

1. Review of the Estuary Plan

DEP published the Deben Estuary Plan in 2015.

Document sets out an integrated approach to estuary management - sets out the flood risk management strategy for the estuary and includes the interlocking issues of ecology, landscape, recreation and the local economy. The Plan was endorsed by the Planning Authority, the County Council and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Going forward

The new Local Plan (planning doc.) is nearing completion so it's necessary to review the Estuary Plan – to update policy, reflect on changes in government thinking and **consider the future impact of climate change and rising sea levels.**

The natural environment, sea and landscape, of the Deben estuary are more significant than simply 'nice to have' - they are fundamental building blocks to what makes the area important for nature, enhancing our quality of life and prosperity. This points **to the importance of 'natural capital' and how that increases the 'value' of the estuary and coastal landscape.**

In January the DEP would like to gather a group of people together to work on recording the different elements interested in this work .

If you are interested please get in touch with Christine Block

2. 'Imagining the measure of change: art, science and the estuary community'

2 year research project involving Middlesex University and University College London - will ask representatives from estuary communities to look at how we understand 'change' across coastal landscapes.

The work will include a number of workshops, using a mix of science, art and local experience, to explore how estuarine systems are changing and what impact this will have on how future decisions about the management of the landscape are arrived at.

Further information will be available after Christmas but if you would be interested in taking part in the programme please let Jenny know.

3. Estuary Defence - FC1

Sensible, realistic approach is being taken to refurbish wall between Bawdsey Quay and Ramsholt.

Detailed design and preparatory investigations will soon be underway. The aim will be to bring the wall up to a standard where it will resist a 1 in 75yr flood event.

Work won't be as prohibitively costly as a full wall rebuild would be but will, nevertheless, need substantial finance.

This wall plays a vital part in maintaining the stability of the whole estuary – breaches in this wall would have a direct impact on what happens further up-stream at Martlesham and Woodbridge But there is little or no chance of getting Government grant aid because it doesn't protect houses.

This leaves the landowners having to fund the work – and – as recognised some time ago – this has to mean a modest amount of enabling development.