

Minutes of Meeting held on 8 February 2023 Deben Room East Suffolk House and Teams



In attendance:

DR	Cllr	David	Ritchie	ESC (Chair)		GB		Giles	Bloomfield	WMA
AS		Alysha	Stockman	CPE (minutes)		SLB		Sara	Barratt	CPE
MF		Madeline	Fallon	CPE		JC		James	Cochrane	CPE
AA		Alison	Andrews	AOCP		DB	Cllr	David	Beavan	ESC
SR		Sharon	Richardson	CPE		DD	Cllr	Derek	Davis	BDC
RP		Richard	Powell	RFCC		FJ		Fiona	Johnson	CPE
JF		Jaap	Flikweert	RFCC		VG		Vanessa	Gouldsmith	NE
RR	Cllr	Russ	Rainger	ESC		JB		Jon	Butler	EIFCA
AR		Adam	Rowlands	RSPB		DK		David	Kemp	EA
SJB		Sharon	Bleese	CPE		RS		Richard	Steward	BEP
RC		Russell	Clement	NT		TC		Tom	Chalker	CPE
DS		David	Spray	MMO		AN		Adam	Nicholls	ESC
DT		Daniel	Turner	NE		AT		Anthony	Taylor	ESC
GW		Gary	Watson	EA		TY		Thomas	Yeung	CPE
WB		Will	Burchnall	BMSDC						

Apologies: Karen Thomas (CPE), Simon Amstutz (AONB), Julian Gregory (EIFCA), Lisa Mills (CPE), Graham Underwood (UoE), Tim Beach (AOCP), Mark Johnson (EA)

1.	Welcome and introductions	The Chairman shared a round of introductions.
2.	Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document	<p>Adam Nicholls explained to the Forum what a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is, local plan and Coastal Change Management Areas, what has happened so far, and contents of the Coastal Adaptation SPD. AN shared that the consultation for the Coastal Adaptation SPD is now open.</p> <p>AA asked if the Coastal Adaptation SPD includes just the coast or all tidal areas including estuaries. AN confirmed it is principally coastal erosion risk but there is an overlap.</p> <p>SJB asked if Pakefield Park Holidays will be developed into a case study once planning has been granted. AN confirmed all case studies included have been approved. AN would like to include Pakefield but it is not appropriate as it is currently a live application. An asked the Forum to share any case studies they may have.</p> <p>AN thanked EA, NE and AONB for their support during the process. The Chair was pleased to see this coming forward. SJB acknowledged the incredible amount of work that AN and colleagues have done to bring this together.</p>
3.	Thorpeness and Pakefield update	MF shared the most northern property at Thorpeness, the Red House, has been lost. CPE worked closely with the owners and Building Control. CPE are using landscape architect drawings to help the community have conversations around what they would like and raise funds for the coastal work. The drawings look at how people use the access routes along the frontage and visualise what a rock revetment might look like. A virtual room has been put together working

		<p>with the community to get information out to the wider community and those who do not live in Thorpeness. RR noted the terminology used and suggested saying the Red House was strategically removed. SJB agreed and added that the terminology needs to be used in context.</p> <p>AA noted that Mott MacDonald did a study in 2014 and asked if there are ongoing studies. MF added that last year Royal HaskoningDHV did a full review of the coastal processes data focussing on the northern end and Ness feature. This did not go as far south as Aldeburgh and there is ongoing regular survey data.</p> <p>MF updated the Forum on work at Pakefield. CPE worked with Mott MacDonald in October and November to design the resilient works, which were delivered and completed by 19th December. SJB added this was a huge collaborative process to make sure CPE were working within legislation and thanked NE and MMO for their support. This is a resilience solution to hold the access road while CPE look at possibilities for the 27 properties.</p>
4.	Southwold Engagement update	<p>SR shared that CPE held an event in Southwold in December to start important conversations about climate change and risk. The boards in the room showed the past, the current situation and risks, and looked to the future including the Resilient Coasts project and what people would like to see going forward There were also boards divided into character zones and looking at ideas from other places. CPE were looking to find out people use Southwold for and there is more work to do on engaging young people. DB added it was a good exhibition and well received. DB asked for the results from the feedback survey. SR added this is currently being compiled and will be shared.</p> <p>RC noted there was a lot of desire from the community to see natural landscape and defences. RC asked how that is working. SJB suggested balance and added there is room to protect where needed. Benacre has shown that there are other ways of managing flood risk whilst creating opportunity for the natural environment. RC suggested an education offer based on Orford Ness. SJB agreed.</p>
5.	Water Management Alliance – Capital Programme Update	<p>GB explained to the Forum who the Water Management Alliance are and that they manage land below sea level in the floodplain, which can include anything from agricultural land to important habitat. Current Government policy is about resilience and adaptation to move flood water forward and out of harm’s way.</p> <p>ABPmer are designing what the Benacre and Kessingland Flood Risk Management Scheme could look like and GB can share that at the next meeting. GB talked about the pump design and shared that 11 million m³ per annum of water is currently pumped which services ~85,000 homes. This will be a key asset to protect the A12 from flooding and important habitats such as saline lagoons.</p> <p>In 2012 a partnership was set up in the Alde and Ore following community consultation. The WMA have worked on a change in design of the Upper Alde Ore Estuary Tidal Embankments to help with overtopping without structural damage. GB shared a photo of this under construction and one year after completion.</p>

		<p>GB shared the next steps, which include the Lower Alde and Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements Outline Business Case (OBC), Reydon Marsh Pumping Station OBC, Alde and Ore Pumping Station Replacement OBC, and Deben Estuary Pumping Station OBC. Reydon Marsh is a good example of what a transition looks like.</p>
6.	2023 Conference	<p>SJB shared that the first East Anglian Coast and Estuary Conference will be held on 12th October at Wherstead Park, and this has now been confirmed with Essex County Council and Essex Coast Forum. The working title is Changing Tides Changing Times, and the conference will be set in the context of the Year of the Coast 2023. SJB is hoping to have five workshops around five of the FCRIIP projects to showcase what they are doing. These are likely to be Resilient Coasts, Catchment to Coast, Reclaim the Rain, Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme, and Making Space for Sand. Anglian Coastal Monitoring Group have already come forward to speak and exhibit.</p> <p>SJB asked the Forum to share any suggestions for speakers and added that last year RP was key in bringing Tony Juniper to the stage. The programme will be pulled together over the next couple of months and Balfour Beatty have agreed to be the main sponsor.</p>
7.	Reflection on the making of A Surge of Memories film	<p>JC shared that CPE created a commemoration film for the 1953 floods anniversary which also looked at 2013 and the future. It was key to involve all of Norfolk where there were considerable losses in Snettisham and Kings Lynn and cover the stories of Lowestoft, Southwold, and Felixstowe. Jean Macpherson from Felixstowe Society brought together stories from family members and those who could remember the 1953 event. The film also looked at 2013 and the upcoming 10th anniversary in December, whilst there were no deaths, 1500 properties were flooded. The aim of the film was to tell the stories so that they are not forgotten but also bring to the fore the conversations around resilience and adaptation. JC acknowledged RP's support. There will be two local showings of the film, one at Southwold on 23rd February and one at the Woodbridge Riverside on 20th March.</p> <p>SJB added the film started with extra footage from the conference that CPE did not want to lose. CPE worked with Defra and the EA to get the film out nationally. There were over 50 town and parish councils who wanted to show it. JC and Karen Thomas will be doing a Q&A at the Woodbridge showing. The Chair agreed.</p> <p>The film is available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/hkkHBcjtRyM and has received just under 2500 views.</p> <p>AA is hoping to link this in to working with schools and requested some snippets to use for this. ACTION: JC to provide AA with snippets of the film</p> <p>SR added the film will also be shown at the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft and Landguard Fort in Felixstowe.</p>
8.	SMP Refresh and EA Strategy	<p>DK shared that Mark Johnson has stepped down as chair of the East Anglian Coastal Group and Karen Thomas has taken over. The SMP Refresh is progressing.</p> <p>MF shared the timings for SMP Explorer are aligning with NCERM2 and both are due to be online by the end of this year.</p>

		JF added there will be a lot of engagement with local coastal managers to make sure NCERM2 reflects local understanding of defences and what is happening.
9.	Updates from partners	<p>AOCP – AA thanked the agencies for their support in getting funding. AA shared that there would need to be another estuary project so that the whole estuary is protected and part of the economy.</p> <p>BEP – RS updated that the BEP are holding a meeting next week to apply new officers and get ready for the release of the Royal HaskoningDHV report on Southwold Harbour.</p> <p>EA – DK shared the EA are on site at Felixstowe Ferry.</p> <p>EIFCA – JB shared that EIFCA now have a full team in the south of the district and a new research vessel will hopefully launch in June/July. There is a huge ongoing project in The Wash replacing a bylaw and the industry is particularly hard hit by the rising cost for fuel.</p> <p>MMO – DS is currently drafting the most recent East Monitoring Report which is one of the key statutory points ahead of developing the East Marine Plan. All stakeholders will be made aware when that is published. DS has accepted a new role within the team and a replacement is currently being recruited. In the meantime DS will remain the MMO contact on the Forum.</p>
10.	Suggested agenda items for future meetings	<p>SJB suggested a national EA update. DK agreed.</p> <p>GB would welcome a better understanding of the bird strategy in the coastal zone. AR agreed to update on East Coast Wetlands. RC asked to discuss ecology with GB and AR.</p> <p>ACTION: Forum to email SJB or AS with suggestions</p>
11.	Previous minutes	The Forum approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
12.	Any Other Business	<p>The Chair announced he will not be standing in the May local elections and noted the Forum will need a new Chair for the next meeting. SJB agreed to look at the constitution to see who can be elected Chair.</p> <p>ACTION: SJB to review constitution regarding the Chair of the Forum</p>