

Informal briefing for Sidmouth & East Beach BMP Project Advisory Group held on 15 July 2021.

Attending were:

Clrs Jung; Rylance; Loudound; Rixson and Hughes
Ian Barlow, Chris Lockyear, Sidmouth Town Council
John Radford CRAG
Paul Griew CRAG
Sarah Hook, Sidmouth Hoteliers
Tony Burch
Martin Davies, EA
Nick Jennings DCC
Mary Walden-Hill VGS
Richard Eley, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce

Tom Buxton-Smith
Andrew Hancock
John Golding
Debbie Meakin

Questions/clarity/discussion included:

- How relevant direction of waves were on the effectiveness of any tombola installations, and the depth of beach needed to officer the protection required;
- Care of any tombola placement to avoid rip tides; careful signage needed to make public aware of risks;
- Understanding that the immediate benefit of tombolas would mean that an extensive recharge of beach wasn't required, and that beach depth and size could gradually build over time to add further protection;
- Preference to reuse materials of existing groynes if they were deemed to be redundant in future years, including sale or reuse at other sites;
- Careful management of any beach at East Beach because of the risks of cliff fall and cut off from the main beach – the group were reminded that developing east beach as an amenity space was outside of the remit;
- There was no further information at the time of the briefing in respect of the height of the tombolas. The group discussed the risks relating to rock islands that may be submerged at high tide despite having markers in place; the solution of a platform on each island was suggested;
- Cost of temporary rock revetment anticipated between £200k and £300k; reminder from resident that to cover Cliff Road, the length was just over 200 metres;
- Drainage at top of cliff was not part of scope and would have to be referred elsewhere;
- Existing seagrass beds would be taken into account. Generally marine life increased around structures in the water, such as rock islands, so hopefully any installation would at least keep habitat levels the same if not increase;
- A suggestion was made to see if additional seagrass planting could be incorporated into the scheme; whilst not directly related to flood protection, the environmental benefits would increase;
- Concern that the temporary rock reventment permission would be difficult to secure because of the potential objection from Jurassic Coast Trust and Natural England;
- MP involvement had already taken place and may continue going forward;
- Updates emailed out to the Group would be welcomed, with meetings held as and when the Project Board needed advice from the Group. Any update should also include progress on the formation of the Project Board.