

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 16 November 2022

Councillor Clare Satchwell

Cabinet Lead for Planning, Hayling Seafront Strategy and Coastal Management

Development Management

Workload

The Planner publication has reported that, following a strong start in the first quarter of the year, application submissions nationally have continued to fall below the levels of 2021 – with a 5 per cent reduction in submissions in August compared with 2021.

The team continues to maintain a high level of performance, with over 90% of applications determined within agreed deadlines during the first two quarters of 2022-23.

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); 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 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); Dunsbury Park, Havant (6,877sqm of storage and distribution units); 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); Land south of Saltmarsh Lane, Hayling Island (60 dwellings); Land at Kingscroft Farm, Havant (140 dwellings); and Former Dairy Crest Depot, Leigh Park (74 dwellings).

An appeal against non-determination has been lodged in respect of the outline application for up to 43 dwellings on Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton.

Coastal Management

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

The beach management and monitoring report has been completed and submitted to the Marine Management Organisation for approval.

Beach management works will commence on site w/c 24 October 2022. A maintenance dredge of Chichester Harbour Approach Channel will be undertaken, with up to 20,000m³ shingle pumped ashore on to Eastoke beach. The shingle material will then be profiled on the beach by land-based machinery. Two Contractors, Boskalis Westminster Ltd., and Ovenden Earthmoving Co Ltd. will be working on the beach for up to 3 weeks to ensure the beach is at design profile prior to the winter.

These works are funded by the Environment Agency Grant in Aid funding.

West Beach – Scoping and Regeneration

Monitoring continues, as previously updated there is some change identified to the eastern end of West Beach which happened over the past 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'. Analysis of the crest position continues with the next planned survey due over during this Autumn period.

With the emerging coastal strategy policy and renewed interest in coastal management at West Beach, an internal workshop is proposed to review the wider council ambitions for this frontage and steps required to take these forwards.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy

On Friday 23rd September and Monday 10th October, the project team briefed the Hayling ward councillors / Hampshire County Councillor to give sight of the draft strategy prior to wider public stakeholder engagement.

A meeting was held with the key stakeholder group, week commencing 26th September 2022, to inform them of the draft strategy prior to public engagement.

On the week commencing the 17th October 2022, two public exhibition events took place. Both events were well attended (approx. 225 people). The engagement process, events and material were well received with several compliments. The project team had many engaging conversations with attendees, with residents attending from across the island as well as from the mainland.

The engagement period runs until the end of December 2022, with opportunities to view all exhibition and engagement material virtually on our website and comment via our feedback questionnaire.

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. Following the incorporation of the 50% design review comments into the design, the focus is on the 80% design review. The 80% design review workshop was held on 9 September 2022 and deliverables were fully received in early October 2022. Deliverables are currently being reviewed internally by Coastal Partners and externally by Wessex Archaeology, the ECI Contractor, Mackley, and also costed by Faithful & Gould. Review comments will be returned to AECOM for incorporation into the 100% design anticipated for February 2023.

The project delivery cost estimates now reflect the increase in material prices and inflation the construction industry is currently experiencing. These costs are currently in the process of be further updated as part of the 80% design review by Faithful & Gould. Actions from the cost risk reduction workshop will be continued and adapted internally and with the Designer, ECI Contractor and Cost Consultant following the 80% updated cost estimate.

The project team continue to seek sources of additional funding for the scheme and a application has been made to the Environment Agency for the Frequently Flooded Communities Allowance for £2.5million. Total approved funding secured for the Langstone FCERM Scheme remains as £6.3m.

As the design progresses from the 50% to the 80% and onto the 100% design, the project team continue to refine design details whilst engaging with the community and stakeholders. The sixth Stakeholder Working group is currently being planned with AECOM and is now programmed for the end-of November 2022, and a public exhibition to present the 80% design and updated cost estimates has been programmed for January 2023.

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

A meeting was held w/c 17th October 2022 with colleagues from the planning and CIL team to brief on the project proposals and discuss the wider opportunities, timescales and steps to take the project forwards.

Warblington Seawall Repairs

There is no change currently with the Warblington seawall repairs, following a report of erosion of land from the farmer at Warblington. An inspection was carried out during early January 2022, and it was established that the seawall fronting the farmland had 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.

Wade Lane Seawall Failure

The situation is being closely monitored following seawall failure. The land here is unregistered, the coastal footpath is now at risk and so to the land to the north. Coastal Partners remain available to the interested parties to help facilitate a solution here, once the cost and environmental impact of replacing these defences compared to allowing their continued deterioration is clarified.

Coastal Partners attended a meeting 7th October with Councillors, Hampshire CC, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and other interested stakeholders to review the situation. A further meeting is planned in November.

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:** The team are investigating priority intertidal habitat creation opportunities on Hayling Island. Since initial discussions with landowners of potential sites, we are now considering potential payment opportunities / options that could meet multiple objectives. If successful, this could lead to the creation of new intertidal habitats to replace those that have been lost within the harbours through climate change, including saltmarsh, mudflats, and coastal grazing marsh. Due to a local landowner change and the need for some developing guidance on funding opportunities for landowners, this project is temporarily paused.
- **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 have lined up some funding sources for this restoration proposal, including £85k from the Blue Marine Endangered Landscape programme (subject to final sign off of a partnership agreement), and £344k has been allocated via the Environment Agency's Environmental Statutory Allowance, however a business case needs to be prepared to unlock this.
- **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.

Alongside Chichester District Council, we have applied for funding 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. Funding from the Environment Agency's Environmental Statutory Allowance has now been allocated to this, but we need to prepare and submit a business case, to unlock this funding.

We are being approached frequently by CHaPRoN partners to discuss failing defences (mostly of private ownership) around the Harbour and how these should be addressed going forward, with consideration requiring a balance of risk vs. environmental harm or opportunity. This again highlights the need for a harbour wide management plan, to set a clear and planned direction, rather than ad hoc, piecemeal advice.

- **Regional Habitat Compensation Programme (RHCP):** Within October, CP officers met with RHCP national leads, to explore progress against the habitat creation programme and future direction. Nationally, the RHCP is currently on track to deliver its legal requirements, but progress now needs to be increased. Officers debated how this may be achieved and the obstacles to overcome. Within our region, it has highlighted the need to submit funding applications for a Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study (prioritising opportunities to deliver such habitat, which is critically important to the harbour's bird networks) and the need for an environmental management plan / coastal strategy for Chichester Harbour, which will need to revisit SMP policies.

An application for the redevelopment of the former SSE site, Bartons Road, Havant for 175 apartments was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 29th September. It was resolved that the application be refused.

Communications

September and October have been busy months for communications activity within the Authority. Key campaigns and communications coverage have included:

- Coverage of the passing of Her Late Majesty the Queen, and local civic and commemorative events.
- Promotion of Corporate Strategy and the Leader's public engagement events.
- Promotion of The Local Plan consultation.
- Promotion of change of bin collections.
- Promotion of new discretionary rate relief scheme.
- New Legal Services Partnership.

- Promotion of Ukrainian family drop-in session.
- Promotion of Havant Borough Community Lottery.
- Promotion of the Coastal Management Strategy consultation.
- Promotion of Recycling Week.
- Promotion of Fly-tip conviction.
- Promotion of Link Up Leigh Park and Link Up Hub Apprenticeship events.

This is in addition to “business as usual” work such as responding to press enquiries and “warn and inform” messages. We have also issued news bulletins for the Link Up Hub, Weekly Planning Applications, Business bulletins, Serving You online and Community News.

Website information

Users

- 1st June to 31st August 2022 – 66,739
- 1st September to 2nd November 2022 – 42,219

Location

- 1st June to 31st August 2022 – London – 32%, Havant – 12%, Portsmouth – 10%.
- 1st September to 2nd November 2022 – London – 28%, Havant – 11%, Portsmouth – 10%.

Content

- 1st June to 31st August 2022 – Homepage, Contact us, Bin collection, Council tax, Search, and comment section.
- 1st September to 2nd November 2022 – Homepage, Contact us, Bin collection, Council tax, Search, and comment section.

Most searched for item on the website

- 1st June to 31st August 2022 – Household Support Fund, Tip, Jobs, Council Tax.
- 1st September to 2nd November 2022 - Jobs, Council tax, Tip, Housing.

Devices

- 1st June to 31st August 2022 – Mobile – 61%, desktop – 33%, tablet – 4%.
- 1st September to 2nd November 2022 - Mobile – 59%, desktop – 36%, tablet – 4%.

Social media update

The last month has been very busy on our social media channels, as we have been pushing out content about the Local Plan, Corporate Strategy as well as awareness events such as Recycle Week and National Menopause Day.

Facebook

- Gained 46 new followers
- Reached 6,918 people

Twitter

- Posted 46 times
- Gained nine new followers.
- Our engagement for our posts tripled – rising from 3K to 9.5K. We have accounts replying to us and retweeting our content.

LinkedIn

- Our page reach has grown from 381 to 1,519
- We have 27 new followers

Tiktok

- We posted about the Play Park engagement programme and the video was seen by more than 870 people

We continue to review our channels and work to ensure content is specific to each.