

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group Meeting

West Wittering Football Pavilion
28th November 2012 09.30

MINUTES

Present:

Dominic Henly (DH)	Chichester District Council (CDC)
David Lowsley (DL)	Chichester District Council (CDC)
Marcus Irwin-Brown (MIB)	West Wittering Estates (WWE)
Mark Wardle (MW)	National Trust (NT)
Lisa Trownson (LT)	National Trust (NT)
Richard Craven (RC)	Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)
Jayne Field (JF)	Natural England (NE)
Alison Fowler (AF)	Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)
Siun Craggy (SC)	Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)
Keith Martin (KM)	West Wittering Parish Council (WWPC)
Richard Shrubbs (RS)	F.G. Wooder Trust (FGWT)
Uwe Dornbusch (UD)	Environmental Agency (EA)
Stella Hadley (SH)	Cakeham Manor Estate (CME)

Item		Action
1		
	<p>Site Visit</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken to East Head looking specifically at;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The failed breastworks between groynes C22 and C21 • The failed gabions between groynes C24 and C23 	
2		
	<p>Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round the table introductions welcoming new members 	
3		
	<p>Review of minutes from meeting of 4th October 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4b, DL to send link and instructions for channel coastal observatory website where the 2012 survey report will be available soon. http://www.channelcoast.org • Item 5, group updated that defence works are stopped and will commence again spring 2013, • Item 6, DL informed group that the beach management plan does not cover West Wittering, and that the first major works will be undertaken at Bracklesham • Item 6 II, believed to be finished • Item 7, KM informed group no change to website 	DL

4		
	<p>Update on CCO Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DL updated group that the beach surveys had recently been undertaken and the report should be available in December 12 	
5		
	<p>Asset Conditions and Adaptive Management Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group viewed and discussed a plan produced by DH of asset conditions. • Terms of reference – MIB raised issue of terms of reference, DH to circulate final terms of reference produced in 2008, with the group to review and be in a position to sign up to it at next meeting. • RS raised the point that previous renourishment in 2005 now looked natural and had been effective. Other points raised and discussed were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Beach nourishment behind the hinge now provides flexibility for managing change ➤ Over-wash unlikely due to current beach crest levels ➤ Beach behind the breastworks is likely to evolve with an initial vertical face, moving back and creating a shallow beach. UD used the case study of Hayling Island where breastworks were removed and the beach responded in this way and where there is now a stable beach. ➤ The possible risk to harbour from siltation, had previously been discounted by the expert panel. ➤ Lowering planks as a possible option, the group agreed that this was not sensible without external expert opinion of the impacts, as it would likely result in increased stress on the failing breastworks. ➤ It would be advisable to lower the path behind the failed breastworks to avoid the risk posed by swallow holes. ➤ Hard engineering is not an option due to the various designations covering the area and would not be supported by the coast protection authority as does not support the agreed policy for the frontage. • Finance – KM raised that what we are proposing must be the best solution and not simply financially driven, this was agreed by the group. Should CDC not have available funds members of the group expressed that funds could be found elsewhere? • Time to begin Adaptive Management- Adaptive management is the policy for East Head, which was decided through much previous consultation. Other key 	DH

	<p>points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioning further reports likely to be very similar ➤ If attempts are made to hold the line the question will only be delayed and the impacts in the future are likely to be more dramatic. ➤ The risk of breaches is unlikely as everything so far indicates that the system would heal itself – the group agreed that should a breach occur we must be in a position to take action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed Gabions- although failed the group agreed expert opinion should be sought before they are removed. MIB will get David Piper to regularly inspect and remove any sharp wire. This risk of injury was considered low due to the winter usage of the area. • The group agreed that expert opinion should be sought on proposed changes before action takes place. Key points discussed and actions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DL will circulate a list of suggested steps which where possible should be reversible, for comments which will be given to Dr Malcolm Bray to evaluate their impact. ➤ The result of any actions must ensure a breach does not occur and that planning permission should be in place to allow a swift response should a risk of breach be identified. DL to discuss planning permission for groyne extension and recharge with CDC Planners ➤ Trigger points should be agreed before any action is taken. Navigation to the harbour must not be compromised. • Other key points raised and discussed:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health and Safety is paramount and the safety of the public must be maintained. ➤ MW raised the point that allowing natural processes would be a really positive step. ➤ Any steps taken will need to be assessed for their individual effects therefore the adaptive management should be a series of small steps rather than radical moves. 	<p>MIB</p> <p>DL</p> <p>DL</p>
6		
	<p>East Head report</p> <p>Report submitted to DH observed, DH to respond directly to author and report will be considered further at next meeting</p>	<p>DH</p>
7		
	<p>Financial Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group funds held by CDC are currently £3,277.00 • The group agreed that contributions should continue at £350 per member, DH to invoice group for current tax year. 	<p>DH</p>

8		
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW will draft a group statement and information for the public. This will be shared within the group and agreed before the next meeting. • It would be sensible for all individual websites to be linked which individual members of the group will look into. 	MW
9		
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be held 16th January 2013 	