

Welcome to Issue 4

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Hello and welcome to our 2018 summer edition of the Coastal Partnership East (CPE) newsletter. CPE is a partnership of 4 local authorities in the East of England, Great Yarmouth Borough with North Norfolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, who between them manage 173km of coast. CPE also works with the Environment Agency, the Water Management Alliance and the coast and estuary partnerships. We are pleased to share with you that CPE has been in operation now for just over 2 years. Please do keep an eye out for our second annual report which will be published soon.

There have been significant challenges on our coast recently, in particular the consequences of low beach levels and we are working hard with the communities to work out the best solution for as many people as possible. The most pressing of these has been at Hemsby but there are many other locations around our coastline that have been and continue to suffer the after-effects of the winter.

CPE is developing work locally and have also been busy sharing and learning on a national scale. Some of the CPE team attended the [2018 Flood and Coast conference](#), and also were involved in learning about the [Dutch Sandmotor](#) and other innovative coastal management designs.

I am pleased that CPE can share with you the new Dynamic Purchasing System, which enables suppliers of coastal management works to register with East Suffolk and then bid for coastal work across all four authorities. This process makes the process simpler and also enables smaller providers to apply for works.

Bill Parker
Head of Coastal Partnership East

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Opportunities for involvement

Dynamic Purchasing System

We have developed a new [Dynamic Purchasing System \(DPS\)](#) for interested suppliers to support CPE. The system gives suppliers the opportunity to prequalify and then bid for tender opportunities available on our coastline. The system has been divided into four Lots – namely Repair and Maintenance, Capital Works, Consultants and Specialists.

The DPS streamlines procurement for both suppliers and authorities; suppliers don't have to demonstrate suitability and capability every time they wish to compete for a public sector contract and the award of individual tenders can be quicker than under some other procedures. Tenders under the DPS will be let on a project-by-project basis unless otherwise notified, and through a competitive tender procedure only - no direct selection of providers is available. We are looking forward to procuring our first projects through the system this summer.

The new approach to procurement provides CPE and our providers flexibility and successful applications gives providers access to work in as much or little of our region. The new system will standardise documents and simplify relationships between providers and our members

What has happened and forward planning

Winterton to Hemsby Coastal Management study

Managing our coastline is a national issue and Great Yarmouth Borough Council is liaising with the Government about what can be done. A study is now underway which will provide important information to help support these conversations.

The Winterton to Hemsby Coastal Management Study will be the first stage of a wider project that will cover the coastline between Winterton and Great Yarmouth to consider the most appropriate way of managing this dynamic shoreline over the next few decades.

Due to urgent need to consider options for Hemsby, we have decided to start this phase of the project now. Findings and decisions from this study will then feed into the wider planning for the Winterton to Great Yarmouth coastline.

Your involvement will make sure that this study reflects local knowledge and opinion.

What will this study do?

- Focussing on the shoreline of Hemsby to Winterton, this study will enable the Council and communities to make informed decisions regarding future management of this shoreline.
- It will look at possible approaches for managing the coast and what actions would be needed to carry these out.
- It will provide information required for conversations between communities, the Council and the Government.

What has the study considered?

- We have developed a wider and up-to-date understanding of the coast and how it behaves, looking at changes that have happened to our coast, both recently and in the past.
- We have inspected the current condition of the dunes, cliffs and defences. This has improved our understanding of today's conditions and the risks and problems faced.
- This information is being used to consider a range of possible approaches to managing this frontage.

- Each approach is being assessed, looking at whether it will be suitable and effective along this coastline and also the possible impacts on future change both at Hemsby and along adjacent shorelines.
- We are looking at the possible costs involved in implementing the options that are considered viable.
- Whilst we have been focussing on developing options for Hemsby, we have also considered the risks associated with coastal changes at Winterton, but management options for the Winterton frontage will be not undertaken until a later phase of the wider project.

The coastline at Hemsby has been subject to change for thousands of years. The cliffs are historic sand dunes and as such are predominantly made of sand so have very little resistance to direct wave action. The recent fall in beach levels has made them more vulnerable. Chalets were lost shortly after the second world war, and now more recently homes have been lost earlier this year. An independent study has been completed by commissioned Jacobs, a leading engineering and coastal specialist to undertake a high-level assessment to provide the Council, community and others with an independent technical assessment of the coast at Winterton to Hemsby to understand what options are available.

What happens next?

A drop-in event will be held at on Thursday 19th July from 1.30pm to 8pm, Hemsby Village Hall, NR29 4NH where the learning from the study will be shared with the community and to begin discussion. Presentations will be shared at 3 points in the day, the same presentation repeated so that those that want to can see it. The full report will be available too. Presentations will be repeated at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm.

10 year programme

We have been busy pulling together a 10 year investment programme incorporating our aspirations for capital works around the CPE coastline. The 10 year programme includes a diverse range of interventions, ranging from traditional 'grey' infrastructure and use of rocks, to innovative and sustainable approaches that work with natural processes to deliver resilience to communities and assets at risk. The investment programme outlines our capital works however there are still significant areas of work required to deliver repairs and maintenance as well as the crucial areas of engaging with communities that we will be continuing. This in addition to policy and stakeholder engagement at both local and national level, as well as exploring and securing the new forms of funding and finance needed to deliver the team's work.

News from each local authority area

Stormy weather at Felixstowe 30/04

Unseasonably harsh weather for late April led to the closure of Felixstowe floodgates between 29th April and 1st May as a precaution against wave overtopping running through floodgates. Northerly winds created a water level of ~0.4m on top of a spring tide and waves of ~2.5m. The Still Water Level was not high enough to generate an Environment Agency flood alert and so CPE's bespoke Risk Assessment and response procedure was tested for the second time in two months. Prior to that the last time there was a similar wave-generated flood event was about 10 years ago.

Thorpeness Beach Fatality – Coroners Inquest

An Inquest was held in late April following the tragic death of a beach walker at Thorpeness in January 2017. CPE had previously provided a statement to the Coroner who required a CPE officer to give evidence. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Feedback has been invited from legal staff that represented the Council's insurer at and before the inquest. This will be reviewed as part of a lessons learned process.

Suffolk Coast Forum conference

The Suffolk Coast Forum 7th annual conference will be held at Wherstead Park, Ipswich on Friday 12th October.

“Learning from the past, adapting for the future”

This year sees the 65th anniversary of the 1953 floods and the 5th anniversary of the 2013 tidal surge. It seems an appropriate moment to pause, assess what we have learnt and consider what we might need to do to manage our coast now and for the future.

We are delighted to confirm that our morning key note speaker is John Curtin, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency. We would also like to announce that this year's main speaker is explorer, writer, geographer, broadcaster and presenter of BBC's Coast, Nick Crane. Nick will be joining delegates over lunch before he speaks as part of the afternoon's programme. Places are limited so if you'd like to join us then do book as soon as possible. You can do this by emailing Alysha.Stockman@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Sadly this year one of the stalwarts of estuary management in Suffolk, Councillor Sue Allen, passed away. Sue's hard work, dedication and commitment to the management of our coast and estuaries will be marked at the conference. The Sue Allen memorial awards for contributions to coast and estuary management will be presented at the Conference.

Invitations have been circulated, please see <http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolkcoastforum/>

North Norfolk Coastal Forum

The March 2018 North Norfolk Coastal Forum (NNCF) meeting provided updates on the proposed Vanguard Wind Development and a presentation was provided by Vattenfall. Nathalie Harris, Technical Support Officer, provided a very informative and interesting presentation on how Coastal Authorities have to work with Marine Licences. The Chairman of Trimmingham Parish Council announced the near completion of the relocation of Trimmingham Village Hall, this project was initiated as a Pathfinder project to replace the existing community 'pilgrims Shelter' that is at risk of erosion. Cllr Hilary Cox provided an update on the Cromer Shoal Chalk Bed and highlighted the consultation now open. Updates were provided by the Environment Agency (EA) and North Norfolk District Council regarding coastal management activities. The July NNCF will be the annual field trip, where we will visit the new Trimmingham Village Hall.

Major project updates

SMP Policy Review Slaughden

Stage 2 of the study is almost complete. It includes an assessment of environmental constraints. The stage 2 report will be shared with the SMP Client Steering Policy Review Sub-Group for review before submission to the July Suffolk Coast Forum meeting.

SMP policy review Bawdsey

Following constructive meetings of CPE and EA staff with the Hollesley and Bawdsey Parish Councils and representatives of the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership, an agreement has been reached on a process to take forward a review of the SMP Policy for the Bawdsey to Shingle Street frontage. The project steering group will include community representatives. Further work is required to procure a consultant to deliver the study that is likely to commence in the autumn.

Southwold Capital Works

CPE is working in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA) to develop a capital scheme to address increasing erosion pressure and defence degradation over the Southwold north frontage. Consultant Jacobs, formerly CH2M, have been employed under the EA's Project Development Unit (PDU) framework to produce an Initial Assessment that is expected to lead to an Outline Business Case.

Subject to the Initial Assessment findings, due in August, it may also be necessary for both the EA and Waveney District Council to undertake damage limitation works this calendar year in advance of the major capital works that are expected within 3 years.



Photo showing defence deterioration at Southwold, 2018

Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

Work is underway to engage schools and colleges, from primary age upwards, in a literacy based initiative. This initiative will encapsulate feelings and thoughts about flood risk and will culminate in the translation of those words onto glass flood walls, providing a lasting legacy. Work is also going in to art installations around the town which will appear in stages. The first of these was launched on 28th June, covering sections of the Town Hall.

To ensure that impacts to people, the local economy and the environment have been fully understood and taken into consideration, everyone living, visiting or working in or around Lowestoft has had the opportunity to take part in determining how flood risk within Lowestoft should be managed. The best location for flood walls has been agreed by working with landowners, partners and the community. It is hoped that construction will begin on the tidal flood walls in March 2019 with work to address flooding from rivers and extreme rainfall starting at a similar time.

Bacton

The Environmental Statement is near completion and applications for marine licence and planning consent are anticipated to be submitted in June 2018. Work is ongoing identifying the most appropriate method of extending surface water outfalls at the terminal. The Outline Business Case for a FCERM Grant in Aid has been presented to the EA and was received positively. A group of local representatives met for the first time in May forming the project Local Liaison Group to help ensure effective and timely communications.

Mundesley

Since our Spring 2018 newsletter the Outline Business Case (OBC) is nearing completion and will be submitted to the Environment Agency for approval by Summer 2018. We have recently been involved in successful funding discussions with Anglian Water, who have confirmed a contribution of £250,000. Once the OBC has been approved we will progress the design of the preferred option.

Cromer

We are in the process of developing the scope of works for the design of Cromer Phase 2. Phase 1 of the scheme was completed in 2016 and we are now refining the requirements for Phase 2. This stage of the project will include consultation with relevant stakeholders and community members about the options development. Phase 2 will include repairs to a number of the existing groynes and construction of foundations to sections of the existing seawall.

Sheringham completion

In the final phase of the Sheringham sea wall improvement scheme we replaced some sea wall deck and installed scour protection onto the lower cliff. This scheme is now complete.

Brackenbury completion

Works to the Brackenbury footpath were completed in time for Easter. The footpath goes around a rock revetment near to Jacob's ladder, Felixstowe.



Scratby

During the months of March and April 2018 the coastline has been under additional pressure on two occasions. The spring tides together with strong easterly winds has led to wide spread beach loss along our coastline. The wave action has cut large steps (greater than 3m in places) into the front of the beach at Scratby. A section of the gabion baskets has now collapsed following the loss of the beach foundation. Contractors have started on site to make the area safe by pulling down gabion baskets about to collapse and rebuild the section that has been lost.

R&M update

Contract with JT Mackley ending

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' term contract with J T Mackley is scheduled to end in July 2018. A new contract or contracts are being created to serve Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils using the aforementioned DPS approach.

Update from North Norfolk

Repairs to the Bacton timber revetments are nearing completion and work will begin to make repairs to the Bacton Terminal revetment shortly. The Terminal Operators will be contributing to the Terminal revetment.



Photo showing works at Bacton revetment

Officers have been keeping the cliff losses at Happisburgh under review over the spring with a view to recutting the beach access ramp as soon as it is considered beach levels have recovered sufficiently. Last week the ramp was recut again and a 30m section of the rock sill was rocked back under an Emergency MMO licence. The rest of the rock sill will be rolled back once we receive the 10 year MMO licence described below.

Marine Licence applications have been submitted for generic 10 year maintenance works that fall outside existing exempt activities. Likewise a 10 year planning application has also be submitted for Happisburgh to continue recutting of the ramp and roll back of the rock sill.



Happisburgh works - netting has been put up to prevent a protected species nesting in the cliffs

Tenders are now live for an extension to the toe of the East Runton Ramp and the installation of additional flood alleviation drains at Walcott Seafront. The latter will also involve Norfolk County Highways completing the gully drains in the road.

Update from Suffolk

In the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney districts we are continuing to work on repairing damage caused by the severe weather earlier in the year. Most works to our larger town frontages are complete; other works are ongoing or programmed to be dealt with.

Corton village promenade repairs are well on the way to completion.



In mid May we moved modest amounts of beach material at Southwold to raise levels near the seawall. You can read the Eastern Daily Press article about it [here](#).

Team update

John Harris has been working for CPE as a coastal engineer based at the Cromer office for the last couple of years. John retired earlier this year. We wish him well and hope that he enjoys his well earned retirement.

We are pleased to welcome to the team an intern, Laurie Stevens, who is working with CPE for the summer months. Laurie is studying civil engineering at Durham University and he is busy getting involved in some of our work.

National updates

Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG)

The SIG represents more than 60 coastal Local authorities around England and is involved with a number of important national work streams. This includes:

House of Lords Select Committee on the Regeneration of Coastal Resorts: The SIG has been asked to host a workshop for the House of Lords Select Committee in October focussing on the regeneration of coastal resorts. The SIG chairman Cllr Andy Smith has also been invited to give evidence at the hearing in July.

Review of the National FCERM Strategy:

The Environment Agency is leading a review into the national FCERM Strategy and members of the SIG are working on each of the working groups including the overall advisory body. This work should be completed by Christmas.

Flood and Coast 2018

Members of CPE attended Flood and Coast 2018 to learn from experience around the world and share our experiences. This is the first time the SIG has had a stand at this annual conference to help raise the profile of coastal local authorities and their importance in coastal management. The SIG also introduced a workshop format into the conference bringing alive and engaging many different disciplines in the issues that affect local authorities. This was well received by all those who attended.

International Knowledge Exchange trip to Holland

The LGA Coastal SIG coordinated a study tour to the Netherlands to learn about the Dutch innovations and approach to coastal management. Some of the CPE team attended as the learning was particularly relevant to the Bacton Scheme in Norfolk, which will help to protect the gas terminal from erosion. The group learned about the [Sandmotor](#) scheme, where 21.5 million cubic metres of sand has been placed on the beach to work with coastal processes. The group also studied the high-quality approach to the engineering and design of [defences in Scheveningen](#) and the [in-dune car park](#) in Katwijk which was a great solution to coastal management which has multiple functions.



Scheveningen boulevard

Presentations at Blow Beach House,
Netherlands



Key dates in the diary



Cllr David Ritchie, Chair of the Suffolk
Coast Forum, addresses the conference

9th July: Suffolk Coast Forum Meeting.

11th July: North Norfolk Coastal Forum will be going on a field trip to Trimmingham.

25th-27th September: The LGA Coastal SIG will be going on a field trip to Lewes District Council in East Sussex.

12th October: Suffolk Coast Forum conference at Wherstead Park.