

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2020

Clr Fitch-Tillett Portfolio Holder for Coastal Management

For the period 10 June – 11 September

PROGRESS ON PORTFOLIO MATTERS.

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Project Updates

Bacton to Walcott.

Analysis of the data collected to date to assess the expected re-profiling of the foreshore at Bacton and Walcott is underway.

Specialists have been working alongside our team in continuing to survey breeding birds at Bacton. Surveys to date are available on the NNDC website. Sand martins and Ringed plover have again nested this year. NNDC agree with Natural England and the RSPB as to additional measures put into place to minimise disturbance from walkers and dogs.

NNDC has entered an agreement to fund, through the Sandscaping Environment Agency Grant, Queen Mary University, working on behalf of the British Museum and Historic England a short project relating to the Palaeolithic artefact discoveries arising from the Sandscaping project. The project will:

1. Working with collectors to provide training, advice and information to ensure good recording and reporting practices.
2. Enabling wider public engagement through events* and information;
3. Working with the NHES to deal with the backlog of artefact identification and to support ongoing recording and ID work;
4. Facilitating discussions between stakeholders regarding longer-term funding of the work;
5. Providing information to other stakeholders, through (for example) talks, workshops, data, GIS files

The CPE team supported other NNDC teams in the delivery of the new Bacton car park and in the response to the opening of a private free car park at Walcott.

A lessons learned assessment has been completed through the University of East Anglia with regards to the develop and delivery of the Sandscaping project. Please contact the Coastal Manger for more information.

The Sandscaping Project has been submitted to and shortlisted for a number of awards, including:

- Environment Agency Flood and Coast Award

- British Construction Industries Award – Climate Resilience category

CLIFF:

The Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance (CLIFF) phase 1b has been prepared and is due to start shortly. This will investigate options identified in phase 1a in more detail. It is funded by NNDC (Adaptation/Pathfinder reserve), Lewes District Council, LGA Coastal Special Interest Group and is supported by DEFRA

Hemsby, Pakefield and Great Yarmouth

Although not in the NNDC district, it is relevant to report the CPE team continue to input into coastal erosion management issues at Hemsby, Pakefield and Great Yarmouth. Karen Thomas, Head of the Coastal Partnership East Team, was interviewed by Panorama at Hemsby in relation to coastal change and the challenges of managing an eroding coast.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Refresh

The CPE team continued to input in to the SMP refresh on a local and national basis, the final SMP refresh reports are due to be released by the Environment Agency soon.

Broadland Futures Initiative

We continue to keep light-touch involvement in the project, attending stakeholder meetings and contributing to drafts of key coast related documents as part of the evidence review. A group for elected members is under development and the formal initiation of this group is expected.

Inspections and Maintenance update

Maintenance since June has included:

- Overstrand concrete blocks revetment improvements (using block recycled from the gas terminal)
- Bacton and Ostend revetment repairs and shaping of beach cliffing
- Safety works to timber groyne at Walcott and Bacton
- Groyne markers repairs – Sheringham and West Runton
- Renewal of beach access signage where necessary
- H&S and sand martin signage has been erected along Bacton, Walcott and Ostend.
- Sheringham East removal of end debris
- Purchase and delivery of f Sea Defence hardwood stock from suitable sustainable sources.
- Filled uneven and cracked surfaces on Mundesley sea wall apron below Manor hotel
- Repairs to Cromer groynes
- Set up replacement stores unit at Weybourne following failure of old unit due to age.
- Repairs at Vale Road beach access
- Cromer sea wall and apron repairs (minor)
- Cromer West Groyne 4 repairs
- Various repairs at Cromer and Sheringham

Sea Palling Beach Access

The Environment Agency are seeking a consultant to consider design options and costs for improvements to Sea Palling ramp. Once there is a preferred way forward,

other discussions such as funding and future ownership/liabilities will need to be finalised.

Health and Safety and Incidents

22nd July 2020 at around 4pm, NNDC and RNLI were notified of a potential Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) under Cromer Pier. The Pier was shut to all members of the public by the police and Cromer ALB launched. The divers working on the pier legs were out of the water at approx. 4.30 pm. Bomb Disposal arrived on scene approx. 5.30pm and notified the police, coastguards and NNDC that it was in fact an old piece of steel most likely from the pier. The pier was re-opened shortly after that.

CPE team & Environmental Health team visited to Caravan and Holiday park coastal sites to reaffirm H&S of cliff safety

CPE team provide inspection and maintenance information to assist with a claim from a person injuring themselves on steps at Sheringham earlier in the year.

The CPE team and Leisure and Localities have received and increased and high numbers of reports and concerns from the public relating to inappropriate use of jet skis on the coast over the summer. The CPE team have supported other teams with managing this as best as possible and to begin to consider how this can be better managed.

Planning

The Planning Policy Working Party agree the draft scope for the initial consultation of the Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document.

A Partnership of East Suffolk Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, The Broads Authority, and the shared Coastal Partnership East team is at an early stage in preparing a Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The purpose of this SPD is to provide guidance on aligned policy approaches along the coast and to take a holistic (whole coast) approach, which follows from the Statement of Common Ground on Coastal Zone Planning agreed between the partnership authorities in September 2018. In doing so, this SPD will ensure planning guidance is up to date, aid the interpretation and delivery of planning policy, and provide case study examples of coastal adaptation best practice. The scope of the SPD is now open for consultation.

Comprehensive Spending Review

CPE are working across the authorities alongside the finance teams and with the LGA Coastal SIG to develop evidence to submit as part of responses to the Comprehensive Spending Review regarding the level of revenue Coastal Protection/Management funding and inequities with Flood Defence revenue funding (which is 100% funded nationally). Data from 22 Local Government Association Coastal SIG members has been collected to help support the Comprehensive Spending Review / RSG response from the LGA Coastal SIG and LA members.

National Policy and Strategy

Government Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy Statement released – we are considering the content and identifying opportunities.

Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy laid

before parliament on Tuesday. Again we are digesting the content. NNDC as a Risk Management Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act must act consistently with this strategy. There are wider links beyond coastal management such as Planning and Environment. NNDC have been highlighted twice with the National Strategy document.

Research

NERC UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher Scheme

Unfortunately, the NERC UK Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher Scheme was not successful which was extremely disappointing. However, the team are looking at alternative ways parts of this essential research to be completed and funded.

Appointments

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett as Adaptation Lead and Karen Thomas Head of Coastal Partnership East as Adaptation Champion for the LA Coastal Special Interest Group.

AFT chaired the first resurrected meeting of the Adaptation Group to explore and champion Coastal Adaptation attended by Karen Thomas and Rob Goodliffe alongside other national local government colleagues.

Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett in the LGA Adaptation Lead role will also chair the CLIFF Steering Group.

Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

The Environment Agency have written to all Risk Management Authorities (Flood and Coastal) to introduce the new Innovative Resilience Fund that is soon launch for Expressions of interest. Key points:

- Proposals must seek to improve resilience of households, communities and businesses to flooding and/or response to coastal change now and in the future.
- Projects must be led by a single Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) or Coast Protection Authority (CPA) but successful projects will represent a consortium of other local partners.
- Applications for this new Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Programme will open in autumn 2020, with successful projects will be announced in spring 2021 and completing before spring 2027.
- Selected partnership projects will receive up to £6 million over the six years.

The CPE team will be seeking further guidance and develop options for the Expressions of Interest process.

3 Meetings Attended

Note all meetings have been held as appropriate with regards to COVID.

- Weekly briefings to end July

July:

- Cabinet

- Coastal Forum
- CPE Board meeting
- Planning Policy and Built Heritage
- Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
- Trimmingham Parish Council
- Overview and Scrutiny
- Norfolk Coast Partnership "Re-Opening The Coast" Task & Finish Group
- Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership
- LGA Independent Briefing - Devolution
- LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

August:

- Cabinet
- Governance, Risk & Audit Committee
- Broads Internal Drainage Board
- Planning Policy & Built Heritage
- LGA Coastal SIG Adaptation Meeting
- Development Committee
- Norfolk Coast Partnership "Re-Opening The Coast" Task & Finish Group
- Business Planning
- Cabinet Pre-Agenda
- Carbon Trust Presentation
- Devolution Briefing

September:

- Overstrand Parish Council (Social distancing in Parish Hall)
- Cabinet
- North Norfolk Coastal Update
- Still to come:
- Planning Policy & Build Heritage
- Trimmingham Parish Council
- Overview & Scrutiny
- Development Committee
- Regional Flood & Coastal Local Choices Committee