

# East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Microsoft Teams

## Present:

Dominic Henly (DH)	Chichester District Council (CDC)
James Crespi (JC)	West Wittering Estate (WWE)
Max Ambrose (MA)	West Wittering Estate (WWE)
Patrick Byrne (PB)	West Wittering Estate (WWE)
Angela Marlow (AM)	National Trust
Stella Hadley (SH)	Cakeham Manor Estate (CME)
Keith Martin (KM)	West Wittering Parish Council
Nicolette Pike (NP)	West Wittering Parish Council
Richard Craven	Harbour Conservancy
Katie Archer	National Trust
Lee Walther	National Trust
Alex Hilawi	Coastal Partners
Uwe Dornbusch	Environment Agency

## Absent:

Stuart Dobbin	Woodger Trust
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### 1. Review of previous minutes

SH asked that the section covering the Cakeham Sand management reads that the work undertaken was to address blow holes as opposed to a dune collapse.

### 2. Triggers

DH stated the meeting has been called due to a trigger point being met, landward erosion of 5m. DH asked the group whether the triggers need to be reviewed as the asset has changed considerably since the original trigger document was created. CDC and WWE to review the document and report back to the group.

### 3. Asset Condition

Update from WWE (JC & MA) – contractors had been appointed to undertake the removal of the failed breastwork as agreed in the previous meeting. The work carried out in January was perhaps earlier than expected due to the extreme weather and conditions experienced towards the end of 2020 and early 2021. The failed breastwork in between G21 and G20 was fully exposed and posing a significant safety risk. WWE also felt it was restricting the free movement of material into the area.

The work funded by WWE cost £7.5k. KM asked whether the cliff edge section exposed by G20 would erode quicker due to its profile. WWE commented that from observation, the pressure on the area reduces as you head east and as such, they would not expect to see quicker erosion here.

NP raised the location of the public footpath which used to run along the breastwork and asked where the footpath will run now following the changes. AM explained that the path will essentially roll back with the beach once the area settled the location will then be formally agreed. AM to look further into this and report back to the group.

JC mentioned the estate had recently commissioned a topographical survey and will share the document with group once complete.

#### **4. Next Steps**

The group agreed G21 to the west is stable and no action is required at present. RC asked what the long-term view is on this area. DH explained it would be to retain the groynes for as long as possible due to the function they perform.

JC then explained to the rest of the group the work that had been undertaken on the proposed recycling scheme. Architects' drawings were shown to the group that illustrate a shingle bank installed behind the G21 and D20 area that joins with the 2016 bund. The basic principle of the scheme being to provide a backstop for a natural beach to form as it has done around the G22 area. He also discussed the intent to raise the level of the car park behind the bund to improve drainage and allow visitor parking throughout the year. This would involve removing the tarmac area, bin store and essentially 'returning' the area to a more natural state.

KM asked whether the NT planned to direct more pedestrians along the number one footpath as the route is already busy. NT explained they would not look to do this.

JC raised the question of timing and funding for the project. It was agreed that work will continue to pull documentation together ready for planning submission. Funding discussion can then continue, DH asked whether the Woodger Trust would consider contributing – KM and JC to discuss with SD when appropriate.

RC mentioned there could be an option to use material when the next round of dredging takes place. RC and JC to liaise on the possibility of this.

UD commented that materials shown on the drawing could be reduced, JC agreed and explained the architect will amend the drawing to remove any material positioned south side of the bund.

AM asked for the sourcing of the material to be assessed along with any potential impacts.

DH and JC will continue to pull the documentation together including requested impact assessments and material sourcing options.

#### **5. AOB**

PR release was discussed – JC explained that the basis of the document has been drafted and that it will be updated following the recent changes and will include photographs. JC, DH and KM to work on final draft to be released that states work is being undertaken and recycling/bund installations are being considered.

NP asked that WWE and NT look further into bird awareness and stated that beach users seem to be unaware with regards to scaring/interrupting wintering birds.

LW mentioned that this is an ideal time to take more action with regards to bird awareness. NT and WWE to meet and review what actions can be put in place.