

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Issue 2



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Welcome to our Spring 2017 newsletter. Coastal Partnership East is a new innovative approach to managing the coast between Holkham in North Norfolk and Landguard Point in Felixstowe bringing together the coastal management resources and expertise from Gt. Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.

Coastal Partnership East works in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Water Management Alliance, coast and estuary community partnerships and others along the 173km of coast in Norfolk and Suffolk.

The last few months have been particularly busy, with some significant milestones reached.

- The coastal strategy for Gorleston to Lowestoft, jointly led by Gt Yarmouth BC and Waveney DC, has had formal approval from the Environment Agency.
- The Lowestoft project has presented its Strategic Outline Case to Large Project Review Group (Environment Agency approval board) and received a favourable response.
- We are working with the Great Yarmouth Tidal Defences Business Partnership and the Environment Agency on the future funding and management of the tidal defences. Work led by the Environment Agency utilising an innovative approach to harbour wall reconditioning has been successfully completed, representing significant cost savings.
- Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Network with a membership of local authorities, academic and research institutions, Natural England, Environment Agency and others was launched on 27th February at University of East Anglia. The group aims to make better decisions about the coast by having better information and accessing the work of the universities.

This year so far CPE has been visible on the local and national stage, achieving a mention in Parliament, multiple presentations at the Flood and Coast Conference 2017 and taking part in local events such as the Lowestoft Community Fayre, to raise our profile with the communities we serve.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Parker".

Bill Parker

Head of Coastal Partnership East



North Norfolk Coast Forum

Members of the North Norfolk Coast Forum were updated about the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Project. The group also received presentations from students at Cranfield University who presented work on mapping Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management projects - information to aid decision making which was then referred on to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Next meeting 4th July 2017.

Suffolk Coast Forum

At the Spring Suffolk Coast Forum meeting the group learned about the Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Association Community Voice project. The project is working towards better communication between marine regulators and coastal industries like fishing. See the video and project online at www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk. Next meeting Thursday 13 July 2017.

Major project updates

Bacton/Walcott Flood Risk Management Strategy

Good progress is being made with the partners and key stakeholders on developing this strategy. Design and modelling is almost complete and environmental studies are to begin shortly.

Winterton to Great Yarmouth strategy

The Great Yarmouth Borough Council Environment Committee supported the proposed approach working with the Environment Agency (EA) for a light touch strategy with EA funding for further work in specific locations. A productive meeting has been held with Save Hemsby Coastline and mapped out a way forward linking to the development of the Winterton to Yarmouth and review of the honey comb defences.

Gorleston to Lowestoft strategy

Following on from the presentation of the strategy to Large Project Review Group (LPRG) in February, we are delighted that it has achieved formal sign off. Work can now begin on progressing the schemes and projects outlined in the strategy, beginning with the Hopton to Corton stretch where contributions from local business has already been agreed in principle.

Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

On 30th March the project team presented the Strategic Outline Case to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group (LPRG). This was well received and the team were particularly commended on their approach to the economics. LPRG felt that it would be beneficial to have a face-to-face meeting and this has been arranged for 3rd May. In the meantime, the project is moving towards developing legal agreements with landowners and progressing the outline design for the flood walls.

The £10m of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership funding has been confirmed this quarter and arrangements are being made to draw this down when needed. The project is also imbedded into the regeneration work commissioned by Waveney District Council around the Lowestoft sea front, which is being done in partnership with designer and town planner Wayne Hemmingway MBE.

Sizewell C

The Sizewell C Stage 2 EDF Energy consultation has been completed. The joint local authority response from Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council in consultation with local 'expert' groups was clear that the information presented for the consultation was inadequate to fully comment on the proposals. The joint local authorities are working closely to address this in advance of Stage 3. The activity of the marine technical forum has been suspended during the consultation process.

Shoreline Management Plan reviews

There are four important SMP policy reviews being progressed in Hopton, Corton, Slaughden and Bawdsey. We are working closely with our communities in these areas to ensure that the right actions are being taken for the future of the coast in these areas.

Out and about with BERT

Workshops for local businesses in Lowestoft and Gt Yarmouth were held in January and February highlighting the importance of business resilience and showcasing the Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit (BERT) plus the free support provided by Groundworks. Both workshops were well attended. Peter Aldous MP introduced the event in Lowestoft and Brandon Lewis MP supported the promotion of the Gt. Yarmouth workshop. Since its launch in November 2015, BERT has helped over 200 businesses become resilient. In January 2017 Lings Motor Group ran the first test of their new resilience plan, in advance of the high tides and it worked well. (BERT online at www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk)

Further workshops are being held in partnership with the Gt. Yarmouth Tidal Business Group and in Cromer in partnership with the emergency planning team at North Norfolk DC.

Repair and Maintenance

Coastal Partnership East (CPE) is responsible for repairs and maintenance of almost 1,000 individual assets on significant stretches of the coastline between Kelling in North Norfolk and Landguard Point in Felixstowe. This is an extremely important part of the work we do. We maintain (where funding is available) important structures such as 403 groynes, 21km revetments, 34km seawalls, as well as promenades and beaches.

As well as repairs and maintenance the team carry out regular and important inspections so they understand the condition of the structure and manage public safety and this informs future coastal management plans. We are also monitor beach levels and the conditions of the cliffs. Following greatly increased workloads on the coastal frontages due to damage caused by significant surge event in January the repairs and maintenance teams have been working hard to ensure necessary works are carried out in good time. CPE are pleased to announce that the promenade at Corton was reopened for the Easter weekend.

Some minor beach works will be carried out at Southwold to ensure the beach levels are suitable for users. This will take place from 8th May for about a week depending on the weather. The excavators will be on the beach during early morning and late evening low tides to minimise the impact on those using the beach in the day time.

A contract to appoint a new coastal maintenance contractor is underway for the North Norfolk frontage. It is anticipated that the new contract will be in place for the 1 June 2017.

Team update



CPE's approach to partnership working well received at Flood and Coast Conference 2017

Positive feedback was received about the presentations by Paul Mackie and Bill Parker

CPE at Lowestoft Fayre

Coastal Partnership East exhibited at the Lowestoft Fayre along with the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project, the temporary flood barriers, the Water Management Alliance and the Environment Agency to ensure the community have opportunity to engage. Throughout the event regular updates on Twitter were posted signposting people to the event and raising the profile of CPE.





CPE's engineer celebrated for International Women's Day (8th March)

Waveney District Council celebrated all the fantastic women working to help local communities. Becky Koehler was pictured in their media outputs to mark the day.



Coastal Management in the East gets a mention in Parliament

Cllr Andy Smith attended the launch of the Coastal Cultural Network in Parliament and was able to attend a short session of parliament to hear Dr Thérèse Coffey, Defra Floods Minister mention to coastal management locally as well as nationally. The clip can be viewed here (<https://youtu.be/tddADzcQMzw>) and the Hansard (Future Flood Prevention, 27 February 2017, Volume 622, 6.30 pm) here (<https://goo.gl/99LdLA>)

National updates

Skills and capacity in local authority

Bill Parker contributed to the New Civil Engineer magazine to highlight gaps in skills and coastal engineers in local authorities. This topic is currently a major concern on the SIG agenda and they will continue to promote this issue to find a sustainable way to continue to resource the important requirements that are unique to authorities with communities on a coastal frontage.



Other updates

The National Farmers Union (NFU) recently launched their flooding manifesto which highlights priorities and asks Government and others to work with them to develop a long term strategic plan to mitigate future flood risk. See online at <http://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/nfu-launches-flooding-manifesto/>



The concept of Property Level Resilience is now getting increased emphasis in the context of Flood Risk Management, and the LGA Coastal SIG seek to input to this in a number of different forums.



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<http://www.coasteast.org.uk> (in development)

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