Coastal Liaison Group

Meeting No. 16

11th September 2019 – 4pm

Room 3A6, County Hall, Swords

Present Apologies

Councillors Adrian Henchy Paul Mulville

Brian Dennehy

Representatives Henry Donovan Michael Deegan

Michael Moynihan Raymond Brett

Fintan Price Charles Sargent

Pat O’Brien

Council Officials Kevin Halpenny

Hans Visser

1. Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th June 2019 which had been circulated prior to the meeting were AGREED.

1. Update on Emergency Works at Burrow Beach and briefing on long-term approach to dealing with erosion/flooding in the Rogerstown Estuary.

KH showed the meeting phots of Portrane in 1950s which were obtained from the Burrow Residents Association which shows the erosion that has taken place to-date. He stated it would be useful if more of these photos could be obtained in order to make comparison of past and today. FP suggested measurements be taken of the pier.

KH spoke in relation to the document on flooding in Rogerstown, Rush – Flood Erosion Risk Management Study. RPS have been asked to do further analysis - this should be complete by end September. It will be circulated to the members and placed on the website when complete. Options assessment review is anticipated in January 2020. When the options assessment is available a meeting will be held to discuss these options. Further discussion took place regarding this process. PM referred to the minutes of the last meeting where RPS where to be back in August with the completed document. KH stated that FCC had some queries and document the document should be completed end of September. He stated that Risk Assessment has to be put against the options? Climate change also must be taken into account. It was only erosion before where there is flooding also now. PO’B asked is there a time limit as the process seems endless? HV stated that consultants are not hiring, and everything is taking longer. Ah looked for clarification regarding the process? KH informed the members that some amendments had to made to the document; the options will then be given against this data. MM also looked for a timeframe which KH stated he could not say, possibly this time next year for planning decision on Options which it is likely will have to go to the EU. AH enquired as the European policy which HV replied that policy at present is coastal retreat. PM enquired about one of the properties near the beach? KH informed the meeting that RPS are monitoring the situation as this not a situation FCC want. MM about enquired about the Seabees for the winter? KH stated that RPS are satisfied with the way they are working, and they do not require realignment. Discussion took place in relation to the matter and KH stated that the advice is not to realign as RPS currently state the Seabees are effective and functioning in the manner expected. Also, a Contractor is available to respond immediately if necessary. AH asked about the Options and if this has to go the An Bord Pleanala. KH stated yes – firstly public consultation, then ABP, then Europe and funding depending on Option agreed. KH also stated that the finalised Risk Management Study will be circulated, and the members are welcome to come back with any queries they may have.

1. Report on approach to Fingal Coastal Monitoring programme

KH stated that FCC were in discussions with the OPW regarding how we might put an arrangement in place to give ongoing assessment of the situation along the coast. This is a National Programme and the OPW confirmed at the start of August that Fingal will be the pilot scheme. – Rogerstown, Rush. There are 3 key pieces of monitoring: -

* Bathymetric Surveys – 5 year cycle – very detailed
* Aerial Photography – annually
* Lidar Surveys – annually, Aug to Sept.

FCC will have access to all data from the OPW. This project is to begin straight away. FP stated that sand is being disturbed (nothing but stone) due to fishing in the area and the problem is man-made not the environment. HV suggested writing to [Bord Iascaigh Mhara](http://www.bim.ie/) to inform them of the situation and that fishing is adding to the problem. PM enquired if this was an objective of the Development Plan? KH stated it was and could be rolled out countrywide.

1. Briefing on Brook End former Landfill.

KH stated that Atkins are on site – they have taken dry samples and this week they will bore holes for ground water samples. It is hoped to have a report early 2020. FP enquired if this could be prioritised and KH informed him that this programme involves a number of sites.

1. Briefing on Burrow Beach & Claremont Beach

KH stated that he had no report and no resources to put into this study at present – not a priority.

1. Update on Report on National Coastal Erosion Audit.

Discussion took place in relation to this matter and KH stated that it had been suggested at the last meeting to engage with the Mayor of FCC. HV also stated that he had spoken the D. O’Brien TD. AH stated as a committee they should approach the Mayor and also approach other counties. HV agreed to speak to the Mayor of FCC initially. FP enquired is there anything happening around the Country? HV stated that the CCMA has asked the Government three times without success. KH stated the Mayor is just a way to move it up the ladder into Local Government. FP asked if the Minister could be invited to Fingal for a presentation. HV felt this would work. PM also asked if Fingal Oireachtas Members could be invited. KH stated that he would pass this request to this Director for the next Oireachtas members briefing.

1. AOB

BD showed some photos in relation to the Brook Stream, North Beach, Rush which showed the stream not in a straight line due to rock armour. The bank on left is being eroded. HV stated that any significant storm the beach would increase. FP suggested that Seabees could be placed at one side of the stream. BD stated that there are homes at risk also. HV said that these properties are not permanent homes, only holiday homes which have become permanent similar to the case in Portrane. Discussion took place in relation to this issue and HV stated there is no flood/erosion risk as rock armour is in place. KH said he will raise the matter with Operations as to commitments in the past and resources available at present for a solution. AH spoke in relation to a Motion he raised at the County Council Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019 – he enquired if a representative from this committee should be at the meeting between Operations and An Taisce. KH stated he cannot commit to cleaning tidal areas and the responsibility for this work is unclear. If necessary, he can attend and will speak to Operations regarding this.

1. Date of next meeting.

No date was given for the next meeting as KH stated the members will be notified at a later time as waiting on final reports from RPS.