

Swanage Seafront Stabilisation Works Get Underway



Work is underway to deliver the Swanage seafront stabilisation scheme which will see the soil on the Recreation Ground pinned back to prevent land slippage onto Shore Road. The project also includes the construction of new public toilets, two-tiers of beach huts and a permanent kiosk on the corner of Shore Road and Victoria Avenue.

The scheme will cost approximately £2 million and is being funded directly by Swanage Town Council, principally from the proceeds from the leasehold disposal of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park in 2009. Unfortunately, as the work cannot be classified as coast protection, no grant funding was available from central government.

Reaction to the proposed additional tier of beach huts, as shown in the image above, has been largely positive following the public consultation held earlier in the year. The design, by local architects Morgan Carey Architects, has been sensitive to the conservation area, ensuring a break in the second tier and a restriction in the height of the huts to preserve the green appearance of the Recreation Ground from the beach.

Town Mayor, Councillor Ali Patrick said 'This work is vital to protect Swanage seafront from the effects of land slips, ensuring that it remains a key attraction to visitors to the town. Although the stabilisation work is expensive, it has provided the opportunity to breathe new life into this area whilst still retaining the traditional seaside character of Swanage'.

Councillor Patrick continued: 'The income that the Town Council receives from the additional beach huts and new kiosk will help fund the facilities that the Town Council provides, including the Tourist Information Centre, public conveniences, parks, gardens and children's play areas'.

Work will also be undertaken to stabilise land on the Downs, at an additional cost of approximately £300,000. This will hold back the encroachment of soil onto Broad Road Car Park, which has seen the size of parking spaces shrink in recent years as land slippage has worsened.

Weather permitting, both schemes are scheduled to be largely completed by Easter with a target final completion date of the end of May 2014. The new beach huts will be available for hire from mid-June onwards and because of their construction they can also be let over the winter. Anyone interested in hiring a beach hut should contact the Tourist Information Centre to be sent a booking form. They can be contacted either by telephone on 01929 422885 or e-mail mail@swanage.gov.uk