

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

20th November 2019

COUNCILLOR A FITCH-TILLET - CABINET MEMBER FOR COAST

For the period September 2019 to November 2019

PROGRESS ON PORTFOLIO MATTERS.

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Recruitment

No new recruits - Sonja Seaton (Technical Admin Assistant) is funding herself through a part time Masters Degree in Environmental Management - an area CPE are keen to increase their skills and she is therefore now working part time. CPE will be back-filling Sonja with additional admin support.

Project Updates

Bacton to Walcott- The scheme completion was celebrated on 20th September with an event for partners and those who were involved in the development of the scheme locally and internationally. A number of key people attended and presented including EA's Chair Emma Howard-Boyd, Sinead Lynch, Shell UK Country Chair and the Deputy Dutch Ambassador as a VIP guest.

The scheme is performing as expected with the natural re-profiling of the placed sediment occurring as high tides and storms occur. FAQ's are available online at <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/coastal-management/sandscaping-frequently-asked-questions/> . Work to make repairs to timber defence structures where they have been impacted by the works is ongoing.

The project has commissioned a 'lessons learnt' review of the project to capitalise on the learning so we can share good practice for further projects on the coast of this scale and nature.

Cromer and Mundesley

Tender documents for the detailed design phases of both Phase 2 of the Cromer Coastal Protection Scheme and the Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme are being developed. We are planning to issue these tender documents via the Dynamic Purchasing System developed by CPE over the coming months. Environmental Screening is also required. We are also undertaking a review to see if any efficiencies can be realised by procuring the construction phase together.

Inspections and Maintenance update

Significant repairs to the Overstrand timber revetments have been ongoing.

Repair works to navigation beacons have been ongoing following inspections.

We are in the process of developing a 10 year repair and maintenance programme.

The team are now beginning to use an Asset Inspection Tool, which was developed by CPE, to assist with the completion and recording of our asset inspections. The first stages of the use will involve reviewing and amending our asset information which is now ongoing.

We are currently undertaking a detailed inspection of the visible sections of the Bacton and Walcott timber groynes and revetment. To aid swimmers, surfers and navigation we are investigating the installation of groyne markers by Spring next year to show the alignment of the groynes which are fully submerged at high tide.

CPE are working with NNDC Property and Assets team to obtain a MMO licence for works on Cromer Pier Legs. We have just received the draft licence. The CPE team provide expertise with regards to this structure and working in the marine environment.

A host of minor works throughout the coast are undertaken on a day to day basis through the Coastal Measured Term Contract.

Health and Safety and Incidents- delete below- any new issues?

- Investigated the incident of someone being swept off access steps in Sheringham and got caught in the rocks. Inspection of the location highlighted that warning signs are present however it has been decided to add some further signage. CPE are also considering the installation of further handrails down access steps – this requires inspection of all relevant steps and risk assessments to be undertaken.
- Minor injuries occurred to two swimmers on the seaward ends of the existing groynes at Bacton. With the landward ends of the groynes buried, swimmers are no longer aware of where the groynes are particularly at high tide. Temporary groyne markers and warning signs were installed for the busy summer season and options moving forwards are being considered.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Strategic and Policy Work

Larissa Naylor from Glasgow University will be interviewing key NNDC and GYBC colleagues and Cllr's in December/January to explore how climate change is represented in our Coastal policies. This work has been completed in Suffolk and has identified where the council has strong Climate Change policies in place for the coast but also where policies could be strengthened or where there are gaps. Outputs of the work in NNDC and ESC will be used to inform our Business Plans following Local Plan consultations.

CPE are taking forward an innovative research project with DEFRA to explore funding and finance mechanisms that may be suitable for property owners around our coast affected by coastal erosion or future inundation by sea level rise. This project CLIFF- Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Financing is just starting and will engage a range of financial institutions about potential insurance and other mechanisms to determine if there is appetite in the private sector to support and fund coastal adaptation in the future.

CPE have met with planners from across the coastal authorities to further develop the Statement of Common Ground. We will be progressing a Supplementary Planning Document for the coast in ESC which we hope to use as a template for either a single SPD for the CPE coastal frontage or at least as a template for other LAs to use.

Diary Dates

- FCERM Project Appraisal Guidance refresh workshop 5th Nov (P Mackie)
- SMP Refresh Workshops 5th and 6th November (CPE team)
- LGA Coastal SIGSOG- 6th November (K Thomas)
- Coastal Resilience Workshop – 7th November (L Goodman)
- Norfolk Coastal Forum 12th November (CPE team and Cllrs)
- Suffolk Coastal Forum 13th November (CPE team and Cllrs)
- Visit from Lord Bassom to Lowestoft 13th November
- LGA SIG- 13th December (K Thomas and Cllrs)
- CPE Full team meeting December TBC ALL

3 Meetings Attended

Suffolk Coast Forum Conference 11th October

The annual Suffolk Coast Forum Conference was held at Wherstead Park, Ipswich with this year's theme being 'Collaborating in a changing climate'.

Speakers included Lord Bassam of Brighton, Chair of the House of Lords Select Committee on Coastal Regeneration and Catherine Wright, Director of Digital & Skills - Flood & Coastal Risk Management Directorate for the Environment Agency who presented the FCERM 2050 strategy. The Bacton to Walcott project was presented by Rob Goodliffe, Paul Mackie gave an inspirational presentation on the economic regeneration potential of seaside towns linked to coastal protection schemes and Karen Thomas gave an overview of the need for collaborative working on the coast and where we need to go next. 4 CPE apprentices and officers with an average age of 22 helped to deliver the conference managed by Sharon Richardson.

The conference aims to be delivered as cost neutral through sponsorship and actually came in at £1200 under budget which gives us a great start for next year. The event also includes young people from high school and local colleges to inspire the next generation of coastal experts. Feedback captured by evaluation forms on the day and an online survey suggest that the conference was very well received and provided a broad range of interesting subject matter. A high proportion of delegates indicated they would be interested in attending again next year. Interest in this event and its potential replication in Norfolk is growing.

Coastal Futures Symposium 19th October- Wells

This event was run by Tim O'Rierdon and Tyndall Centre (UEA) colleagues with a range of coastal professionals, councillors and partners. The event (attended by Cllr. Angie Fitch-Tillett, Cllr, Brown and Cllr Ward) shared the latest thinking and observations on the North Norfolk Coast and aims to start a conversation with local

communities about climate change and its affects on the coast alongside how we might adapt and retain what we all value about the area. Key outputs from the event were shared at a community forum on the 24th October and will feed into a series of community discussions in early 2020. Kellie Fisher (Senior Environment Agency Advisor working part time for CPE) and Karen Thomas (Head of CPE) presented and their input was well received. We have agreed to develop the Norfolk Coastal Forum further and have identified potential benefits for further links with Norfolk County Council is required. CPE officers will work with Cllr's to move this forward. Officers will also be supporting the engagement events next year.

Coastal Partnership East Board 29 October

The Board heard of the incredibly busy period CPE have been through in the last few months and recognise that the team has achieved a great deal. Health and well-being of the team is central to the management approach given the high workload to resource ratio. The Board received information on the range of operational, strategic and policy work that CPE are delivering. Members welcomed news that budgets would broadly aim to remain the same in 2020/21. However they also acknowledged the need for additional funding and resource in the Great Yarmouth area given the tidal risk issues in Great Yarmouth and the challenges faced at Hemsby. This will be discussed further with GYBC later in November. The next meeting will be in Lowestoft in late January and include a site visit of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project.

- Chairman's Civic Reception - Cley Visitors Centre
- Anglia TV Interview at Walcott
- Overstrand Parish Council
- Suffolk Coast Conference
- Coast Inspection Overstrand- Sidestrand with Brian Farrow
- Regional Flood and Coastal Committee + Climate Change Workshop
- Coastal Futures Conference - Wells
- Belgian Journalist Visit to Bacton
- Wells Community Coastal Workshop
- Radio Norfolk Interview - Walcott
- Broads Internal Drainage Board Meeting and Site Visit
- Dutch Journalist Visit - Bacton
- Coastal Partnership Board Meeting
- the following I shall attend before Full Council on the 20th
- Northrepps Parish Council
- Sandscaping community celebration event
- North Norfolk Coastal Forum
- Norfolk Coast Partnership Forum