

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Update

11 January 2016

Since the last update of September 2015, winter emergencies are now a repeating event:

- Significant erosion continues to the north of East Lane with the clay bank neighbouring the rocks now directly exposed to wave action. The EA have responded rapidly and approved Emergency works to place 70m of further granite (from the store) starting w/c 11 Jan. An update on this from EA is attached but it is clear the repeated need for emergency work is not a long term solution.
- The situation at Bawdsey Cliffs continues to concern with historically very low beach levels leaving the cliff base piles very exposed. Suction of material from behind the defences is a local concern.

Long-term Progress:

- A report by Mott MacDonald for the EA on the Coastal Processes affecting the frontage has been rewritten and finalised. This is broadly accepted as a useful collation of much existing material however it provides limited evidence to support management decisions particularly relating to material transport (where is it moving and why) and scenario modelling (if the evidence is extrapolated what might it mean?).
- Further work has been commissioned to best answer these two core questions. The work is being undertaken by HR Wallingford and funded by the Crown Estate, both have performed similar work at Slaughden so this is a widening of that activity. This is planned to report in April.
- A report on generic management options by Mott MacDonald has been produced. This broadly sets out options :
 - to hold the line at East Lane with reefs and/ or groynes with some beach recharge combinations and to effect managed retreat.
 - to hold the line at Bawdsey Cliffs with a range from combinations of recharge with groynes and a hard revetment base to the cliff.

All options require much more detailed design, evaluation and costing but are likely to cost several million £s. The EA have estimated that their financial models might allocate only a smaller percentage (20-30%??) towards this leaving a material sum to be raised from other sources. The BCP is talking with any local people who have an interest in contributing to the Partnership to develop an offer of a range of assets which could provide options for funding. The Partnership aims to balance the benefits of coastal management with impacts and costs.

- It is planned to engage the local community in the spring with the further evidence developed by HR Wallingford and the generic options and potential solutions for funding some of these. This engagement will seek feedback to

inform the selection of a preferred set of coastal solutions. These would then be further developed a a full business case for full consultation and consenting over the coming year or so.

A member's meeting will be arranged to discuss the preparations for local engagement and provide an update in Feb/ March which will be open to all as usual.

Further meetings will also be held following the engagement activities to report the feedback provided from them and to develop collective views on more preferred options.

It is clear the sea's advance on our coastline continues to be a great concern to many – this risks investment in and the value of our local area and underlines the real need for a long-term solution people can have confidence in.

Tim Green