

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

7th October 2020 – 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
David Lowesley	
Lisa Trownson	National Trust

Absent:

Lucy Archer	National Trust
Lee Walther	National Trust
Stuart Dobbin	Woodger Trust
Jonathon Potts	Portsmouth University
Malcom Bray	Portsmouth University

1. Review of previous minutes

DH raised the question to NE about the ability to move material quickly to certain areas if required. AM believed it should be fine if there is no additional impact on other areas.

MA confirmed the large concrete blocks from G21 had been relocated to the western corner of G19 to provide additional support as the area had started to erode quickly – he also confirmed that the recent lowering of the groyne had a positive impact on material moving between bays and the G19 was holding well.

2. Asset condition

MA update:

G24 – G23 is stable and holding well with plenty of shingle present.

G22 / Red Flag Area – holding well. Some of the exposed Tamarisk has been removed as required over 2020 and the large concrete blocks relocated to G19 as planned. MA commented that the level of the naturally formed beach is now similar to the breastwork that was there until early 2016. Also mentioned that further lowering of the groyne in this area would improve/enhance material movement from bay to bay as proven further east.

G21 & G20 – Erosion in this area has accelerated due to some of the summer storms experienced. Failed breastwork is now exposed and no longer serving a purpose and potentially causing more damage by channelling / forcing water into certain areas. JC commented that this section and further east to G19 now poses the biggest threat with regards to maintaining access to East Head. MA suggested for safety reasons and to assist with the process of the beach naturally replenishing removing the failed structures would be beneficial and to lower groynes in this area to help material enter the bays. JC also stated a more strategic approach required once this work has been carried out suggesting a form of shingle recycling similar to that last carried out in 2016 behind G23, G22 and G21. DH commented that ground levels in the car park immediately behind G20 and G19 could be an issue with DL suggesting over washing is likely here.

MA confirmed the beach eastward of G19 is in good condition with no immediate or obvious issues.

3. Actions agreed.

- For WWE to remove the failed breastwork in the G22/G21 area and make safe. WWE stated this would not likely take place until the new year.
- Tamarisk with exposed roots to be removed along with any gabions that have structural failed.
- Group agreed for WWE to work with CDC, Environment Agency, and Natural England to devise a plan for the G22/G21/G20 area. This is likely to be focussed on a shingle recycling approach as used previously – WWE to report back to the rest of the group in time for the next meeting.

4. Cakeham Sand Dune Evolution

Residents from Cakeham manner who have undertaken, and sand management programme individually updated the group with their work to date. This involved removing a collapsed dune, restabing the material then planting and fencing to encourage grass growth and protect from foot traffic. Public footpath has been temporarily moved with a view to reinstate once the work is complete. PB commented that the item whilst interesting should not be included on the ECHIAG agenda as it sits outside of the groups remit. DH acknowledged and explained the item was for info only.

5. AOB

KM suggested a communication piece is required; group agreed to pull draft together.

SH asked if the 'cliffing' on the dunes around East Head is an issue. LT stated the NT are not concerned, DH and DL said the area is a dynamic one and cliffing is to be expected.

Group agreed next meeting for March 2021 with a date to be confirmed in the New Year.