

**MINUTES OF DURLSTON HEAD TO HURST SPIT SMP2
ELECTED MEMBERS FORUM MEETING #1
BOURNEMOUTH LEARNING CENTRE - MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2008**

Present:

Councillor Robert Lawton (RL)	Bournemouth Borough Council
Dave Harlow (DH)	Bournemouth Borough Council (Chair)
Geoff Turnbull (GT)	Bournemouth Borough Council
Geoff Tyler (Gty)	Bournemouth Borough Council (Minutes)
Councillor Fran Carpenter (FC)	New Forest District Council
Andrew Bradbury (AB)	New Forest District Council
Steve Cook (SC)	New Forest District Council
Councillor Nick Cake (NC)	Purbeck District Council
Mike Goater (MG)	Purbeck District Council
Councillor Mike Duckworth (MD)	Christchurch Borough Council
Steve Woolard (SW)	Christchurch Borough Council
David Robson (DR)	Borough of Poole
Tony Flux (TF)	National Trust
Tara-Leigh Eggiman (TE)	Royal Haskoning
Justin Ridgewell (JR)	Royal Haskoning
Darren Miles (DM)	Royal Haskoning

Apologies:

Councillor Peter Adams	Borough of Poole
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Item No		Action
1	Introduction by Chairman	
1.1	DH welcomed the four elected Members and outlined the role of the EMF.	
1.2	JR explained that in preparing the SMP, Royal Haskoning would be looking at three epochs (0 - 20 years, 20 - 50 years and 50 to 100 years) and taking account of sea level rise and increased storminess.	
1.3	RL enquired about the funding situation if sea defences are recommended. DH said that a project appraisal would have to be carried out which complied with the findings of the SMP. Grant-aid, if approved, would then be made available by the Environment Agency who distribute the funds on behalf of DEFRA.	
2	Presentation by Royal Haskoning	
2.1	JR provided a presentation which included information about the Royal Haskoning Company and set out the objectives and proposed programme for the SMP. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be placed on the www.twobays.net website.	DR
3	Public Consultation	
3.1	MD and RL asked about the stakeholders and pointed out that groups such as landowners and fishermen can have strong opinions about coast protection issues.	

3.2	DH said that consultation on SMP1 was very poor with almost no public engagement with the process and that it was important to improve on this in SMP2.	
3.3	JR confirmed that the public consultation would be carried out between May and December 2009 under Stage 4 of the programme.	
3.4	DH said that 600 potential stakeholders had been approached and more than 80 had responded. This included all leisure groups, residents associations and local authority councillors with an interest in the coastline.	
4	Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion	
4.1	AB provided a brief presentation on the work completed on the North Solent in order to clarify some of the technical details associated with the exercise. AB explained that work carried out by the Channel Coastal Observatory had two key features at the baseline stage - i.e. Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion.	
4.2	The flood risk projections indicated that in an extreme, 1 in 200 year event, 15000 properties would be at risk of flooding if there were no sea defences. Taking into account such factors as climate change and sea level rise, the risk increased to 29000 properties. AB demonstrated for the benefit of the Group the scenarios at different time periods if there was no intervention.	
4.3	In response to a question from RL about the information being placed in the public domain, AB said that the Environment Agency is developing a website which will show the national picture. RL said that the provision of information to those affected and the method of conveying the information are very important. RL said that details of what we are doing to protect the coastline should be made available but that the release of information needed to be handled with care.	
4.4	In the general discussion that ensued, attention was drawn to the collective responsibility of ensuring that the task is done thoroughly, the importance of putting money behind the measures identified and the need to consider all aspects of the strategy including alternatives to holding the line.	
4.5	TF pointed out that the Environment Agency will apply a benefit/cost analysis which takes account of the value of the affected properties and infrastructure. DH confirmed that if the benefit/cost ratio of 5:1 is not achieved, then funds will not be made available.	
4.6	TF drew attention to the question of blight that could arise if the insurance industry believes that properties are at risk.	
5	Programme	
5.1	DH explained that in order to meet the Government deadline, the SMP2 programme must be completed by January 2010. Stage 1 has just been completed and Stage 2 is now underway.	
5.2	DH said that the draft plan will have to go through an adoption process and suggested four dates for future Elected Members Forum meetings: 16 th March, 18 th May, 24 th August 2009 and 11 th January 2010. The EMF meetings will be preceded by meetings of the Client Steering Group.	

5.3	<p>JR said that the intention is to provide the following information at the next three meetings: March - Stage 2: assessments to support policy development; May - draft preferred scenarios; August - draft public consultation document.</p>	
5.4	<p>A series of talks for stakeholders and the general public is to be mounted on 9th February with morning and afternoon sessions in Christchurch and an evening event at the Poole Harbour Commissioners headquarters. RL said he favoured a combination of day and evening meetings. The presentations will feature several topics including conservation, the effects of extreme weather and alternative coast protection measures.</p>	DH
5.5	<p>DH said he will prepare a press release in conjunction with the Council's Communications Team and circulate it to the five authorities for consideration.</p>	
5.6	<p>JR drew attention to the need to have good deadlines to work to and MD stressed the importance of providing reports in good time before the meetings. RL said he was happy with a 6.00 pm start and retaining BLC as the preferred venue for future meetings.</p>	
6	<p>Conclusion</p>	
6.1	<p>DH confirmed that the output from the whole project will be a Plan to be adopted by the local authorities involved. He said that in August the Group will be asking the Councils to agree the draft plan in principle so that it can be finalised. The plan will subsequently be revised to incorporate the results of the public consultation exercise and then taken back to the five authorities for formal approval.</p> <p>DH thanked the elected members for their attendance and confirmed that the next meeting will be Chaired by RL.</p>	
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
7.1	<p>The next meeting of the EMF is to be held at 6.00 pm on 16th March 2009 at the Bournemouth Learning Centre.</p>	