

## **Cabinet Lead for Coastal –**

### **Councillor Liz Fairhurst**

#### **1. Coastal Management**

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

We have entered the final year of the current Beach Management Plan (BMP), and works are underway to prepare the submission for the next 5 years of beach management to the Environment Agency. The technical update is ongoing, and we are working to develop flood extents to assist with calculating the project economics. Final results from the modelling are expected by the end of October 2023.

The Autumn beach management campaign was undertaken between 29<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Around 14,000m<sup>3</sup> of shingle has been extracted from the Open beach between Coastguard revetment and Inn on the Beach and around 2,500m<sup>3</sup> of material has been imported. All material has been deposited into priority areas along the Eastoke frontage. All areas have been fully re-opened to the public ahead of the October half term. Contractors are currently demobilising from the site compound, and will be fully off site by 25<sup>th</sup> October.

We will continue to monitor the beach condition over the winter period, which will determine when future works are planned and implemented.

##### **West Beach – Scoping and Regeneration**

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'. A recent crest survey has been undertaken and monitoring of the poor condition breastwork for damage continues.

With the emerging coastal strategy policy and renewed interest in coastal management and seafront regeneration, collaborative workshops have been held to consider wider council objectives and timescales for West Beach.

The area continues to be monitored for Health and Safety purposes and debris on the beach is removed by Norse.

## **Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy**

Valuable comments on the Strategic Environment Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Framework Directive assessment have been received from Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency which the project team are reviewing. Responses to their comments are being prepared and will be returned to the consultees in November. We are anticipating that a further meeting with the regulators in November will be beneficial to discuss the updates and iron out any finer details.

These comments will be collated with the comments from the public and the Strategy documents will be updated over the coming months.

Additional model runs are being conducted on the Beach Management Plan bi-modal wave modelling which will produce updated flood extents and property counts. The results from this work, as well as additional updates needed for the Strategy, will inform the economics update expected to take place in January. Following this the Strategy will be going to HBC for approval and adoption in March.

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

The project team continue to work collaboratively with AECOM to progress towards the 100% design milestone. Review comments from Coastal Partners and external parties have been returned to AECOM for inclusion into the design. The 100% design for all core scheme frontages is due for finalisation and acceptance on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

The project team continue to seek additional funding sources for the scheme. The inflation uplift claim and additional OGD claim, submitted to the EA for £818,000 is currently awaited. The scheme has also been allocated £1,900,000 which requires EA approval. The application for Department for Education funding to the value of £500,000 was unsuccessful.

Five of six public in-person engagement sessions to offer the opportunity for residents to drop-in and ask question about the Langstone Scheme and speak directly to the Project Manager have taken place. Three of these sessions have been

general drop-ins and two have been specific topic sessions focussing on materials and the high-street flood gate. The remaining engagement session will be held in October 2023 and be specific to Frontage 2. Engagement sessions have been well received by the community. Further 1-2-1 meetings with residents have also been ongoing providing all those that wish to talk about the scheme, with Coastal Partners, the opportunity to do so.

Preparations are currently being made for the 100% design Public Exhibition which has been provisionally booked for December 2023.

### **Broadmarsh Coastal Defence Scheme – Detailed Design**

Broadmarsh Coastal Defence Scheme was submitted to the HBC Capital Programme in September, with a bid for £1,258m to fund Stage 2: Detailed Design, Licensing, and Consents. Approval was gained from the Executive Leadership Team to bid for this funding, and the project was recognised as one of the Council's corporate Priority Projects.

Essential asset maintenance to the revetment, to contain the chalk bund and landfill contents, is expected to be completed in October this year. £52,250 of the current dedicated revenue budget has been allocated to the repairs. As a result, all the revenue budget has been committed for this financial year. Ongoing monitoring of this key sea defence infrastructure will continue over the winter period to check for damage caused by storms.

### **Wade Lane Seawall Failure**

A constructive multi-agency meeting with Hampshire County Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Coastal Partners was chaired by Cllr Bowerman in early October. The meeting heard about the forecast long term adaptation of the Harbour over the next 30-50 which results in significant changes to the existing coastline and habitats. Climate change and rising sea levels are likely to over top the existing walls in this area more frequently. Natural changes to the harbour are preferable to sudden and un-managed changes which give the environment more time to respond. This is pathfinding adaption work locally and nationally that challenge established approaches of continued maintenance of hard coastal defence structures.

The Leader and other Council Members, supported by Lyall Cairns attended a local meeting on the 28 September 2023 and it is recognised that the community are passionate about the heritage and preservation of the environment in Langstone. However, the presentation was in some respect inaccurate and miss-leading. Coastal Partners are working on correcting these inaccuracies with the Langstone Village Association.

Coastal Partners continue to monitor this section of coastal erosion. The initial response and erosion of the shoreline following the collapse of the wall has slowed.

The Coastal Partners webpage continues to be maintained to include our recent updates. Coastal Partners are directing enquiries to the website for information and encourage others to do the same.

[Langstone Coastal Path, Mill Pond to Wade Lane, Havant — Coastal Partners](#)

### **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**

We are continuing to actively investigate opportunities for intertidal habitat creation on Hayling Island, to explore the feasibility of creating new saltmarsh habitat. Saltmarsh habitats can provide natural flood management benefits, increase biodiversity, sequester carbon, and improve water quality.

#### **Langstone FCERM scheme – Saltmarsh Feasibility Study**

We are continuing to investigate opportunities to restore the degraded and poor-quality saltmarsh habitats in the vicinity of Langstone Village and Wade Lane. We are seeking to blend funding from various sources to deliver the multiple benefits that saltmarsh can provide.

## **Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan (CHIAP)**

Coastal Partners are currently developing a scope, refining costs, and drafting a programme for this.

The CHIAP will help guide the future management of Chichester Harbour's coastline and waters, addressing people, property, and environmental challenges in one place. Working together with regulators, stakeholders, landowners and the community, this plan will set out adaptation options and pathways for key focus areas within the Harbour, defined by triggers for action.

The Chichester Harbour environment is currently in 'unfavourable, declining' condition, as evidenced by the 2021 condition review by Natural England. This is due to several pressures, including harm caused by historic coastal defences, causing coastal squeeze of intertidal saltmarsh habitat. The proposed, holistic CHIAP will aim to identify opportunities for coastal habitat creation and improvement that can help reduce this pressure and contribute towards a recovering environment.

## **Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme (HCRP)**

The HCRP identifies and delivers habitats to replace those that are being lost due to coastal squeeze. Coastal Partners are currently seeking funding to deliver the following projects linked to this:

- **Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study:** To prioritise opportunities to create this habitat, which is critically important to the harbour's bird networks. We have drafted a business case for this and will submit it to the Environment Agency soon, following final reviews.
- **Solent Dynamic Coast Project update:** This will help us understand future coastal habitat changes more accurately, so that we can better plan habitat creation opportunities in a changing climate. Our business case for this project has now been technically approved by the Environment Agency, unlocking up to £236k funding to deliver this project.
- **Monitoring and communication at Southmoor:** To monitor and better communicate the natural coastal defence breach at Southmoor, which is already leading to the establishment of vitally important new saltmarsh habitat on the landward side. The three photos below, taken by the team on Tuesday

17<sup>th</sup> October '23 illustrate how saltmarsh species are already colonising the site, with waders such as Greenshank feeding amongst the changing habitats.







## **2. Delivery of Civil Engineering Services**

### **Warblington Footbridge HBC CIL 20/10/2023**

Letter from NR received 10/10, stating their desire to continue with scheme, and suggesting early community engagement to de-risk planning process. HCC confirm they will start to spend on their s.106 from March 2024 on design of 'fall-back' scheme to ensure s.106 is spent. Officers met NR 12/10 to discuss programme and approach to risk - PD rights now to be used so de-risked planning, NR offered hyper-local (immediate neighbours) engagement to understand any local objections to bridge form. However, the ES4 (detailed design) contract will be emerging cost model which continues to expose HBC to financial risk if there is a cost escalation through the emerging design; they have offered a 'continuous break point' model throughout ES4 to avoid any abortive costs being too great. A further meeting is taking place with NR senior colleagues on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 to determine whether NR will accept all project risks from this point forward to remove any financial risk to HBC.

### **Bushy Lease Shared Path HBC CIL 23/10/2023**

Bridge cost estimate (£90k) received for Hermitage stream crossing. Contact with Portsmouth (land owner) over means of connecting to Fitzwygram Way. Pre-application comments now received and are now being reviewed prior to putting in a full planning application.

**Rusty Cutter link road Active Travel Improvements HBC CIL 05/10/2023**

National Highways staff confirm support for proposed Designated Funds bid. CELT will be liaising with NH officers to make a formal application for DF funding, but this will not be until start of new RIS3 period in April 2024 as current funds are committed and NH wants to get those schemes completed before new ones are added. In meantime, CELT continuing with preliminary design, talking to HCC S278 team regarding interface with 'Forty Acres' site works. CIL team advised and recognise implementation delay to 2025.

**Hobby Close PCC 05/10/2023**

L&S Waste has been appointed as the contractor, but due to the need to obtain approval for pre-start planning conditions the works on site have been re-arranged to start in spring 2024 for 10 weeks, to ensure pre-planning conditions are signed off in good time and to avoid working in the wet (and muddy) season.

**Elettra Avenue / Milton Road HBC CIL 23/10/2023**

Design complete and approved by HCC. However, Elettra Avenue is now on hold until such time as the developer (Hargreaves) commences work on site at which point the S106 funding will be released. Milton Road - new footway / cycleway linking Milton Road to Hambledon Road is being included in design.

**Waterlooville To Denmead Active Travel Corridor HBC CIL + HCC 23/10/2023**

Further to comments from the Safety Audit (SA) team the Sunnymead Drive section of the scheme has been redesigned. Further discussions have taken place with the freeholder of 100 Hambledon Road regarding providing access to his property and issue regarding the extent of the public highway at Petersham Close which had implications for the design has now been clarified. This project is still under funded but in discussions with HCC to figure out how we can fill the funding gap. Works may progress in phases.

**MUGA Rugby Club car park HBC CIL 23/10/2023**

Car park works complete and open for use. Next phase lighting - Lighting connection cost in excess of original estimated costs but funding to cover still to be confirmed. Start date still TBA.



**Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground HBC No Funding 19/10/2023**

PROJECT CANCELLED 19/10/2023.

**England Coast Path, Emsworth NE HBC CIL 05/10/2023**

Preliminary design for civil engineering works submitted to Natural England for application to Planning Inspectorate inquiry. This was held in early July. The outcome and timing of the resulting report is not in HBC control. Further commission for detailed design expected after Inquiry completed. Occasional input as & when Planning Inspectorate requires.

**Brambles Farm Link HBC CIL 07/09/2023**

Initial discussions with HCC have indicated willingness to promote this route as an additional access point into Brambles Farm from the south. Ecology, arboriculture, Environment Agency consents / applications will all be required. CIL is a fund building contribution as a minimum scheme is likely to be >£250k. HCC undertaking wider study into Brambles Farm access and movement which will incorporate this link as part of the justification for further S106 contributions which will be required to fully implement the project.

**Somborne Drive Greywell Drainage HBC S106 16/10/2023.**

S106 funding to be secured to design to include Green Infrastructure within the car park - re-align surface water drainage using existing drainage to the west include SuDS to better manage surface water volume and water quality - revised date for completion Q4 2023/24.

**Future of Billy Trail (feasibility)HBC CIL 20/10/2023**

CIL funding being used to conduct feasibility design for alternative routes at two locations where erosion is threatening the Trail (West Lane, Saltmarsh Lane) supporting separate HCC funded study of £50k for overall 'NCN2' project. CIL will also fund implementation before spring 2024 across Beachlands SSSI - permissions being raised with Natural England by Property Team. Topographic survey to be conducted by HCC. Ecology by Coastal Partners is complete. Site clearance of old West Lane route completed to allow survey. Options for erosion site at Saltmarsh Lane being developed.

**Elmleigh Road HCC TCF HBC CIL 05/10/2023**

CELT detailed design work completed. HCC are lead on implementation. Work started 15/5/23. Good progress being made on section east of Civic Centre Road, and at Petersfield Road sparrow crossing. Works now expected to be complete 4 weeks early, in November 2023.

**TCF Park Road South HCC TCF 20/10/2023**

CELT preliminary design work completed. HCC are lead on design and implementation. On site September - December.

**Havant Road and Bridge Road Emsworth HCC 23/10/2023**

Bridge Road scheme has been designed and approved. The Safety Audit (SA) team have reviewed the original design and have produced a Nil return report indicating there are no issues. However, they have asked that we consider a slightly different design. SA comments have been discussed with the team and a way forward has been agreed. Have discussed with client manager at HCC.

**Victoria Road, Emsworth HCC 23/10/2023**

Drawings have been checked and are now working through final approval. HCC have now decided they want implementation to go ahead during the February 2024 half-term holiday. They have also decided they would like to the Victoria Road scheme and the Bridge Road scheme to be tendered as a single package.

**Morelands Phase 3 (Gauntlett Park) HCC 17/10/2023**

Enerveo have provide lighting design and these are being integrated into the footway design. A CIL application (project 278) to cover the cost of the lighting has been approved to cover the funding shortfall. Also, the Planning Pre-Application has been submitted and awaiting response.

**ATF4 (north of Hayling Billy) [detailed design] HCC 20/10/2023**

ATF4 funding from central government is £600k.

Active Travel Fund project to upgrade to all weather surface along the Billy Trail north of the Esso car park at Victoria Road to the bridge. Agreement with HCC Countryside for asphalt surfacing has been achieved. HBC CELT to design, then HCC Countryside will tender and implement with HBC design support. Detailed

design has been submitted to client who are now engaging with contractors who will feed back ideas and comments to CELT design team for final issue. HCC aiming for January 2024 approval with start in February 2024. Public engagement event being planned for November 2023.

### **Hayling Billy NCN2 Cycle Route Feasibility HCC 20/10/2023**

HCC funding of £50k for feasibility study to investigate engineering options for sustainably upgrading remaining sections of route not covered by CIL 108 / ATF4 i.e., those not threatened by immediate erosion, and completion of cycle route via Staunton Avenue to Sea Front. Report completion December 2023. Topo survey to be undertaken by HCC shortly; PEA (ecology) by Coastal Partners complete but requires input from HCC Ecology in addition. RSA team from HCC involved with options for Staunton Avenue, making sure all proposals are LTN1/20 compliant where on highway. Links to Trail at 'Esso' and Saltmarsh Lane (FP521) also being considered within study activity.

### **Emsworth Mill Pond Wall HBC Rev 16/10/2023.**

Core samples undertaken and being reviewed. GPR survey completed, currently assessing survey outputs.

### **South Street Emsworth, Wall and planting HBC car parks Rev 23/10/2023**

Wall repairs complete. Replanting of with shrubs in the autumn. Looking to utilise the environmental enhancement budget to complete the works.

### **Hayling Island Boardwalk, Chichester Avenue HBC UKSPF 22/10/2023**

Project Board meeting taking place fortnightly. Coastal Partners, Economy & Regeneration & Property involved. Brief agreed 19/10/23. Stakeholders agreed. Comms TBD. Identifying suppliers for next meeting on 02/11/23.

## **3. Property**

- Working in conjunction with the Community Team, a new tenant has been secured for the Springwood Community Centre (subject to contract) following the demise of Springwood Community Partnership, re-establishing the centre's community use and placing the management and maintenance of the building on a more sustainable footing.

- Dakota Business Park industrial units (4-7) now fully let with a total rental uplift of c.£30,000pa on the historic position (prior to the demise of the former tenant, Formaplex Ltd).
- New full repairing and insuring lease agreed at North Emsworth Hall (former SYRCH centre). The tenant (a nursery) has occupied the premises following the demise of the previous organisation and the asset was previously not income producing.
- ‘Spruced Up Community Garden’ – a residents management plan agreed for a community garden at 79 -98 Spruce Avenue, Waterlooville. This will help improve and maintain HBC land behind the flats with flower beds and vegetable beds producing produce for the residents.
- ‘Frying High’ - a new food concession at Broadmarsh Coastal Park, selling Fish and Chips will be trading from 1<sup>st</sup> December. New licence income to the Council.
- Credit Consultant (Interim) post now deleted due to budgetary constraints and following implementation of new internal processes / information reporting from Finance.
- Now in contract with Civica (Technology Forge) for a new PAMS system and project initiation meeting arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- Level of rent collection remains high at 95% this quarter. Decrease in total debt to £108,000.
- YTD Increase of £59,000 in the non-operational asset annual rent roll (April 2023 figures to position by year end).

- Vacancy rate within portfolio continues to be very low with every effort being made to mitigate void holding costs.
- Open Space inspection programme now well underway, leading to enforcement and regularisation of unauthorised accesses onto council land.

#### **4. Customer Services**

4.1. Household Support Fund food vouchers will be out to the residents in the next month and will support many of the Borough residents. There had been a short delay due to having to re contract with the supplier.

Performance in the Customer Service Centre is up again this month with all calls answered within the contracted KPI's.

Land Charges have again hit 100% on returning the searches again within the allotted timescales.

The Council Tax team had a successful day in court in October clearing some outstanding debts.

The Council Tax Support Fund has been running for a little while now and the headlines on how it is working are as below.

- 4,210 charge payers assisted to date.
  - Average award of £41.98 per person.
  - Has targeted the most vulnerable financially to the best of your ability.
  - Triggered early in the year which takes pressure away from charge payers.
- Well done Wendy
- £177k spent with room to pay new qualifiers within the budget.

#### **5. Cabinet lead for Digital (Capita Contract)**

5.1. The service's exit work for the 5C Partnership contract for ICT in 2025 continues under the established three major project areas:

5.1.1. **Developing and procuring a new ICT Infrastructure and Security (ICT I&S 2025) provision.** Pre-Market consultation feedback has

shaped the council's finalised specification. The service is working with Procurement and Legal services to complete the Invitation to Tender documentation to go out to market this month. Authority to commence procurement is delegated to Cabinet Lead, Exec Head of Commercial, S151 and Monitoring Officer. The service will take an update of this project to Overview and Scrutiny on 21st November as requested.

5.1.2. **Moving legacy applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) cloud provision in preparation of a new ICT provider** – all are dependents of the ICT I&S 2025 project:

- **Planning Case Management.** This project has completed full-market tender and is at the end of the evaluation phase of its procurement.
- **Other regulatory case management (env. Health, licensing etc).** This project has completed full-market tender and is mid-way through the evaluation phase of its procurement.
- **Finance system replacement.** This Finance project is awaiting the November business case for project management resource to alleviate BAU Finance resource.

5.2. **'J to H Project' - Separating and reorganising the council's network data into a new HBC only network drive is now complete.** A huge amount of work has gone in to delivering a clear team-based network drive structure for our central council data, creating effective management of external party access, and resetting staff security to provide access to staff based on their current roles. As a dependent of the ICT I&S 2025 project, this work was a crucial part of the council's own exit preparations from the 5C contract, tidying up decades' worth of data and ownership.