreements and the figures included. Paul Burrows explained that the accounts would be run through the Funding Group each year. It was explained that the figures used in the Agreements could be higher or lower than the actual cost and discussions would need to be held on how the surplus or deficit would be dealt with.</p> <p>Kerry Rhodes explained that Anglian Water had agreed to allocate funding over the period and would therefore not expect to see a</p>	

	<p>surplus or benefit to them if there were cost savings.</p> <p>Dave Robson agreed to send the draft legal agreements to Kerry Rhodes and Mike McDonnell for comments.</p> <p>It was explained that break clauses would be written into the legal agreements in case there was a shortfall or emergency.</p>	
7	<p><u>COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE</u> (Pages 5 - 8)</p> <p>The Group was reminded that a Communications Strategy had been agreed last year. A draft newsletter was circulated to the Group (as attached). Comments on the newsletter were to be sent to Dave Robson. The newsletter would then be finalised and circulated.</p> <p>Paul Burrows confirmed that the Environment Agency would also create a press release prior to the recycling work starting in March.</p> <p>The Group were informed that Henry Bellingham MP would be available for a press event on 10th March 2017 and this would be arranged.</p> <p>Dave Robson explained that any suggestions on ways to engage with the public and communications in the press should be emailed to him for consideration.</p> <p>Dave Robson informed the Group that he, and the Chief Executive, had met with Parish Councils in December to put forward what could be raised for local flood defences through a voluntary increase in their Parish Precept. Work would continue to try and encourage Parish Council assistance.</p>	
8	<p><u>FUNDING UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Group discussed the contribution required for this years' work and it was anticipated that there could be a shortfall of approximately £5,000.</p> <p>Dave Robson and Kerry Rhodes agreed to check if the money from Anglian Water had been received and whether the legal agreement was needed prior to the invoice being paid etc.</p> <p>Paul Burrows explained that figures had to be included in the Business Case so that the funding could be made available, but exact costs would not be known until the work had been carried out and invoices had been received. Copies of invoices would be provided to the Funding Group and meetings of the Funding Group would be held after work had finished so that the accounts could be discussed.</p>	

9	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> There was none.	
10	<u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u> 1 st June 2017 at 9.30am in the Chief Executives Office.	

The meeting closed at 1.30 pm

DRAFT**Local Sea Defences Wolferton Creek to South Hunstanton Newsletter****Introduction**

This newsletter provides an update on the work over the last 12 months to maintain the current level of sea defence between Wolferton Creek and South Hunstanton.

Background

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (BCKLWN) and Environment Agency (EA) prepared The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS). The WECMS, published in 2015, looked at the whole coast from Hunstanton Cliffs to Wolferton Creek (see map). 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 below and summarised in the table below. This newsletter focuses on the flood risk management activities from South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek. The WECMS documents can be viewed here: <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/FW02.pdf>.

The WECMS has divided the coast into three units:

Units	Location	Lead Risk Management Authority
Unit A	Hunstanton Cliffs	BCKLWN
Unit B	Hunstanton Promenade	BCKLWN
Unit C	South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek Concrete defences and shingle ridge	Environment Agency

Insert map?

Beach Recycling – each year, usually around late February, 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 was previously carried out in 1990/91 and 2005/6.

WECMS Implementation

The WECMS is implemented jointly by the EA/BCKLWN with feedback provided to the Stakeholder Forum. This group is made up from representatives of local Parish/Town Councils, bodies such as the RSPB and other local interest groups such as Beach Bungalow Associations. The Group is chaired by the BCKLWN's Environment Portfolio Holder and meets every six months. Agendas and minutes of these meetings are available on the Borough Council website https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy

A Funding Group has also been set up to co-ordinate the collection of funds to continue the current works. The Funding Group is chaired by the BCKLWN and is made up of representatives from the BCKLWN, the EA, Anglian Water and the East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company (EWCM CIC). Agendas and minutes of these meetings are also available on the Borough Council website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/localseadefences

Funding

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. This new partnership approach has meant that despite Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) not being able to fully fund the annual beach management works, with local funding sources the works can be continued.

Between 2013 and 2015 the annual beach recycling work was 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 management operation to March 2016. This funding enabled partnership funding arrangements to be set up to continue flood risk management activities into the future.

Various funding options were considered as part of the WECMS, the only practicable option was to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) to raise the additional funds needed to complete the annual recycling. The EWCM CIC was set up in February 2015. The CIC was set up to collect funding from local businesses and landowners. The table below shows how much funding has been raised by the EWCM CIC towards the 2017 annual beach recycling works.

Funding Contributions to November 2016

Source	Amount	Notes
EWCM CIC	£179,672	Includes funds from Caravan Parks, Beach Bungalow Associations and land owners (collected through the IDB)
Anglian Water	£25,000	£25,000 pa pledged for 2017/18 to 2019/20
Borough Council	£5,000	
Beach Hut rents	£1,455	£15 added to Beach Hut rental
Private donations	£755	Private individuals either via check or online payments
Total	£211,882	

The EWCM CIC has been very successful in collecting funding from local businesses and land owners.

The EA have, through a 15 year programme, secured 41% of the cost of maintaining the shingle ridge from FCERM GiA. The 15 year programme also considers the need for a mini recharge in year 6 onwards. The mini recharge is subject to the same 41% grant so additional funding will be required. Therefore any surplus funds raised each year will be held in a reserve to be allocated to the recharge. The beach recycling cost depends upon the amount of material to be moved but is usually between £132,000 to £180,000 each year. The mini recharge is likely to cost around £2.4million.

This year the Funding Group has raised enough to complete the proposed beach recycling works in February 2017 and carry forward a reserve.

Working together the Funding Group has shown that it can raise the funds to carry out the annual beach recycling works and provide a suitable contribution to future works. It is important that the Funding Group maintain the current funding levels so that a suitable reserve can be built up to contribute to the mini recharge or similar in the future.

Keep up to date:

Wash East Coastal Management Strategy: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy

Local sea defences funding: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/175/local_sea_defences_funding