

Rivers Arun to Adur draft flood and erosion management strategy consultation – a summary of your responses

Newsletter

January 2009

Public consultation on the Rivers Arun to Adur draft flood and erosion management strategy closed on 18 September 2008. It completed three months of engagement activity with communities along this stretch of coastline. The Environment Agency, Arun District, Worthing Borough and Adur District Councils have actively encouraged comments and feedback on the draft recommendations.

This newsletter summarises the consultation and how your responses have shaped the final strategy. It explains what happens next including the approvals process and how we plan to begin to implement some of the recommendations.

Thanks to all who got involved

Many of you took advantage of the opportunity to have your say on the strategy that looks at how to manage flooding and erosion risk over the next 100 years.

- Over 120 people attended meetings and exhibitions.
- Almost 20 letters and emails were received.
- Approximately 40 people responded to the questionnaire.

We have used all responses to define the final strategy. Below we have summarised the feedback received and our final recommendations for each frontage. The

options we are recommending in the final strategy are:

- Hold the line sustain – defences are raised and strengthened keeping the levels of flood and erosion risk the same as now, taking into account predicted sea level rise;
- Hold the line improve – defences are improved to increase the standard of protection over time.

River Arun East Bank

Public feedback was supportive of the preferred option to **improve** defences by raising the tidal walls at Littlehampton. These works are a high priority and it is anticipated that construction will begin around 2012.

Littlehampton to Rustington

Consultation responses supported the draft strategy's recommended option. We continue to recommend that the defences be **improved** through beach management, the construction of a seawall and the replacement of some of the existing timber groynes. The existing defences provide a high standard of protection meaning that beach nourishment and the construction of the sea-wall will not be required until about 2025.

Investigations for the area immediately east of the River Arun show that a small number of groynes perform no useful function. These can be removed as they deteriorate and the area managed as an open beach

without reducing the standard of protection to Littlehampton.

Rustington to Goring (excluding Ferring Rife)

The public were supportive of the recommended option to **sustain** the defences for this area. While central government funding is unlikely to be available for this area, major work is not required for another 50 years. We will continue to monitor the situation and maintain the defences. A small number of groynes require replacement within five years and funding is being investigated by the local authorities.

Ferring Rife

Concerns were raised regarding drainage of the Rife. In **sustaining** defences for this area we will also maintain adequate drainage as part of any future works.

Marine Crescent, Goring

The public were supportive of the recommended option to **sustain** the defences for this area. Some concerns were raised regarding new development along the seafront and we have passed these on to the relevant planning authority.

Worthing

The public were supportive of the recommended option to **sustain** the defences for this area. It is unlikely that national funding will be available for this area. No immediate major works are required and the local authority will investigate alternative funding sources for phased groyne replacement over the next 30 years.

Brooklands to Shoreham-by-Sea

No specific issues were raised for this frontage. Consultation responses were supportive of the recommended **sustain** option. This area has been subject to major improvements very recently and only needs maintenance work in the immediate future.

River Adur

Specific concerns were raised by houseboat owners and discussed at a meeting with the strategy team. We will continue to work with the Adur Houseboat Association regarding the issues that affect them.

For the entire west bank and the north section of the east bank, we are recommending that we raise the defences to protect against the effects of rising sea levels. **Improvement** works are a high priority and it is anticipated that construction will begin around 2012.

On the east bank between Shoreham footbridge and the lighthouse at Kingston Beach, the strategy recommends that the defences are **sustained** by raising them in about 2025.

The strategy calls for **no active intervention** to the east of the lighthouse. No works are recommended as no residential properties are at risk.

In the longer-term (after 2050), a barrier may become a feasible option to provide protection to the whole of the River Adur and this will be reviewed in the future. We will continue to communicate with those affected as works progress in this area.

What's next ?

The strategy has received initial approval from Arun District, Worthing Borough, Adur District Councils and the Environment Agency. Final government approval will be sought during 2009. Planning priority works on the River Arun East Bank and River Adur West Bank has already commenced with construction planned for 2012-15.

It is important to note that the nature and timing of defence works will be reviewed periodically in the future to ensure that these remain appropriate or are amended in light of any new information.

We will continue to work with key landowners and community representatives as we begin to implement works recommended by the strategy.

Please visit our website for strategy and works updates www.environment-agency.gov.uk or email us at sossd@environment-agency.gov.uk

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