

NOTES OF MEETING – 18th AUGUST 2003

SUBJECT: Swanage Beach Recharge Scheme

Present:	Cllr A Miller	Town Mayor	Mr A Leeson	Town Clerk
	Cllr H Agelink		Mr R Garwood	PDC
	Cllr Mrs C Bartlett		Mr M Goater	PDC
	Cllr C Bright		Cllr J Roscoe	PDC
	Cllr Mrs C Gainsborough		Cllr M Shakesby	PDC
	Cllr Mrs H O' Donovan		Cllr D Hiatt	DCC
	Cllr M Pratt			
	Cllr M Tyrer			
	Cllr Mrs J Wheeldon			

Presentation

Mr R Garwood, Environmental Services Manager gave a detailed presentation covering various aspects of the proposed scheme to protect an area within Swanage Bay from erosion and to recharge the Swanage Beach between the outfall jetty (opposite Victoria Avenue) extending northwards to Sheps Hollow.

Specific areas covered in the presentation included details of why the study was commissioned by the District Council i.e. its capacity as the coastal defence authority with specific responsibility for Swanage Bay.

Background details were also provided regarding Halcrow, the District Council's appointed firm of consultants.

Members were advised of the consultation process conducted to date, together with the publicity and awareness campaign launched in March 2003, as part of the Poole Bay & Harbour Strategy.

Particular reference was given to the land ownership issues within Swanage Bay and the need to identify individual landowners as part of the consultation exercise, currently being undertaken.

The scope of the study had considered coast history, groynes, the seawall condition, geology, tides and currents, movement of sand and shingle within the Bay, the effect on unique marine habitats and marine animals and seabirds.

Reference was made to the various options already considered. These ranged from "do nothing" to the removal of all existing groynes. Other options included plan to replace existing groynes with either new timber or rock groynes. The latter, requiring the sand on the beach to be recharged. It was highlighted that the Consultant's recommended option is to install ten rock groynes extending northwards from the outfall jetty (opposite Victoria Avenue).

It was explained that funding support was available, through Government grant, should the Consultant's favoured option be adopted and implemented.

Questions & Answers

A lengthy question and answer session was conducted with many issues being addressed. All Members were invited to participate and each was able to address any individual areas of concern or points requiring clarification.

Recommendation

The Town Mayor sought the collective views of the Town Councillors concerning the specific proposal to install ten stone groynes and to recharge the sand, whereupon it was agreed that the following statement be adopted:-

“That Swanage Town Council supports the proposals, in principle, subject to full consultation with all interested parties within the whole community of Swanage, before any decision or planning application is made”.

The Clerk agreed to communicate the views in writing to the District Council in time for a meeting scheduled for 19th August 2003.

Alan Leeson
Town Clerk