

## **Motion to Full Council – June 2023**

The Chichester Harbour AONB and SSSI is an internationally recognised body of water and home to valuable natural habitats. With the exception of a small minority of areas within the AONB that have been well managed and are ecologically thriving, its overall unfavourable and declining environmental condition is worrying.

The iconic Langstone to Emsworth coastline is also enjoyed by thousands of residents on a daily basis to exercise along the coastline and enjoy the natural environment, including the Langstone Mill Pond. Its public health amenity value is treasured by Havant Borough residents and visitors alike.

The Council is already working closely with Hampshire County Council to realign the public footpath so as to ensure its continued use for the public and is taking a leading role through the Coastal Partnership, to tackle coastal erosion and habitat loss.

This Council is highly concerned by the damaged seawall on the stretch of coastline near to Langstone Mill Pond and the subsequent potential loss of this valuable habitat and natural amenity area.

We understand that much has to be done to weigh up the balance between the impact of coastal squeeze due to climate change and allowing the public to continue to enjoy the environment, as well as preserving habitats that are currently protected by seawalls.

Therefore the Council resolves:

1. To seek support and funding from the Environment Agency and other key stakeholders for a long term solution by undertaking a Chichester Harbour Environment and Investment Adaptation Strategy. This should include the holistic assessment of the long-term management and enhancement of the wildlife within the Langstone Mill Pond that supports the network of habitats and species within the Harbour.
2. To write to the Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Natural England to express the strong democratic support for the protection of the Langstone Mill Pond through sea defences.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Liz Fairhurst

**Seconded by:** Cllr Imogen Payter

**Date Submitted:** 31 May 2023