

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 June 2022

Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew



In attendance:

DR	Cllr	David	Ritchie	ESC (Chair)	AA	Alison	Andrews	AOCP
AS		Alysha	Stockman	CPE (minutes)	MF	Madeline	Fallon	CPE
RR	Cllr	Russ	Rainger	ESC	SR	Sharon	Richardson	CPE
DB	Cllr	David	Beavan	SCAR / ESC	JC	James	Cochrane	CPE
GN	Cllr	Graham	Newman	SCC	DS	David	Spray	MMO
MJ		Mark	Johnson	EA	AR	Adam	Rowlands	RSPB
SB		Sharon	Bleese	CPE	IB	Ian	Bradbury	BEP
SK		Sam	Kench	NE	FJ	Fiona	Johnson	CPE
TB		Tim	Beach	AOCP	TC	Tom	Chalker	CPE
DD		Derek	Davis	BDC	NG	Naomi	Goold	ESC

Apologies: Karen Thomas (CPE), Vanessa Gouldsmith (NE), Jaap Flikweert (RFCC), Richard Powell (RFCC), Julian Gregory (Eastern IFCA), Christine Block (DEP), Giles Bloomfield (WMA), Keith Martin (SCAR), Cllr Tony Cooper (ESC),

1.	Welcome and introductions	The Chair shared a round of introductions.
2.	Energy Projects update	<p>Naomi Goold, Energy Projects Manager at East Suffolk Council (ESC), updated the Forum on Energy Projects.</p> <p>The Chair asked what SEAS and SASES stand for. NG confirmed they are Suffolk Energy Action Solutions and Substation Action Save East Suffolk. SASES is an action group that was primarily set up in relation to East Anglia One North and Two applications and projects. SEAS was looking at a more general view on the energy projects in the area.</p> <p>NG shared that East Anglia Green does not fall within East Suffolk but could have implications if an alternative is proposed such as moving it offshore. ESC has raised concern that if there is a push for an alternative to this scheme, they would not be supportive of further infrastructure in East Suffolk to accommodate it. The Chair asked if it is feasible to move the scheme offshore. NG added because this project is overhead lines it carries a greater capacity so to move it offshore National Grid have said it would be three subsea cables, three converter stations and it would require an upgrading of the line between Bramford to Sizewell.</p> <p>AA asked if Sea Link will be connected at Sizewell. NG added they did identify Sizewell but meant it could be connected in Suffolk. It is likely they are looking at options along the coast between Sizewell and Aldeburgh. RR added in National Grid terms, Sizewell means the line between Sizewell and Bramford, such as Friston. MJ asked how the amount of development compares with other parts of the country. NG added East Anglia has a huge number of projects going on. There is quite a bit being progressed in Wales and with the Round 4 there will be more north of The Wash. That is why as part of the early opportunities workstream they said they were going to focus on East Anglia so it will be interesting to see what these pathfinder projects are proposing. Connecting to East Suffolk are the multipurpose interconnectors and which are seen as a solution because to connect offshore wind to an interconnector and then streamline infrastructure but this area does not have offshore wind that are early enough in their development to connect in. DB asked if there is a technical reason for not connecting to the windfarms. NG added it is the stage at which they are at. DB asked if there will be a connection later on.</p>

		<p>NG added East Anglia 1 and 3 are under construction so will not be connecting and will connect offshore, 1 North and 2 have consent to connect offshore. DB added it needs coordination. NG agreed and added the issue is balancing the coordination with achieving net zero.</p> <p>TB asked if the developers have engaged with the Offshore Transmission Network Review. NG added ESC have asked developers such as Scottish Power Renewables and National Grid Ventures to engage and asked National Grid what they can do with the transmission reinforcements. The Chair asked if this is the offshore ring main that might bring power ashore at the Thames. NG added there is no incentive at the moment for those developers that are sufficiently with their projects to seek coordination as it adds risk to the project. That is for the projects going on now. It will be mandatory for future projects to have coordination. The Chair asked if there is a timeframe for getting some sort of offshore ring main. NG added there is not the technology available to provide the offshore ring main and it still has to have connections to the shore.</p> <p>GN asked if the idea of going to north Kent is because there is the now closed Richborough coal fire station and there is already a network westwards from there and if that applies in Lincolnshire/south Yorkshire where all the coal power stations were. NG added the reason for this is security of supply if there were a fault on the Bramford to Sizewell line, they need to be able to shift power out. There is a specific locational reason at Sizewell and Richborough which is why Sea Link is proposed and has to go in the location that has been.</p> <p>RR noted on the National Grid East Anglia Green project the terminology is not about the environment and talks about low carbon and 2030 targets. It is similar wording but very little that actually references the environment and the cost or damage to the environment.</p>
3.	Corton & Gunton and Pakefield update	<p>MF updated the Forum on the Corton and Gunton Options Appraisal.</p> <p>AA asked if the beach at the southern end is wide because of the cliffs feeding from the north. MF confirmed and added it is related to the offshore sandbanks.</p> <p>AA asked if the community steering group is pulled together by Coastal Partnership East (CPE) rather than the community. SB added that a community steering group was formed during the Gorleston to Lowestoft Strategy and they assisted in driving the strategy forward. The intention is get the group moving and then for it to become their community steering group.</p> <p>SB shared that Royal HaskoningDHV have been working with The Crown Estate to identify a further 25 potential sites around the country that could support a sandscaping project. The idea is that they identify sites and then those sites will undergo a full feasibility study to see where it might work. The view is that the patch between Gorleston to Gunton lends itself quite well to the possibility of somewhere along that patch having the next sandscaping project as sediment there travels both north and south. The CPE Board has agreed to fund 50% of that study through the Resilient Coasts Project and CPE reserves. The remaining 50% will be funded through The Crown Estate. The scope is being drawn up and SB anticipates the study will start in late summer/early autumn after which it can be presented to the Forum. SB is also talking to Royal HaskoningDHV about Aldeburgh to Felixstowe but that is more complicated as it would require a shingle engine.</p> <p>SR shared a consultation was held on 28th April which was a combination of a drop-in event and launch of the virtual visitor centre https://corton.virtualconsultation.co.uk/. It is a virtual room that contains all the consultation information where people can access and download all the reports they need to be brought up to date. The purpose of the consultation was to let the community know what CPE have been doing since the</p>

		<p>Gorleston to Lowestoft Coastal Strategy and what the current situation is. The event was well attended and positively received. SR is currently looking at feedback and statistics for the virtual room.</p> <p>The Chair asked about the drainage improvements invested in by the Pathfinder Project. SB confirmed people are aware of the work but there is a great deal of poor drainage decisions that have compromised the top of that cliff.</p> <p>MF updated the Forum on the Pakefield Options Appraisal and SMP Review.</p> <p>SR shared that CPE initially consulted the public in October with a combination of a drop-in event and virtual visitor centre. The drop-in was well attended, and the consultation was to find out what people valued in Pakefield and on its coast. Following the completion of the options appraisal study CPE held another public consultation on 11th June and set out the shortlist of options for them to select a preference. The virtual room has been updated and the consultation will be open for six weeks after which CPE will collate all of the information received. CPE regularly engage with the community steering group who are very proactive in helping promote the public events and consultations and managing the feedback on the community Facebook group.</p> <p>SB acknowledged the support received from the Environment Agency and Natural England on this complex frontage. CPE are working with science and evidence to look at what Benacre Ness is doing and building for 15 years as that material is coming forward, which can be reviewed at the 10-12 year point. During that time conversations will need to be had with communities.</p>
4.	October Conference update	<p>SB shared that the second joint conference is taking place on 13th October as a hybrid event so there will be some attendance in person at the Orbis Centre as well as a live stream. The conference will be live streamed every year to reach the wider geographical patch and more of the younger generation. The save the date is coming out soon. The conference will look back at almost 70 years since 1953 and what will be faced going forward. The Chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, will be speaking and SB thanked Richard Powell for his help. Sb is finalising the remaining speakers which could include Jacobs and JBA on their coastal warning system, Rachael Hill and Karen Thomas on the Coastal Transition Accelerator Project and Flood and Coastal Risk Innovation Programme, and Dr Cath Brookes and Dr Kate Kipling on the working together project. Balfour Beatty are again main sponsor and the RFCC have contributed too. There will be a separate schools programme including Emily Cunningham and the careers fair will be updated. SB asked Forum member to share any other speaker suggestions and MJ agreed to consider an Environment Agency Strategy presentation.</p>
5.	SMP Refresh and EA Strategy	<p>MJ shared a video about 1 year on from the launch of the Environment Agency Strategy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zE7zYjVNT0g</p> <p>MJ shared there are 23 Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) across England and Wales. The East Anglian Coastal Group (EACG) area has five of the SMPs (Lincolnshire to Southend) and each of those have their complexities and are all different.</p> <p>MF added one of the main tasks to come out of the national refresh is a status tracker summarising each policy unit and what that means in the view of being accessible on the SMP explorer. The next task is the action plan working with the SMP 7 Management Group.</p> <p>MJ added the coastal group network coordinate the delivery of this project. MJ has chaired the EACG for 10 years and will be passing the chair to Karen Thomas later this summer.</p> <p>DD asked what the details of this are for Shotley.</p> <p>SB to cover in Resilient Coasts update.</p> <p>MJ added Shotley is covered in the next SMP down and can be found on the EACG website at http://www.eacg.org.uk/smp8.asp</p> <p>SB drafted an estuary report for Arthur Charvonia to say who manages what in the Shotley area.</p>

6.	Resilient Coasts Project	SB updated the Forum on the Resilient Coasts project. Shotley is a twin for the Thorpeness pilot. The pilot locations are Hemsby, Thorpeness, Southwold and Great Yarmouth with twins in Pakefield and Shotley. The project will be using AR and young ambassadors to engage students across Great Yarmouth and the Suffolk coast. It is critical that communities are the architects of their own change and design their future.
7.	Updates from partners	No further updates to the Partner Summaries paper circulated.
8.	Suggested agenda items for future meetings	SB requested any suggested items for future meetings be sent across by email.
9.	Previous minutes	The Forum approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
10.	Any Other Business	<p>The Chair suggested future in person meetings be hybrid. The Forum agreed.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Forum if the November meeting should be a hybrid meeting or stay as virtual. TB suggested virtual. The Forum agreed.</p> <p>AR shared that in relation to the ambition for landscape scale conservation initiatives RSPB England with the National Trust and Wild Fowl and Wetland Trust have been looking to progress an east coast wetlands initiative from the Humber to the Thames to celebrate the internationally important bird populations on that coast. An element of that is the possibility of a World Heritage Site designation, which is only reviewed every decade and is currently in the process of going out to consultation for potential sites. Expressions of Interest are due to be submitted by 15th July. AR agreed to share the ABPmer consultation report with the Forum.</p> <p>ACTION: AR to share ABPmer consultation report</p>