

## Managing the coastline between the River Arun and Pagham Harbour

Newsletter 1

September 2008

The Environment Agency and Arun District Council want you to participate in the coastal management decisions affecting your local area. This newsletter includes information on our progress to date on the River Arun to Pagham Flood and Erosion Management Strategy and explains how you can get involved.

**What have we done so far?**

We have reviewed the information in the previous draft strategy to ensure we make best use of the work carried out already. Following that we have updated our understanding of the coastal processes along the frontage with data collected since 2003.

### Introduction

In 2003 we produced a draft strategy for managing flood and erosion risks along this section of West Sussex coastline and the west bank of the lower tidal River Arun. The strategy now needs updating to take account of climate change, sea level rise and policies set in the 2005 Shoreline Management Plan.

We have started the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to outline the potential environmental impacts – positive and negative – of the strategy management options.

Over the next few months we will develop a new draft strategy, which will set out how we propose to manage this area over the next 100 years. We hope you will be involved as we develop the strategy and when we consult on its draft recommendations later this year.

In April we met with key landowners and community representatives to review the draft SEA Scoping Report. Their feedback has been incorporated into the final SEA Scoping Report and will help to shape any future works in the area. You can download the final report from the South Downs Coastal Group project website, [www.sdgcg.org.uk](http://www.sdgcg.org.uk) following CDS then Arun to Pagham

**What management options are we considering in the draft strategy?**



The draft strategy will define how we will deliver the policies set out in the South Downs Shoreline Management Plan. These policies include *hold the line*, where defences are maintained, sustained or improved; and *managed realignment*, where coastal defences are moved to a more sustainable location further inland, allowing controlled flooding to occur.

For each of the frontages between the River Arun and Pagham, we are considering a variety of works. These are summarised below.

### **1. Aldwick to Elmer – including Bognor Regis, Felpham & Middleton**

The Shoreline Management Plan policy for these frontages is hold the line. As part of our draft strategy development, we are considering the following works:

- beach recharge;
- beach recycling;
- timber or rock groynes;
- seawall raising;
- changes to the rock islands (at Elmer only).

A combination of the above are likely to be the draft strategy's preferred option for these frontages. The main objective is to achieve sustainable beaches.

### **2. Climping, Atherington & Lower River Arun west bank (Rope Walk & Littlehampton Marina)**

The Shoreline Management Plan policy is for managed realignment to create a more sustainable coastline. We will be working closely with the landowners in this area to find an appropriate option.

### **3. Lower River Arun west bank (A259 to Ford Railway Bridge)**

The Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) policy for the River Arun is to take further action to reduce flood risk. We are looking at potential options for managing the existing tidal flood banks and whether these need maintaining or raising and whether they are in the correct locations.

### **Funding of future works**

There is a limit to the national funding available for coastal management schemes with funds given to those that are identified as highest priority. Getting funding for all options proposed by the final strategy is unlikely so it may be necessary to explore opportunities for funding from local sources.

### **What's next ?**

Over the next two months we will assess each management option. This will include looking at:

- how it would address flood and erosion risk to people and properties;
- how much each scheme would cost;
- whether it could be achieved on the ground in practical terms;
- whether they could protect existing or develop new environmental features.

We will then identify our recommended options and produce our draft strategy document in November. We will then consult you and local residents on these recommendations.

### **Have your say...**

During the draft strategy consultation we will be in touch to let you know how you can get involved and contact us with your views.

Once the consultation has closed we will assess your feedback, update and finalise the strategy. The strategy will then guide future coastal management schemes and maintenance works.

### **Contact**

If you have any comments or questions please contact the strategy project team by email:

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