



**Minutes of Meeting held on 13 July 2017
at Suffolk Coastal District Council, East
Suffolk House**

In attendance:

DR	Cllr	David	Ritchie	WDC (Chair)	AA	Alison	Andrews	AOEP
AS	Cllr	Andy	Smith	SCDC	SJ	Steff	Jones	SCC
MH	Cllr	Matthew	Hicks	SCC	GL	Grant	Lohoar	NT
DRo	Cllr	David	Rose	B+MS DC	BJ	Bill	Jenman	AONB
CB	Cllr	Christine	Block	DEP	PC	Pete	Cosgrove	Pioneer Officer
EG	Sir	Edward	Greenwell	AOEP	JB	Jane	Burch	SCC
BP		Bill	Parker	CPE	SZ	Sara	Zins	RDA
NC		Nick	Collinson	S&OEMG				
EH		Emma	Hay	NE	Invited speakers			
MJ		Mark	Johnson	EA	SF	Sally	Fishwick	NE
SC		Stacey	Clarke	MMO	AP	Andy	Plater	
KT		Karen	Thomas	IDB	JA	Jenny	Armstrong	

Apologies: Cllr Sue Allen, Simon Amstutz, Jane Marson, Lucy Williams, Sharon Bleese, John Jackson,

1.	Welcome and Introductions	DR welcomed all to the meeting and a brief round of introductions shared.
2.	Defra Marine Pioneer	<p>Pete Cosgrove introduced himself as the new Marine Pioneer officer and outlined the developing pioneer project in Suffolk. It is one of two marine-based projects, the other being in North Devon. There are also urban, landscape and catchment based Pioneers.</p> <p>They are focussed on the natural capital approach to the management of the environment, aiming to increase the scope of what is valued and therefore conserved as part of normal business.</p> <p>Defra has provided 2-year's funding for the officer post but no other funds for the project have yet been announced.</p> <p>There will be strong links with existing local projects and the Pioneer gives opportunities for a direct link into Defra to unlock potential difficulties with the new approach.</p> <p>NC suggested that a communications plan was essential, particularly given the Ministerial interest in this area.</p>
3.	SMP Policy at Corton	<p>BP explained the background to the proposed SMP policy change at Corton. Currently the policy is Managed Realignment (MR) for epochs 2 and 3 – largely based on the expectation that no public funding would be available to deliver a HtL option.</p> <p>The Gorleston to Lowestoft Strategy (G2L) has provided further information suggest the importance of this area economically and for the geomorphology and evolution of the coast. Possible substantial private investment, as at nearby Hopton, also supports the change of policy to HtL</p> <p>HtL delivers benefits both north and south of the village and there is now more information on how this could be delivered.</p> <p>The G2L Strategy has been signed off by WDC.</p> <p>Decision: The policy change to HtL was supported by the SCF members. This will now be presented to the RFCC.</p>
4.	Input into SCF Conference	KT/JB outlined the planned afternoon session at this year's Conference. This will involve community members of the SCF being interviewed about their work and challenges with questions posed to the audience via an live voting

		<p>system. The aim is to enable the audience to help shape the focus of the SCF over the coming year.</p> <p>The meeting was asked to consider possible questions/topics to provide suitable feedback. The paper provided gave some ideas and members were asked to provide feedback and other suggestions.</p> <p>EG cautioned about using the audience as a proxy with wider community views. All recognised the need to be very clear about wording and definitions used and to ensure the answers provided could be used positively.</p> <p>Action: All to provide thoughts/ideas to lucy.williams@eastsoffolk.gov.uk by end July.</p> <p>JB/KT/Sharon Bleese to collate and circulate final questions.</p>
5.	Update on England Coast Path	<p>Sally Fishwick, lead officer for NE on coastal access for East Anglia, provided an update on the five sections affecting Suffolk.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-in-the-east-of-england</p> <p>She reminded the meeting of NE's duty to propose a route and ensure appropriate environmental assessments of the proposal are undertaken. The final decision lies with the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Sections 1 (Stour Estuary) and 5 (Aldeburgh to Hopton): NE has completed meetings with land owners/managers and will shortly be sharing proposed route and undertaking HRA. Proposals will be shared with SCF later in the year – probably at specific meetings rather than a Forum meeting.</p> <p>In the other 3 sections (Orwell Estuary, Deben Estuary and Alde & Ore Estuary) NE is commencing familiarization work and discussions with landowners. It is seeking input from any relevant organisation that can provide information on key issues and opportunities. It will be some 18 months before a proposed route for these sections will be shared with SCF. Following publication of the proposed route those with a legal interest in affected land can lodge objections and others can provide comments – all of which will be considered by the SoS.</p> <p>The issue of use of ferries was discussed. There are no plans to include the Harwich to Felixstowe ferry in Section 1. Other ferries will be considered within Section 10 of the NE Coastal Access Scheme</p> <p>http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5327964912746496?category=50007</p> <p>It is worth noting that whilst the right of access normally applies to all land on the seaward side of the trail, this can be restricted for nature conservation or private landowner interests.</p> <p>NE cannot propose a route if it will adversely affect a designated environmental site.</p>
6.	Updates on current activities	<p>Reports were circulated ahead of the meeting. There were no questions/comment on the reports.</p> <p>CB outlined the work being undertaken on establishing an on-demand ferry from Bawdsey to Felixstowe Ferry. Funding (c. £7k) is needed to undertake a pilot this winter.</p> <p>BP informed the meeting of the recent public consultation into the Bacton sand engine proposal. This new approach has received positive public support, providing useful learning for the potential Suffolk shingle engine project. The Bacton project will cost some £17 million, largely private funding from the Gas Terminal. There is still a funding shortfall.</p>
7.	Impacts of climate change	<p>Andy Plater from Liverpool University presented details of his project which has produced a useful tool for looking at the impacts of sea level rise and</p>

APPENDIX 1

	on coastal energy infrastructure	increased storminess on a long timescale. Its primary use is for the energy industry but it has wider value. His presentation is available on www.greensuffolk.org/suffolkcoastforum and further information on the tool is available at http://arcoes-dst.liverpool.ac.uk/
8.	Collaborative adaptation implementation – outputs from study of Sizewell C	Jenny Armstrong outlined her PhD study, undertaken as part of the project above. Her presentation is available on www.greensuffolk.org/suffolkcoastforum
9.	Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising	These were accepted as correct.
10.	Any Other Business	The NT has offered the opportunity to visit Orford Ness in the autumn. Max 24 places. Action: BP/GL to circulate date and establish interest.
	Dates of next meetings	Thursday 16 November 2017 at The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew. 2017 SCF Coast and Estuary Community Conference: Friday 6 October 2017 at Trinity Park. Book your place at the conference via https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suffolk-coast-and-estuaries-community-conference-2017-tickets-26964786402