

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 19 JUNE 2024**

Councillor Chegwyn (substituting for Councillor Maynard) Councillor Hayes (Substituting for Huggins) Councillors Westerby, Johnston, Finn, Ricketts and Raffaelli (Substituting for Philpott)

PART II MINUTES

1. STOKES BAY SEAWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report by Coastal Partners seeking to update Members on the progress of the Stokes bay Seawall Replacement project since the last update in January 2024.

Officers introduced the report by advising members of the good news that work is now underway on site since the licenses were obtained and the funding gap closed. As well as replacing 135m of failed seawall the car park will be made good, to hopefully reopen in the winter.

In answer to a Members question, officers advised that the issue of the flooding in the car park formed part of the project and that investigations had taken place and the current drainage would be replaced. The Board agreed that this was of real value to visitors to the area. Members recognised that the car park suffering from these drainage issues had not only caused inconvenience for visitors but loss of income for the Council.

Members were advised that work on the feasibility study is progressing, which will promote a three stage approach of urgent works, capital maintenance and a longer term aspirational scheme for the bay. Normally a feasibility study would be completed before the start of works, so this scheme (Phase 1) was slightly out of sequence but was accelerated to avoid complete failure of the eastern seawall. A report will be brought back to Board on the feasibility study recommendations, with no budget requirement.

Members were pleased to see that there had been community engagement including letters to affected residents including the caravan park.

Members wished to record their thanks to the Coastal Partners team and hoped for good weather to ensure the project was completed in time, if not before.

In answer to a Members question, it was agreed to circulate to Members the letter sent by the Secretary of State's office regarding the situation in Alverstoke.

Officers were able to confirm that Hampshire County Council had a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate incidents of flooding, in order to be able to make recommendations, and this investigation had commenced. As soon as something was ready for the public domain, GBC would share with residents.

Members agreed that GBC staff who attended the incident in Alverstoke had provided excellent support on the night and for days after with the supply of skips and waste clearance as well as other practical advice, but felt that the support given by the water

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company was not as good.

Members agreed that flooding can be unpredictable, and that a review is necessary to ensure any defence scheme would address the type of flooding experienced.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the progress of the following project activities:

- Procurement of the contractor
- Update to the financial position
- Planning and Environmental Licences acquisition

2. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were none

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.20 pm