

Agreed



MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2015 IN ORFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT	Edward Greenwell	(EG)	(Chairman, Farmer Nominee)
	Guy Heald	(GH)	(Finance and Business)
	Alison Andrews	(AA)	(A&O Association Nominee)
	Richard Marson	(RM)	(Aldeburgh Town Council Nominee)
	Malcolm Walker	(MW)	(Aldeburgh Town Council Nominee)
	David McGinity	(DMcG)	(Butley Parish Council Nominee)
	Brian Johnson	(BJ)	(Boyton and Bawdsey Parish Council Nominee)
	Rodney West	(RW)	(Ecological Representative for RSPB, NT, SWT)
	Jane Marson	(JM)	(Landowner Nominee)
	David Kemp	(DK)	(Environment Agency)
	Andrew Hawes	(AH)	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant)
	Angela Sydenham	(AS)	(Chairman of AOET)
	Barry Leach	(BL)	(Aldeburgh and Orford Business Ass. Nominee)
	Lizzie Hammond	(LH)	(Householder Representative)
	Amanda Bettinson	(AB)	(Partnership Secretary)

ADVISORS	Karen Thomas	(KT)	(IDB)
	Emma Hay	(EH)	(Natural England)
	Jane Burch	(JB)	(SCC)

APOLOGIES	Tim Beach	(TB)	(Snape Parish Council Nominee)
	Haidee Stephens	(HS)	(SCHU)
	Bill Parker	(BP)	(SCDC)
	Frances Barnwell	(FB)	(Secretary AOET)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Harry Young (Snape Maltings) David Barnwell and Lindsey Clubb

1. There were no declarations of interest **ACTION**
2. The Chairman welcomed David Kemp, the newly appointed Coastal Team Leader in the Environment Agency who has taken over from Karen Thomas (now with the IDB) also Harry Young, General Manager of Snape Maltings.

PRESENTATION FROM NATURAL ENGLAND

Sandra Unterhollenberg from Natural England was also welcomed and invited to give a presentation on how to use Natural England's new 'site advice packages'. These packages will cover a site guide, advice on operations and on conserving and restoring site features. Draft conservation advice packages are being produced for designated areas (SPA, SAC, Ramsar and MCZs) and NE are inviting comments on the Alde and Ore Estuary SPA, Alde Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC and Orford Ness – Shingle Street SAC. NE request feedback on the clarity of the advice, quality of the evidence and whether it is clear how the advice applies in informing i) proactive management and ii) completing a HRA/MCZ assessment. The consultation runs for 8 weeks from 8th July and information and links will be sent shortly.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i) Footpath Trial

Alison Andrews and Amanda Bettinson joined the visit arranged by Jane Burch to the trial site at Martlesham Creek very shortly after it was completed. The repaired wall which contains two spillways will be monitored over the coming months and particularly after significant rainfall and tides that overtop the spillway – it is anticipated overtopping



will be about once a year. Various styles of footpath are on trial, original hoggin, crushed concrete, crushed concrete in a plastic cellular material and ankalo concrete cellular blocks filled in between with crushed concrete. There was concern that the cut glass in the concrete was a hazard but this has since been removed. JB noted that SCC are conducting a public survey with help from the AONB volunteers for feedback on the different walking surfaces.

ii) Clay Exemptions: Exemptions differ for the receiving and then storage of clay – exemptions rather than a permit are required to store clay in excess of 12 months. It was agreed KT/DK would discuss and obtain the necessary exemptions.

KT/DK

Landowners do not require a licence for filling bags with sand on their own land and these bags can then be shared with other neighbouring landowners should they have a breach. Sites in the estuary have been identified to dig out sand. The £10,000 BIZ funding could fund some of this work.

iii) Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th September in Thorpeness Country Club and Prof Mike Cowling will be giving a presentation on the Sand Shingle Engine which is an option being considered for the defence of the Slaughden Coast.

iv) Boyton FC1 update: the RSPB have acquired land at Boyton and it is understood that they plan in the short term to grass the area down for fresh and sea water scrape creation, allowing the sea water in by pipe, and after hydromodeling and planning permissions, may consider either breaching or introducing cills to create an intertidal area should the funding be available. To do this, planning permission will be required from SCDC, Flood Defence Consent from the EA, Footpath diversion order from SCC, and NE will be a consultee in all of this.

4. **ENABLING DEVELOPMENT**

There were no further updates on the sale of land sites at present until the Sustainability Appraisal is agreed as SCDC are unlikely to agree planning permissions until the Estuary Plan is adopted. EG will be writing to landowners to update them on the situation.

EG

Angela Sydenham, Chairman of the Estuary Trust, informed the Partnership that, as the Revenue (HMRC) view as trading the transfer of land to the Trust and its resulting sale (and therefore would attract capital gains tax), it will be necessary to create a wholly owned trading company which will donate funds to the Trust. The only other option would be for the landowner to sell direct to the developer but this may have tax implications for the landowner. The Trust will be following up legal and tax advice to ensure the best options for all.

AS

Consideration had been give to asking developers to acquire planning permission but Clarke and Simpson's advice was that the proceeds of sale would be reduced (to 70-90%) due to the risk for the developer. In any event developers would not wish to be involved in a development of less than 50 houses on one site, requiring much larger sites than have been offered or that has been agreed for enabling development criteria.

It was agreed that the Estuary Trust and the Partnership would have a private session at the next meeting on 29th September.

5. **ESTUARY PLAN**

The remodelling data for the upper estuary at Snape and Butley is now available and a preliminary report has been received from Prof Pye. Essentially the data doesn't change the earlier study and the plans put forward in the Estuary Plan. However, further modelling to cover sea level rise of 300mm is still to be completed. The EA will now commence an appraisal report to consider 7-8 defence options for Snape which includes do nothing, building a retired wall closer to the houses which flooded and raising the



main estuary wall to a 200 year standard. Consultation with all interested parties will be conducted before any decision is made and DK made it clear that it was of paramount importance not to increase the flood risk to either side of the river. Options will be progressed through the autumn into the New Year and budgeted for 2016/7.

It was agreed that the modelling was very accurate but the level at Slaughden was 3m not 3.1m and DMcG noted that the report showed no properties were flooded in Flood Cell 2 but 3 in fact were flooded. H agreed to let the EA have the details. The modelling for a large scale breach at Boyton predict significantly larger impacts in the lower estuary south of Boyton but suggest only a very small effect on water levels and current speeds upstream of Orford. With Hazlewood, Lantern Marsh and Boyton as potential compensatory intertidal habitats, providing any further habitat areas may not be required in the short term but this will be established during the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessments.

DMcG

The Scoping Plan Timetable

The draft Scoping Plan will be available mid July for discussion before it goes to formal consultation with the statutory agencies (EA, NE, EH, possibly the MMO and AOEP).

The timetable is challenging:

End July – early September (6 weeks) Formal consultation on scoping report

Early September – Draft AOEP plan needs to be complete and with SCC.

Mid Sept-October – Sustainability Appraisal, HRA and WFD assessments undertaken. This is an iterative process involving dialogue with the AOEP possibly resulting in further amendments to the AOEP plan.

End October (approx) – AOEP plan and SA finalised and agreed by all parties prior to public consultation period of about 8 weeks in **November – December**.

Jan – Feb 2016 – revisions to plan and SA in light of consultation responses.

Assuming only minor changes there will be no need for further consultation but maybe a requirement to feedback reasons for making/ not making suggested changes.

March – April 2016 (subject to relevant meeting dates) – Endorsement of the plan by SCDC, SCC, RFCC

6.

EA WORKS

i) **Snape Update:** The first phase of the Snape wall, just over 1Kilometre, is complete at a design height of 2.7 but built to 2.9 to allow for settlement, a significant improvement from the 2.4m in December 2013. A footpath of sand and shingle hoggin has been placed as a temporary measure. Contributors to this repair were the EA, SCDC, SCC RoW and the landowner and cost £160,000. Developers helped by giving 6000 tonnes of clay which would have gone to landfill. Thanks also go to Teresa Cook at The Crown who helped with clay storage.

ii) Slaughden: It was too expensive to replace the groyne with stones and repairs will shortly be made with timber. A shingle recharge is being discussed with NE/EA. A meeting with Pete Roberts (EA) is planned to discuss work on Flood Cell 4 (Orford), 5 (Iken) and 10 (Aldeburgh).

EH/GW

7.

SALTMARSH PROJECT

i) The Partnership agreed the expenditure of £1230.70 as match funding for the next phase of saltings projects at Brick Dock. Monitoring of existing sites has shown some accretion during the summer months but some losses too. Interestingly, JM reported that a large bed of mussels has formed on Site 4 as the rate of flow has increased the flocculation.

ii) Emma Hay discussed the saltmarsh survey NE are keen to start but funding was an issue. Survey costs are £4,000 + VAT and NE could only fund £2000. The Alde and Ore



Association had offered £1000 and it was agreed the AOEP should offer £500 for this work.

8.

WEBSITE

JM presented a document for discussion and the Partnership was asked to send comments by 8th July. It was agreed it would be important to have a facility to enable donations to be sent to the Trust and have links to enable increased traffic. This would need discussion with the Trust. It was also important to have the website operational by October prior to the public consultation of the Estuary Plan.

**ALL
JM/LH**

9.

The next meeting is **29th September** (not 1st October) 2pm Orford Town Hall.

AJB/30.6.2015