

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 November 2017 at Council Chamber, Suffolk Coastal District Council

In attendance:

EG	Sir	Edward	Greenwell	AOEP	RW		Rob	Wise	NFU
SAMs		Simon	Amstutz	AONB	SZ		Sarah	Zins	RDA
DRo	Cllr	David	Rose	B+MS DC	PW		Phil	Williamson	RHDHV
PG		Peter	Garrett	B+MS DC	AH		Alex	Hampson	RHDHV
NCri		Nick	Crick	BCP	GH		Graham	Henderson	SCAR
SA	Cllr	Sue	Allen	BEP	SJ		Steff	Jones	SCC
TW		Tim	Woodward	CLA	BJ		Bill	Jenman	SCC
SB		Sharon	Bleese	CPE	JB		Jane	Burch	SCC
BP		Bill	Parker	CPE	MH	Cllr	Matthew	Hicks	SCC
AS		Alysha	Stockman	CPE	AJAS	Cllr	Andy	Smith	SCDC
LW		Lucy	Williams	CPE	NK		Nick	Khan	SCDC
CB	Cllr	Christine	Block	DEP	PR		Philip	Ridley	SCDC
JG		Julian	Gregory	E IFCA	LC		Lisa	Chandler	SCDC
MJ		Mark	Johnson	EA	PC		Peter	Cosgrove	Pioneer officer
KT		Karen	Thomas	IDB	JY		Joanna	Young	SPR
JJ		John	Jackson	NE	DR	Cllr	David	Ritchie	WDC (Chair)

Apologies: Nick Collinson (SCC), Jane Marson (IDB), Paul Hayden (ERFCC)

1.	Welcome and Introductions	The chairman welcomed the group to the meeting and a round of introductions was shared.
2.	East Anglia Wind Farm Projects	<p>Joanna Young (Stakeholder Manager, Scottish Power Renewables), Alex Hampson and Phil Rew-Williamson (RHDHV) introduced the project currently scoping areas for investigation as potential onshore sites for future wind farm infrastructure.</p> <p>Work on East Anglia 1 and EA 3 landfall will commence next spring, with landfall at Bawdesy. Turbines will be operational in 2019. The group learned that the biggest archaeological dig in Europe is located within a site at Muller's wood where the Bawdesy to Bramford cable is to be placed. Future projects EA One North and EA 2 will reach landfall at Sizewell and require 3 substations and horizontal directional drilling through various locations (as for EA 1 and 3). Cabling routes from the windfarm to landfall are also under discussion.</p> <p>Events are being held to discuss future work with the local community. It is expected that the project should be finalised by 2020.</p> <p>The forum were led through a number of slides detailing locations and the site considerations. It was noted that the AONB had not been detailed on the landfall search area map but that it did exist on a map further in to the presentation. Various locations where discussed. Sandbanks where expected to be avoided as part of Outer Thames SPA. Future projects expected to make landfall South of Sizewell, as they are conscious of erosion in this area. In the interests of minimizing disruption routing is expected to be kept near to existing infrastructure, and they are aiming to avoid interaction with properties in Aldeburgh.</p>

		<p>Substations are large structures which would look prominent in the landscape. Research is still in progress at the moment to understand whether substations could be in one location, and how they could be blended with the landscape. It was noted that the presentation shared was the worst-case scenario. The group agreed that local involvement was important, and it would be beneficial to form expert topic groups to contribute to onshore and offshore sites discussions</p> <p>A recommendation was made to ensure that Coralline Crag is not affected by the work – Greg Guthrie (RHDHV) is feeding in to the coastal expertise. A request was made for the scoping report and it was agreed that this would be shared with the forum.</p> <p>The group also learned that main shipping channels are being avoided, green roofing is being considered to help with drainage and environment, and that the project sponsor EoE East Coast College. The group welcomed this and shared that they would welcome further investment in local schools, and training for engineers.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> East Anglia Wind Farm scoping report to be shared with SCF - LW</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Expert topic groups would be beneficial to understanding and feeding in to East Anglia Wind Farm site discussions - BP</p>
3.	<p>SMP update (Slaughden SMP policy change)</p>	<p>SB introduced the update document for the SMP Policy Review at Slaughden. The update is for the information of the forum. SB shared that no options had been ruled out so far, except those that result in a breach.</p> <p>The group discussed the role of the SCF in SMP policy and BP agreed to recirculate the information document from 2013. It was agreed that the issue was complex, and the importance of ensuring the recommendation was deliverable was stressed. The group heard that CH2M are conducting a feasibility study and Mott Macdonald are assessing the economic value.</p> <p>AJAS felt that not enough information had been shared in the update document and requested that the scoping document be shared with the forum.</p> <p>The group agreed to have a longer item on the Slaughden policy review at the next meeting (9th January 2018).</p> <p><u>Action:</u> 2013 Policy document to be shared with the forum – BP</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Scoping report to be shared with the forum – SB</p>
4.	<p>SCF conference</p>	<p>DR thanked SB for her continued delivery of successful SCF conferences. Particularly as the 2017 conference was the best yet, it is great for the local community but nationally the conference is recognised too. The forum gave a round of applause in recognition of SB’s good work. SB thanked the group, and also the supporting team for the conference.</p> <p>A summary of the feedback was shared with the group, and overall the feedback was very good. It seems that a slight restructure might be suitable, to have only one workshop rather than a repetition in the afternoon.</p> <p>The feedback from the live Q+A session completed at the conference was shared with the forum. The top three items the SCF should consider for work are:</p>

		<p>97% think natural flood risk management is important 77% think it is difficult or extremely difficult to access funding for works on our coast and estuaries 74% think not enough information has been shared about adaptive approaches for managing change on the coast</p> <p>Suggestions for next conference:</p> <p>Light touch SMPs (active in trying to keep live) Long term development of coast, where we might be going, what it might look like in the future. Funding (current review by Defra, and locally the struggle to raise funds) Heritage coast – land + sea – planning process</p> <p>Further conference suggestions are welcome, please send through to SB.</p> <p>The date of the next conference was agreed to be <u>Friday 12th October 2018</u></p>
5.	<p>An update on England Coast Path in Suffolk</p>	<p>Fiona Taylor, NE Coast Path Advisor, shared with the forum the latest progress on the roll out of the coast path between Hopton on Sea to Aldeburgh. The forum was taken through coast path GIS layer and some locations were discussed in more detail.</p> <p>The group heard that walkers would be assumed to know that cliffs were dangerous. But there are some sections, particularly fast-eroding ones, where the dangers may not be immediately apparent, especially for someone unfamiliar with the area. Some sections of the path will have signage to highlight those dangers and other sections have a route which lies a little further landward of the edge (e.g. at Benacre).</p> <p>At Lowestoft the proposed path goes on to Hamilton Road, and the NE team are hoping to replace the steps with a slope. Fiona is working with Bill Parker on this issue.</p> <p>The group heard that the lower prom, south of Lowestoft, was chosen for the route because the access at Cefas and the end of Pakefield Road is difficult.</p> <p>It was noted that the cliffs at Pakefield had been considered unsafe by a forum member, however, NE in conjunction with the Access Authority has considered them safe for the time being with roll back options for the future. The views from the cliff top were considered good. The landowner was keen to promote a cliff top route rather than using an access track through the caravan park.</p> <p>A number of other tricky areas were discussed such as the stretch of path at Potters Bridge. The proposed alignment of an optional alternative route (for use when the main route is unavailable) on the grass verge of the Lowestoft Road. A comment was made that this was on a fast road and was dangerous. JB shared that SCC are assessing the stretch at Potter's Bridge but it seems unlikely that work could be done to improve the situation. FT said that a safety assessment had been undertaken at the location. There would be maintenance of the verge to make it easier to walk on. A pedestrian warning sign may also be needed for the location.</p>

		<p>Dingle Marshes has a number of existing rights of way and walked routes. The ECP largely follows the line of the existing Suffolk Coast Path using these. The saltmarsh area at Dingle Marshes is unsuitable for access and will be excluded under s25A</p> <p>The group learned that should any building work at Sizewell begin, the path can be temporarily redirected on the proposed route of the diverted bridleway. NE have had confirmation that it is not intended that the beach would be closed for the entire construction time.</p> <p>Overall NE had tried to stick to the existing coastal path where this met the scheme criteria.</p> <p>Maintenance was discussed. Under the current funding formula, “the New Deal”, the Access Authority get up to 75% of the total costs of maintaining the trail from NE.</p> <p>RW referred to the Essex Coast Forum where ongoing maintenance had become an issue. RW suggested that there had been discussion about changing government funds suggesting those that benefit economically should be part of partnership working / funding for coast path. Fiona was aware of this conversation but did not know details.</p> <p>Post meeting info from FT:- Discussions re future funding: Central government funding for National Trails is agreed on an annual basis and distributed as grant in aid by Natural England in line with a national funding formula. We (Natural England) are currently inputting to Defra’s corporate planning processes at a senior management level which includes finalising National Trail grant maintenance budgets for the financial year 18/19.</p> <p>Trail Partnerships do not have a formal role in this process although they do make representations with regard to National Trail funding through a variety of different channels, including direct contact with Natural England.</p> <p>Question from CB following reported issues in Norfolk: Our maintenance grant supports the LA’s costs in managing roll-back. There is currently an uplift for significant erosion events that increases the amount available overall which can be used for this. Examples to date have included new signing and fences as the cliff erodes to ensure a safe convenient route continues to be available. Where roll back is more complex, i.e. erosion would result in the trail encroaching on a private garden or building, a more complex new alignment may be needed. In the same way our maintenance grant could support this although in instances where significant costs could be incurred, we accept that this might be more difficult for the LA so we would want to have a wider discussion about funding and would look to help where possible.</p>
6.	Updates on current	AOEP Support needed for enabling development costs and engineering solutions.

	activities	<p>SOEMG Lost Nick Collinson as Chairman. Work on the mussel fishery in the Stour appears to be ramping up.</p> <p>BCP Has received consultant report which they are in the process of understanding.</p> <p>BEP Also having difficulties with enabling development – suggests that the process should be more flexible.</p> <p>DEP To start work on enabling development after Christmas, and are struggling with the process. It seems that current planning officer team not around at time of previous Bawdsey ED so may not have the experience.</p> <p>EA Main gates for the Ipswich Tidal Barrier are now on site ready for installation.</p> <p>LGA Good progress made with senior EA colleagues who are keen to help resolve issues. BP produced a paper that has been well received.</p> <p>IFCA Bass measures likely to change. With the EU exit more focus will be on fisheries.</p> <p>NE Commissioned Julian Orford to look at Shingle Ridges near Bawdsey. Fiona Tibbett is now in charge of MCZs. NE report to be shared with group through John Jackson. Action: NE report to be shared with SCF - JJ</p> <p>Saltmarsh The group heard that Professor Graham Underwood is assisting the saltmarsh group. Progress has been made on MMO licenses. Sub groups have been set up to assist with monitoring saltmarsh restoration projects.</p> <p>Pioneer Update Peter Cosgrove has started working on this and is linking with saltmarsh work</p>
7.	Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of the last meeting were approved with no amendments.
8.	AOB	<p>BP shared that a study tour to Orford Ness is a possibility for next Spring time. To be arranged and shared with forum. Action: Investigate possibility of study tour for forum - BP</p>
		Close
	Dates of next meetings	<p>9th January (Tuesday) 9th May (Wednesday) 9th July (Monday) 8th November (Thursday)</p>