

EAST HEAD COASTAL ISSUES ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

West Wittering Beach Café
1st February 2017

MINUTES

Present:

Dominic Henly (DH)	Chichester District Council (CDC)
James Crespi (JC)	West Wittering Estate (WWE)
Jayne Field (JF)	Natural England (NE)
Stella Hadley (SH)	Cakeham Manor Estate (CME)
Lisa Trownson (LT)	National Trust (NT)
Richard Craven (RC)	Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC)
Richard Shrubb	F.G. Woodier Trust (FGWT)
David Saddler	West Wittering Parish Council (WWPC)
Uwe Dornbusch	Environment Agency (EA)
Keith Martin (KM)	West Wittering Parish Council (WWPC)
David Lowsley	

Apologies:

Patrick Byrne (PB)	West Wittering Estate (WWE)
Mark Wardle (MW)	National Trust (NT)

Item	Action
1	Site Visit to the hinge
2	Review of previous minutes
3&4	<p>Asset Condition Update</p> <p>All agreed that the ‘new beach’ is taking shape well and the desired shallow sloped shingle beach shape is clearly evident.</p> <p>JC explained that WWE monitor the area regularly to ensure the area is kept safe. Due to the large sink hole in between G21 & G22, the path along the top of the breastwork has been closed with new informational signage installed.</p> <p>All noted that the previously exposed Gabions in this section have been covered by new shingle deposits. WWE will continue to survey Gabions and take action if required but at present they are intact and safe.</p> <p>LT mentioned that the Gabions further round on the western section of the Hinge are still intact but do need to be monitored. Summer footfall poses the biggest threat in terms of ‘gabion erosion’ and NT will look into potential footpath diversions or boardwalk options to minimize the impact of this.</p> <p>G22-G23 – Following the removal of the temporary summer repairs, the sinkhole has appeared again. WWE have placed cones around the area in question. UD suggested taking off the top section of the exposed breastwork to allow more material to pass through easier.</p> <p>KM suggested if we remove the top section, it could be used to replace missing boards lower down.</p> <p>DL commented that the area is made up from various materials and construction methods and that we don’t really know what’s there.</p> <p>SH said the it shows the area is prone to wave damage. DL acknowledged that the area is a pressure point due to changing currents – de-</p>

	<p>spite this there is no cause for concern and when the structure does give way, a beach will form naturally but perhaps a different shape. All agreed that at present there is no action required and to carry on as per 2016. WWE will monitor the area until the summer when they will apply to NE for consent to install temporary repairs over the summer months that are removed mid Sept.</p> <p>G21-22</p> <p>DH stated there are several large sinkholes in this section of Breastwork. JC said WWE were aware hence the closure of the footpath and are monitoring regularly.</p> <p>There was a general discussion that followed recognizing that whilst the front boards of the breastwork are still intact, the structure has essentially failed. However, as part of the agreed working practice that takes into consideration public perception, it was agreed to leave the section intact until the point the water 'breaks through' the front section. At this point, with the groups and NE consent, the breastwork will be removed to the next safest point. UD stressed the importance of not having a standalone section of breastwork as the water will have a 'pincer' like effect and subsequently damage the area. It was then agreed to move the next ECHAIG meeting to the end of March so the group has a chance to review how the asset has fared over the coming weeks.</p>	
5	<p>DL Collating lessons learned project update</p> <p>JC stated as the newest member of the group that the document was extremely useful and would bring anyone unfamiliar with the area/project up to speed.</p> <p>SH suggested a 'key point' section would be useful and also to highlight the 'turning' point of the project when the 'two sides' came together.</p> <p>JF asked DL to mention the Communication Strategy that was employed explain the open days and so on.</p> <p>LT asked for a map of the area in question to be added with groyne numbers and reference points so people unfamiliar with the area could understand more.</p> <p>RS mentioned the Humber Estuary visit should also be mentioned.</p> <p>DH will send the group DL's email address for all to send any further feedback – this should be sent by week commencing 13th Feb.</p>	
6	<p>Collaboration with Portsmouth University</p> <p>Whilst in general the group agreed the most recent study undertaken by Rebecca Creed and been a success, UD stated the group should be aware of under grad students and the accuracy of work. KM suggested post grad are perhaps a better option and that they often look beyond the immediate area and look at other parts of the country that may be experiencing similar issues.</p> <p>All agreed the collaboration in general is a good idea and that Malcom Bray and Jonathon Potts from Portsmouth university should be invited to the next meeting to discuss potential research projects.</p>	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>No comments</p>	
8	<p>Date of next meeting</p>	

	Thursday 23 rd March	