

January 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest update.

It has been a particularly busy period with important milestones, visitors and progress. As I write this, we have just seen another tidal surge along our coast. Fortunately it was not as bad as 2013, but it still had real consequences for our communities in places such as Cromer and Thorpeness. Our team, supported by the IDB and Waveney Norse, successfully deployed the 1400m of temporary flood barrier in Lowestoft for which we received much praise from the Environment Agency, Peter Aldous MP and members of the business community.



Our team has worked extremely hard throughout the last two months and indeed this year so far. They have met the change to Coastal Partnership East with enthusiasm and I'm sure, as we approach our first end of year review, I will be able to reflect even further on their achievements.

And finally, Coastal Partnership East has won its first award. We have been named as Best Coastal Management Organisation – UK by the Sea Transport Awards, part of Transport International News a trade paper for all those involved in using, operating on and managing sea and coast.

Best wishes

Bill Parker, Head of Coastal Management

Headline news

Lowestoft operational during the surge

Lowestoft's temporary flood barriers were delivered in November and are now operational. We have worked closely with all professional partners such as the blue light services, the Environment Agency, Associated British Ports and the Suffolk Resilience Forum to develop a deployment plan and operational protocols. This plan and the deployment of the barriers were tested during the tidal surge that happened on Friday 13th January 2017. Although the tide did not reach the heights predicted, the barrier deployment has been tested in some extreme weather conditions. A wash up session with those involved is being held on Monday 23rd January to ensure that we have captured any lessons learnt.



Important milestone for Sizewell C

In November EDF Energy launched the Sizewell C Stage 2 consultation. On 6th December an event was held for Parish and Town Councils identifying issues of concern, including those on the coast. This is being incorporated into the joint Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council response to the consultation.

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Environment Agency's CEO and Board member hears from Coastal Partnership East



Sir James Bevan the Environment Agency's CEO and Marie Adebowale-Schwarte , Environment Agency (EA) Board member visited Great Yarmouth to meet businesses and see the innovative work on developing a new approach to repairing sheet piles in Gt.Yarmouth harbour. Bill Parker took the opportunity to discuss with them the need for further integration of working between Risk Management Authorities and also the need to deliver adaptation for vulnerable communities. His presentation highlighted the original aims of the EA of sustainable communities, which may signal an evolving approach.

Bacton Walcott Coastal Management Scheme making good progress

The Bacton Walcott Coastal Management Scheme (NNDC) has had £120k has been allocated to the scheme from the Natural Flood Management budget. Positive meetings have happened with Bacton Terminal Operators regarding funding contributions, the Stage 2.2 Agreement is being prepared for signing and the Implementation Agreement is being prepared as soon as possible (by end Jan).

Coastal Partnership East attracts important visitor to the Coastal SIG

Emma Howard-Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency was the key note speaker at the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group's December meeting at The Crown Estate in London. The meeting included some lively debate and highlighted the issues of coastal adaptation, alternative funding streams and bureaucratic approval processes. Emma attended after an invitation from CPE Board Member and Chair of the Coastal SIG.



In November Cllr Andy Smith and Bill also met with Hannah Vickers at the Infrastructure Projects Authority at the Treasury, who advises the Chancellor on all FCRM issues. They also had a formal meeting with Dr Therese Coffey in her role as Floods Minister.



Autumn statement provides no clarity for CPE projects

The Autumn statement provided no update on 3 key schemes in our area: Bacton Walcott Coastal Management Scheme, Great Yarmouth Harbour and the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. This is disappointing but we are working hard to gain clarity on future funding opportunities.

Activities

Operations

- A review of potential new software to help manage and monitor local authority assets has been completed. We are still awaiting confirmation that the Environment Agency will purchase the new software for CPE and when it will be available.
- Work is continuing on the development and procurement of a new Measure Term Contract for coastal asset maintenance with partner authorities.

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- Gorleston to Lowestoft Strategy (GYBC/WDC) has now been completed and is going to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group in February for approval.
- Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project (WDC) completed its ground investigations and fluvial/pluvial modelling this quarter. The Strategic Outline Case will be submitted to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group in May 2017, later than originally scheduled but this will not impact on final delivery date.
- Felixstowe pier head (SCDC) is being redeveloped and outstanding issues resolved.
- Southwold sea defence review has been completed (WDC). The urgent issues identified through this process north of the pier are being prioritised. The retaining wall at Gun Hill which was a structural concern has been replaced. The fender at the end of the north training arm at the harbour mouth has partially failed. Options and costs have been identified a decision is required on the way forward.
- Interim Report and Sea Defence Condition Survey has been received for Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme (NNDC) Outline Business Case and the short list of options is being developed further. Mundesley Local Liaison Group met for update and discussion. Public Information Drop In event is planned for 17 January 2pm – 7.30pm
- New metal steps installed at Mundesley (NNDC) as part of England Coast Path and completion of Mundesley Ramp scheme.
- Work is underway to review SMP policies at Bawdsey, Slaughden, Corton and Hopton. Additional support is being sourced through the EA for this work.
- Sheringham East Cliff (NNDC) retention works is underway (9 Jan '17)
- The Winterton to Gt. Yarmouth Coastal Management Strategy (GYBC) development is underway.
- In partnership with Norfolk County Council, we are responding to the surface water management plan which covers Gt. Yarmouth (GYBC).

People

Following two meetings of the Operational Officer Group, the CPE Board agreed the proposed restructure of the team to being task rather than authority focussed. The Senior Management Team at East Suffolk approved the approved changes that affected ES staff as per the plan. More on this to follow.

Bill Parker was Highly Commended in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council Staff Awards in the category of Outstanding Leadership.



Bill Parker and Paul Mackie have been invited to present papers at the Flood and Coast Conference 2017 in March.

Finance

Discussions with Infrastructure and Projects authority (part of Treasury) have identified further work on funding and expertise is required.

Sheringham West Coast Protection Scheme (NNDC) tender has been returned for additional phase 2 works (Slab replacements and cliff scour protection)

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Bacton Walcott Apron (NNDC) Stage 15 is underway and the Apron Stage 16 (final stage) has been tendered

Communities and Partners

Blue Future workshop was held at NNDC. This was attended by Rob Goodliffe and Coastal Management Board Member Cllr Cox. It explored potential futures with the marine environment and routes to get there.

Through LGA Coastal SIG Bill Parker attended the annual meeting of Coastal Partnership Network further developing the network of community partnerships.

The Broads authority has initiated work to resolve long term sustainability issues for the Broads. This included a stakeholder meeting and a follow-up meeting

There are discussions ongoing with the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership and Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership about Shoreline Management Plan changes.

Cllr Andy Smith and Bill Parker attended a meeting of the Coastal Chairs on behalf of the Coastal SIG and Bill now is a standard invitee to this important national network

The Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Network has met to review progress bringing together academic institutions, research organisations, risk management authorities and others who either have expertise or responsibilities / duties along the coast of Norfolk and Suffolk. The soft launch of the network will be at the end of February at ENV Expo at UEA.

Coastal SIG Officers Group met and progressed issues on coastal adaptation, funding of repairs and maintenance, MMO licencing and other issues.

A new Defra Pioneer project has been agreed to be based at the SCHU looking at delivering the Defra 25 year environment plan in the marine environment.

Coming up in Quarter 4

January

- 18th Coastal Futures Conference – BP speaking
- 19th Progress meeting with Defra on Adaptation
- 20th RFCC meeting including presentation from CPE on alternative funding opportunities
- 23rd CPE Board meeting
- 25th National Infrastructure Commission work shop
- 30th Coastal SIG meet with MMO to discuss licencing issues

February

- 1st or 2nd Gorleston to Lowestoft initial telecom with the EA's Large Project Review Group
- 15th inaugural meeting of the business and community advisory group for the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

March

- 27th and 28th Flood and Coast Conference – Bill Parker and Paul Mackie speaking

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