

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council January 2023

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Development Management

Workload

The Planner publication has reported that, following a strong start in the first quarter of the year, application submissions have continued to fall below the levels of 2021 – with an 8 per cent reduction in submissions nationally in November compared with 2021.

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); Southleigh Park House, Havant (reserved matters application for 70 dwellings); Southmere Field, Havant (65 dwellings); Rook Farm, Hayling Island (300 dwellings); Land rear of Fathoms Reach, Hayling Island (51 dwellings); 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.

Delegated decisions

Prior to the Christmas break, delegated permissions were able to be issued for major developments in respect of 108-110 Elm Grove, Hayling Island (revised designs for a 3 storey, sheltered housing building consisting of 43 No apartments); and Dunsbury Park, Havant (Phase 5 development consisting of 3 No. storage and distribution units).

Planning Committee

The reserved matters application for 70 dwellings on land west of Havant Crematorium, Havant was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 15th December. A resolution was secured to grant permission subject to amendments to an existing S106 Agreement being completed.

It is intended that the outline planning application for Langstone Technology Park, Havant (redevelopment of site with new employment floorspace) be considered by the Committee in January 2023.

Coastal Management

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

Beach management works commenced on 11th November 2022, following a delayed start date due to the weather conditions. During the works with the Sospan Dau dredger, 12,870m³ shingle was dredged from Chichester Harbour Approach Channel and deposited on the beach at Eastoke. This was then moved around and profiled on the beach by Ovenden Earthmoving Co Ltd.

Towards the end of these planned works a storm event affected the Eastoke frontage (24th November 22), which removed large quantities of the shingle material which had recently been placed on the beach.

Due to the impact of this storm, emergency works were undertaken, starting on 1st December 2022 to rebuild the beach in front of the residential properties. Works concluded on the 13th December, with material being sourced from Gunner Point – working with the agreement of Hayling Golf Club under our existing Memorandum of Understanding.

These works are funded by the Environment Agency Grant in Aid funding. A claim will also be made to the Environment Agency to cover the cost of the emergency works currently on site.

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. An at-risk beach hut has been relocated by Norse. 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 following a recent crest survey and monitoring of the poor condition breastwork for damage.

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 priorities.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy

The engagement period for the draft coastal management strategy continues to run until the end of December 2022. All engagement material is available on the Coastal Partners webpage. Exhibition posters are currently set up in the Plaza Foyer with the opportunity for people to view.

The current Project Manager is due to leave Coastal Partners in January 2023. The project is currently being transitioned over to a new Project Manager to deliver the remainder of the project.

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 80% detailed design submission by AECOM has been received and internal Coastal Partner's review comments on the design have been issued to the Design Consultant. These comments are being incorporated and responded to by AECOM. On receipt of the 80% detailed design, it has been deemed necessary to carry out further assessment and refinement of certain aspects of the design, to provide an affordable and deliverable scheme. One area in particular is Frontage 2 along the Billy Line.

The project delivery cost estimates now reflect the increase in material prices and inflation the construction industry is currently experiencing. These costs have been updated based on the 80% design cost estimate by the Cost Consultant. Actions from a cost and risk reduction workshop will continue to be implemented by the Designer, ECI Contractor and Cost Consultant as the design progresses to 100% detail.

The project team continue to seek sources of additional funding for the scheme, these include an application which has been made to the Environment Agency for the Frequently Flooded Communities Allowance for £2.5million. Assessments for potential inflation uplift with funding from the EA are currently being investigated by the Project Team.

Due to the re-assessment and refinement of various design items as part of the 80% detailed design, the Stakeholder Working group, originally programmed for November 2022, has been postponed to the New Year with a date to be confirmed.

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

Following a meeting with colleagues from the planning and CIL team, details of the project costs and funding to take the project forwards have been shared. Ongoing monitoring continues of this key sea defence infrastructure to check for storm damage. A new project manager has been appointed to support the next project stage.

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

A second councillor working group meeting was held 18/11/2022 with all the interested parties working to help facilitate a solution here. Coastal Partners have commenced an assessment of temporary repair solutions, to enable liaison with key bodies and groups to review both short and long-term solution for the Wade Lane section of the Solent Way.

A topographic survey has been undertaken to inform future options and to monitor for change following the wall failure. The site was inspected following high tides in November and no significant change was observed. An initial review of ecological aspects has started and is awaiting a more detailed Ecological Survey by CHC, who are also investigating foreshore clearance.

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.
- **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) techniques to improve the degraded saltmarsh habitat fronting Langstone village. We have lined up some funding sources for this, including £85k from the Blue Marine Endangered Landscape programme, and £344k has been allocated via the Environment Agency's Environmental Statutory Allowance (subject to final approvals). In the New Year, we will be reviewing options to confirm whether this initiative is viable at this location.

- **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. Since our last update, a new website has been published, providing further details on the partnership, with HBC identified as a key partner – www.chapron.org.uk

Alongside Chichester District Council, we have applied for funding to produce a strategic environmental management plan for the whole of Chichester Harbour. 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, which will be a focus within 2023.

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):** Nationally, the RHCP is on track to deliver its legal requirements, but progress needs to be increased. Within our region, it has highlighted the need to submit a funding application for a Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study (prioritising opportunities to create this habitat, which is critically important to the harbour's bird networks). Setting a scope for this study and identifying funding will be a priority within 2023, as the Solent's FCERM programme relies on successful delivery of the RHCP.

Communications

Cabinet Lead Report for Comms, December 2022

December was a very busy month for communications activity within the Authority. Key campaigns and communications coverage have included:

- Launch of the Youth survey
- Promotion of the Springwood Play Area
- Promotion of the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund
- Launch of the Veterans' survey

- Promotion of the opening of the Plaza café
- Promotion to create the awareness of online scams
- Promotion of the Warmer Homes fund
- Creating awareness of the council's services during the festive period re: Xmas bin collections and opening hours
- Promotion of change of bin collections
- Promotion of Ukrainian family drop in session
- Promotion of Havant Borough Community Lottery
- Promotion of Link Up Leigh Park and Link Up Hub Apprenticeship events
- Responses to press queries
- We have also issued news bulletins for the Link Up Hub, Weekly Planning Applications, Business bulletins, Serving You online and Community News.
- "Warn and Inform" notices

HBC Website and social media update

Website information

Users

1st December to 31st December 2022 – 26,149

Content

1st December to 31st December 2022 – bin collections, home page, refuse collections, council tax, contact us, planning applications, recycling, paying your council tax

Most searched for item on the website

1st December to 31st December 2022 – council tax, bin collections, household support fund, jobs, Christmas bin collection, tip, bin collection dates and meeting

Devices

1st December to 31st December 2022 – Mobile – 64%, desktop – 30%, tablet – 5%.

Social media

The last month has been very busy on our social media channels, as we have been pushing out content about various surveys such as the Youth survey and the Veterans' survey. We have also promoted consultations such as The Springwood Play Area and grants such as the Warmer Homes fund and the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund. Our focus at the end of the year was to make sure our residents were aware of the change for the bin collection dates over the Xmas period as well as our opening hours.

Facebook

Gained 64 new followers

Reached 7,927 people

Twitter

Posted 46 times

LinkedIn

Our page reach was 939

We have 30 new followers

Tiktok

This is a fair new platform we are using as a council. We have posted videos about:

- Christmas gifts from staff and councillors to SDAS – seen by more than 870 people
- Youth survey – seen by more than 260 people
- Christmas message from the Leader of the Council – seen by more than 835 people
- Christmas bin changes – seen by more than 325 people
- Christmas opening hours of the Plaza – seen by more than 230 people
- Return to usual bin collection days – seen by more than 1015 people.

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