

Coastal Communities 2150

Draft Adaptation Plan
For the Community of the
Royal Victoria Country Park



January 2014

Contents

Part One - Introduction

1.1 Scope of the Coastal Adaptation Plan

This Coastal Adaptation Plan outlines the detailed actions to achieve the long term vision of the community. The actions will help the community adapt to future change, thereby reducing negative consequences and enhancing beneficial consequences of climate or coastal change.

The Royal Victoria Country Park has a range of interested members of the community including residents in the Park, regular visitors to the Park from Netley, regular visitors to the Park from beyond Netley, local businesses. The majority of those that have been involved in the process have been eager to be involved in formulating the steps towards tackling the challenges of the sea wall at the Royal Victoria Country Park.

As one resident said,
“It is important to think that a positive attitude will get positive results.”

And another,
“This is an opportunity to co-ordinate communication on all the coastal issues for Netley residents.”

Benefits of a Coastal Adaptation Plan for the Community
It establishes meaning and gives hope for the future
Motivation for individuals to consider their activities and actions
It brings unity to community
It raises commitment level/ownership
It brings positive change
Potential to capitalize on new opportunities
Benefits of planning rather and reacting

The format of this plan is as follows:

- Introduction
- The Stakeholder Engagement Process
- The Vision
- The Adaptation plan (including the Action plan)

1.2 Background to the project

Coastal Communities 2150 (CC2150) Project started in January 2011 and is funded from the EU INTERREG 2 Seas Programme. The partners involved are: Environment Agency, Kent County Council, Hampshire County Council, Alterra (Stichting DLO), Province West-Vlaanderen and Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services – Coastal Division in Belgium.

The aim of the partnership is to work together, sharing experiences and learning to enhance knowledge on how to best communicate the long-term issues of changing coastlines. This is something that will be greatly impacted by future climate change; especially rising sea levels, accelerating erosion rates, higher storm surges and rainfall. Increased air and sea temperatures will bring additional challenges, as will pressures to build new developments and homes.

Partners are working with selected pilot areas to develop innovative tools and ideas to help communicate these issues to communities at risk. The aim is to involve those impacted by change in the decision-making processes. Engaged people will be much better placed to deal with the future risks and changes.

Hampshire County Council's CCATCH – the Solent project form part of the CC2150 project. CCATCH is working with 6 discrete stretches of coast, the areas have been chosen because they are at risk of flooding or erosion and demonstrate a range of issue and communities. The following 6 communities were chosen for inclusion in the programme:

Beaulieu to Calshot.

An area at risk of erosion and flooding with a small number of large private landowners and includes Calshot Activities Centre and Lepe Country Park. CCATCH looked in particular at the risks to the facilities at Lepe Country Park.

Southampton, Upper West Itchen

An area of mixed urban community with social housing, private landlords and owner occupiers. There are also numerous commercial waterside properties. This area is at risk of flooding, CCATCH will help the community write a emergency flood plan and help individual property owners apply for funding to kit out their houses with property resilience measures.

Royal Victoria Country Park

A Country park which draws numerous recreational visitors. The main vehicular access to the Park is protected by a seawall which is at risk of erosion. CCATCH will consider the future access issues.

Solent Breezes Holiday Park

A holiday park with some permanent residents, holidaymakers and numerous recreational uses, also includes farmland and utilities infrastructure. CCATCH will help the community be more aware of and able to manage adaptation as the shoreline erodes.

Langstone

A small rural communities at risk of flooding with. CCATCH will work with the community to help provide a coordinated campaign to tackle to flooding issues.

Yarmouth

A small town with a working harbour on the Isle of Wight, many properties and the local school are at flood risk. CCATCH will work with the community and in particular with the school to raise awareness and consider future flood risk. CCATCH has allocated funds to each of the areas in order to work with the community. The projects in each area are not in competition with each other for these funds. Engagement processes employed during the CCATCH project at the Royal Victoria Country Park are described in section 2 of this plan.

1.3 Our understanding of the current situation

The area affected

Royal Victoria Country Park in Netley is a 182 acre site managed by Hampshire County Council on the site of a significant military hospital. It is a regionally important recreation and amenity site attracting some 400,000 visits per year. The site is a registered historic park and garden and contains important nature conservation sites and historic and listed buildings. There are a wide range of facilities including tearooms, hospital exhibition, tower tours (Sundays only), miniature railway, barbeque sites, caravan fields, sports fields, events fields, room hire, children's party room, woodland walks and coastal views.

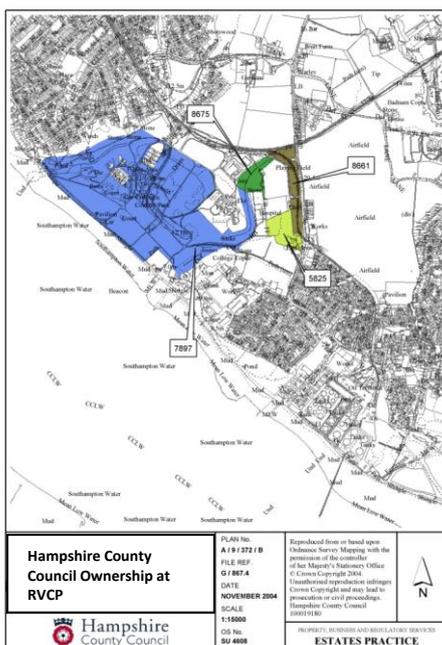
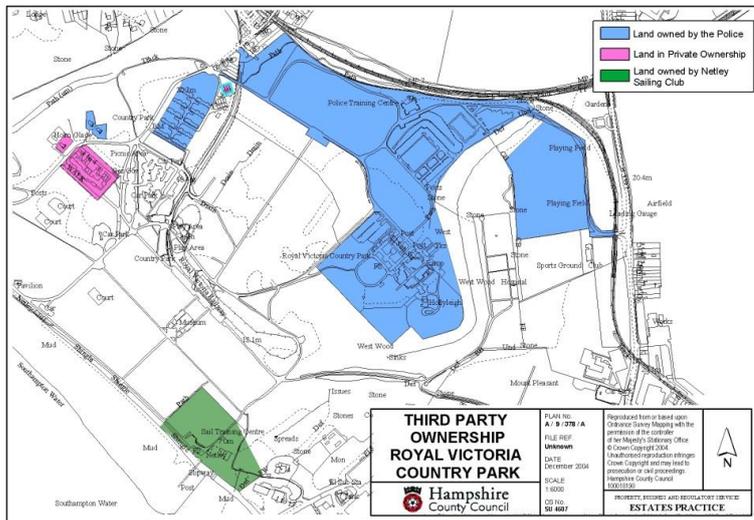


The Community affected

The community includes the following:

- Residents including private residences within the Country Park and residents living in the immediate vicinity e.g. Netley, Hamble who use the park facilities
- Recreational users who enjoy the wide variety of facilities that the park has to offer either on a formal or informal bases. This includes walkers, dog walkers, families, slipway users, anglers, commercial fishermen, recreational boaters, sports people (e.g. footballers etc), bird watchers, day visitors, visitors for events.
- Business and Infrastructure operators including the tea room, miniature railway operator, Hampshire County Council (venue for meetings, events, car parking etc), Netley Sailing Club, Southern Water (who own a sewage pipeline that runs through the Park) and the Police training college (adjacent to the park)

The maps show the ownership in and around the Country Park.



The issues affecting the coastal frontage

To set the issue in context it should also be noted that Eastleigh Borough Council has recently completed a coastal protection scheme at neighbouring Netley. The aim of the works is to provide protection to properties on the shoreline of Southampton Water from eroding sand cliffs. In 2011 the consultants URS were employed to carry out feasibility work on the options available and see if the economic business case was such that Flood Defence grant aid funding which is administered by the EA could be secured.

The study identified three properties that were at risk within specified timescales and where there was a business case to undertake works, these were Ferryman's Quay, Malmesbury Court and Netley Cliff. The study showed that the remaining properties have longer protection and do not therefore attract funding in accordance with the Flood Defence Grant in aid guidelines. It also showed that there was not a business case for the Royal Victoria Country Park frontage because the benefits would not justify the construction costs

The preferred option of gabion baskets fronting Malmesbury Court and Netley Cliff, and sheet piles fronting Ferryman's Quay was submitted to the EA project appraisal board in September 2012 and in March 2013, approval was given to proceed with the detailed design and implementation. Construction was completed in October 2013.

Partnership funding was put in place in this scheme, whereby the affected residents contributed financially toward the cost of the scheme. This is now a requirement of all Flood Defence Grant in Aid applications for funding of flood defence schemes.

Given that same study stated that the Royal Victoria Country Park would not receive funding on a cost / benefit analysis, the County Council as the landowner need to determine the best short, medium and long term coastal defence solution for this section. CCATCH the Solent in the Royal Victoria Country Park is therefore focused on discussing potential solutions, their risks and benefits with the community and creating an appropriate adaptation and emergency risk plan for the site.

The coastal frontage of Royal Victoria Country Park is protected by a sea wall. Over recent years a number of weaknesses have been identified including voids behind the wall, bulges in the sheet piling and corrosion of the wall. This has meant that the footway along the top of the wall has been shut since 2006 due to safety concerns. Although the Country Council has and continues to undertake maintenance work it is thought that the sea wall has reached the end of its design life and ongoing maintenance will not be sustainable in the future. The seawall provides the only protection to the Park entrance and therefore it is essential that consideration is given to maintaining a long term access route to the Country Park and associated residences.

In considering the issues and options in this locality it must consider the area as a whole. This is a view that has been echoed by the community (see section 3). Any future strategy must be based on a vision for not only the short term but also one that takes a long term perspective, having regard to the dynamic nature of coastal processes, particularly in the light of climate change. This will present the authority with challenges as to how it will continue to deliver its services and maintain its infrastructure. However, at the same time it will present considerable opportunities such as the potential to secure improvements to facilities and landscape and nature conservation enhancement.

The Shoreline Management Plan policy for this stretch of coast is 'Hold the Line' for the next 50 years and depending on further detailed studies the policy for 50 to 100 years is 'No active intervention' (with a continued 'Hold the line' policy for the stretch of coast to the west in front of Netley village) . A 'Hold the line' policy does not however guarantee any government funding for coastal defences, but rather sets a policy context for granting various permissions required.

The options

Generic options for the coastal defence along this section are:

- Do nothing
- Replacement of all or part of the sea wall
- Continue to maintain the current seawall
- Beach replenishment
- Removal of the seawall and return to a natural coast.

The options for future management need to be considered under different 'epochs' i.e. short (0-20yrs), medium (20-50yrs) and long (50-100yrs) term. This links to the Shoreline Management Plan for this area. Any of these options or a combination of these options would have a number of issues that would need to be considered.

Issues and constraints

Any decisions must be sustainable i.e. they must be appropriate to the task, be based on an understanding of natural processes and, as far as possible, work with those processes and not have an adverse impact on the environment.

The following summarises the key issues in relation to the seawall:

- The footway along the top of the wall has been shut since 2006 due to safety concerns.
- Possible increase in future flooding of the main vehicular access point to the Country Park.
- Possible loss of the road within the Park due to failure of the seawall.
- Impact on Country Park and other facilities if access is lost (i.e. the seawall protects the main access route into the park)
 - impacts on park income
 - impacts on park use (people unable to use the facilities in the Park with restricted access)
 - impacts on private residences and business (i.e. loss of access)
- Loss of land e.g. sports pitch.
- Launching slipway eroded.
- Alternative vehicular access e.g. Hound Road, police college, Victoria Road with amended alignment or a bridge may be possible but all would raise issues.
- Costs (e.g. of diversion of vehicular or pedestrian access, coastal defence works and studies).
- Environmental sensitivity and designations, impacts on wildlife.
- Safety of the foreshore.
- Uncertainty of the rates of erosion (data on the speed of erosion / erosion rates).
- Obtaining numerous consents and permissions.
- Mains sewer located behind the sea wall (risk of possible pollution incident) and implication for relocation costs.
- Lack of communication (understanding the responsibilities and other legislative / technical aspect of coastal defences, the immediate footpath access issues, longer term implications of not defending the coastline for the Country Park).
- What happens in an emergency (i.e. where is the alternative access to the Country Park when the current access point floods, possible pollution, and safety of foreshore area)
- Funding - Who would pay for the works?

Assets at risk

A number of assets are at risk of flooding, including housing alongside Victoria Road. Victoria Road provides the sole public vehicular access to the Country Park. Alternative access from the north can only be used in emergency situations. Flooding of Victoria Road in the vicinity of Ferryman's Quay has occurred in extreme conditions (normally once a year) as a result of overtopping of the pond. However, in the light of climate change issues, e.g. sea level rise and extremes in weather conditions such as increased storminess etc. the access may become prone to coastal flooding. As the sea wall is in a poor condition the future of the access road is a key issue for the County Council in the long term as it will be under threat from erosion to the cliffs. Finding an alternative access from the north may prove difficult to achieve. For example Hound Road is a residential street with on-street car parking. A route through the Police College at Netley may also be unachievable having regard to operational and safety considerations. Erosion of the cliffs will also have implications for the main pumping sewer between Netley and Hamble that runs along the Country Park's frontage between the road and the sea defences.

The integrity of the wall and, should it prove necessary, the feasibility of alternative routes and the associated cost of re-routing will be a consideration, as will the impact/disruption of any works associated with this on the operation of the Country Park and the potential loss of revenue to the County Council. Failure by the County Council to protect the access road from future coastal flooding may have implications for nearby residential property which may become susceptible to flooding in the future.

Health and Safety

If nothing is done to protect the County Council's assets, flooding and erosion could pose a threat to the public through the presence of derelict defences or through the risk of erosion.

Amenity Use

It is important to maintain access to the Country Park which is a valuable recreational and leisure asset. It should also be noted that as the Park is located between two important settlements i.e. Netley and Hamble it provides a safe and convenient route for home to work journeys for both walkers and cyclists. The footway along the top of the wall has been shut since 2006 due to potential risks to user safety. This has caused concern for local users. Should erosion occur there could be implications for the sports pitch.

1.4 Climate and Coastal Change and Adaptation

Coastal Processes

It is essential to fully understand how the coastal processes are shaping our coastline in order to predict the areas at risk from erosion or flooding in the future and the effects of different options. Further research would be necessary to consider this key issue to inform the process of finding an appropriate solution.

Coastal Squeeze and Habitat Loss

As sea levels rise, coastal habitats if in an entirely natural situation, would respond by migrating landward or "rolling back" to adjust their position to a new 'best ecological fit' to the new sea level. Rising land or fixed man-made structures such as seawalls prevent or severely limit this landward movement. The coastal habitats are therefore 'squeezed out' between rising sea levels and fixed defence lines or higher land. This could occur in front of the sea wall at Royal Victoria Country Park. Any loss of

designated land would have to be mitigated for elsewhere (over a 50 year time frame the area of habitat lost to coastal squeeze in this location is 6.2 hectares, which would need to be created. If the hold the line option is taken for over 50-100 years the an additional 4.6 hectares would need to be created)

Landscape

Any changes to the landscape must have regard to the intrinsic landscape character of the Park and its special status as the site and setting of the former military hospital. Changes in design and construction associated with the coastal edge should seek to conserve and enhance the historic character and significance of the site.

1.4.1 Climate Change

There are a number of factors which are playing a key role in changes to the Earth's climate. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other gases are warming the Earth's atmosphere. This is called the greenhouse gas effect.

Human activity plays a key role in this greenhouse gas effect. We have been burning increasing amounts of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution. As a result CO₂ concentrations in the Earth's atmosphere have broken out of the natural cycle seen over the last million years. There is a high degree of confidence that human emissions have caused most of the global warming seen since the mid-20th Century.

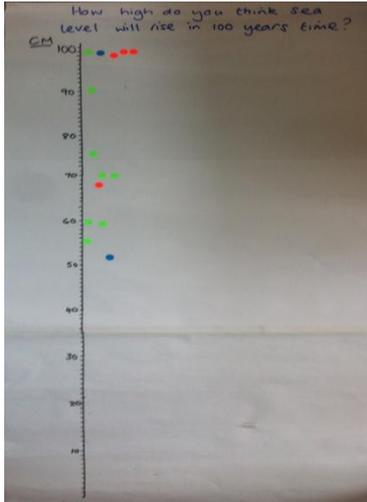
The Committee on Climate Change, the advisers to Government on climate change mitigation¹, state that if no effort is made to cut global use of fossil fuels, global warming is likely to reach between 2-7°C this century with further warming beyond. This will have significant consequences for human welfare and the balance between living things and their environment. It is not possible to precisely predict these long-term impacts, but it is sensible to take action now as insurance against risks of dangerous climate change.

The specific impacts of climate change at the Royal Victoria Country Park are likely to manifest themselves in increased flood risk caused by sea level rise, an increase in the number of storms and average annual precipitation.

1.4.2 Sea level rise

Sea level rise is considered to be one of the most significant effects associated with climate change to threaten the UK. Sea levels have been rising for thousands of years since the last ice age and will continue to do so in the future due to the thermal expansion of sea water and melting of the polar ice caps. Scientists predict that by 2100 sea levels will rise by up to 1m in the English Channel, and that they will continue to rise for the next several hundred years. With a predicted rise in the number of storms, the risk of flooding and erosion of land along the coast will increase. Figures used by Defra (October 2006) show that sea level rise is expected to increase exponentially, with predicted net sea level rise of 15mm per year in the period 2085-2115, compared with the previous assumption of a constant rate of 6mm per year.

¹ <http://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/>



During the engagement workshops (see section 2) at the Royal Victoria Country Park we asked participants to use sticky dots on a measurement scale to give their predictions of the extent to which sea levels will rise in the next 100 years.

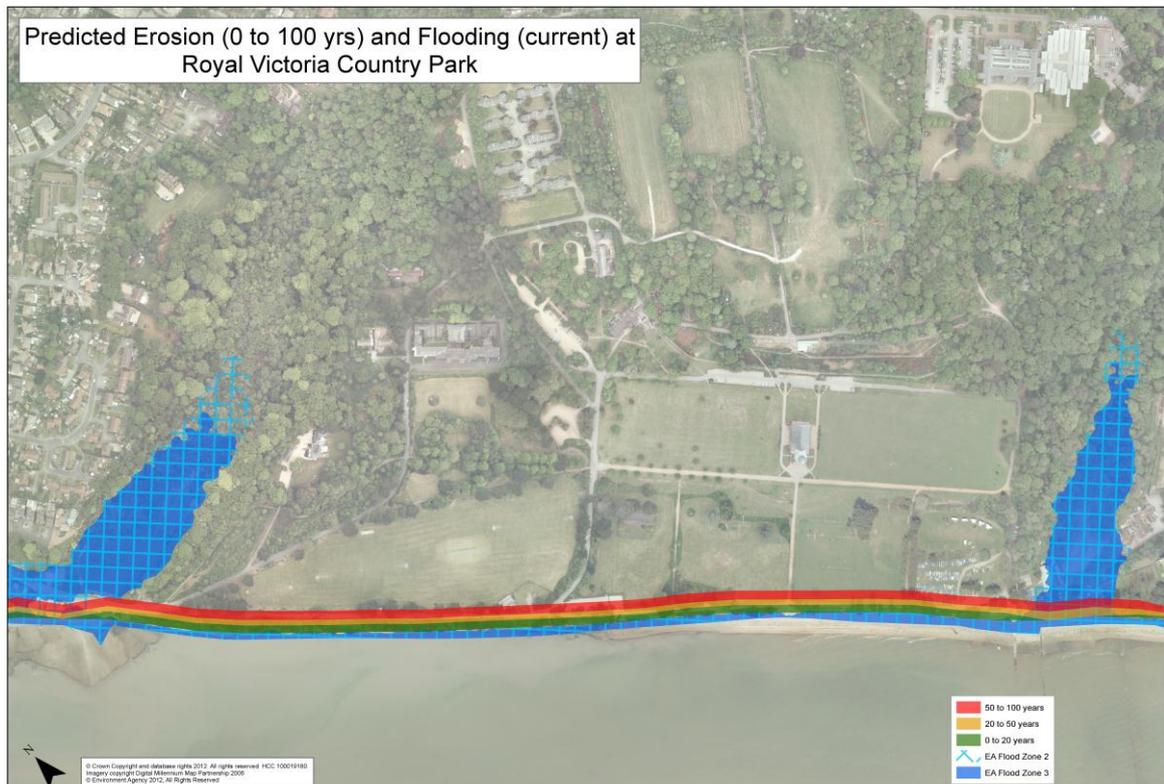
In workshop 1 all participants felt that sea level would rise in the next 100 years to 0.5m or more with 5 participants placing their dot at the 1m mark. In workshop 2 the results were similar with the majority of participants saying that they thought that sea level will rise by 0.5m or more by 2113, with 6 believing that it would rise by 100cm or more in the time period and 1 feeling that it would rise less than 0.1m in the time period. Workshop 3 participants gave an even spread of responses with one or two participants making their mark at ever 10cm level from 10cm to 100cm. As different people attended some of the workshops it is difficult to tell whether opinions changed through the process.

Flood risk

This map shows the Environment Agencies current flooding zones.

- The area shown as Zone 3 (1 in 200 yr) shows is a relatively low likelihood flood event as it has just a 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year.
- The additional area shown as Zone 2 (1 in 1000 yr) is a lower probability as it has just 0.1% chance of occurring in any given year.

Although rare, floods with a low likelihood have greater impacts that are often far more severe. This map does not show predicted flooding that could occur as a result of sea level rise in the future, it can be assumed that these risks will therefore increase in the future.



1.4.3 Coastal change

Coastal Change describes the effects of a natural, ongoing process that has always happened. As sea water meets cliffs and shores, sediment or rocks are broken down and washed out to sea. Sometimes, this material is moved to a different part of the coast and deposited, causing 'accretion' - the opposite of erosion - where shorelines may build up with sediment over time. Within the study area, the beaches are comprised of sand and shingle as a product of this process, and need a continual supply of material. The rate of erosion tends to increase when waves are powerful and water levels are high - for instance during storms or in high winds. It is therefore likely that the rate of coastal change may increase under rising sea levels.

1.4.4 Planning for future change

As a response to climate change the primary mechanism over the last 20 years has been that of mitigation and in particular a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions has been and is at the forefront of the environmental and political agenda. Whether mitigation can be effective or not, it is imperative that communities and Government respond to the threats of climate change through the alternative process of adaptation.

Numerous definitions may be cited with regard to the nature and meaning of *adaptation*. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report on Adaptation Policy Frameworks, Lim *et al.*, (2004) states "adaptation is a process by which strategies to moderate, cope with and take advantage of the consequences of climate events are enhanced, developed and implemented"

Adaptation in the context of this plan can be seen as a process of becoming adjusted to new conditions, in a way that makes individuals, communities or systems better suited to their environment.

An adaptation strategy must look beyond the short term and be based on a long term vision. It needs to take into account the dynamic nature of coastal processes, particularly in the light of climate change. Adaptation presents many challenges as to how to continue to deliver services and maintain infrastructure, and at the same time there will be considerable opportunities, such as potential improvements and the enhancement of landscape and nature conservation.

In the long term it is unlikely that we will be able to maintain all areas of the coast as they are today, so it is important to think realistically about what the coastline could look like in future, consider more sustainable solutions and plan for these changes and adapt.

Part Two - The Stakeholder Engagement Process

2.1 Local Engagement Group

An invitation list to join the Local Engagement Group (LEG) was drawn up by Hampshire County Council to include community members and stakeholders with an interest in the future management of the coastal frontage at the Royal Victoria Country Park, particularly solutions to the issues facing the sea wall. LEG meetings were facilitated by Resources for Change providing an objective framework for the discussions so that all voices could be heard and understood. Initially the LEG was made up of:

- Hound Parish Council
- The Friends of the Royal Victoria Country Park
- A volunteer at the Royal Victoria Country Park
- Netley Sailing Club
- A Park resident
- Hampshire County Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council

The first meeting held in January 2013 focused on bringing people up to speed on CCATCH the Solent and community involvement at the Royal Victoria Country Park. The group focused on reaching agreement on the LEG's terms of reference which it agreed should mean meeting to formulate the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES) and to be involved in promoting the community involvement in the project. The group were clear that community expectations should not be raised when no specific funding had been identified for implementing the proposed adaptation plan.

The LEG met again in March 2013. A similar group of 10 participants attended with the addition of a local Netley business. At this meeting the group focused their attention on the contents of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (see section 2.2). The group gave advice on how best to promote the workshops suggested in the SES to the community. Members also discussed the aim for the project which centred on the following points related to the fact that there was no obvious current source of funding for any of the available options:

- There are no easy or cheap answers
- At the end of the day, what is the point if there is no funding?
- We need to talk about the money
- Only way to gain people's attention is funding
- We need to include information on options and costings
- Help people to understand the funding options

As a result of these discussions the LEG produced the following aim for the project:

The project will help the community understand coastal defences *and costs* affecting the Country Park and give them an opportunity to influence *the short, medium and long term* planning for *coastal defence of and access to the park*.

2.2 The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

The SES was initially drafted by Hampshire County Council so that it could be discussed at the second LEG meeting held in March 2013. The vision for the strategy is described in part three. The key output of the CC2150 project is the creation of community visions and action plans for adaptation. However it is not about informing a plan through consultation but is a capacity building process to develop community-led planning including:

- Building a better understanding of coastal change by involving all stakeholders in the process
- Reaching an agreed understanding of the potential localised coastal changes, their potential impact on communities, and begin to develop local
- conversations around what is most important for communities to consider when planning for the future.
- Establishing the project within the community and giving communities ownership over the adaptation plans and the structure of the visions.

For the Royal Victoria Country Park this translates into the following aim, objectives and deliverables.

Aim

To understand and coastal issues for Royal Victoria Country Park and plan for future changes

Objectives

- To engage the community in an awareness raising process to understand the coastal defence issues and the limitations of funding
- Produce a short term flood risk plan for the Country Park
- Produce an action plan to aid Hampshire County Councils long term planning for the Country Park

Deliverables

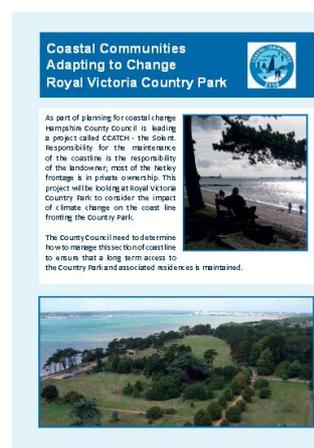
- Short term flood risk plan
- Long term action plan (adaptation plan)

2.3 Tools

The following engagement tools were used to encourage participation in the project and ensure that as many community views were heard in the process as possible.

Leaflet

A leaflet was designed and distributed to as many users of the Country Park as possible and some houses in the immediate vicinity. Leaflets were available outside the shop, put on cars in the car parks, and displayed in local shops, cafes, the pub on Victoria road, the library and in the Parish Council Offices. The leaflet advertised the project including the exhibition and workshop and included a have a reply slip for people to register an interest in the project and activities.



Marketing

On community advice an article about the project was placed in *The Scene*, the local community magazine. In addition the Royal Victoria Country Park used their Facebook page to advertise the workshops and exhibition and posts were used on Twitter using the Park's and the County Council's hash tags. A poster was also put together to promote the workshops and a second print-run of the leaflet was produced mid-way through the project to re-ignite awareness.

Exhibition

A set of exhibition panels was designed and placed in the Country Park's shop and Empire Rooms. The exhibition provides information about the CCATCH project, coastal defences and access issues. The exhibition has been visible to the Park using public throughout the project to gather views from those who may not be able to attend workshops and to raise the profile of the issues. It will help give people some of the 'key local messages' as outlined within the Engagement Strategy. Members of the LEG agreed that the CCATCH project at the Royal Victoria Country Park should:

- Describe what the project is, who is behind it, and that it is an opportunity for the community to have their say
- Provide an overarching local message which LEG members and others can use to advocate the work locally.
- Emphasise that we would like the community to contribute by sharing their experiences, by working as a community group towards their long-term vision for the park and in the interim a plan for how to minimise risks
- Recognise that this complements work already ongoing
- Focus on access issues within the Park that would result from a loss in coastal defences.
- Explain the complex issues, legislation and responsibilities surrounding coastal defences for Royal Victoria Country Park and the surrounding
- coastline
- Recognise that the project is funded by Europe and will have a small amount of money to spend on community initiatives but cannot fund any
- coastal defence scheme for the park or the Netley frontage
- Be realistic and not over the top.

Workshops

A series of three workshops have been held in order to develop a risk management plan and adaptation plan, a fourth and final workshop will be held in March 2014. Stakeholders have been invited to attend all workshops and work on the issues iteratively so that common ground can be reached. Invitees have included the LEG members, other key individuals identified by the LEG and those who have provided their contact details via the leaflet drop or the exhibition. The workshops have been structured as follows:



CCATCH Project website

The website was developed at the very beginning of the project and maintained throughout. It details everything about the project as well as all report outputs. The link is provided and any information required can be sources from this.

http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Netley_and_RVCP/

Qualitative study

Interviews were undertaken in the Park in February and April 2013 on three separate occasions covering the half-term holiday, a bank holiday and a normal mid-week morning. The purpose of the short study was to raise awareness of the project including signposting the exhibition and the workshops, gaining a snapshot of views of Park users in relation to the sea wall and to test to what extent its closure has affected their Park use.

Technical fact sheet

A draft fact sheet was been drawn up to explain the issues and de-mystify the technical engineering and funding issues involved with the adaptation of the Royal Victoria Country Park. Participants at workshop 3 who tested the fact sheet felt it should be produced in a much simpler, slimmed down format expressed in non-technical language. The audience should be both residents and users of the park. It was agreed that any additional background and supporting material should be included in the CCATCH website for those with an interest in the in-depth and technical information.

2.4 Methodology

A number of methodologies were employed in the project to engage the community through the full range of engagement processes - inform, consult, involve, collaborate:

Inform:

The community were informed about the CCATCH project, work already done on the site and current understanding of the issues and constraints in the following ways:

- The leaflet
- Presentations at each LEG meeting and all three workshops including:
 - Overview of the project
 - What it is trying to achieve locally
 - What is happening at the Netley frontage and how that fits with the overall context
 - Main issues with the sea wall
 - Funding and finances
 - Options for the future including their potential cost
- The exhibition

Consult

The LEG were the principle way in which the community were consulted as the project unfolded. The methodology for the LEG meetings was to use independent facilitation services provided by Resources for Change (R4C). R4C designed a process plan for each meeting and facilitated the session so that Hampshire County Council staff who had been closely involved with the issue could be engaged in the discussion without managing it. It allowed an objective overview of the discussion pulling out community views to inform the process and the eventual adaptation plan.

In addition three sets of half-day sessions were held by the facilitation team in the Park. A semi-structured questionnaire was employed where interviewers asked people using the Park in a variety of ways a set of questions culminating in a discussion on the sea wall and its future.

Involve

The workshops were the principle method for involving the community in the contents of the adaptation plan. Using facilitation and process design, as with the LEG, the facilitation team worked with Hampshire County Council to involve the community in decisions about what should happen next at the coastal frontage at the Royal Victoria Country Park. This was done by developing their understanding of the deterioration of the sea wall and allowing them, for the first time, to be involved in analysing the substantial risks in terms of safety, access and public money in allowing the status quo to continue. As one community member said, "*doing nothing is not an option.*" balanced by another community member who said "*doing something appears costly and complex.*"

Collaborate

Collaboration is now beginning to happen with the community. At workshops two and three, which focused on the risks and constraints of adapting to the situation, the community worked with other stakeholders to consider how these should be overcome to move to a more positive situation. Ongoing collaboration at the end of the CCATCH project is essential to ensure community buy-in and action to work through the solutions they have identified. For this reason an additional workshop is being held in March 2014 so that the community can discuss their opinions in the light of the 2014 Halcrow report. The community have consistently expressed the view that they would take expert advice on next steps when it is available.

2.5 Results

This section focuses on the work done at the first three workshops. A final workshop will be held in March 2014 to finalise the adaptation plan in the light of the Halcrow report expected in March 2014. Work done by the LEG feeds in to subsequent sections on *vision* (section 3) and *action* (section 4).

At each workshop participants were asked to work in small groups to test various ideas as follows:

- *Workshop 1: Understanding the issues* - in which participants shared their understanding of the issues with the sea wall at Royal Victoria Country Park
- *Workshop 2: Informing the plan* - in which participants explored solutions to the issues and reviewed elements for inclusion in the adaptation plan
- *Workshop 3: Developing the plan* - in which participants explored the vision statements explored in previous workshops; considered the presentation of technical information to the wider community and

Workshop One

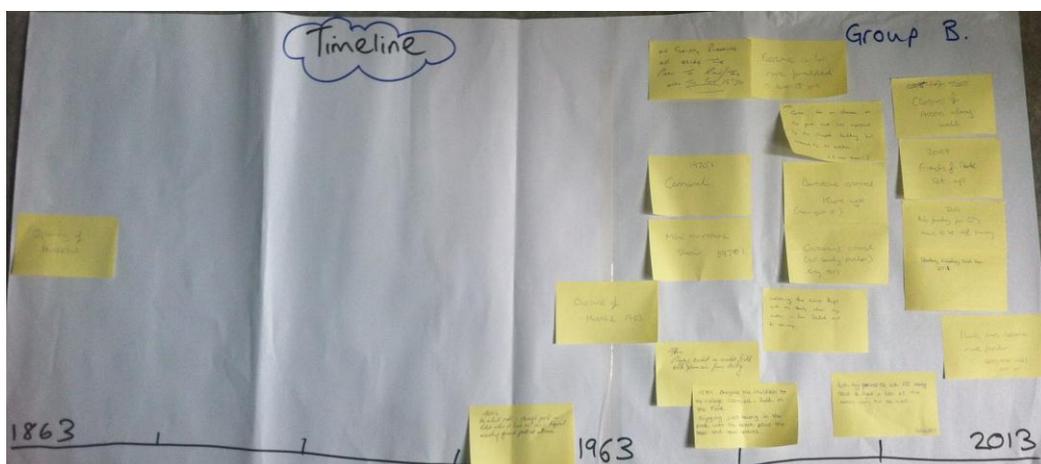
In workshop 1 the focus was on gaining a shared understanding of the issues and to tap in to community knowledge of the Park and the sea wall.

In order to consider the Park as a site which has changed over time and will continue to do so participants were asked to work on a number of activities about change and their reaction to it. Groups discussed their memories of the Park; significant events in the Park's history and how they value the Park currently. The following summarises those discussions.

Stories of Change - Memories and events

Participants populated a timeline with their memories of the Park and significant events they either remember or know from its history. A summary of what was produced is included in Appendix A and images of the two timelines are shown below. It is interesting to note some differences between the group's memories of the Park. One group populated their timeline with memories and public events prior to the Park opening after its purchase by the Council in the 1970s, while the second group focused on the Park post-1970 when public access was not restricted by the military. Participants agreed at the workshops that the main overarching point is that:

The Royal Victoria Country Park is about families, community and much needed leisure time in a otherwise pressurised life.



Stories of Change – Postcards to the future

To consider a potential vision the community asked to write a postcard to a community member using the Park in 20 years time.

- Value park for community activities and events.
- Value the peace and quiet, views and wildlife
- Enjoy the seafront before it erodes away
- Value the history of the park.

A sample of what they said is in appendix B.

Further Information

As part of workshop 1 participants requested the following information and raised related points:

- Flood map shows an under-funded situation
- If the sea wall was stabilised would the access be reopened?
- Tests and monitoring would be required to ensure that it is structurally safe - there are no guarantees of that
- The residents want the sea wall re-opened so the question is - how do we achieve it? Anything is possible
- The wall has been closed since 2006 and the [deterioration] situation has just got worse, costs are growing
- Are there options for partnership funding?
- The wall is not defending houses so the contributions have to be higher
- There is an interesting challenge between not scaring people, and not generating interest
- We cannot take parts of the coast in isolation. One area effects another, this needs careful monitoring
- We need clarity on where 'hold the line' starts.

Presentations at the subsequent workshop were designed to address the majority of these points.

Workshop 2

At workshop 2 participants were asked to focus on the options and related risks and constraints to their delivery.

Postcard from the Future

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.

A sample of what they said is in Appendix C.

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.

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 fundraise 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.

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 bird 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.

Workshop 3

At workshop 3 the technical leaflet was discussed (see section 2.3) and a focus was placed on trying to finalise the vision for the adaptation plan. There was a range of views expressed from retaining a sea wall to developing an integrated scheme, whether with or without a sea wall, which would link the Park to the Solent Way. The vision proposed by the group is included in the next section of this plan.

During the workshop participants were asked to specifically consider four future options:

- Replacement of all or part of the sea wall
- Continuing to maintain the current sea wall
- Beach replenishment
- Take down the sea wall and return to a natural coastline.

The discussion did not result in a clear consensus. There was concern that the seemingly cheapest option of replacing all or part of the sea wall would only be a short-term solution and simply postpone the issue for future generations to deal with. Returning the coastal frontage to a natural coastline provoked the most discussion with a number of participants feeling that the cost of removing the wall material would be prohibitive. For others this presents a more attractive long-term option with beach replenishment as a stepping stone towards it. The group ended the workshop by considering whether or not they might be able to take forward the adaptation in short, medium and long-term steps with the final goal being a return to a natural coastline but the short and medium term actions more around replacing all or part of the sea wall and beach replenishment.

A further workshop will be held in March 2014 to discuss the findings of the Halcrow report with the community and further refine this adaptation plan.

Part Three - The Vision

3.1 What is a Vision

A Vision describes the preferred future scenario or gives an image of the future the community seek to create. Definitions of a vision could include the following:



3.2 How was the Vision Defined

At the first two workshops a vision was discussed in terms of what is valued about the Park and what would be valued if the community's preferred adaptation measures were put in place. From this a set of draft vision statements were written as follows:

Draft statements:

“The coastal frontage at the Royal Victoria Country Park will be a place of peace linked to the Solent Way. An area of which the community in and around the Park can be proud. With iconic views across Solent Water, we can walk, cycle and enjoy family time.”

“The coastal frontage at the Royal Victoria Country Park will continue to be accessible to all with the flood risk managed. An effective and cost-effective engineering solution will be found for the road and the Park entrance. The scheme will be part of a bigger vision incorporating links to the Solent Way accessible on foot or by bicycle. “

“Stakeholders and the community will seek innovative funding and engineering solutions for the coastal frontage at the Royal Victoria Country Park which include managing the flood risk; retaining access to the Park; restoring the Victorian splendour of the front with a pier, an attractive lighting scheme and a sea wall with integrated cycle / footpath. “

Part Four – Adaptation Plan

4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the key pressures, issues and opportunities for the community. These are discussed and the range of possible actions for the short, medium and long term that have been suggested are outlined. A table summarises the options for action. The section also considers legacy issues.

4.2 Key Pressures / Issues /Opportunities

Issue/Topic	Challenges	Opportunities
1. Frontage requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a footpath along the seafront with views of the Solent. • Retaining the family / community nature of the Park • Joining up the scheme to the wider Hampshire coastline – the Solent Way • Ensuring that the solution fits the needs and manages the flood risk at the Park entrance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining and ensuring the ongoing family / community nature of the Park • Encouraging innovative projects such as the reinstatement of the pier and links to the Solent Way • Enhancing the experience of the Park for visitors and residents alike.
2. Engineering solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sea wall has come to the end of its design life • Monitoring and ad-hoc repair is not a viable long term solution • Health and safety aspects of repairing the wall • Being clear exactly what the costs are and who will bear them for each option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding an innovative solution which gives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A link between the RVCP frontage and, for example, the Solent Way being part of a 'bigger picture'. – Using the waste material from dismantling the sea wall innovatively so that costs are not incurred in taking it away from the site
3. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not likely to be any Government funding available • It is not a sustainable solution to continue to monitor and repair the wall on an ad-hoc basis • Adequate funding may not be available from the landowners to repair /rebuild the wall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking new funding solutions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The community setting up a charity to raise funds; – Using the Park as a resource from which to raise funds (bearing in mind the need for the Park itself to be self-funding) – Targeting the language used about the funding sought to the needs of funders
4. Regulatory frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of permissions will need to be sought for any work undertaken to assess the risks to the various designations within the Park and to seek planning permission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An innovative solution may enhance the landscape and extend the coastal habitats.

4.2.1 Scenarios/options

Future climate change and the impacts this has get more and more uncertain further in time. This has to be taken into account in decision making in order to develop plans that will work under a range of conditions and is therefore flexible. This adaptation plan therefore needs to be robust and able to adapt over time to (unforeseen) future conditions. As such the adaptation plan includes:

- several options that can be kept open that explore a range of scenarios and options that could occur due to a variety of uncertainties
- short-term targets to long-term goals over time
- short-term actions while keeping options open to take account of uncertainties in the future
- action to continuously assess and take actions if necessary.
- Set indicators/triggers for change e.g. level of sea level rise, peak surge tide level, condition of flood defences

The community at the Royal Victoria Country Park, through the course of the workshops have discussed four main options:

- Replacement of all or part of the sea wall
- Continuing to maintain the current sea wall
- Beach replenishment
- Take down the sea wall and return to a natural coastline.

It may be that some of the options are relevant at different points in the future.

The community are keen to see these options in the context of the 2014 Halcrow report so that they can consider them against current cost and technical feasibility. It was not considered a feasible option by the community to 'do nothing'.

4.2.2 Key Areas for Adaptation

The options are considered in the table below. Please note the options are not listed in priority order but in the order in which they were discussed by the community. All the options have been put forward because the sea wall has reached the end of its design life. Serious problems have been identified in the wall since 2003 including voids and bulges; inadequate pile embedment depths (i.e. depth of between 650mm to 1m where the design standard requires 2m) and accelerated low water corrosion. It is agreed that a long-term solution is required.

Adaptation Option A: Replacement of all or part of the sea wall

<i>Summary</i>
To replace all or part of the sea wall is seen by some members of the community as key to enabling visitors and residents to have renewed access to the top of the wall as an access route, although this would need to be tested over time to ensure that this would be safe.
<i>1. Costs and other resource implications</i>
2006 costings from Halcrow suggest that work to replace all or parts of the sea wall would cost £1.7m. The 2014 Halcrow report will provide up-to-date costings.
<i>2. Technical feasibility and other practical considerations</i>
The community raised the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No design solution is on the table • Extension of the wall might protect the existing road access to the Park, but this is not clear. • If this work was to be done then it might enable the incorporation of pier / flood lighting options which some people perceive to be a positive step, although other community members do not want flood lighting nor would they accept the implication that the Park might be open all night. • Potential short-term asset for visitors and the community • Could restore the original route of the Solent Way • Supports the national vision of supporting access to the coastline • Good for crab fishing • Is not going to last forever • Not natural and doesn't look nice
<i>3. Environmental impact/opportunity</i>
The community raised the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation: need to build new intertidal habitat to replace what is lost through coastal squeeze • Finding the necessary mitigation compensation (habitats) which would be done through the regional habitat creation programme if the Shoreline Management Plan Policies are followed.
<i>4. Regulatory</i>
The necessary licenses and planning permissions would need to be obtained.
<i>5. Timescale</i>
Dependent on technical feasibility, planning permissions and updated costings
<i>6. What else do we need to know/do?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the 2014 Halcrow report; • Community desire to go forward with suggestions for thinking laterally with about fundraising opportunities working with the County Council and the Park management team.

Adaptation Option B: Continuing to maintain the current sea wall

<i>Summary</i>
Whilst some community members would like to see the wall continue to be maintained, they understand that technically this may not be feasible given that the wall has reached the end of its design life.
<i>1. Costs and other resource implications</i>
2006 costings from Halcrow suggest that work to replace all or parts of the sea wall would cost £1.7m. The 2014 Halcrow report will provide up-to-date costings.
<i>2. Technical feasibility and other practical considerations</i>
The community understand from the information they have currently that this is not a realistic option for the medium to long term and feel that ' <i>if the experts say that this cannot be done then there is nothing more to be said</i> '. The option was considered to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term and therefore a waste of money • Not cost-effective
<i>3. Environmental impact/opportunity</i>
Having said that the community nevertheless raised the following points as opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound out ABP / BP / £ people who have a stake in Southampton Water (such as cruise companies) as soon as possible so that they are aware of what's going on • Sub-options to repair part of the wall • Using dredging material to maintain the sea wall in which case, although this came with the concern that it still wouldn't be possible to walk alongside the wall • An opportunity as a very short-term solution
<i>4. Regulatory</i>
The necessary licenses and planning permissions would need to be obtained.
<i>5. Timescale</i>
Dependent on technical feasibility, planning permissions and updated costings
<i>6. What else do we need to know/do?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the 2014 Halcrow report; • Community desire to go forward with suggestions for thinking laterally with about fundraising opportunities working with the County Council and the Park management team.

Adaptation Option C: Beach replenishment

<i>Summary</i>
To replenish the beach, possibly with material dredged from Southampton Water, with the idea that, if the dredged material is suitable, in the short-term it would make good the losses caused by erosion buying some time until a more sustainable solution is found.
<i>1. Costs and other resource implications</i>
Costings are dependent on support from ABP with dredging material and would have much more significant cost implications if linked to the removal of the wall and the long-term solution of returning to a natural coastline. The community commented: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheaper in the short term
<i>2. Technical feasibility and other practical considerations</i>
The community raised the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scheme is dependent on the timing of the ABP dredging and on the material being suitable this was seen as a good short-term solution but not a good option long-term• The replenishment requires regular maintenance so there would be additional cost implications• In engineering terms it is accepted as the best solution
<i>3. Environmental impact/opportunity</i>
The community raised the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There could be environmental reasons for the material not being suitable• However, the group were advised that Natural England considers this solution to be appropriate if part of a longer term solution of reversion to a natural coastline• For some this solution is risky to the ecology
<i>4. Regulatory</i>
The necessary licenses and planning permissions would need to be obtained.
<i>5. Timescale</i>
Dependent on technical feasibility, planning permissions and updated costings together with ABP's schedule for dredging.
<i>6. What else do we need to know/do?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of the 2014 Halcrow report;• The desire or otherwise of ABP to work with this solution;• Community desire to go forward with suggestions for thinking laterally with about fundraising opportunities.

Adaptation Option D: Removal of the seawall and return to a natural coastline

<i>Summary</i>
Discussed as a longer term solution with beach replenishment as a stepping stone a long the way
<i>1. Costs and other resource implications</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costings are dependent on an updated report from Halcrow • Currently understood to be the most expensive solution in the short-term because of the cost of removing the material from the wall off-site • Considered cheaper in the long-term • Concern: if costs provided by Halcrow are prohibitive would HCC possibly decide not to have the Park and sell it?
<i>2. Technical feasibility and other practical considerations</i>
<p>The community raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For some the scheme is seen as unacceptable to local people, but for others this is not the case and there is little consensus around the solution • Considered as the removal of a local amenity by some • Quicker loss of the access road • Need to consider opening up a second access route to the Park from the Hound Road end to ensure that vehicle access for residents is not lost • Loss of Southern Water's sewer pipes • Dangers of erosion – could people fall in? • Potential loss of the football pitch • When the wall goes – related opportunity – getting rid of the trees? • Greater stretch of accessible beach • Release of sediment which could be used elsewhere • Aesthetic value because of the removal of a concrete wall • Will allow greater use of the whole Park • Encourage greener activity • Gives time for consideration of what we are doing / who for / potentially extending the use of the Park
<i>3. Environmental impact/opportunity</i>
<p>The community raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending habitats
<i>4. Regulatory</i>
The necessary licenses and planning permissions would need to be obtained including marine licenses.
<i>5. Timescale</i>
Dependent on technical feasibility, planning permissions and updated costings but is considered part of a staged process towards a longer-term sustainable solution.
<i>6. What else do we need to know/do?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the 2014 Halcrow report; • Community desire to go forward with suggestions for thinking laterally with about fundraising opportunities

Table - Action Plan - to be agreed in the light of the Halcrow report and costings

Example Action Plan Table for RVCP Adaptation Plan - for discussion and formulation of the final action 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*	
Topic Area 1 – Replacement of all or part of the sea wall												
<i>This column lists the possible options for action to be taken. There could be numerous actions. Examples are given below</i>	<i>This sets out the type of action e.g.; 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>
Topic Area 2 – Continuing to maintain the current sea wall												

4.3 Legacy Ongoing communication

The action plan will necessarily be developed as a partnership plan involving Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Royal Victoria Country Park staff, residents and users. Other key stakeholders will also be involved including Southern Water and ABP. As the landowner Hampshire County Council will be taking the lead on developing an appropriate solution.

The community will need to collaborate with all stakeholders on the action, it is not good enough simply to keep them involved. They will form part of the solution and are key to future funding solutions, particularly if their suggestion is taken up to involve them in fundraising for any solution adopted.

It would make sense to form a small community committee from members of the community who have particularly involved in the LEG and the workshops. This committee would work with all other stakeholders to implement the action plan.

The challenge is that there remains little consensus over a solution. The best option seems to be a step change approach with short, medium and long-term solutions being adopted. The community were open to taking a combination approach to the options as steps to a longer-term adaptation plan.

This plan links closely to the Royal Victoria Country Park's emergency plan so that it is clear to all what steps would be taken in the event of a catastrophic collapse of the wall caused by extreme weather or structural failure.

4.4 Evaluation and Review

Evaluation of the plan is dependent upon the final actions agreed in the light of the results of the 2014 Halcrow report.

Appendix A - Stories of Change - Memories and events

Memories:

- My wedding in the Empire Rooms in 1998
- Pumpkins Festivals x 2
- Walking the sea wall
- Train ride with my granddaughter
- Crabbing

Timeline

1800-1850s

- People would have walked along the front
- The western shore would have been gravel and gorse
- Discussion - when does the inlet turn in to a road? In the 1836 tithe map it is still shown as an inlet; it must have been with the building of the hospital
- There were woods before the hospital was built, it must have been very beautiful

1863

- The military hospital opened its doors to its first patients
- It needs to be clear that the pier opened nine years after the foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria, so she did not come to the pier to lay the stone
- Queen Victoria walked through the Park from the Hard - Queen's steps
- She visited the Park 23 times
- 1863 Opening of the hospital

1864

- Military cemetery opened
- It is important to remember that many people died of disease as well as injury
- Local families are in the cemetery too
- It includes people from around the world

1930s

- Netley families did come in to the Park
- There were villager sports days
- One participant sang in the chapel choir in 36/37 - the balcony was full
- The Scottish Regiment came every year and marched along Station Road to the hospital
- During the 30s there was a bank going down to the foreshore, but pilings were also driven in

1940s-1960s

- There were wooden / metal stops going up to the houses (which are all eroding / gone now)
- The Americans put the concrete in to make the sea wall
- 1950s as a lad riding through the Park on bikes when it was a army hospital - avoiding the guard post at the entrance
- 1963 closure of the hospital

1970s

- The war memorial for doctors and nurses of the Crimean War was scrapped
- Hampshire County Council purchased the site for the Park
- Carnival
- Bringing children to the village carnival held in the Park
- Mini Hampshire Show
- Playing cricket on cricket field with permission of the army
-

1980s

- Canberra leaving for the Falklands - beaches full of people
- All the people that came to see the Oriana on its maiden voyage
- Lancaster, Spitfire, 7 P&O ships - people congregate for all of these events
- In 1987 - we lost a lot of trees in the wind
- Flooding - we used to take a rowing boat from the Prince Consort Pub to the Hard
- There has been monitoring of the sea wall at the Hard since 1988
- We used to walk along the sea wall which is now closed

1990s

- Park has become a lot more formalised in the last 18 years
- 1994 - came for an interview at the Park and was impressed by the chapel building but confused by its isolation (I now know!)
- Barbecue opened 15 years ago (now got 8)
- Caravans arrived in the early 90s (not locally popular)
- Watching the cruise ships with my family when my mother-in-law sailed out to Norway
- With my previous role with HCC coming down to have a look at the issues with the sea wall

2000s

- 2007 closure of access along wall
- 2008 Friends of the Park set up
- 2011 No funding for CPs - have to be self-financing
- I started voluntary work here in 2011
- Park has become more popular with 400,000 visits per year
- Ongoing pleasure of using the Park to run / job over the past 18 years
- Enjoying just being in the Park with the beach plus the tress and open spaces
- In the last 20 years erosion seems to be happening faster
- The wall appears to be eroding more rapidly

Appendix B - Stories of Change – Postcards to the future

A sample of postcards to the future

Value the Park as a place of peace. Enjoy the seafront before it erodes away. We walk in the Park, on the beach - it isn't the museum. Climbing trees with my granddaughter.

- Must see the view at night from the shore. Fawley looks lovely with all the colourful lights reflecting on the water.
- It's lovely to pop down on a summer evening and watch the cricket and enjoy the peace and quiet and people having fun.

Beach walking. The complete overall scene:

- Relaxed walking
- Leisure
- Beauty

A country way of life: community meetings / splendid events
Channing

I like walking on the shingle - noise of the shingle! Collecting shells, watching boats and birds. Then, walking towards the other side among the trees, watching the change of seasons and enjoying different bird / squirrel activity etc.

Such a lovely park nestled in the middle of Netley right by the sea. Glorious views of the Solent with so many green areas to enjoy. Playing sport, having a picnic or just walking around. Surrounded not just by peaceful greenery but years of history. Who knew somewhere so nice could be so close to Southampton.

Have watched history happen - Taskforce leaving for the Falklands; final journeys of QE1 & 2, Queen Mary and the like. Large container ships bringing goods. Good, clean, free, family fun. Playing in the woods with my children and grandchildren, crabbing off the sea wall. Valued the simple pleasures! Wild weather - Heathcliff country

Appendix C - Postcards from the Future

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.

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.

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.

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.