

AOEP

Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership Update

Implementation of Plan

The Tidal Lagoon Power (TLP)/HR Wallingford's final report has been received. This work has shown that the Estuary Plan is sustainable and is a good baseline and over-arching model for the whole estuary. The intertidal habitat creation project required by TLP very much depends on their success in getting the agreed strike price for their power and whether their Swansea tidal scheme is accepted by the Government. Should the TLP options be considered viable (300 to 500 acres of intertidal) by landowners there would be further work by TLP to address any local concerns on velocities in the estuary, issues with sailing and the local economy and discussing these fully with communities. If TLP options were to progress there would have to be a formal amendment to The Estuary Plan for Iken and possibly either Gedgrave or Boyton. It has become clear that the management of the upper estuary flood defences relies on a change in policy at Iken flood cell and two counter walls would be required to protect adjacent landowners/houses where the flood storage option is not compatible with their business. These projects are at a very early stage and require further discussions between TLP/landowners and the communities in these areas. It may be about 2 months before TLP will have Government agreement to their Swansea Scheme and no decisions on which option to progress will be made for some time.

Community Engagement

The dates agreed for Drop In sessions are

**Orford Town Hall 8th March 2-7pm,
Aldeburgh Church Hall 13th March 2-7pm,
Snape Village Hall 14th March 2-7pm,**

AOEP Annual Community Meeting 14th April 1030-1pm Snape Maltings Recital Room.

Saltmarsh restoration

The EA has confirmed a £20K grant for work on the Sudbourne frontage and plans will be drawn up early next year for work to commence in August.

Funding

The Fundraising Appeal raised £130,000 in the first month which was a very successful beginning. The Pub Quiz raised over £42,500 pounds (with £20K match funding) and is likely to become a feature for the next few years as everybody thought it was an wonderful success. A number of charities are being approached for substantial donations. The enabling development project is paused and no formal applications will be made until November 2018, however discussions will continue with SCDC and communities in the meantime.

Mandy Bettinson, December 2017

AONB

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Boundary Review

Natural England staff updated the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in December and confirmed:

- A 12-week consultation on proposals will start on 26 Jan 2018 (to finish on 20 April 2018)
- A consultation pack, paper copies available for inspection and an on-line system will allow those with an interest to comment on natural England's proposals for AONB boundary variation
- Local Authority members and Parish and Town Councils information events on 12 Feb 2018
- Special Interest Groups, Businesses and Land-Ownning Groups information event on 13 Feb 2018
- Public drop in events on 20 and 21 Feb 2018

Natural England will be providing full details on consultation as soon as they can.

AONB Grants

Suffolk Secrets and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is pleased to confirm that six grant awards have been made to projects in east Suffolk to carry out conservation and awareness projects to benefit the environment. For details of the Suffolk Secrets AONB Fund and the project beneficiaries go to:

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/suffolk-secrets-aonb-fund/>

The two AONBs will open up other grant programmes for applications in January, with deadlines of early March – details available in late January.

AONB Planning Officer

In early 2018 the AONB team will be advertising for an AONB planning Officer to lead and provide expertise on all planning matters for the team working across the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs and associated project areas. This will include development management issues, development of AONB Partnership positions and influencing strategic planning.

If you are interested in this role or know someone that might be then please look out for the advert on our websites or Suffolk Jobs Direct from 8 Jan 2018 or contact Simon Amstutz at the AONB team directly.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Management Plan 2018-2023

The Partnership draft has been written and currently being considered by its members. There will be a public consultation on the plan that is intended to co-ordinate activity in the AONB for the purposes of conserving and enhancing natural beauty in one of England's outstanding landscapes.

Volunteers

The AONB benefit hugely from volunteer activity. The AONBs facilitated 1,975 volunteer days in 2017, equivalent to 10 members of staff. Volunteers have worked across a range of work areas including: Conservation; Walking route surveys; Beachwatch, Greeters; River Restoration; Footpath Work; Wardening; Rangering and as Work Placements. This is just the volunteers facilitated by the AONB team, it does not include huge numbers that volunteer for charities, community groups and those on corporate social responsibility work. The AONBs and associated Project Areas benefit hugely from this effort.

Simon Amstutz, January 2018

IDB

Internal Drainage Board Update

Following the tidal surge of December 2013, the ESIDB have been working with estuary partnerships to repair flood defences in the Suffolk estuaries. We are pleased to have Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCA's) in place with EA and local authorities which will allow greater flexibility for partnership working and delivering efficiencies for the taxpayer. Since 2013 we have undertaken defence repairs and improvements at Waldringfield and Snape Village. We recently completed the first phase of wall improvements at Aldeburgh Town Marshes with funds from EA and local contributions and enhanced freshwater wetland habitat in the process. WMA are supporting the Waveney, Lothingland and Lower Yare IDB, in developing a £7-10M business case for government and partnership funding on behalf of the Environment Agency, Coastal Partnership East and Suffolk County Council. Working with Kessingland Parish Council and local businesses, the multi-agency project team will consider how best to fund and manage flood risk in Kessingland Village and the lower Lothingland Valley at Benacre just south of Lowestoft. The project has interesting opportunities for growth, tourism, and environment. Given the challenges we face in Suffolk in terms of drought and flood scenarios, the IDB's are committed to finding new solutions for the problems we face together. We are partner in the Deben Holistic Water Management Plan and are currently part of an innovative project to better manage the freshwater resources within the Felixstowe peninsula area of the Deben. We are also working closely with Coastal Partnership East to offer emergency response services during surge events to deploy temporary barriers to protect the heart of Lowestoft ahead of capital works in the near future. Following our completion of the largest saltmarsh restoration project in Suffolk led by the Waldringfield Flood Defence Group, we are working with Suffolk Coastal Forum members to develop a saltmarsh restoration pilot for Suffolk within the Deben Estuary. It's hoped that this pioneering project will create a new way to fund local saltmarsh projects that aim to retain the 1000ha of saltmarsh we have left in Suffolk. This work will sit within the Marine Pioneer Project of which we are a partner.

In addition to our traditional drainage work on Suffolk's rivers and streams, we are supporting delivery of flood defence works in more rural locations where central government funding is challenging. We have recently completed an RFCC-funded full estuary modelling study with HR Wallingford on behalf of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership. This new evidence will inform the AOEP's £10-12M programme to ensure the estuaries defences are made more resilient to tidal flooding. Much of this funding will be raised locally including a £3M Public Works Loan raised by the IDB and local landowners. Similarly we are working with DEP and landowners to deliver a flood defence solution at Bawdsey Marsh wall in the Deben and we have supported the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership in a recent review of their coastal processes. We understand the need for cost-effective solutions given the funding challenges and work hard with partners and community members to develop funding strategies alongside our projects. Our locally based technical team know the area well understand the flood risk management needs of people in Suffolk. Our projects are delivered by our own operatives who apply their knowledge of the local landscape to deliver wider outcomes for flood risk management people, economy and the environment.

Karen Thomas, January 2018

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Update

Shrimp measures – Eastern IFCA is developing shrimp management measures including a permit scheme and a requirement to use an electronic monitoring device on vessels engaged in the fishery. The intention of the measures is to protect features of marine protected areas and further the sustainability of the fishery. Eastern IFCA is currently undertaking ongoing dialogue with Natural England about the assessment and management measures.

Alde Ore Estuary MCZ – Potential designation in late summer 2018 (pending final advice being submitted to Defra). Eastern IFCA will undertake assessments to determine the potential for impacts from fishing activity within the site and introduce any necessary measures within two years of designation.

Community Voice Method project – Inspired by the Eastern IFCA and The Marine Conservation Society's - Community Voice Project, Coastal Partnership East (Sharon Bleese) invited Eastern IFCA to jointly host a workshop at the SCF 2017 annual conference. The workshop explored the potential benefits of replicating this approach more widely in Suffolk.

Eastern IFCA are pleased to be able to share the final report from their 'Community Voice Project' with you (found here: http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Common-Ground_final-report1.pdf). As well as the report the Community Voice Film (<https://vimeo.com/191148781>) and latest progress updates can be found on our website at <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/>.

Crab and Lobster management measures are being developed and EIFCA are planning on going to informal consultation on these soon.

Greg Brown, January 2018

Marine Pioneer

Update from the Suffolk Marine Pioneer

Update from the Suffolk Marine Pioneer

Having established the project initiatives early in the year, the Pioneer held a workshop for the Steering Group and selected other participants to identify the scope for delivery across each initiatives. The outcomes of this workshop will be finalised in the new year, following an opportunity for additional comment in January but will inform the Pioneer's priorities for the first half of 2018.

The links between the Marine Pioneer and Government Policy are expected to become clearer from mid January, catalysed by several talks scheduled for the Coastal Futures Conference.

Pete Cosgrove, December 2017

Coastal Partnership East

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council Coastal Management Team Update

CPE are very pleased to welcome the new Engineering Manager to the team Tamzen Pope. Tamzen has worked in Engineering for a number of years with Royal HaskoningDHV, and she is already quite familiar with the Suffolk coast. Tamzen will primarily be based at the office in Lowestoft.

Anglian Coastal Monitoring Group The Anglian Coastal Monitoring Group was originally initiated to provide coastal data to inform tidal flood and coastal erosion risk management decisions for the Anglian frontage. This group has recently re-convened and Rob Goodliffe (CPE Coastal Manager, North) has taken over the role of chair.

Adaptation Continuing the work to support communities who live or work near to cliffs, and eroding or floodable coastline a presentation was made to the Committee on Climate Change (CoCC) Adaptation Committee to highlight the role of Coastal Planning Authorities by Bill Parker and Kellie Fisher (FCERM Senior Advisor), who also fed in to a brief for future CoCC research.

Lowestoft The consultation on the proposals to reduce flooding and appearance of permanent defences closed on 14th December. A successful School Take Over Day was held in November where schools competed with ideas for ways to raise awareness of the project – Ormiston denes won with their cartoon character the ‘Waveney Wellington’ and will use the competition money to buy filming equipment to bring their project to life.

Benacre and Kessingland CPE have been working with the Water Management Alliance to begin engaging with the community to understand the issues on their stretch of coastline and work towards possible solutions for the area.

Aldeburgh Minor beach maintenance carried out to beach defences seaward of North End Avenue in mid December.

Brackenbury, Felixstowe This footpath which will go around a rock revetment near to Jacob’s ladder, Felixstowe is ready and we expect work to start very soon.

Coming soon to the CoastEast website is a blog from CPE’s strategic funding manager, Paul Mackie, who has been working hard to try to find novel solutions for funding for the Norfolk and Suffolk coast and estuaries. There has been a lot of learning captured by Paul and this is being capture blog style. Please see <https://www.coasteast.org.uk/our-work/team-blogs/>

Lucy Williams on behalf of Bill Parker, January 2018

LGA Coastal SIG

Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group Update

MMO Director of Licensing, Trudi Wakelin, and Senior Marine Licensing Manager, Katherine Ludford attended the December SIG meeting for a presentation and discussion for those applying for Marine Licences. They have also restructured their teams to meet the needs of their users in particular responding to feedback from the SIG. A very constructive discussion was held between Members and the MMO. Trudi and Katharine welcome any feedback that can be shared. The MMO licensing guide is available on the SIG website at www.lgacoastalsig.com/resources/mmo-licensing

Sandmotor trip, Holland. We now have dates for a possible visit to the Dutch sand engine 25th and 26th April 2018. A draft agenda has been shared but this will be a very interesting visit looking at the innovation, research and political context of this approach to coastal management.

Habitat compensation Abigail Brady recently graduated from her MSc at Lund University and shared

with the group her findings about habitat compensation and managed realignment. It seems that measurement of the successes so far have been lacking, many Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are in unfavourable status, meaning that best practice, Defra reports, and end points are not clear. With many stretches of coast under “coastal squeeze” and with many compensation habitats in the process of being created there was good discussion and sharing of examples. See presentations from the meeting online at www.lgacoastalsig.com/newsposts/coastal-sig-2017-meetings/8th-december-2017/

Asset Management work continuing by Teignbridge DC and Scarborough BC in developing a business case to go to the Environment Agency to fund software for local authorities to collect data on their and other coastal assets. This will be funded by and integrated into the Coastal Monitoring programme, to support both individual local authorities in their assets assessments / maintenance plans but also provide data for the national picture.

Skills in Local Authorities the group have continued to plug skills, recruitment and retention of staff as a significant issue. At the December meeting Paul Cross, Environment Agency Skills and Resilience Advisor, shared his experience of developing career paths.

SMP light touch review At the November Coastal Chairs meeting it was confirmed that Nick Hardiman (Environment Agency) has been tasked with focussing on the development of the ‘light touch review’ of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). Details of this review are under development.

Brexit The SIG is beginning discussions about possible implications and opportunities arising through process of Brexit.

Flood and Coast 2018 – 20th to 22nd March. An annual event for Flood and Coast issues. It is held in Telford and while details are being finalised it is anticipated that the SIG will feature with a workshop.

State of the Nation Report 2017: The report finds that there is a stark social mobility geographical divide within our nation. In particular coastal and rural areas are identified as having significant issues on social mobility. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-mobility-in-great-britain-fifth-state-of-the-nation-report?utm_source=LGiU+Subscribers&utm_campaign=5a6f2cf32b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4e47157211-5a6f2cf32b-199219293

Consultations of interest

- National Infrastructure Commission the interim NIA sets out visions and priorities for up to 2050. <https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/congestion-capacity-carbon-priorities-for-national-infrastructure/>
- Consultation on Environment Agency's charge proposals from April 2018. <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/environmentagency-charging-proposals-fromapril2018/>
- Natural England are consulting on proposals to introduce charges for the protected species licences and charging structure <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protected-species-licence-charges-how-to-comment>
- Fair Funding Review. The fair funding review will set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities by delivering an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and resources. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fair-funding-review-a-review-of-relative-needs-and-resources>

Lucy Williams on behalf of Andy Smith, January 2018

S&OEMG

Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Group

BCP

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership

DEP

Deben Estuary Partnership

No update at present.

BEP

Blyth Estuary Partnership

EA

Environment Agency

MMO

Marine Management Organisation

NE

Natural England

Suffolk Saltmarsh group

Suffolk Shingle Engine

No update at present.