

# East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group Meeting

West Wittering Football Pavilion  
6th July 2009, 10.00 a.m.

<b>Present:</b>	Andrew Lawrence	National Trust
	Daniel Duthie	National Trust
	David Lowsley	CDC
	Nick Bean	Environment Agency
	Jim Robertson	West Wittering Parish Council
	Jon Curzon	Natural England
	Keith Martin	West Wittering Parish Council
	Peter Morton	West Wittering Estate
	Stella Hadley	Cakeham Manor Estate

## Apologies

Richard Shrubb    F.G. Woodger Trust

### 1. Visit to East Head – Site Walkover/Recent Site Works

DL began by saying how pleased he was with the way the works had been carried out behind The Hinge and put this down to good planning and project management by the Harbour Conservancy. The marram grass appeared to be well established and was blending in well. This was reiterated by JR who said East-West Wittering residents were also very pleased with how things were going.

DD asked if there was any merit in keeping the Tamarisk along the shoreline. Although the species is not a “natural” inhabitant it was generally felt that this might contribute to a build-up of sand on what was predominantly shingle and was not of any likely significance in terms of defence. On that basis it was agreed that the Tamarisk could stay in place.

### 2. Welcome and Discuss Minutes from December Meeting

DL welcomed KM.

It was requested that reference from Chichester Harbour Conservancy to ‘a contribution of £5,000 by West Wittering Parish Council towards funding’, mentioned in item 7 of the minutes of the last meeting, be removed.

### 3. Status of Strategy

The Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy was still going through the EA’s internal approval system, which was expected to be complete by the autumn. The strategy would then require ministerial approval by Defra and HM Treasury.

#### 4. **Work to Date**

Further to 1 above the meeting agreed that the works carried out had greatly added to the general feeling of security and had been well received by the majority of the public. DL commented that the Harbour Conservancy, Philip Couchman and B&M Plant should all be congratulated on the way in which the contract was carried out.

PM was concerned about the amount of sand being deposited by the sea in front of the beach huts and Cakeham Manor to the East of East Head. He felt that recharging by Havant Borough Council further along the coast and offshore dredging was having an effect on the coastal deposit of sand and ultimately the beach at West Wittering. DL assured him that this was not the case since HBC were not putting sand on their beach. The volume of sand in the Havant recharge was insignificant in proportion to that being deposited at Wittering. The dredged material was coming from a licensed offshore site where the proportion of sand was in the region of 15 –20%. DL explained that the direction of littoral drift, in combination with the currents in the harbour entrance would be unlikely to add much to the volume of material arriving on West Wittering from that source. It was agreed that more information was required and DL offered to set up a meeting with Havant BC Engineers to learn more.

**Action** DL to arrange meeting with Havant BC

#### 5 **Further Works**

Because of the successful implementation of the beach recycling scheme the group believed that need to press ahead with the proposed sill was greatly reduced and felt that time should be taken to watch how the works will evolve before undertaking further expenditure. KM said ~~that a local view-public opinion~~ was that the sill would not have much effect. People were more concerned about the effect on the saltmarsh during construction. JC and AL stated their organisations would not be in favour of continual recharging. It was therefore proposed that a dedicated meeting be held on the measurable effect of recharging on the hinge from Cakeham westwards. It was agreed that we still required clear, robust and achievable actions to protect the benefits that East Head currently offers, which would be triggered by measurable events. It was felt unlikely that action would be required before defences began to deteriorate further. PM said a plan of action or summary of works needed to be outlined as he felt nothing had been defined. The Group agreed to explore the triggers for action at the next meeting.

**Action** – Next meeting to discuss triggers for action and identify response.

#### 6 **Further Studies**

SH raised the question of the need for monitoring and understanding what was happening on the foreshore. DL pointed out that the beach is regularly surveyed and can be compared against the baseline survey carried out in 2003. However he advised that resources were not available to carry out

interpretation of the survey data. The group felt that, because of the excellent reports and understanding of the area demonstrated by Dr Malcolm Bray of Portsmouth University he should be asked to quote a budget price for updating his report to include recent survey data up to and including 2009.

DL said funding from EHCIAG could be used to pay for studies and data analysis carried out by Malcolm Bray. It was agreed that these studies should not be undertaken as an annual event but as part of monitoring if it was deemed necessary or subject to need.

**Action:** DL to discuss with Malcolm Bray the possible update of the study.

## **7. Accounts**

DL reported that the only funds held were £400 which Natural England had paid towards last year's annual contribution DL reported there was approximately £378 and a few pence in the fund.

**Action:** DL to raise invoices for annual subs.

## **8. Any Other Business**

(a) That within item 7 of the minutes of the last meeting reference of £5,000 donated by West Wittering Parish Council be retracted.

(b) Claim for refreshments to be forwarded to DL.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 7th October, 10.30 a.m. at West Wittering Football Club.