

Cabinet Lead for Planning, Hayling Seafront Strategy and Coastal Management (Coastal Partners) – Councillor Clare Satchwell

Development Management

Workload

Case officers are working in a hybrid style, with a blended mix of attendance at the Plaza, working from home and site visits with appropriate risk assessments in place.

The Planner publication has reported that, following a strong start in the first quarter of the year, application submissions nationally have begun to fall below the levels of 2021 – although it is expected that volume will pick up ahead of the summer months.

The team continues to maintain a high level of performance, with over 90% of applications determined within agreed deadlines during Quarter 4 of 2021/22.

Casework

A large number of significant planning applications remain under active consideration by the team, including a number of cases where technical issues and/or S106 negotiations are prolonging the time being taken to reach a decision. These include Camp Down, Purbrook (hybrid application for up to 780 dwellings, community/nursery facility, retail unit and public open space); land west of Coldharbour Farm Road, Emsworth (44 dwellings); former SSE site, Bartons Road, Havant (175 apartments); land west of B&Q, Purbrook Way, Havant (new Lidl foodstore); Cabbagefield Row, Leigh Park (150 dwellings); Land north of Long Copse Lane, Emsworth (210 dwellings); Land east of St George's Avenue, Havant (184 dwellings); Southmere Field, Havant (65 dwellings); Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton (43 dwellings); Land west of Havant Crematorium, Havant (reserved matters application for 70 dwellings); Rook Farm, Hayling Island (300 dwellings); Land rear of Fathoms Reach, Hayling Island (51 dwellings); and Dunsbury Park, Havant (6,877sqm of storage and distribution units).

In addition to these, there have been recent major applications registered with the Authority which include Langstone Technology Park, Havant (redevelopment of site with new employment floorspace); South Downs College, Purbrook (102 dwellings); Land north of The Oysters, Hayling Island (29 dwellings); and Land south of Saltmarsh Lane, Hayling Island (60 dwellings)

Planning Committee

An application for Brockhampton West, Harts Farm (up to 29,000sqm employment units) was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 28th April. A resolution was secured to grant permission subject to the necessary S106 Agreement being completed.

Coastal Management

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (BMA) (2017-2024)

Beach management works were completed on 1 April 2022, with ~20,000m³ shingle recycled from the Open Beaches back to the Eastoke frontage.

A beach management and monitoring report is under production, and will be completed by July 2022, drawing together information on beach changes over the past year along with environmental and beach survey data. These works are funded by the Environment Agency Grant in Aid funding

West Beach – Scoping and Regeneration

Monitoring is ongoing, with some change identified to the eastern end of West Beach over the winter. The current position of the beach crest lies within the estimated initial cutback risk zone area identified prior to the structures being removed. It is expected that over time, under average wave and weather conditions the beach crest will continue to roll back into the 'rebound zone'.

The beach was most recently surveyed in May 2022, and analysis of this survey data will be carried out over the coming month to understand any recent change in the position of the beach crest.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy

A draft cabinet report, to inform HBC on the draft coastal management strategy prior to public engagement, is currently in circulation within HBC.

This month we have started engagement with landowners to brief them on the draft coastal management strategy and to re-confirm their short- and long-term aspirations for their frontage.

Planning to continue to engage with key stakeholders and steering group, currently programmed for July 2022. Following this, we plan to further engage with the public on the draft leading options from September 2022. Engagement dates and locations will be confirmed nearer the time.

Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Scheme – Detailed Design

The Project Team continue to work collaboratively with AECOM and our other Consultants as the project progresses through Detailed Design. The 50% design workshop and deliverables were received from AECOM in April 2022 and reviewed by Coastal Partners, Wessex Archaeology, and Faithful and Gould in May 2022. Review comments have been returned to AECOM for implementation into the 50% design, which is programmed for acceptance in June 2022.

As part of the 50% design review, our appointed independent Cost Consultant updated the construction cost estimate reflecting the construction industries current rapidly increasing material prices, market rates and inflation, which has provided us with further cost understanding of the project.

The FCERM4 Covid Claim, to the value of £101,549 was approved by the Environment Agency at the end of April 2022. This sees the total funding secured for the Langstone FCERM Scheme reach £6.3m.

Coastal Partners have completed the review of the Saltmarsh Restoration Feasibility Study report from AECOM, which is funded by the Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF). The final report is now due from AECOM. An Environmental Support Allowance (ESA) bid has been drafted and submitted for these works as part of the Capital Investment Programme Refresh using costs estimates from the draft feasibility study.

Further meetings have been held this month with key stakeholders and frontline residents. A Community update event was held for Mill Lane residents in May 2022 to present options for this part of the additional scheme. Further meetings have been arranged for the upcoming months.

Following receipt of the 50% design and the updated costings, the Project team continue to refine the design whilst engaging with the community and stakeholders at the 50% and 80% design states. The public engagement event has been scheduled for 4th July 2022 to share the 50% detailed design with community representatives through our Stakeholder Working Group.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Feasibility Study

Following completion of the feasibility study, a cabinet report is currently being circulated within HBC. A meeting will be programmed in due course with the Corporate Governance Board and Cabinet to progress the project to the next stage.

Warblington Seawall Repairs

Following a report of erosion of land from the farmer at Warblington, an inspection was carried out during early January 2022. The seawall fronting the farmland has become undermined due to lowering beach levels, and a small void has formed on the face of the structure. Discussions are ongoing regarding the environmental impact of repairs to the structure, and applications for consents for work will be considered over the coming months.

Coastal Environmental Initiatives.

The Coastal Environment team are actively working across several initiatives that aim to protect and improve the natural coastal environment within the Havant Borough, such as:

- **Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – additional studies:** Following the approval of £75k additional funding from the Environment Agency (EA), the team are undertaking enhanced communication with landowners, as part of the Strategy engagement process. We will be exploring the potential for habitat creation opportunities with landowners, prior to formalising the strategic policy at these sites.

- **Langstone FCERM scheme – Saltmarsh Feasibility Study:** Funded by the Environment Agency's (EA) Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF), we are currently working with our consultants to investigate the feasibility of using Beneficial use of Dredged Sediments (BuDS) / other management techniques to improve the degraded saltmarsh habitat fronting Langstone village. We received a draft report in May and have provided comments back to the consultant. The report requires additional work, to confirm whether the saltmarsh restoration trials that have been recommended are realistically feasible, given their high cost, small size and risks raised over the longer-term feasibility of larger scale restoration. We continue to work with the Blue Marine 'Endangered Landscape Programme' team, which could unlock up to £100k funding towards any future saltmarsh restoration on the ground.
- **Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN), Southern Water Summit and linked initiatives:** CHaPRoN has a vision of 'working together for the protection and recovery of nature', focussed on Chichester Harbour. Coastal Partners are represented on the CHaPRoN Steering Group / Coastal Resilience working group and attended a progress meeting in May. Key updates to note are that Chichester Harbour Conservancy have recently overseen production of a report that identifies coastal grazing marsh habitat creation opportunities around the harbour, which has important links to our RHCP work (item below). We have applied for funding via the Environment Agency's 'Environmental Statutory Allowance' (ESA) to extend this work across the wider Solent and South Downs region.

Alongside Chichester District Council, we have also applied for funding from the ESA to produce a strategic environmental management plan for the whole of Chichester Harbour, given it's recent Natural England Condition Assessment that classified over 80% of the Harbour environment in 'unfavourable declining' condition. If funded, this plan would seek strategic opportunities to reverse the decline.

- **Regional Habitat Compensation Programme (RHCP):** Work has commenced on the 2021/22 Annual RHCP report, to update on progress on habitat creation linked to this programme. Ongoing delivery of this programme ensures that we can continue to protect our communities from coastal flooding and erosion, as it's a legal requirement to build new Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management schemes where they are most needed.

HBC Communications

Coverage of local elections and publication of results

Promotion of new Mayor, Cllr Patrick

Promotion of Ukraine support scheme – predominantly via website

Promotion of business wellbeing and digital support schemes.

Promotion of successful roll-out of £150 energy rebate

Information and updates around Jubilee celebrations – press releases and social media

Responses to press queries

HBC Website and social media update

Record numbers use the council website

Over the last few years, the Havant Borough Council website has excelled as the main form of communication for the council.

Seven years ago, when we started recording numbers, the website averaged 350,000 visits a year. In the most recent year, the website was visited a record 1.1 million times.

Website information

- bin collections was the most viewed service on the website - <https://www.havant.gov.uk/bin-collections>
- the website was mainly viewed from London, Havant and Portsmouth
- 64% of users access the website from a mobile or tablet device – the website has been designed to be adaptable to mobile devices
- there are on average 30 updates made to the website each day to ensure it is relevant and up to date
- the busiest day for the website was Friday 6 May 2022 – following the local borough election results being published on the website

Website updates

The website has been actively involved in the following:

- promoting the local elections in May
- advising residents how to apply for the £150 energy rebate
- planning an event or street party for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- providing information on how to support Ukrainian refugees and become a sponsor

Social media update

The last month has been very busy on our social media channels. The month began with the local elections and coverage of the results and concluded with lots of Platinum Jubilee celebration preparation and events.

On Facebook, the council gained 107 new followers, and reached 177,451 people throughout the month.

On Twitter, we posted 75 times and our profile was viewed by more than 10k accounts - more than double compared to the previous month.

We posted to our Tiktok account on the day of Mayor Making and the video was seen by more than 1,300 people which is double the reach of previous posts.

We continue to review our channels and work to ensure content is specific to each. We have also been reviewing how we share updates regarding waste collections and the new approach of targeting local areas seems to have helped with the amount of negativity we were receiving.

Hayling Seafront Strategy

Work is now underway on:

- The Hayling Island Seafront identity is being rolled out whenever renewals or replacements are required. The aim is to build on the sense of place by providing consistency across the seafront. It is hoped that this enables Hayling Island Seafront to have a unique identity and communicates where it's going in the future through the regeneration. The agreed colours are being rolled out across repainting of the toilet blocks, new signage and the Beachlands HQ.
- Key priorities and key projects for the seafront are being agreed.
- Work is progressing to link the above with the wider seafront strategy, Havant Local Plan, Neighbourhood team and Coastal Partners.
- Work is continuing to engage with key stakeholders