



NEW MILTON
T O W N C O U N C I L

Christchurch Bay and Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (FCERM)

Introduction

New Forest District Council are working with BCP Council and the Environment Agency to engage the public in strategy development for sustainable management for the next 100 years. The area contained in this consultation is from Hengistbury Head to Hurst Spit. It aims to protect communities from erosion and tidal flooding, considering effects of climate change raised sea levels and storm frequencies. The area has been split into five sections and the one summarised in this report is for Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea, being in direct interest of this authority. Members of the public are being urged to share historic photographs which can help document changes seen and have requested this is done electronically via the website. The public consultation is accessible via [Have your say on protecting Christchurch Bay and Harbour from future flood and erosion risk - Poole & Christchurch Bays Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(twobays.net\)](https://www.twobays.net) and the deadline for completion of the survey is 15 August 2021. Findings will be reported on and used to set Strategy objectives. The final strategy is expected for adoption in Summer 2023.

Need - Permissive powers enable NFDC and BCP to manage coastal erosion where it is feasible. Environment Agency and BCP are Lead Local Flood Authorities, whereas in NFDC area this falls to Hampshire County Council. In 2020 £450,000 was secured by BCP in Flood Defence Grant to produce the strategy, and AECOM are assisting.

Having a strategy means it is possible to seek funding for future defence works. Currently the works are funded by Flood Defence Grant in Aid or council budget but there is uncertainty whether this will continue.

If nature is let to run its course, modelling suggests an average up to 1m would erode each year, plus losses due to climate change and storminess. Cliffs, affected by both toe erosion and groundwater, have infrequent but greater scale losses so these are averaged to give a yearly figure. There are two main categories of defence structure, being HARD ENGINEERING sea walls, groynes etc to reduce wave impact and SOFT dunes and saltmarsh creation, beach renourishment to absorb wave energy. When well informed these measures can be used together however there will always be areas where defences are not possible or appropriate. It is recognised that these communities need support to adapt and although insurance can cover tidal/coastal flooding there is currently no insurance against coastal erosion.

Environmental Considerations - Management techniques can significantly impact habitats, coastal process and geological features. Coastal management must allow natural habitats to adjust and adhere to relevant legislation on conservation designations which protect many habitats.

Policies affecting the Strategy - The overview document Poole and Christchurch Bay Shoreline management Plan (2011) sets out the policy direction and takes account of the differing environments by using approaches of

Hold the Line / Managed Realignment / No Active Intervention / Advance the Line.

This strategy will develop preferred options to that contained in the SMP, in a sustainable way. Once options have been found, development would continue with detailed design and business cases to enable consents and funding.

Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea - Within the SMP the policy is 'Managed realignment' (manage coastal processes to realign the natural coastline either seaward or landward of existing position). The policy will seek potential schemes to slow erosion rate. Cliff losses will continue short and long term. The partners will work with private landowners to identify reasonable solutions and continue the erosion monitoring on the cliffs.

Neighbouring zone - The neighbouring zone from Milford on Sea extending to Lymington River is being assessed for sustainable management by NFDC, HCC, Environment Agency and Natural England.

Beach Management Plans - These continue to be important as inform the need for renourishment and other defence types. They also include beach minimum levels and volumes to help ward against storm incidents. There is no plan suggested for Barton.

Suggested Response

We fully support the seeking of sustainable measures to protect the coastline where reasonable, in line with that contained in the Shoreline management Plan.

We request that further public events are held or that the presentation given is accessible on the Two Bays website. This would enhance the number of historic photos and other resources that may come forward.