

Coastal Liaison Group

Meeting No. 10

25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

CE Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Hall

Minutes

**Representatives  
Councillors**

**Present**  
B. Dennehy  
A. Henchy  
P. Mulville

**Apologies**

**Representatives  
Community**

H. Donovan  
P. O'Brien  
C. Sargent  
F. Price  
M. Moynihan

M. Deegan  
R. Brett

**Council Officials**

K. Halpenny  
AM. Farrelly  
H. Visser  
S. Peppard

Mr. K Halpenny welcomed the members and noted apologies. He then introduced Mr. Adrian Bell from RPS who was attending the meeting today to make a presentation to the members.

**1. Minutes of Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.**

The minutes of the previous meetings which had been circulated prior to the meeting were AGREED.

## **2. Update on National Coastal Erosion Audit.**

Mr. K. Halpenny informed the members that the Audit has been formally submitted to the Government by the CCMA and a response is now awaited.

## **3. Update on Consultant's Reports on Coastal Erosion & Flooding at Portrane**

Adrian Bell began the presentation with a brief summary of the situation in Portrane. He stated that a meeting had taken place with NPWS, OPW & FCC but further investigation was needed. In the meantime, it was suggested that temporary emergency works were needed and Mr. Bell made a presentation regarding same. There were 3 options; Armour the shoreline, Floating breakwater & Wave attenuation device.

Wave attenuation device was the preferred choice as this takes the steam out of the waves and can save the dunes. It is also reusable, easily constructed and removed. A short video was shown demonstrating how this operated and the reduction in wave energy caused. The final design will be based on the beach survey being carried out by drone when the data is available. Consultants have recently been appointed to carry out Flood Risk Management and awaiting this data also. Mr. Bell also stated that because of the location of the Median High Water Level relative to the planned measures there was no need for a Foreshore Licence.

At this point Ms. Farrelly stated that OPW & NWPS have worked with FCC but there are still a few steps to go through. NWPS accept something needs to be but still need to be convinced that it will not impact on the environment. Mr. Halpenny stated that RPS has made a lot of effort to minimise any problems/issues that may arise.

M. Moynihan enquired about the area these would be placed and will this push the problem elsewhere. Mr. Bell stated that this was temporary works and cannot cover the whole beach because of this reason – it was to minimise risks. It would be hoped to eventually build up the beach but for the moment only temporary emergency works can be carried out. Fishtail Groins could eventually be used which stops waves, protects the beach and helps the environment. They are usually made of rock and provide a physical barrier. This needs more study but the principle is well established. A discussion took place in relation to the “sandsavers” which were previously suggested by the Liaison Group and Mr. Bell explained that the principle of the Wave Attenuation Device was much the same.

Ms. Farrelly stated that it is necessary to work through the process, and EIS, Planning etc is required and we're looking at approximately 3 years before completed. Finance will come from the OPW but the process at present needs to be completed within the next 2/3 weeks in order for the works to be ready in October/November before the Winter.

Further discussion took place among the members regarding the temporary emergency works and it was suggested that other groups such as Birdwatch Ireland & Coastwatch Ireland should be informed in order to gather support.

The following was put forward by the members and AGREED:

"That the Coastal Liaison Group recommends that emergency powers be initiated to urgently address coastal erosion along the Portrane Coastline."

#### **4. Erosion at Old Dump Site (east of Clifflands).**

F. Price stated that the Old Dump site dates back to the 60's, it is the north side of Rush and the wall is eroding (photograph was shown). H. Visser stated the Environment Section looked at this and will be setting up a framework to investigate landfills – this will get priority. Once the investigation is done, this will determine what solution is necessary. There are no designated issues, ground investigation, risks then solution. It would be hoped that this would be done approx. September. F. Price asked if he could have this in writing and it was AGREED and this will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

#### **Briefing for Coastal Liaison Group on Brooks End Protection Wall**

**July 2018**

The Brooks End site is on the S22 register as having municipal waste deposited there up to circa 1963. In line with the waste licence, issued by the then Minister for Industry and Commerce in 1956, a retaining or protective wall was constructed to confine the waste at the seaward side and to prevent its removal by tidal action. The site was examined in 2017 as part of a National Coastal Erosion Audit. While the site is subject to further risk assessment, it is not considered as a Class A site in terms of the Eastern-Midlands Region – Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 approach to prioritising sites for investigation, authorisation and remediation. Class A sites are typically sites with Landfill Gas issues.

The site was visited by the Environment Division in 2015 and again earlier this month to determine if the retaining wall's condition had worsened and if waste was continuing to be deposited there. It appears that there has been some further erosion to the wall but apart from green waste, possibly of local origin, it does not appear that there is a fly-tipping issue behind the wall.

Given the complexity of undertaking engineering work in an aggressive marine environment, the risk associated with a structural failure of the existing structure from an environmental perspective must be established before deciding on what steps need to be taken. This will take the form of delineation of extent of the waste body and its characterisation through a combination of trial pit logging and laboratory analysis of waste/soil samples. Fingal is currently preparing an open tender to set up a framework for investigating historic landfills and Brooks End will be the first tender awarded under this framework.

The outcome of this investigation will determine the scale and nature of any remedial works, which will need a separate study to assess feasibility and design options.

## **5. Date/Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 4.00pm in County Hall, Swords.