

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Update

23 September 2015

The Partnership continues to await a response from Mott Macdonald and EA to the questions raised on 13 July in response to the Draft report. These are now expected within the next 1-2 weeks (to be confirmed by EA asap) and have agreed will include:

- Paper 1: A rewritten report with amendments where appropriate which excludes the options analysis and conclusions and simply focusses on an analysis of the evidence;
- Paper 2: An Options paper which will document a shorter list of realistic options (BCP can input to this list to ensure we are supportive (innovative ideas can be included)). This paper will include assessments of cost, efficacy and impact (environmental, visual, etc). It will not make recommendations;
- Mott's responses to questions which are not addressed in the report rewrite;
- EA and NE responses to questions raised more relevant to themselves.

EA were very keen to emphasise that the inclusion within the draft report of preferred options towards realignment were not EA's view, that Mott's will be removing these as they are not appropriate without an assessment of all factors and EA are fully committed to determining a preferred option with the community and statutory bodies using the net steps programme below:

- Agree the Report question responses and develop collective 'Statements' to explain these where appropriate for public communications;
- Use a workshop with BCP to develop a shortlist of Options that should be put to 'public consultation';
- Run public consultation drop-in events (perhaps across the 3 villages) to communicate the shortlist options, their costs, efficacy and impact and through on-line material. At these sessions it will be important to also set out the cost implications for any community required contributions. The goal will be to collate feedback/ surveys from the public about a preferred option;
- Select a 'preferred' option based on public consultation feedback and statutory and community body input;
- EA will then support the full business case consultancy work (material and scour modelling, etc) to bring the preferred option forward for a Project Decision;
- Assuming support for this and all funds can be realised necessary works would commence.

It would be helpful for BCP to marshal financial commitments from interested parties (residents, landlords, Parish Councils, District and Country Councils) to support any necessary consultancy evidence gathering to enable reasonable decision making – the major challenge to overcome is uncertainties over what technical solution will work? Commitments of £2.5k or so are sort.

EA have placed two holding bids into the Agency's capital plans; one in the next 6 years for East Lane and one in the following 6 years for Bawdsey Cliffs. These are the first steps to securing the capital funds but are all subject to normal project approvals and community funding to ensure the affordability of the schemes. There will be some scope to flex the timing of funds used.

A member's meeting will be arranged to discuss the Options shortlisting and report responses.

Our Economic and Environmental Study is close to completion and will assist us make a collective bid to the Coastal Communities Fund both in support of the Suffolk Heritage Coast tourism support bid and as a separate Coastal Flood Defence bid.

Tim Green