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# **CCATCH – Royal Victoria Country Park Community Workshop 2: 12 September 2013 19:00 – 21:00**

## **Draft Workshop report**

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### **1. Introduction**

The second workshop in a series of three was held at the Empire Rooms, Royal Victoria Country Park and attended by 18 members of the local community and stakeholders from organisations who have a role in the Park or in flood prevention.

This report aims to capture the essence of the discussion and is not meant to be a formal minute of the meeting.

#### **1.1 Welcome & Introductions**

Henrietta Hopkins (Resources for Change) welcomed people to the meeting and set the scene by explaining that:

The meeting is intended to explore:

- Ways in which the issues discussed at the previous workshop could be taken further through the adaptation plan or clarified in the workshops
- The community's vision for the future
- Key elements for the community in a risk management / adaptation plan

During the workshop we will cover:

- An overview of the CCATCH project in the Royal Victoria Country Park
- The requirements of an adaptation plan
- A presentation on what the community said during workshop 1 held in June
- A presentation on the current state of the sea wall as a result of Hampshire County Council's ongoing monitoring
- Possible costs of options based on the report carried out by Halcrow in 2006 and supplementary information where available
- A state of play report on the progress of the scheme at Netley.

Henrietta stressed that this workshop was part of a process with a final third workshops to follow on 24 October in which participants will consider and review a draft adaptation plan; devise a final version together and confirm their involvement in its delivery.



Henrietta welcomed the fact that more people had come to this second workshop than the first and asked participants to encourage other community members to come to the final one and make a contribution to the development of the adaptation plan.

## **2. Update from the CCATCH project**

Rachael Gallagher, Coastal Planning Delivery Project Manager at Hampshire County Council gave a presentation on the overall CCATCH project and the aims and objectives for the CCATCH project in the Royal Victoria Country Park for the benefit of those who were new to the process.

Rachael then explained the possible structure of the adaptation plan for the Park to include: Key Areas for Adaptation (e.g. flooding of access point, loss of footpath on the seawall, failure of the seawall)

- Background to the key issues or topics that have been considered
- What changes will occur under different scenarios
- Magnitude and likelihood of risk
- Who are affected
- Who is responsible
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of change
- What is already being done well to adapt to change
- How can adaptation occur, what actions or options for action exist and priorities them
- What resources are needed

Rachael circulated a table to illustrate her point. The latter is included at Appendix A of this report.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to produce an information leaflet to inform the community of available technical details including:

- The purpose of the CCATCH project
- What is flooding and erosion
- What will the coast look like in 10, 20, 50 years time?
- How will sea level rise and coastal erosion affect the park
- Current Issues at RVCP
- Management hierarchy for flooding and erosion
- Access and what are the alternative access options?
- How can current and future enjoyment of the park be protected?
- What can the community realistically expect?
- What will it cost to defend the coastline?
- What is involved?
- How to plan for the future?
- What will happen if we do nothing?
- What plans can be made for the future and how can the park adapt
- What the are opportunities of change

All of which will also form part of the adaptation plan.

This was followed by a presentation on the main findings from workshop one which included the views of the community expressed as follows:



- Doing nothing is not an option
- Doing something appears complex and costly
- A partnership approach (with Southern Water for example) is required
- Lack of clarity on the funding available
- Consultation with the various partnership organisations will take time
- Health and safety and the cost grows the longer nothing is done

### **2.1 Addressing the findings**

In response to requests at workshop 1 there then followed a presentation from Pat Warrener a Hampshire County Council engineer who monitors the condition of the sea wall annually. Pat showed a series of images of the wall including the problems he and his team have identified and measures taken to try and arrest the deterioration. He stressed that the wall had passed its design life-time and faced continued deterioration despite the measures taken.

Rachael then made a brief presentation on the costs of the various options for the sea wall from holding the line to reverting to a natural coastline. She stressed that the costings available were those provided in a report by Halcrow in 2006 and said that Halcrow would be reporting again on a cost / benefit analysis they were carrying out in early 2014 however because of the timescale of the CCATCH project those costings could not inform the current workshop and adaptation process which had to be completed in December. Rachael suggested that the group of people who had participated in these workshops could be used as a sounding board for the new Halcrow report when it is available.

The presentations were discussed by participants who asked for clarification on some of the terms used and questions about funding. The following points were emphasised:

- It is felt that given the monitoring of the wall it is unlikely that the structure will fail suddenly, however, it is important to include a contingency plan for this in the adaptation plan to be written before December.
- The cheapest option is not necessarily obvious as what may be the best engineering solution may not be the best environmental solution.
- A request was made that Natural England should attend the next workshop so that they can be consulted on the environmental designations, Rachael said that all relevant stakeholders including Natural England had been invited to all the workshops.
- That it was important to be part of the discussion at the workshops so that community views could be incorporated into the adaptation plan.

### **3. Stories of Change**

In two small groups, participants were asked to work with a facilitator to discuss their ideal scenario for the Park. The full transcripts are available at Appendix B of this report. The following sections summarise their findings.

#### **3.1 Scoping the vision**

Participants were asked to write a postcard from the future to a community member using the Park now imagining their ideal scenario had been achieved. In summary a variety of views were expressed including:



- Repairing and restoring the sea wall so that access along it can be reinstated
- Reverting to a natural coastline
- Innovations to the site to include a pier / promenade; a complete cycle path and walk way;

This is what a sample said:

Something Netley can be proud of again. It's lovely to be able to take that walk along the coastal path as we used to, hearing the waves crashing and the shingle moving.

Sea wall is used by all, day and night (incl. night lighting). Attached is a small boat marina (under 20') 'The People's Marina'; the Old Pier head is newly extended for fishermen and crabbers and there is a seating area at the end to view cruise ships.

Just done the Solent Way. What a fantastic coastal walk and cycleway around Hampshire's beautiful coastline. Talked to many kinds of people on the way round from hardened ramblers to families crabbing on the sea wall.

I've walked the Solent Way through Netley to the Royal Victoria Country Park. The natural coastline has uninterrupted views across Southampton Water and easy access to the beach.

The discussion which followed the writing of the vision statements on postcards included people who wished to see a sea wall with walkway reinstated; those who didn't necessarily require a sea wall but did want to know that there would be walk / cycle way on the frontage which preferably linked to a larger scheme including the Solent Way; and those who wanted a natural coastline. The majority of participants favoured the reinstatement of a sea wall plus walkway but equally were not averse to discussing latter two options, particularly if walk and cycle ways were created.

### 3.2 Achieving the vision

Given the range of the visions expressed the two groups then went on to consider steps towards achieving them.

Participants emphasised the following points:

- Considering the Royal Victoria Country Park's sea wall in the broader context which would include being able to cycle and walk along a long stretch of the coastline and that should be considered in a broader context
- The need for funding and innovative approaches to seeking funds including:
  - Setting up a charity to fund raise for whatever approach is agreed upon
  - Involving partners in the fundraising effort including ABP and Southern Water who would have a vested interest in the solution found



- Attracting corporate funding
- The need for an engineering solution given that the current wall has passed its useful life span where participants discussed:
  - Holding a design competition to come up with new solutions for the frontage
  - Dismantling the wall but using the material to build another one
  - Piling up new shingle for example as in the beach recharge carried out at Lyme Regis
  - Consider what is essential to the community before taking action with agreement that access to the Park is vital

One group wished to stress the need to stay positive that a good solution would be found.

### 3.3 Constraints to the vision

Each group then discussed the constraints and obstacles to achieving the vision. These included thoughts on:

- The various designations and ensuring that the right steps were taken for the environment and birds and wildlife;
- Getting permission for any action from all the stakeholders and ensuring that the needs of three distinct groups are met in any solution found (residents / users / owners);
- Engineering issues including the positioning of the road and the sewer pipeline.

As a result of the discussion on the road it was felt to be important to hear views from the Council's Highways department as part of the formulation of the adaptation plan.

### 4. Close and next steps

Two community members summarised each group's findings in a short plenary session. Rachael Gallagher explained that the findings from this and the previous workshop would be used to inform the development of a draft adaptation plan which would be brought back to the next workshop in draft for discussion.

The group was encouraged to attend the subsequent workshop 24 October and to encourage others within the community to attend.

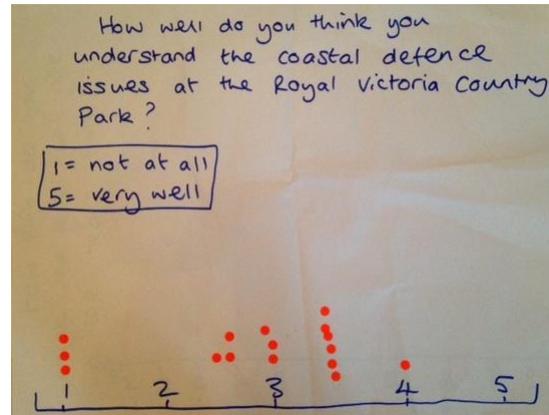
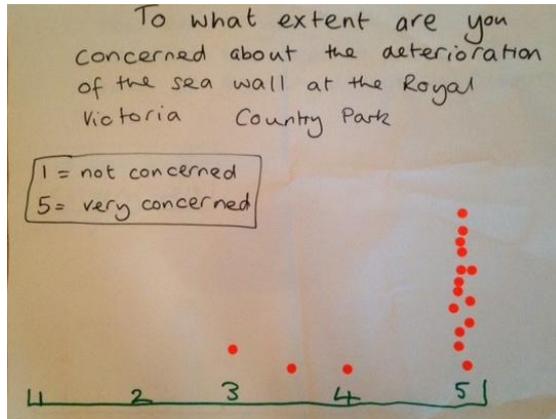
### 5. Evaluation

The CCATCH project is keen to collect data on participant reactions to the issues raised in these workshops. As participants entered the session they were asked to answer three questions by sticking an orange dot on a sheet. The questions were:

1. *To what extent are you concerned about the deterioration of the sea wall at the Royal Victoria Country Park?*
2. *How well do you think you understand the coastal defence issues in the Royal Victoria Country Park?*



The following images show the results:



14 participants said they were very concerned about the deterioration of the sea wall at the Royal Victoria Country Park with three being somewhat less concerned. This is balanced by the majority of participants scoring their understanding of the coastal defence issues at the Royal Victoria Country Park between 2.5 and 3.5 (where 1 = I do not understand the issues at all well and 5 = I understand them very well). Three participants also rated their understanding with a score of 1.

In addition participants were asked *How high do you think the sea level will rise in 100 years time?* The majority of participants in answer to this question said that they thought that sea level will rise by 50cm or more by 2113, with 6 believing that it would rise by 100cm or more in the time period and 1 feeling that it would rise less than 10cm in the time period.

Of the 12 participants who took part in the final evaluation the majority said that they found the session informative scoring it a 4 or a 5 on the chart (with 1 being not at all informative and 5 being very informative).

Resources for Change 20 September 2013



## Appendix A

### Example Action Plan Table for RVCP Adaptation Plan

Action/intervention options	Type of action	On-going, links to other initiative, new or aspirational	Priority	Lead organisations	Others to be involved	Time frame						Progress comments
						2013	2014	2015	Short*	Medium*	Long*	
<b>Topic Area 1 – e.g. Flooding of RVCP entrance</b> <b>The main vehicular entrance to the RVCP lies within EA’s flood zone 3 (1 in 200 yr) which means that it has a 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year which means that the access point has to be closed occasionally. With predicted rising sea levels it likely that this could become more common. This results in the</b>												
<i>This column lists the possible options for action to be taken. There could be numerous actions.</i>  <i>Examples are given below</i>	<i>This sets out the type of action e.g.;</i> <i>collecting information, liaison, research, capital works.</i>	<i>‘On-going’ action that are already in hands. ‘Link to other initiatives’ are those action which could be best taken forward by other plans/strategies or initiative. ‘New’ actions are those identified through this process that could be taken forward. ‘Aspirational’ action are those that would require further funding or commitment to enable them to be taken forward, it may be possible to take these forward as and when opportunities arise.</i>	<i>High, Medium or low</i>	<i>This lists the lead organisations for the action</i>	<i>This lists other key stakeholders</i>	→	→	→	→	→	→	<i>This column is ready for succinct comments reporting on progress and currently is used to highlight where the action might be taken forward through other ongoing initiative e.g. CCATCH – the Solent and the HLF bid.</i>



1. Ensure the current procedure for shutting the entrance is enacted if necessary and updated regularly	Plan	Ongoing	High	LEA and emergency services and RVCP	Community members using the park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2. Assess key indicators e.g. new flooding predictions and the implications for the closure of the entrance and prepare emergency plan for alternative temporary access provisions to be implemented	Research /Plan	New	High	LEA and emergency services and RVCP				✓	✓	✓	✓	
3. Should the risk increase install resistance /resilience measures in the buildings at risk	Capital works	New	High	RVCP	Residents			✓	✓	✓	✓	
4. Should the risk increase consider permanent alternative access	Plan	Ev	Medium	RVCP	Community members using the park					✓	✓	
4. Build a bridge	Capital works	Aspirational	Low	RVCP	Community members using the park						✓	



## **Appendix B**

### **Transcript of discussions**

#### **1. Questions following presentations**

Q: Will current work make access possible?

A: We're keeping the situation stable

Q: Contribution from residents at the moment for the Netley scheme

A: 20% of total scheme = ca £60k (match funded by Eastleigh Borough Council)

Q: has preference been shown for any of the options at RVCP?

A: No, no preference being looked at yet. We need to look at the constraints first.

Q: Anchor sheet pile, what is that?

A: If you can't drive sheet pile into the ground deep enough you need a sheet pile that is anchored to the cliff behind as shown.

Q: This is primary an erosion/ defence problem?

A: If we don't fix the problem correctly first then it will impact on everything else.

Q: Adaptation Plan doesn't mention funding! Chicken & egg situation. Do we make plans when we know what funding is available or do we make plans and seek funding for them?

A: Funding will be included in the plan

Idea: Move the road over, build houses along the road.

Q: What involvement do we have in determining the outcomes?

A: This workshop is to capture your ideas on the ideal scenario. Then we'd like you to think about the opportunities and obstacles. Based on that we will draft an Adaptation Plan, which we'll feedback to you. We hope to give the Adaptation Plan a life beyond December. HCC will have to take all this into account (i.e. technical feasibility, constraints, stakeholder views, funding etc) before being able to make any final decisions which may also involve Council Members.

Q: If there was a failure tomorrow and we lose access to the park, what is the contingency plan?

A: Good question; we need to produce an emergency plan. It's unlikely it goes like that though. If the wall collapses the land behind it won't suddenly disappear. This is part of the Adaptation Plan: if x happens we will do y or z.

Q: Doesn't this mean that the cheapest option is going to be adopted?

A: The cheapest option isn't that obvious. What maybe the best engineering solution may not be the best environmental solution. We need to work closely together with Natural England, which is what we are currently doing.

A: It is always worthwhile expressing your views!

Q: It would make sense if we could talk to these people, i.e. Natural England. I care more about the people of Netley than what happens at the beach.

A: It is all part of the planning process.



A: We have invited the Environment Agency at other sites; this will be looked into for Netley as well.

Participants were split in to two groups:

Group 1, Facilitator Henrietta Hopkins

Group 2, Facilitator Anita van Mil

### **Discussion 1. Stories of change: Scoping the vision**

*Imagine your ideal scenario for the sea wall has been achieved. Write a postcard from the future saying what the Park looks like.*

#### **GROUP 1**

- Settling in discussion: how participants heard about the workshop: A friend who lives in Malmesbury Court didn't receive a leaflet, others who live in Netley did - agreement that most people did get a leaflet but that more could be done to promote the workshops

#### *Postcards*

Something Netley can be proud of again. It's lovely to be able to take that walk along the coastal path as we used to hearing the waves crashing and the shingle moving.

I have just had a beautiful walk along the sea wall between Southampton Water and RVCP. Thank you for helping to get this built.

A lovely little sun trap - this sea wall. With an ever changing view across Southampton Water I can watch the cruise liners leaving for foreign lands. Next to me is a young lad with his dad crabbing and fishing.

I've really enjoyed walking along the sea wall path. It's been widened with lovely viewpoints. The project to rebuild the pier provides a wonderful feature for the area and vantage point of sea life. I enjoy my sea swimming even more as the beach has been revitalised with extra shingle so I don't have to wait for high tide. The park entrance and residents are now secure for the next 50 year and new wildlife has settled. The water is really clean. What a super place to live!

Now the sea wall is in place it will allow the families back the pleasures of all in the Park and a wider view of the sea in safety. Hopefully the Park will make moves to sell aspects of joy to its future users such as quality time to include the cemetery.

I've walked the Solent Way through Netley to the Royal Victoria Country Park. The natural coastline has uninterrupted views across Southampton Water and easy access to the beach.

Lots of visitors still come to the Park and enjoy it. Access to the park (and emergency access) is in place and not a problem for any residents inside or outside the Park. People can walk and cycle along the sea front all the way between Hamble and Netley.



The new wall was constructed and the RVCP continues to thrive for many years as you now enjoy. The additional facilities provided by the joint funders has enhanced the experience.

Promenade along the whole coastal edge of the RVCP. With safe foot / cycle traffic and road access to residents and Park users. There is a link to the coastal path.

The Park is a wonderful spot near the water and needs to have the sea wall repaired at the cheapest cost one can afford. The entrance is in need of widening to improve access during events in the Park.

*Flipchart recording of subsequent discussion*

- We need a footpath, plus views - like a bit further a long
- We need to be part of a larger vision
- Possibility of walking Weston to Hamble for example - something that links with better walk ways
- The complete wall reinstated
- There is only one solution for the wall - pile drive using the latest steel
- I'd like a promenade
- Places to sit - so that you can lean back
- The Sustrans cycle route back on the coast
- The wall is present in my future
- Cut down the trees and replant them on the other side of the road
- A natural coastline

Summary of vision points:

- It is important to think that a positive attitude will get positive results
- We need something Netley can be proud of again
- A bigger scheme to include linking up cycling and walking routes
- A pier / promenade
- A natural coastline with a footpath / cycle route
- Moving trees to inner side
- Extra shingle = beach, swimming, clean water
- Widen entrance

GROUP 2

Postcard: 'Sea wall is used by all, day and night (incl. night lighting). Attached is a small boat marina (under 20') 'The People's Marina'; the Old Pier head is newly extended for fisherman and crabbers and there is a bulb [?] seating area at the end to view cruise ships.'

Postcard: 'Enjoyed walking along the sea wall. Leaning on to the rail taking in the views. Just seen two boys landing a fish. Great views of ships and yachts. Thank God they retained the walk way on the sea wall.'

Postcard: 'Hampshire County Council did very well to spend £14 million to rebuild the sea wall and restore the foot path, complete with floodlights'



Postcard: 'Just done the Solent Way. What a fantastic coastal walk and cycleway around Hampshire's beautiful coastline. Talked to many kinds of people on the way round from hardened ramblers to families crabbing on the sea wall.'

Flipchart notes:

- Seawall is rebuild and floodlights restored;
- Walk way along wall has been retained;
- Pier extended; seating to enjoy the views; people's marina attached to the wall due to a partnership of HCC and a marine enterprise;
- Victorian style lights all along the sea wall;
- Coastal walk and cycle way on Victorian sea wall along the Solent.
- Move trees to inner side of the road
- Extra shingle on the beach (we can swim in clean water)
- Wall taken away but there is a natural coastline with a foot path

## Discussion 2. Achieving the vision

*How could the vision be achieved?*

### GROUP 1

The group agreed to compare two scenarios and how they could be achieved.

Wall repaired / improved	Natural coastline
<p>Funding options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key words for the funding people, let's make sure they are in any applications that are made</li> <li>• Hants CC - no grant aid</li> <li>• Community contributions are an option, let's set up a charity and raise money through it</li> <li>• Inviting active partners to get involved like Southern Water and ABP</li> <li>• We should be thinking outside the box in terms of funding could we charge visitors to use the Park? Could we get a % of the parking fee to fund the sea wall?</li> <li>• Response: 2016 budget cuts means that the Park needs every penny of the parking fee that it receives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about cost of involved in dismantling wall and the removal of the material</li> <li>• How about involving nature groups to attract funding, there are a lot of them interested in the Park</li> </ul>
<p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to think about the engineering / design. What are the reasons for preserving something well past its shelf-life</li> <li>• What about dismantling the wall but using the material to build another one?</li> <li>• It is important to think about what is essential. In either scenario protecting the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We could have a southerly gale which would wash it all away anyway - problem solved</li> <li>• What's the view if we just let nature take its course? A: well there is the issue of safety and the impact on the environment, the owners could be prosecuted for neglect and landowner would be liable for causing an</li> </ul>



<p>entrance and people's access to the Park is vital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much of the rest of the sea wall just isn't needed?</li> <li>• We could move the road a bit.</li> </ul>	<p>environmental issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a more natural coastline were agreed would it increase the variety of habitats? A: Surely it would just make the habitats we see higher up bigger?</li> <li>• Just to be clear this is not a natural environment anyway, there is a great channel gauged through which has created the environment.</li> </ul>
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## GROUP 2

### *a. Rebuilding the seawall and flood lights, extending the pier*

#### Steps:

- Redesign current structure
- Attract corporate funding

#### Obstacles:

- Getting permission from all different stakeholders
- Would change the nature of the park?
- Be careful, not everyone happy about this option!

### *b. Walkway along the wall retained*

#### Steps:

- Repair wall
- Pile up new shingle? (see Lyme Regis beach recharge)
- Don't know – this is about engineering details

#### Obstacles:

- Sheet piles can't be driven deep enough into ground as hit on solid rock. Rock??? [disbelief in group]

### *c. Retain the wall and extend coastal walk and cycle way (Sustrans route and Solent Way combined)*

#### Steps:

- Current road becomes two way cycle route
- Opportunity to attract funding as it is a historic part of the wall

#### Obstacle:

- There is a cycle path 200 metres North of it

### *d. Move trees to inner side of the road*

#### Steps:

- [No time to discuss]
- (Some of it happening already), scrub being cut or rotated to achieve better views)

#### Obstacles:

- Not much space on either side of the road
- Salt spray means slow growth
- If we kill vegetation the roots supporting the soil/ mud weaken, may cause more erosion



- Need other coastal plants

*e. Wall taken away to allow for a natural coastline with foot path*

Steps:

- [No time to discuss]

Obstacles:

- What would happen to the road where the duck pond is now?
- What is the impact on the road?
- Wouldn't you end up building a new seawall?
- Position of the sewer pipeline
- Eroded in 5 years time

**Discussion 3: What are the constraints / obstacles to achieving the vision(s) set out?**

GROUP 1 discussed the following constraints which would affect either option they had raised.

GROUP 2 discussed constraints / obstacles within previous discussion (see discussion 2 above):

- Environmental designations
- Funding
- Bureaucracy and timescales - we need to get moving
- Engineering challenges
- Trees - they might get washed out from the roots
- We need to consider the interests of three distinct groups: residents / users / owners
- The playing fields some of these options could affect them / would the pavilion have to be moved?
- On a positive note - more businesses might want to come?