

North Norfolk District Council Coastal Planning Workshop

th
18 November 2008
The Pleasaunce, Overstrand



**Participants' Feedback
of the day**

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1. Background

This workshop, held on the 18th November 2008, was organised to help North Norfolk District Council develop an approach to tackling the challenges that coastal communities face now and in the future.

The event was designed and facilitated by an independent team from Dialogue by Design Limited, a company specialising in designing and managing participatory and consultation processes. The workshop used plenary, small group and individual working. This report is a transcript of the notes taken on flipchart paper throughout the day, and includes individual contributions made in writing in response to specific questions. Each section starts with an explanation of the task which participants were asked to contribute to (in the grey box).

Our expectation is that NNDC will use this transcript to produce a summary report which will be more understandable to those people who were not present on the day. We also anticipate that NNDC will make clear to stakeholders how the discussions on the 18th November go on to inform their draft CMP.

2. Agenda

10.00	Welcome and introductions
	Changes on our coast
	Coastal Management Plan (CMP)
Break	
	Our contribution to the future
Lunch	
	Getting more specific about the future
Break	
	Taking stock of the discussions
	The way forward
	Closing words
16.30	Close

3. Welcome and Introductions

Timescales exercise

As participants arrived they were invited to take part in a timescales exercise, which involved answering the question “When thinking about coastal management planning, how far into the future should NNDC be looking?”. The participants’ answers were collated into a graph and reported back during the workshop, see section 6.

Welcome and introductions

Cllr Clive Stockton welcomed people to the day. The facilitation team was introduced, as were officers and members from NNDC, the Environment Agency, Norfolk County Council and Natural England. See appendix 2 for a list of participants.

Who else should we be inviting to get involved in coastal management planning?

A flip chart was on display throughout the day, where anyone could add their suggestions of who else to involve.

Who else should we be inviting to get involved in coastal management planning?

- Police re: flood sirens – let's not forget Walcott?
- 18-25 age group
- 25-40 age group
- School pupil forum – the immediate future
- Local representatives of Victorian society/Georgian group

For more information

In response to a request, information about how to access additional information on the NNDC website was provided.

North Norfolk website

www.northnorfolk.org → Living & community → Coastal management → Coastal Management Plan → North Norfolk CMP Evidence Gathering Study Final Report or Coastal Service Village Workshop Feedback Reports

4. Changes on our coast

Changes on our coast

Participants were invited to describe two changes each:

* Past to present... this is a change to the North Norfolk coast and its communities, which I have noticed or experienced...

* present to future... this is a change which I expect will happen, to the North Norfolk coast and its communities...

They were then invited to indicate which of four categories their changes fell into (economy, society, environment or other) and whether the change they were describing made them feel broadly happy or broadly unhappy.

Each set of responses was then examined, grouped and discussed by a small group of participants sitting at tables, who provided a summary of their findings to the rest of the group.

The responses and summaries are reproduced below.

Economy - Unhappy

Change noticed/experienced

Big increase in second home ownership – destroys the community if too high a percentage.

Second homes devouring communities resulting in closed shops, pubs, churches.

Lack of investment by central government.

Increase in retired – pressure on infrastructure.

Drop in property values.

Decline in the number of visitors to the coastal area of young families.

1. Coastal slumps
2. More retirement and weekender homes
3. Less community based employment opportunities
4. Restriction/intolerance of leisure pursuits – horse riding, motor craft etc.
5. Inappropriate development – cliff-top and flood risk areas.

Pressures on coastal businesses and communities due to flood risk.

A change to the demographic – incoming families and mid-age professionals as well as those who retire to the area. This has brought about a change to the aspirations of the area, the demand for facilities and services, elements of what might be termed globalisation rather than regionalism.

SMPs without social justice cause ongoing property blight.

Lack of confidence.

Change expect

Coastal villages will suffer blight due to SMP – no new development inside 100 year line.

Less investment in the area from the private individual.

Loss of property to erosion.

Destruction of property.

Loss of more cliffs and coastal area, including nature reserves.

Limit probably to ability to defend coastline – property and communications affected.

Loss of coastal prosperity.

Slow down of economic and social activity as dereliction increases – unsaleable properties, unviable businesses/clubs etc.

Fishing communities experiencing difficulties e.g. launching boats etc. Loss of access to beach.

More erosion therefore more local taxation.
People who see their property go 'down cliff' should be offered proper compensation in future.
There is a danger with on-coming recession that without careful management, North Norfolk could become an economically-deprived area. New initiatives, creative opportunities must be provided to support. These must embrace both environmental and economic issues.
Increased second homes with dualling of A11 increases tourism. Erosion of existing coastline.
Continued increase in population with consequences on services in the area.
The struggle to finance defences.
Central government does not wish to commit funds to coastal defence in the absence of a disaster. It recognises that this may infringe people's basic rights. I therefore expect to see a fragmentation of policy with economically viable communities being encouraged to defend their patch and weaker ones being left to the forces of nature.
Those responsible for the local communities to engage meaningfully with the local communities. Listen to concerns and act positively upon them.
Overstrand: Defra will end up defending it.

Table Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus is on individuals – loss of property etc. - Concern was not expressed about impact on broader local economy (missing but crucial) - Uncertainty: lack of knowledge about what the future holds: impact on property prices - Equation of flooding/erosion as cause of economic decline/threat <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning blight 2. Practical problems for fishermen – loss of launch facilities 3. Disempowerment of communities – loss of services – second homes 4. Cost!!

Economy- Happy

Change noticed/experienced

Regeneration funding which has been channelled locally.
Big increases in bird numbers on North Norfolk coast.
Longer tourist season.

Change expect

Further cliff erosion but more controlled with a more united protection policy which takes into account of social and economic issues as well as environmental.
To increase visitors through coastal planning meetings and the community working together.

Table Summary

Past- Present <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regeneration funding locally has brought benefits e.g. Cromer, Sheringham et al 2. Tourism season has been extended "grey pound" + birds, marine
Future By working together economic opportunities will arise and this will benefit local Communities

Environment - Unhappy

Change noticed/experienced

Deterioration of existing sea defences (breakwaters/groynes)
Beaches narrowing, defences more vulnerable Defences in need of repair Infrastructure – e.g. road repairs not keeping pace Business leaving some villages
Breakwaters not maintained between towns and villages. Cliff deterioration
The effect of the non replacement of post 1959 defences – groynes / revetments etc
In Cromer area there has been a removal of beach materials. Continued erosion of cliffs.
Loss of cliff pathways on West and East sides of Cromer – particularly East – at least 50 yds. Loss of pathway to Overstrand and part of Golf course. Thank goodness our predecessors built prom and sea defences in late 1890s (I wasn't here then)
Receding coast along whole area, well known Mundesley and Cromer and along whole Eastern coast
Up to 30 years ago I had part ownership of a home at Happisburgh. We sold it when we judged that at current rates of erosion it would be close to the cliff top in 30 years. It is now perched on the cliff top.
Loss of beach – erosion Erosion of cliffs.
The cliffs at Sidestrand fall away at 3 feet each year and have done for centuries. There is no protection on the beach at present.
Beach loss
Soft cliffs eroding
Disappearing beaches Eroding cliffs and sand dunes All at increasing rates
Cliff erosion – effect on holiday parks on the cliff tops. Losing valuable land which is crucial to the tourist industry.
More storms, less sand on the beach
Sea moving inland permanently!?! And occasional inundations also (public concern wider)
1. Noticeable cliff slips on East beach of Sheringham in last 3 years. Lived on the edge of Beeston Bump for over 20 years have seen a difference. 2. Storms and surges seeming to be higher and more forceful.
1. Cliff falls- mainly every March at spring tides – these appear to get heavier every year. 2. Coast road flooding where coastal defences have now been abandoned to the sea.
Between Sheringham and Mundesley - Coastal change Revetments at Mundesley over the last 50 years have disappeared. Cliffs have not been eroded by the sea so much in the later part. The harbour at Sea Palling has now been very successful.
Reduced amount of sediment recycling the low lying part of the coast – particularly the section south of the 9 reefs. This has resulted in the base of the sea wall being exposed from time to time – will be a consequence that its supporting piles be undercut by the sea.
Correlation between level, place and positions of offshore aggregate dredging site and shoreline loss, tidal encroachment and beach stripping, hence undermine [ED: illegible word] of cliffs, dunes and sea defences.
1. 1996 – breach of shingle bank at Cley – power of the sea in rolling shingle inland

2. Nov 2007 – widespread removal of shingle at Cley River Glaven re-alignment then in place
Impact on communities (and individuals) including those living some way from the coast whose lives have been blighted through the threat of managed coastal flooding.
With my NFU Mutual hat on I have noticed that I now have to check the Environment Agency flood map by putting in the postcode of the property to see if the property is at risk of flooding. If it is then we have to decline to offer insurance.
The planning regulations are being based on a SMP which has been discredited because it has fundamental flaws in both its scientific and economic findings. This seems to put the cart before the horse.
Communities are more interested in what happens with coastal defences and policy. 20 Years ago it was assumed the line would be held, policy has gradually changed and communities feel they have been abandoned to cost cutting by central government.
Land, which if a more enlightened decision had been made would have been allowed to revert back to salt-marsh, was retained because of the many wildlife designations on it. In the future human life could be lost if this difficulty cannot be resolved. Or this above situation is repeated.
The washing away of the shingle bank has given our coast a more natural, visually attractive and wild character, however residents are concerned their properties are more vulnerable – an issue of balancing needs and expectations.

Change expect

Major breach by sea at some point in the next 50 years
Some sea defences will fail and not be replaced.
Further erosion of cliffs. Move properties fast.
More erosion of the cliffs – sand on beach disappear. General beach loss, loss of access to tourists etc and beach boats.
More loss of cliffs at Cromer.
Further erosion which will cause property blight if not dealt with effectively.
I expect that the coastline will continue to crumble and where undefended this erosion will accelerate and that the curve of the existing coastline from Cromer to Great Yarmouth will create a different coastline.
Further loss of beaches, sand cliffs, dunes, salination of aquifers and agriculture water resources, flooding until such a time as offshore dredging is made illegal.
Increasing loss of beach materials and [ED: illegible word] undermining of the sea wall between <i>Cart Gap</i> and Winterton vs. increased risks of coastal parishes e.g. Somerton, Sea Palling being flooded.
More extreme weather events Increasing pressure in coastal defences – and resources
There will be submergence along the North Norfolk coast.
Need for active and financial supported management of existing coast defence line.
Hope for serious consideration of flood defences at Wells-next-the-Sea much of which is undefended
Nature will take its course; our responsibility should be to look after the environment – sensible use of natural resources.
My concern is with respect to the resistance to change – many areas of this coast will need to be allowed to retreat naturally for a sustainable coast to evolve - the many 'wildlife' designations in place over these areas will delay or even prevent these actions.

Because this category attracted so many responses, they were divided between two tables to summarise.

Table Summaries

<p>Table 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Predictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extreme weather (storms, surges) - Threat of sea breach within 50 years - Salination of aquatic and natural resources - Cliff slips, loss sand dunes, disappearing beaches 2. Problems with defences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pressure on defences - Decisions based on flawed shoreline management plan - Decisions involving wildlife designations may threaten human life - Problems with flooding/insurance 3. "Let nature take its course" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance needs + expectations of home owners - Accept different coastline 4. Solutions? Better flood defences
<p>Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion: loss of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o property o land (agricultural) o infrastructure o tourism o environment (existing) o beach - Flooding: loss of life - Offshore dredging – impact on coastline - Coastal zone? (10km [ED: illegible: may be "Europe"]) – increased traffic

Environment - Happy

Change noticed/experienced

No change apparent since the last big tidal surges.
Cley wildlife area – shingle defence wall no longer maintained; beach car park and café affected. Realistic-happy
Habitats have changed and sand dunes have disappeared e.g. Holkham replaced by salt marshes.

Change expect

Changes in habitats – not necessarily for the worse – natural progression

Table Summary

Habitat change e.g. to Saltmarshes Produce a more natural coastline
--

Society - Unhappy

Change noticed/experienced

Increase of non permanent residential ownership Regular loss of land to sea Variable approach to defence systems against erosion Change in fishing technologies Gradual ownership of land by "interest" groups
--

Ever increasing problems for local people in finding affordable housing. Properties increasingly becoming second homes. Blakeney Harbour silting up – one day will become unusable – a valuable resource that may be lost.
Shift to second home ownership in coastal villages and subsequent decline in sense of community and provision for local young people.
The future – house sales, what is going to happen?
Loss of confidence in coastal communities' belief in their future.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beeston bump much reduced 2. Warmer winters, wetter summers 3. Growth in population 4. In balance of population – many more bungalows and retired folk 5. Coast receding at Overstrand
Community changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - properties being deliberately built on cliff tops - Cliff tops slipping into sea, not falling – being undermined.
Cliff erosion and paths, access lost, buildings lost Beach changes [ED: illegible word] sand /shingle Beach facilities damaged or swept away.
Greater awareness of coastal matters coupled with greater concern for the future
Large increase in the number of visitors both summer and winter which has resulted in a great imbalance in villages between permanent residences and holiday homes.
Failure of consultation or engage with the local communities by the police.

Change expect

More flooding and erosion.
Loss of homes, land, structures.
Loss of beach, reduction in tourism, area loss of ££s input.
If defences are abandoned people will lose their businesses and homes.
We have to solve the second homes problem – or they will destroy the communities they are attracted to.
Sea level rise and erosion will force us to adapt. This will inevitably include loss and or relocation of property.
The problem of affordable housing for locals becoming ever worse, unless policies are changed.
The village community has to a greater or lesser extent disappeared and certainly in the last 20 years the attitude “I’ll leave it to others” has prevailed.
Without major planning, expected slow down of economic, social and well being of people and societies.
Future – long-term Continuing roll-back of coastline. Weybourne, Blakeney, Cley and Wells at risk but not as quickly as communities on east coast.
Without intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - failure of communities and infrastructure With support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger communities with job prospects, leisure facilities and decent homes.
Community falls apart!
They will take more control so less council etc.

Table Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o confidence o assets o community

- Worries about more second homes
- Lack of affordable housing

Society - Happy

Change noticed/experienced

The communities tend to be less Norfolk in the last 30 years with a greater rise of people coming into the areas which I think is better for the community as a whole.

Change expect

none

Other - Unhappy

Change noticed/experienced

none

Change expect

Communities will become more concerned and prepared to dispute policy.

Can't answer this as all depends on central government having an attack of common sense or otherwise.

Unknown at this point! In the sea?

Table Summary

Lack of faith in central government forcing local communities to unite and be involved in local policy making

Other - Happy

Change noticed/experienced

none

Change expect

none

Following the summaries from the table groups, there was some discussion in plenary about what had come up.

Observations on unhappy/happy discussions

- Concern
- Is government listening to us?
- Erosion not natural – dredging for aggregates a key cause
- But in western part, erosion is natural
- Only one way to compensate: 100% compensation for losses
- Cannot distinguish natural from unnatural – key distinction is between whether can manage or not
- Natural or unnatural, same consequences. But £1.2Billion profits from dredging means that there is funding available for compensation

- Pessimism that we cannot solve these problems; but there are solutions around the world
- Coastal erosion will ultimately effect the Norfolk Broads also
- More information is key – at start of process now
- Changes are threatening our livelihood: our concern is galvanising us into discussion and action

5. Coastal Management Plan

Rob Young, Senior Planner at NNDC, gave a presentation and answered questions. The summary below is taken from Rob Young's notes.

Coastal Planning workshop: The Future of our Coast - Notes of presentation

Why NNDC has decided to develop a Coastal Management Plan (CMP).

The presentation included an update on the two Shoreline Management Plans under preparation, explaining why NNDC and local communities were uncomfortable with impacts of SMP2 for sub-cell 3b (i.e. there is no mechanism to manage the consequences of the policy changes).

It outlined the limitations re: timescale, scope and flexibility of the Local Development Framework and explained that a new tool was needed to foster co-ordination/ integration in coastal policy making.

The CMP is needed because:

The North Norfolk coast is important for:

- Quality of life
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Fishing
- Environment.....

The North Norfolk coast is vulnerable

- Parts of the district are low lying and susceptible to flooding and the retreat of natural defences.
- Others are comprised of soft cliffs that are susceptible to erosion.
- In the past attempts have been made to reduce the risks by constructing defences (groynes, revetments, sea walls etc.). These were largely successful and as a result of the establishment of stable areas of coast, which provided certainty and security, further development took place.
- However, considerable investment is needed in order to maintain this 'static' state.

The Coast is Changing

- Certain influences have begun to demonstrate that that static state may be unsustainable. The profile of the coast is changing, exposing significant areas to risk. This dynamic state is fuelled by the changes in coast protection policy – towards a 'naturally functioning' coastline - and as a result of the impacts of climate change (sea level rise and storms).
- Plans and strategies are published which predict these changes - SMPs Climate Impacts Programme etc., however, there is no mechanism for managing that change.

Our response to this challenge: why managing the coast has to be different in future

- SMP's only cover a narrow remit and only include a narrow assessment of impacts.
- LDF's are unable to respond over an appropriate timescale and really only direct new development
- The vast array of issues within the coastal zone are interrelated and need an integrated solution

The big choices facing NNDC

- Can we continue as we have been (with the narrow basis of decision making) or should we innovate to develop an appropriate response?
- We need to work within existing systems, but also to push boundaries!
- Broadening the agenda - adaptation work, Marine Bill
- Resources!

Questions to Rob Young, Senior Planner, NNDC

Q. What is a CMP and how does it relate to other documents like SMPs, LDF etc?

A. It is an umbrella document that will coordinate other plans, strategies and actions relating to the coastal zone. The LDF documents will remain the main consideration in planning decisions and the SMPs will continue to set the policy for coast defence decisions but the CMP will influence future revisions of those documents. It will seek to clarify the process of decision making in relation to the coast and crucially it will attempt to fill in the gaps left by those plans in areas such as 'adaptation' and regeneration.

Q. What timescales does NNDC see it covering and what is the rationale behind this?

A. The Plan will probably have different timescales for different things. It is hoped that the overall aims and objectives (vision?) will be long-term, however, certain actions and interventions will need to be achieved in the short-term. The current LDF Core Strategy covers the period up to 2021, however, the revised Regional Planning policy will go to 2031 (reasonably short-term in relation to SMP policy - that goes is up to 100 years).

Q. What things is it expected to cover?

A. The Plan will include all manner of coastal related themes, for example:

- Coast Protection and flood defence
- Coastal industries, employment and the local economy
- Coastal Access
- Car parks and tourist facilities
- The use of the foreshore, promenades and beaches
- Leisure & Recreation
- Infrastructure
- Landscape
- Biodiversity
- Built Environment
- Offshore Industries

Q. What difference it will make in practice?

A. It recognises that planning for the coast requires a different approach. This is an area that has a particular set of issues. It is an area for which predictions are made about its physical profile (from climate change sources and SMPs), and the very existence of which in some cases is under threat. We cannot just predict changes and let them happen; these changes have to be managed in order for the effects on communities as well as on individuals can be mitigated. The sooner we start to plan the more viable the solutions will be and the better chances of success.

Q. How did NNDC get to this point (i.e. today's meeting)?

A. We have a Coastal Management Board that oversees the work of the Coastal Management Section. The Board agreed the programme for the development of the CMP. Workshops were held in five 'Coastal Service Villages' to understand what the specific

issues in those locations were and how the LDF might respond to them. A common theme from these workshops was the crucial role played by tourism in the economy of the area (which in turn is reliant on the quality of the environment) and that the threat of coastal change was a major cause of uncertainty and stress to individuals, communities and businesses. There was no doubt that action needed to be taken to safeguard the wellbeing of coastal areas.

A study was completed examining the impacts and possible response to coastal change, through adaptation measures, which clearly demonstrated that there were considerable costs associated with the change in approach to Shoreline Management. A 'scoping' meeting was held in May this year (with representatives of local, regional and national agencies and organisations involved in coastal management) which identified the aims of the project and clarified the relationship between our work with that of other agencies. There was full agreement at the meeting that developing a CMP was an appropriate response to the challenges faced along North Norfolk's coast.

Q. What will happen after today?

A. The Council will publish the report of this workshop and provide feedback to all participants and interested parties. This, together with all the previous studies and feedback will inform the formulation of a draft of the Coastal Management Plan (issues and options report). The draft report will be published for public participation next summer and you're all actively encouraged to get involved in that 'formal' consultation process. Feedback on the draft report will be taken into account in drafting the final plan.

Q. Will Rob and colleagues come to all communities?

A. Workshops on LDF have taken place in some communities – others could follow, though this depends on the nature of the process and the resources available.

- common impacts also emerging
- The draft CMP will be put out to full public consultation.

Q. Concern that Historic Built Environment is being neglected

A. Rolling back concept, ok for natural environment perhaps, what about the built environment – up to 100 listed buildings, National Trust not here today- a bit concerned.

Built environment should be a key factor in determining where sea defences take place

- National Trust (NT) involved in scoping and members are here at this meeting. NT will also be involved in responding to the consultation.
- Historical assets cannot be moved. In most cases, character will change whatever we do. Sea walls in Cromer are themselves listed.
- Built and natural should be seen as one – cannot save everything
 - o Need to create as well
 - o Please write other suggested organisations on the flip chart.

Q. Will there be a national coastal plan or at least South from Flamborough Point?

A. ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) is a concept, which the UK has not yet fully explored. North Norfolk DC is lobbying for its inclusion in the Marine Bill, which does not include coastal management at national scale.

Q. What about funding for implementing the Plan? Further try to fund protection; or compensate. How to discuss without clarity on this?

A. A lot of NNDC work aims to influence government, Defra etc. CMP overall help develop/anticipate the needs and options (i.e. lobbying to influence policy and fight for resources).

There is a modest UK-wide fund for adaptation. But it is not on the scale that may be needed.

Additional questions not answered on the day

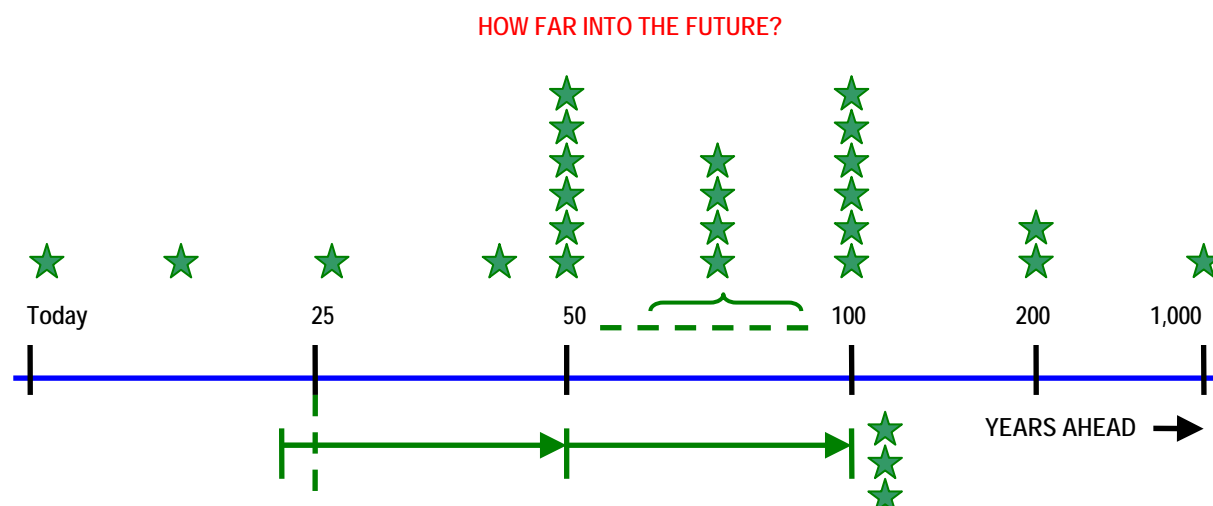
Q. How far inland will the coast plan go?

A. (Rob Young) It is up to us to determine the extent of the coastal zone: it should probably include all areas that are influenced by coastal issues

6. Our contribution to the future

Timescales

In the meantime, the responses to the question about timescales had been collated into a graph. There was a very wide spread of responses, with 50 - 100 years being the timescale favoured by most respondents. In addition, some people responded with qualitative comments including 'the lifetime of the buildings', [what else did the ones on the bottom of the flips say?]



Qualitative responses

- For sea defences - undermining and flooding within two years.
- How to say? – The coastline will keep changing so maybe some time ahead.
- 50 years, but be prepared to be flexible and adjust say at 10 year intervals.
- Short term plan not useful for a long term problem.
- The life of the buildings.
- Only in firm terms as far as the best science can meaningfully predict major effects.
- We need both strategic vision and tactical responses.

Following the presentation of the graph, there was some discussion in plenary about the responses.

Timescale- comments

- 50-100 years rationale – defences put in after '53 are at end of life
- Need a budget for future work -> raising profile (more events like today needed)
- Government should have one agency/scheme to deal with floods/defences

- Different concepts of time – human and geological very different- looking too far ahead dangerous too!
- Too many variables at stake- don't know what environmental/economic factors etc will come in
- Looking at 2 different things:
 - o Topping up existing sea defences
 - o Loss of beaches undermining sea walls
- Timescales can be misleading – CMP should avoid pre-empting effects of climate change – no one knows effects -> should look after what we have today to not burden our children
- Study done c. 1955 : with no defences vast swathes of North Norfolk coast would be gone by 2030 e.g. Norwich on Sea, Ely on Sea – now looks like this might be happening

Vision of the future

Participants were invited to talk at their tables about what their positive vision of the future is, for the 50 - 100 year timescale. Each table produced a summary of the key points from its discussions.

- Manage change – because this is going to happen anyway
- Sustainable communities: functioning economy, housing, spirit
- Social justice for victims
- Facilities for displaced communities/ relocation (planning for this)

- Flourishing communities }
 - Economic viability } make the area viable to defend? (mixed views)
- Eco- town?
- Retain environment and landscape
- Land for food (and fuel?)
- Rolling back communities – funding to adapt/manage (not everyone)

- Continuation of a “quiet” place, full of natural wildlife and biodiversity
- Concern in respect of “covering with concrete”
- Manage the environment with a knowledge based approach to produce sustainability

- Continuity of tourist and fishing industry
- Retention of beaches?
- STOP DREDGING
- Retain high quality built and natural environment
- Sufficient funding for sea defences (hold the line?)
- Foster community spirit
- Adequate flood warnings

- Status quo maintain the existing coastline
- Better scientific measures for defences. Huge investment required

- Coastal funding/planning – coastal [ED: illegible word, appears to be 'teeth']
- A new town as the Knapton / Trunch ridge i.e. planned step back
- The sea has already reclaimed parts of the coastline
- Sea Palling : reefs, beach, walls, dunes
- Suggest we fund it ourselves through our rates (local taxation). Norfolk County Council not just NNDC rate payers. Perhaps match funding central government

- Local communities must have local solutions
- Retain coastal communities
- Need to consider internal drainage as well as erosion
- Law 'Barnier'¹
- Mechanisms must be funded

- Change may well be inevitable however it must be funded

- We don't accept that the coast as at present cannot be defended – a quality cost effective case will stand up.
- There may have to be adaptations in the future- but that may be a long way off.
- Maintain a broad-based local economy for all tastes.
- More information on the cost of maintaining the status quo should emerge.

Following these summaries, there was some discussion in plenary.

Common themes in vision exercise:

- Funding
- Compensation
- Concerns about data used for SMP
- Feeling that no one wants a massive change
- Concerns about maintaining unique North Norfolk environment
- Addressing both consequences and causes
- 'Hold-the-line'/keep what we got/status quo common among some participants
- Those looking/ working closely with this subject may accept change but wider community not receptive
 - o What's changed?
 - More hope
 - Know that North Norfolk is trying
- Important to keep balance in North Norfolk between environment and economic
- Sustainable communities- in order to retain what we have got we must find a sustainable approach

Balance between where get to and how get there

- Need smart economic development. -> do not want Bracknell-on-Sea
- To get from A to B need adequate compensation

¹ Law Barnier - French system of restricting rights in risk areas but compensating affected property owners

- Democracy: Environmental Agency not a democratic body but making decisions -> need a body responsible for these decision who are democratically constituted

Q. Any differences between visions? – No answer

In response to questions and comments during the morning, NNDC's experts provided some more technical information about the impact of sea defences.

The Status Quo (technical input after lunch)

- Could build defences for coast – for 68km £0.5 billion for North Norfolk
- If did so, would not keep what we've got. We'd have a wall but no beaches.
- Sea levels are rising
- Do we want sea walls or do we want to maintain the value of what we have?

Comments

- Assumptions regarding rates of change on technical input. There is a balance to be struck in terms of defending certain areas
- Other ways of defending coast – e.g. dunes as well as sea walls etc.
- Value of specific things on the coast
- Should follow example of NL (Netherlands): no dredging
- But very different circumstances in the NL
- Diversity of views in the room. All communities different – some parishes do not want sea walls: so NNDC should come and talk to all communities
- Funding should be provided to North Norfolk just as North Norfolk residents contributed to Thames Barrier
- Timeline shown earlier: all the scientific evidence shows that the 10 year period will see climate change kick in: raising sea walls will not necessarily work
- Funding provided via Defra to EA for flood defence. Central decisions taken on where national funding should go
- Local authorities all press the case to Government. Government moving to spending £800 million per annum on all inland and sea flooding
- Huge imbalance in spending between coastal and inland
- The way priorities work out, LAs (local authorities) working on coastal erosion disadvantaged – so even if Government is prepared to increase proportion of funding the overall pot needs to be bigger
- Also, currently no provision for compensation for erosion losses – and this needs to be addressed also

7. Getting more specific about the future

The group was then invited to identify what issues they think should be addressed by or covered in the CMP. Five broad headings, derived from the scoping meeting mentioned earlier, were presented to the group. Everyone had the chance to suggest issues which need to be covered under each heading, or in an 'other' heading, by writing them on post-it notes. These then formed the starting point for two rounds of small group discussion.

In the first round of discussions, people were invited to focus on what they would like the CMP to say about the positive future they wanted to see in 50-100 years time, in relation to the issues in their heading. In the second round of discussions, the suggested focus was on what they would like the CMP to say, on bringing that positive future about.

Summaries from the small group work were presented back to the whole group in plenary.

In this report, the group discussions are reported as follows:

- i) summary as presented back to plenary*
- ii) list of the suggestions on post-it notes*
- iii) flip-chart notes made during the small group discussions.*

The five broad headings:

- A.** Local economy (needs of coastal communities, economic role of coastal communities, coastal and off-shore industries)
- B.** Facilities and infrastructure (coastal access; car parks; tourist facilities; infrastructure)
- C.** Use of the coast (coastal access; quality of foreshore, promenades and beaches; leisure and recreation)
- D.** Natural environment and heritage (landscape; biodiversity; built environment and heritage)
- E.** Planning for coastal change and coastal protection (management of coastal change; coastal protection and flood defences)

A. Local economy

Ai Summary

Fishing industry

- Coast access
- Adapt to changes

Tourism

- Do not concentrate too much

Affordable housing

- Increase rates for second homes
- Planning permission to include affordable houses

Compensation

- Full compensation would solve problems
- Investments from Government

Aii Post-its

Community

- Local economy – should also involve/consider natural environment, attractive settlements – impetus for tourist economy

- Have a clear view on the importance of tourist venues
- Economic sustainability is critical. In a number of cases, this is tourism. It is therefore important to protect and enhance this industry
- Viable coastal communities (1) Local employment: Protect sites with existing light industrial use and encourage more; (2) Housing: Keep affordable housing local
- Recognise the value of the local community

Tourism and business

- Encourage and provide support for affordable housing for local people
- Subsidies (rebalancing) for coastal poor (housing?)
- Maintain vibrant towns with local affordable housing and employment opportunities
- Make 2nd home ownership very much more expensive – to make existing community more sustainable
- Support for local business such as post offices and shops
- Sustainable communities, less reliant on tourism
- Economy variation within each community

Fishing

- Fishing industry must be subsidised (along model of hill farming in National Parks / uplands) It will thus retain community purpose, heritage and tradition
- Genuine concern for local fishermen
- Fishermen
- Continuation of fishing industry should be major factor in coast protection. Beach access issues, etc.

Compensation

- Compensation to homes and businesses
- Compensation to households and business
- Compensation for property owners
- Protection foremost, compensation where this is not practical or feasible
- Protection of assets
- Support for investment

Other

- Encourage development of wind farms off the North Norfolk coast
- Sea (offshore) wind energy farms
- Planning and funding better infrastructure

Aiii Group discussions

Fishing industry

- Currently quite small industry in North Norfolk
- Fishing doesn't employ many people anymore
- Industry has moved to smaller, one man operated boats
- Coastal area is facing issues about coast access for fishermen, in places such as Happisburgh
 - o Access is key issue when planning for the future.
 - o CMP should look at adaptation and plan for change
- Build a facility in Wells-next-the-Sea
- Fishing has a small contribution in economic terms, but great value as heritage
- Part of the fishing is 'tourist fishing'
- There is no fishing when there is dredging going on
 - o Dredging ruins the sea and should be controlled by Defra
 - There are varying views on this. More research is needed
- Wind farm people are trying to get good deals for fishermen
- Security is a very important issue for fishermen
- The CMP should consider market trends, changes in demand

Compensation

- All processes for investment and commerce are suspended as a result of coastal erosion. There is a need for another mechanism for sustaining communities
- Coastal erosion is another type of problem than flooding – it is more definitive
- Central government should invest, a fund for compensation is needed
- CMP should help enable campaigning for (national) support
- Central government was keen to invest in mining areas when the mines shut; why not in North Norfolk when the coast is eroding?
- Government should either invest in defences or in full compensation. Either way, they will not need the other
- To make Government act, local organisations should force them through the European Human Rights Court

Affordable housing

- There are many homeless families in the Cromer area.
- There would not be a shortage of houses if they were used properly
- When providing planning permissions, local authorities should require that part of the development will consist of affordable houses
- Second homes, holiday housing should have increased rates
- Distinction between social housing and affordable housing.
 - o Social housing may be viable in risk areas
 - o Due to greater control over period of occupancy, social housing may be more appropriate than general market housing closer to the coast?

Tourism

- Have a harbour in the area to attract tourism, for instance in the Cromer area
- Concern that strengthening tourism in one area will weaken tourism in other areas of North Norfolk

Energy

- Offshore wind farms are coming
- Apparently some problems with financing of the development of the wind farm north of Sheringham, due to the credit crunch
- Other forms of energy generation are possible in North Norfolk, e.g. tidal power
- Wind farms can attract specific type of tourism

Plenary

Key omission to discussion A: Agriculture

- Agriculture is a key productive resource; allowing erosion would salinate the water supply and undermine the production of food in and for the UK

B. Facilities and Infrastructure

Bi Summary

- Need CMP to act as campaigning tool
- CMP needs to recognise difficulty of gaining investment for normal commercial activities in risk areas
- CMP needs to include process for decision-making that involves the community
- Onus on parish councils to get members involved
- Safe access to the beach required for different users and need associated car parks
- Coastal path – continuous as much as possible

Bii Post-its

- Coast road and services

- More car parks / permit parking in built up / yellow lined streets
- Ensure adequate and accessible education opportunities at all levels
- Better roads
- Infrastructure (car parks, facilities) are essential for maintaining tourist and visitor income
- Coastal access – do not try and make it all equally accessible. Some should be challenging to reach or it will be spoilt
- Access to beaches for fishermen and use
- More and better public transport in area (buses / trains) reduce car use
- Leisure and recreation
- Better public transport
- Tourist information i.e. car parks, roads, beach access has to be maintained if we expect to support a viable tourist industry
- Better shops – variety, price
- Concern for tourism
- A move to all year round facilities – such as public toilets etc
- Broads region to continue to be a major region for water and land-based tourism and recreation
- Improve drainage (invest?) Anglian Water
- More communication between communities
- Appreciate the value of local infrastructure (cost of replacement)
- The CMP should protect areas that are important to towns and other communities – especially roads, electricity, sewage / water that are used by more than one area
- Reinstate boreholes in dynamic cliffs

Biii Group discussions

- Access to the beach particularly an issue at Sea Palling – all via one route
- Access is a problem at a number of areas e.g. loss of ramps and steps
- Safe access to the beach is required for the local economy
 - o People create their own access via cliff routes
 - o Need to consider physical limitations of visitors e.g. elderly and families
- Maintenance of historic / existing access – areas where expected and used
- Need car parks associated with access points
- Coastal path should follow the coast as much as possible – either on cliff or beach. Continuous path where possible
 - o Private properties are in the way
 - o Gas site
- Policies enabling access to different beach users need to be developed e.g. dog walkers, jet skiers, fishermen
- Be supportive of land owners to enable access
 - o Legal responsibility for accidents
 - o Financial
- Council don't fence cliff edges as natural hazard. Public take responsibility for own actions
- Consistency of signage and information e.g. on high and low tides and danger of climbing cliffs
- Maintenance of life guarding facilities
- NIMBYism – jet skis etc. Consultation shows that no-one wants access point, car park in their backyard
- Need greater control of jet skiers etc.
- Very difficult to gain investment in normal commercial investments – needs to be recognised in CMP and suggest funding sources
- Coastal area be classified as special case (comparative to mining areas)
- Utilise Council Tax from second homes (increase to 150%) to fund local initiatives e.g. affordable housing

- Need a campaign for coast to be recognised as a national asset
 - o CMP needs evidence of the issues with potential solutions so can be used as a campaign tool
 - o Need a business plan to make the case
- Not just North Norfolk concern
- Needs to lay out what it costs to not take action
- Use existing studies and utilise EA resources as well as NNDC's
- Ensure that communities and community assets are properly valued e.g. car parks, steps, paths – realistic costs to replace
- Attractiveness to tourism of many of villages due to the heritage
 - o So needs saving as part of the infrastructure
 - o But need to be selective and CMP needs process for decision making that involves the community
- Coast is very varied and plan needs to be site specific
- Concern about not being listened to but many feel that this process is encouraging
- Onus on parish councils to encourage members to attend meetings and input
- Broaden the picture and inform visitors to the area of the issues

C. Use of the Coast

Ci Summary

Where in 50-100 years?

- Keep range of coastal usages (fishing, sailing, beaches...)
- Retain/improve coastal zones as commercial and leisure assets
- Improve international recognition
- Access to quality sea-water sports and beaches + safe and secured

How in 50-100 years?

- Build confidence: stability will attract investments
- Improve safety and security on coastal activities

Cii Post-its

- Access to the coast
 - o Use+ access to coastal waters
 - o Giving the public access to privately owned land. Should the owner receive compensation
 - o Access to/along coast threatened by erosion
 - o Discourage mass access to sensitive areas of our saltmarsh coast
 - o Open to walking
 - o Retention of access to the sea for fishing industry
 - o Careful development of coastal areas to give access but not overcrowding
- Access to leisure
 - o Beach access + jet ski
 - o Maintain main tourist areas (beaches/promenades) Important for economy
 - o High quality beaches and beach facilities to preserve tourist industry
 - o Ensure opportunities for water-based leisure (sailing, angling, motor-boating-including jet skis)
 - o Zoning of accessible beaches for leisure pursuits
- Compensation to caravan parks etc for lost beach access
- Barrier at Yarmouth to protect the broads

- Coastal use is essential as few natural places become eroded and destroyed

Ciii Group discussions

- Concerns about quality of beaches
- Access to beaches is all very well but must be quality beaches
- Local communities want to influence the plan/ the future
- Footpaths on cliffs get eroded, cliffs become beaches. Problem for private owner
- Concerns about loss of beaches
- Problem with pathway : lots of “private property” signs on the pathway showing that they are inaccessible to public
- Concern about coastal facilities, keep public access
- Coast only used if people can get there. So parking will still be needed
- Coast is a point of leisure sought by inland people
- Imagine no use of the sea but just look at it. No way!
- Concerns about culture and heritage aspects of the coast related to usage
- Concerns about maintaining habitat
- Keep sailing areas + jet ski
- Conflict of uses of the beaches (natural beaches/more jet ski...)
- Concerns about safety and security on the beaches with lifeguards, problem to recruit new staff
- As fish industry declines, fewer people from this sector become volunteer lifeguards
- Coastal zone in North Norfolk should be a place worth coming to (known) – improve international designation
- Retain and develop/improve coastal zone as commercial and leisure assets
- Promote sea sport facilities
- Create a centre on geological/geography of the coast in North Norfolk: new tourism activity
- Concerns about look of the coast during a certain period of time (no clean-up when house destroyed and abandoned)
- Conflict between visitor parking/nature
- Fish industry wants well maintained beaches
- Promote safe family activities (jet-ski...), development of new activities
- Create or improve family sailing facility
- Need more policing on the beaches due to vehicles on the beaches
- More access to beaches but may lead to more anti-social behaviour
- Locals do their policing
- Conflict fishermen/surfers for the usage of the coast
- Supporting infrastructures for visitors (shops for fishing, sailing...)
- Overcrowded sites during summer/weekend
- Processing of shellfish
- Facilities to support food industry
- Bus roads to allow people to access the coast
- Build confidence: stability will attract investment

D. Natural Environment and Heritage

Di Summary

- Natural environment – protection and preservation of reserves
 - o North Norfolk internationally known

- Heritage and listed buildings should be considered highly when deciding on which areas to defend
- Adaptability and flux
 - o Natural environment
 - o Built environment?? Not able to adapt as easily
- Want to keep 'character' and aesthetic of area
 - o Vital to longer term economic stability via tourism

Dii Post-its

- Small working groups needed to discuss separate issues – e.g. future of heritage buildings
- All essential to provide income to area

Natural environment

- Management of land to support sustainable environment
- Concerned for environment
- Humans are part of natural environment
- Keep a balance between the natural environmental needs – birds, fish, crabs, plants and the built environmental needs
- Norfolk is internationally important as a refuge for wildlife
- Broads region – and in particular the Thurne Catchment to retain its natural importance as Britain's best example of a lowland, fresh water ecosystem
- Protection and preservation of Hickling / Horsey nature reserves
- Internationally renowned wildlife havens as a centre for study and research into environmental geography raising the world profile of North Norfolk

Heritage

- Irreplaceable heritage in built environment – natural habitats can largely be reproduced
- Heritage sites and listed buildings (how to protect?)
- How can we sensibly protect the built environment from nature
- Important heritage sites to be a strong factor in considering whether to protect an area (e.g. listed buildings, scheduled monuments)

Diii Group discussions

Locations

- Natural environment seen as adaptable – flooding – birds will move
 - o Uncertain areas e.g. Cley / North Norfolk maybe adaptable
 - o Upper Thurne perhaps more destructive
 - o Winterton – damage from defences
- missed out the aesthetic element
 - o Intrinsic to value of area – tourism
- Quality
- Certain buildings e.g. churches, The Pleasaunce
- Some places should be considered before others
- Will not accept losing built environment – recording is not substitute

How want CMP to end up

- To keep everything as it is
- Can't live with status quo – have to move forward in the right way
- Natural environment is dynamic
- Built heritage can protect but nature has to be flexible. Dynamism and change
- Maintaining 'character' of this area
- Maintain scientific research centres and budget for them
- Plan can make a link between natural environment and people
- Roll back possible with heritage sites - Sidestrand church was moved

- But moving buildings actually not feasible
- Technology is there but what about cost?
- Is energy used to move it better placed somewhere else
- Also is landscape value or inferior
 - o Significant element
- Natural environment – think about what people want to keep
 - o But need to be careful that leaving it completely doesn't become policy
- Natural environment is actually helping to protect some areas
- If you change one thing in natural environment another thing compensates
 - o Same with built environment (or could be – build iconic 21st century buildings in place of those that are lost?)
- Can defend if money is there
 - o With climate change – sea rising then money will go elsewhere
- Strategy has to be collective over whole county – individual action down to village
- Can't compare wildlife reserves and natural environment

E. Planning for Coastal Change and Coastal Protection

Ei Summary

Concern: SMP ↔ LDF ↔ CMP

Destination?

- Social justice
- Compensation
- Protection of natural environment (Norfolk Broads) + infrastructure
- Protection of interests of affected people
- Hold the line

How to get there?

- Manage development to reduce risk
- Develop plans democratically
- Refine valuation techniques
- Consider full range of funding sources
- Sea greater threat than Taliban
- Credit crunch funding?
- Lobbying/ media work

Eii Post-its

- consultation with parishioners with plans (imminent future)
- ask a local
- democracy
- full consultation with affect groups/communities (this is a good start)
- for coastal protection: make decisions relating to each community not for the coast in general
- the bringing together of one local agency for coastal change and protection

- money -> objective
- funding mechanisms needed
- compensation plan
- funding for coastal management not only for defence option

- take full account of social justice
- increase government funding and awareness
- Planning for protection must be based on proper economics and science. The present basis (SMP) is not an adequate planning tool
- funding development / campaigning allocation

- integrate coastal plan for whole Norfolk/Suffolk coast
- planning which does not perpetuate the costs of change
- ways need to be found to plan the coast so that its current axes and economy can be sustained in a balance format
- avoid inappropriate development in high risk areas
- decision on short term areas for defence
- should washlands be created to save flooding elsewhere
- make sure development does not clash with protection, defence site
- planning should allow land to be used for development; part of the planning gain thereby derived should be used to fund defences

- Do not be so defeatist and negative. Question the economics on which this approach has been based, this may be badly flawed

- left alone, with no exploitation management requirement would be minimal

- keep the sirens given to the community
- flood sirens must be available to vulnerable communities

- proper cost analysis with full remit
- if SMPs are designed to show not cost effective then the coast will never get funding
- realistic cost benefit analysis for defence

Eiii Group discussions

What should the CMP say about where we should end up?

- relationship of North Norfolk CMP to areas around it needs to be clear
- CMP concept flawed because not connected to other plan of whole Norfolk coast nor national plan
- Shoreline Management Plan – technical plan required by law
- LDF controls development
- SMP not adopted but great impacts on development already
- CMP another document – status currently unclear – do not take account of each other
- Current NNDC policy: hold the line
- Destination should be: social justice, compensation, protection of existing environment and infrastructure
- Protection of the Norfolk Broads – natural environment
- Protection of interests of affected communities
- Managing development so as not to increase the risk
- Plans should be developed democratically (i.e. decisions not taken by EA)
- NB credit crunch funding currently in doubt
- Hold the line – yes
- But what is the longer term vision and can we hold the line?
- Other areas (e.g. Bournemouth) will probably make even bigger bids
- Should do risk assessment to assist with difficult choices- value judgements will need to be made

- Need frequent reassessment of strategy – continuous process including continuous assessment and development
- Need some mechanism to get funding or change funding mechanism
- Refine techniques about how you value things – what you are trying to do
- Don't get frightened of overall costs – make best decisions as we go- not spending all at once
- Consider full range of funding sources
- Get across the idea that the sea may be greater enemy to this country than the Taliban – responsibility to look after UK citizens
- Lobbying and using the media to get across the message of the need

F. Others

Fi Summary

- Recommendations
 - o Unified overall plan for coastal area
 - o Utilise Dutch experience
 - o Template for other coastal authorities
 - o Need clear action plan
- Concerns
 - o Issue of trust that NNDC represent views of local people
 - o Need clear accountabilities
 - o Another plan – needs to be embedded with SMP / LDF
 - o Coast plan must include inland area that might be impacted
 - o Incorporate ramifications on inland economy of coastal changes
- Role of CMP
 - o Needs to influence government
 - o Needs to inform community
 - o Needs to represent local community views / aspirations
 - o Need to assure communities about the future
 - o Allow communities to be sustainable / functional
 - Communities to be balanced
 - o Pointers for solutions

Fii Post-its

- At some time the talking must stop. Norfolk coastal villages need to see something happening
- Balancing coastal vs. inland needs
- Social activities / venues

Fiii Group discussions

- Issue – lack of joined up thinking – especially central government
 - o Need basic change in thinking
- CMP ->
 - 1) Need to put pressure on government
 - 2) Need to inform community - Document to represent peoples' views – especially damage to communities
 - 3) Recommend to other maritime authorities and build with others
- Issue of social justice
- Enable communities to be sustainable – cohesion
 - o Time factor

- Incorporate Potter Heigham – at risk. One to S.M.P. =>
- Plan to be a tool to use by L.A. to work towards community aspirations
 - Need some form of insurance / assurance
- Allows communities to continue to function
- Sustainability / functional CMP
 - Needs to help communities to be flexible
 - Communities need to be balanced – don't put in restrictions
 - Pointers to solution
- Cost of sea defences over 100 years greatly outweighed by coastal asset loss
- Status quo not acceptable
 - Don't trust L.A. to represent views to government
- Want local government to represent my views
- Issue of trust in evidence
 - Need to start again with journey
- SMP
 - 2 separate ideologies – challenge
 - Inevitable consequence of climate change
 - Situation can be managed
 - Where does responsibility lie:
Climate change problem:
 - Is it narrow coastal strip?
 - A national / international problem
 - → Not local to solve
- Law Barrier
 - 12% levy on all property insurance for coast /flooding
- C.M.P. – widen nationally, responsibility for issues
- Consequence for wider area than just coast – Thetford / Norwich etc.
- SMP – universal lack of confidence
 - Whole process needs to start with accountability
- Divorce between SMP / CMP – needs link
- Economic ramifications of coastal change – major impact inland
- Links to planning – especially for vulnerable locations
- Failure for integrated policy
 - CMP must be part of an integrated structure
- Need Department for 'Coastal Affairs'
- Unified overall plan – shoreline and hinterland
- Dutch experience very important
 - Needs to be researched

8. Taking stock of the discussions

Aims, values and timescales

Following the summaries of the small group discussions, there was a plenary session where participants were invited to consider the overall aims of the CMP, the values which NNDC should display while developing it, and the opportunities and challenges presented by considering a 50 - 100 year timescale. Other comments and questions were also raised.

Aims/Values/Timescales discussion

- has to be an action plan
- specific comments on affordable housing- must be tackled by a coastal plan
 - o all affordable housing should be for only local people
 - o accessible and affordable social housing for locals
 - o But under legislation. This cannot happen unless get exceptions policy
- concern over CMP is that although useful, may be narrow
 - o causes and consequences of climate change is a national/international problem -> duty to widen debate and point out consequences nationally
- Plan should encourage consultation locally on CMP - every community has something to offer. Locals are experts.
- Building trust and confidence esp. after inaccuracy of SMP
 - o Should re-address evidence
 - o Fully independent study needed , i.e. Tyndall Centre or University East Anglia
 - o North Norfolk not only place this happening- also in Yorkshire etc – all have dredging in common
- Response from council
 - o Race Bank dredging was never approved
 - o CMP and LDF->PG20 (turning into PPS21) coming out soon and will address the link have between CMP and LDF
- SMP finance
 - o If some evidence/costs is inaccurate – what is benefit changing it – is estimated – many variables
- Would have been useful to have some context of relationship between SMP and CMP
 - o Little trust in SMP
 - o Process should be started again if democratically accountable body
- LDF deals only of new developments so not dealing with most difficult issues to a certain extent – CMP gives coast a place where it might not be otherwise considered elsewhere
- SMP is where we are and what options are -> next step is to move on and involve community

Advice for NNDC

- Listen to the people

Appendices

Appendix 1: Additional Comments

Additional Comments

Participants were provided with forms on which they could note down any additional comments or questions towards the end of the day.

Any other comments about the Coastal Management Plan?

Participant 1

I did not have a chance to speak on “the values that should inform the plan” so here is my speech:

The importance of North Norfolk and our values.

North Norfolk is important to us personally; it is our home, supports our family and our businesses.

It is important locally; its communities are vibrant, economically viable and have a unique built and cultural heritage.

It is important nationally; it provides recreation and restoration for thousands whose normal homes are less pleasant and less unique.

On top of these, it is important internationally as a refuge for wildlife.

Species of global conservation concern make one of their few remaining homes here. The meeting focused entirely on our own species, but we must also speak up for other species; they have nobody to speak for them and nowhere else to go.

A love of wildlife and an enthusiastic commitment to biodiversity conservation; these are values held dear by many of us who choose to live in North Norfolk.

No plan that fails to be informed by these values can claim to represent the wider community.

Participant 2

How far inland will the plan go?

[question answered earlier in transcript]

Participant 3

Importance of exploration of economic importance/implications of wind farms, off shore

Participant 4

- Central government seems totally divorced from the local issues and there is zero confidence in central government to listen and respond.
- The above destroys trust. Local communities have no confidence in the ability of central government to defend their interests.
- Unless the above is addressed, local communities will go their own way on defence. This is unlikely to be a good solution but the only one available.
- I would suggest devoted budgets used in the context of sensible thought through national policy. We are a long way from this, but it is a route worth prosecuting.

Participant 5

The proposals are in conflict with both the Environment Agency remit and the shoreline management plan. How can this be resolved?

Participant 6

I did not feel that much had been done on the day. Lots of sound bites but no substance. I did not feel [ED: name removed] was up to the job. I get the feeling he would not listen to the public. I felt there was a lot of money spent for nothing. Do not know how you can do this sort of job when he could not even remember Walcott. He told me [ED: Illegible words] Walcott if he does not know the villages how can he do this job.

Participant 7

1. The need for national agreement / plan vital for money etc.
2. Rising seas – coastal erosion – affects far more than coast – whole economy gets trashed if ship here – anywhere in the world can't land cargoes
3. When crisis really hits in a big way the drain of finance will be away from Norfolk (and probably everywhere else too)
4. Spectre of millions dying – widespread detertification may well be too much for most of us to bear, let alone be imaginatively constructive
5. But thank you for asking me to conference workshop

Appendix 2: Attendance List

Participant's Name		Organisation
Mike	Ashwell	Runton Parish Council
Ken	Barnes	Hickling Environment & Residents' Alliance & Hickling PC
Mary	Bennett	Ingham Parish Council
Andy	Boyce	Cromer Preservation Society
Andy	Bullen	Sheringham Plus Community Partnership
Jane	Burch	Country Land & Business Association
Andrew	Cannon	Kelling Parish Council
Julie	Chance	Trimingham Parish Council
Stan	Chapman	Potter Heigham Parish Council
Kate	Dougan	Norfolk Coast Partnership
Gavin	Downland	Sheringham 6th Form Centre
Janet	Farrow	Sheringham Chamber of Trade
Tony	Faulkner	Blakeney Parish Council
David	Faulkner	National Farmers' Union
Ann	Floyd	National Trust, North Norfolk Association
Martin	George	The Broads Society
John	Gibbs	Wells Sailing Club
David	Gosling	The Griffon Area Partnership
Pat	Gowan	Marinet & North Sea Action Group
Chris	Hall	Horsey Parish Council
Alison	Hamilton	Coastal Concern Bacton
Mike	Handley	Norwich Diocese
Brenda	Hare	WEA
Phil	Hawes	Sheringham RNLI
Margaret	Henderson	Lessingham Parish Council
Stuart	Holmes	Overstrand Shoreline Management Committee
Malcolm	Kerby	Coastal Concern Action Group
Keith	Leesmith	Wells-next-the-Sea Town Council
Richard	May	Sidestrand Parish Council
Stephen	Mews	D C Leisure
Ian	Monson	Norfolk County Council
Mary	Northway	Cromer Town Council
Gerard	Noyau	University of the Third Age
Cat	Plewman	North Norfolk Community Partnership & Poppyland Partnership
Richard	Price	Stalham with Happing Area Partnership
Brian	Reynolds	Paston Parish Council
Margaret	Roffe	Beeston Regis Parish Council
David	Russell	Sea Palling Parish Council
Godfrey	Sayers	North Norfolk Harbours Group
Ian	Shepherd	River Glaven Conservation Group & CPRE
Peter	Stibbons	Cromer & District Chamber of Trade & Past, Present Future
Ray	Teece	Walcott Parish Council
Hilary	Thompson	Norfolk Coast Partnership Central Parishes
Mike	Walker	North East Norfolk Coastal Parishes Group
Charlie	Ward	Blakeney Harbour Boatmen's Association & Morston

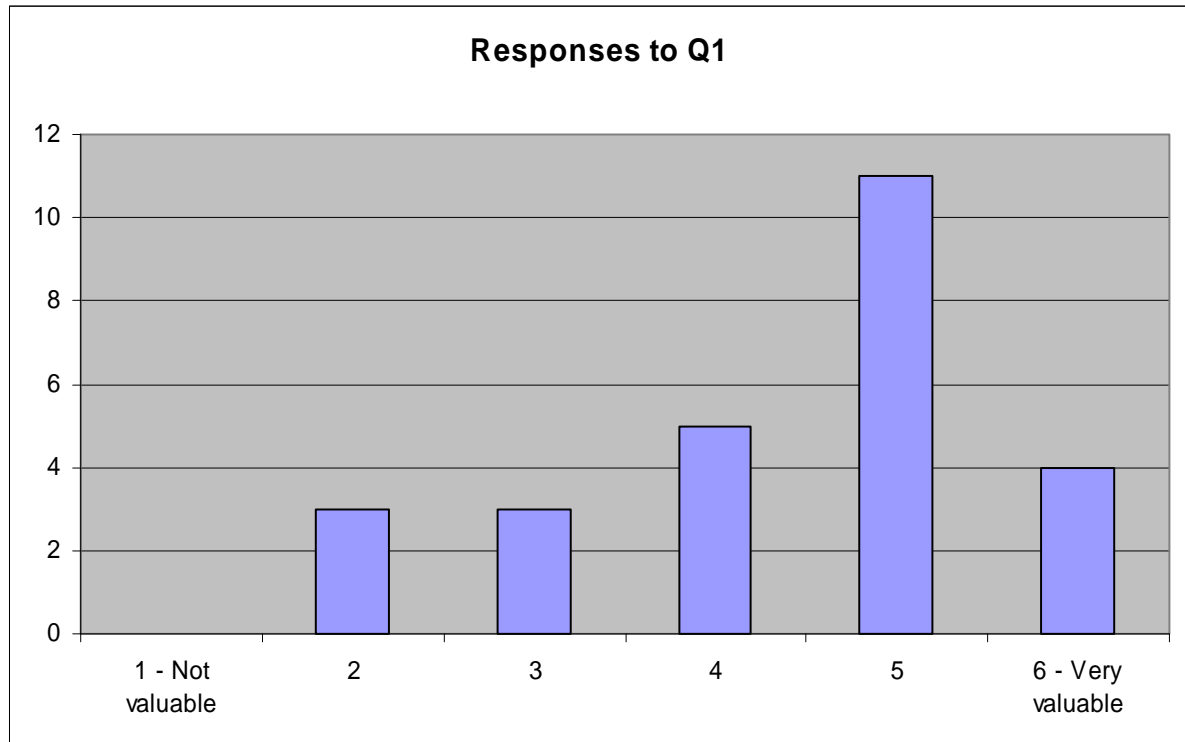
		Parish Council
Fran	Weatherhead	North Norfolk Fishermen's Society
Ralph	West	Overstrand Parish Council
David	Whitham	Overstrand Parish Council
John	Whitby	Mundesley Parish Council
Vera	Woodcock MBE	Cromer Town Council
Councillors		
Angie	Tillett	NNDC
Clive	Stockton	NNDC
NNDC Team and attendees from other agencies		
Mark	Ashwell	North Norfolk District Council
Steve	Blatch	North Norfolk District Council
Brian	Farrow	North Norfolk District Council
Peter	Frew	North Norfolk District Council
Marti	Tipper	North Norfolk District Council
Rob	Young	North Norfolk District Council
Steve	Hayman	Environment Agency
Andy	Millar	Natural England
Facilitation Team		
Bill	Parker	Facilitator (Suffolk Coastal District Council)
Penny	Walker	Dialogue by Design
Hannah	Vernon	Dialogue by Design
Isabelle	Guyot	Dialogue by Design
Remco	van der Stoep	Dialogue by Design
James	Martin-Jones	Dialogue by Design
Helen	Ashley	Dialogue by Design

Appendix 3 Evaluation report

Overview

52 people attended the event, 28 evaluation forms were received back. This document gives a summary of the evaluation results.

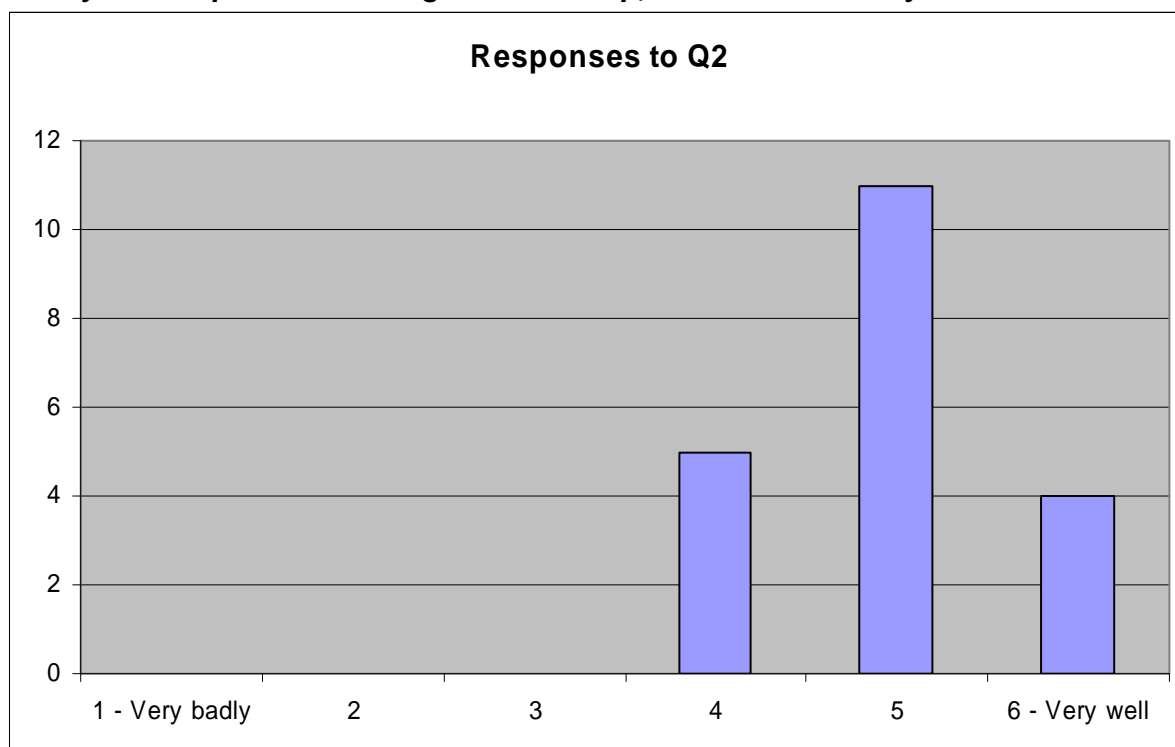
Q1. How valuable overall did you find this event?



Comments

- I found the day to be of value in making me realise how diverse a subject the formation of a coastal management will be
- I have gained a much wider understanding of the issues and learned that my perspective is not the only one that deserves consideration
- So good to find so many likeminded people in one place being listened to by NNDC
- First part of day with notes etc not informative or useful
- Gave me an insight into people's opinions and will prove a useful resource in the future for me
- Too many sound bites
- Well run. Flowed well, approach gave opportunities to all who wanted to make use of them. Interesting what was not said - and little evidence of setting in national / international scene

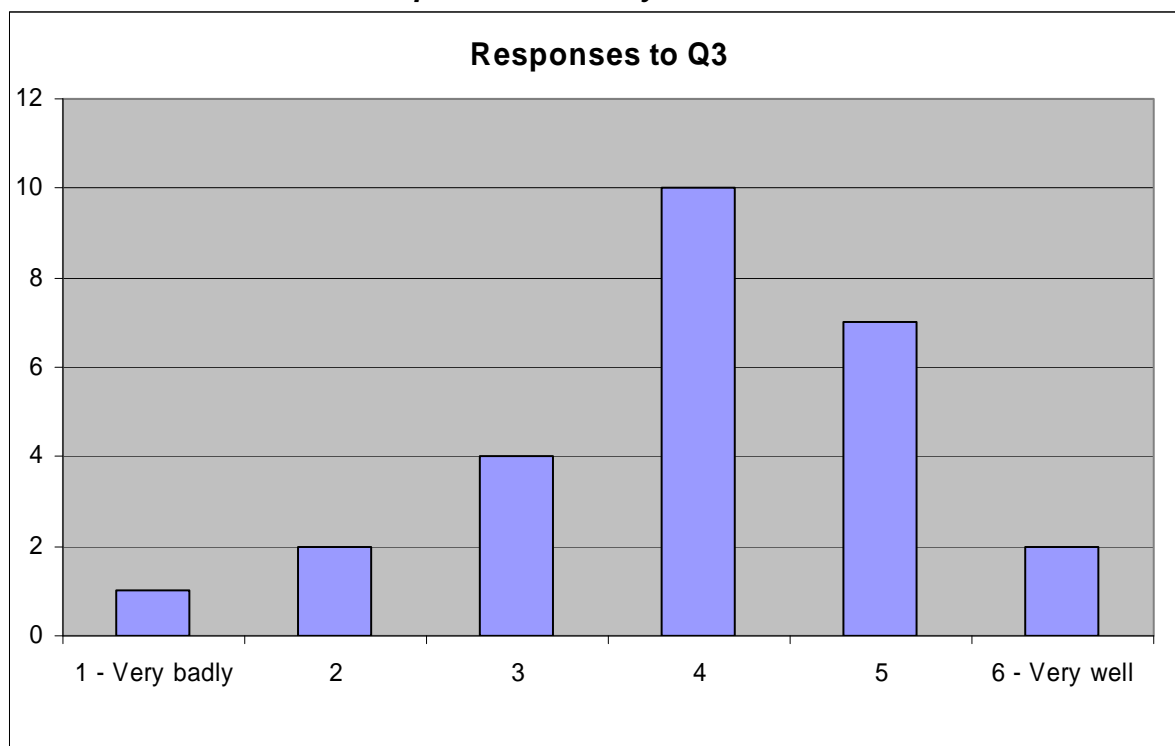
Q2. If you had questions during the workshop, how well were they answered?



Comments

- I am not sure if there was an answer to the question of self funding rather than relying on Government funding
- As much of it is hypothetical at this stage it is naturally difficult to get a comprehensive answer

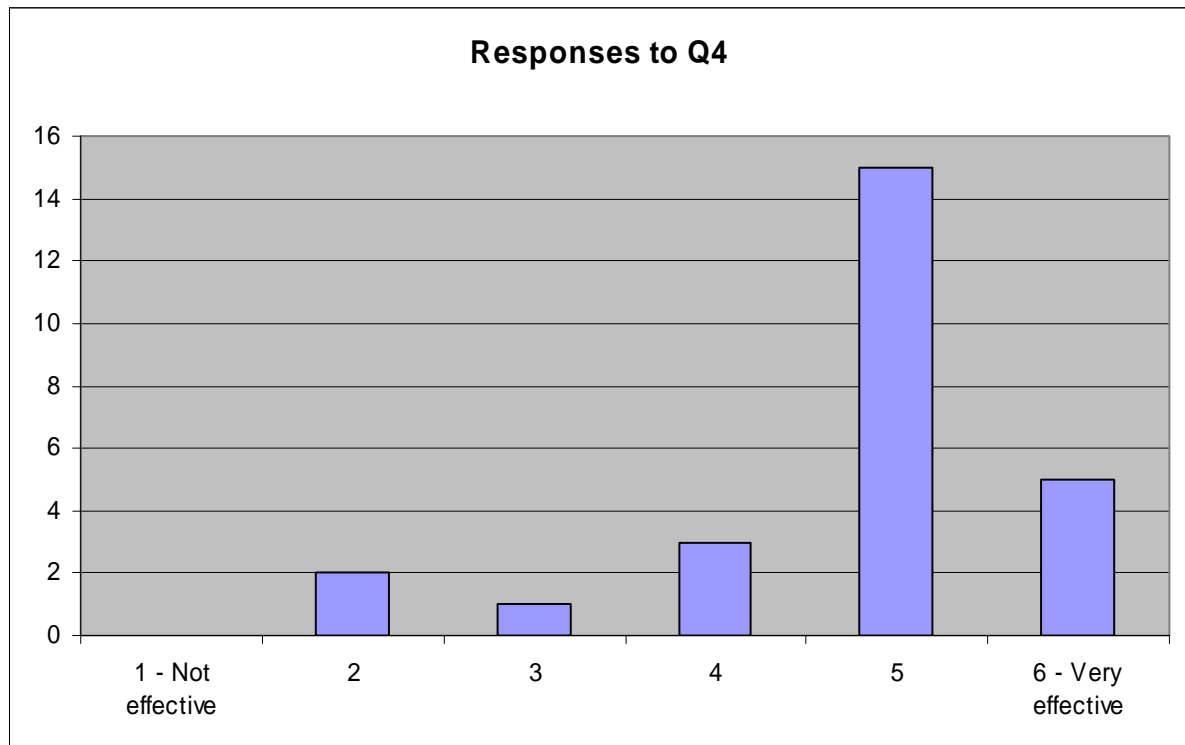
Q3. How well did the workshop format enable you to address the issues?



Comments

- I'm not sure there was enough discussion on the impact on agriculture. There was no discussion on insurance
- Some groups were too close and interrupted each other
- Addressed issues but still in a vacuum over how we restore confidence to invest which a flawed SMP, has severely undermined
- No real answers as to how to retain the area as it is
- Time!
- Allowed everyone to make their points whilst giving everyone a fair say
- I think OK - though "happy", "unhappy" choices seemed odd - though in fact it delivered clarity, and so it could be said to have worked.

Q4. How effective were the facilitators?



Comments

- The facilitators drew together the views of a diverse group of individuals very well
- In general OK, but in some breakout sessions didn't always grasp the point
- Bit more background, context, engagement one-to-one... networking time?
- Kept discussions on track and relevant

Q5. What would you have liked more time for?

- A discussion on funding coastal protection
- All covered
- I was pretty happy with the format
- All issues but tourism particularly
- Dealing with major issues of concern in group sessions
- To reach a conclusion!
- Information from NNDC engineers and feedback to our comments
- More information given by experts
- Post lunch group discussion
- Well balanced
- Don't think it will work. We are too small, they will not do anything till a few die that they might do something. Another 1953
- Lots of time for it to go where membership wanted it to

Q6. What would you have liked to spend less time on?

- All covered well
- Funding of defences / compensation
- Group discussions around the table
- Post-it notes at beginning
- Writing little notes to stick on charts
- Nothing - good use of time slots
- Seems reasonable balance
- Not sure but there was a lot that seemed a waste of time. Nothing seemed to get anywhere

Q7. Any other comments?

- Very good day but will be totally wasted if the views expressed during the day are ignored
- It was interesting to meet representatives from organisations covering different parts of North Norfolk coast to one's own. It reminds one of the very difficult job in finding a solution to cover very many points of view
- At these events I always find a lot of people already know each other, it's hard to break in as a newcomer. When I organised conferences I instructed my staff to proactively talk to anybody standing by themselves, not to stand in huddles gossiping. Also I would appreciate a biscuit with morning coffee - all the biscuits seemed to be saved for lunch
- Should have started by explaining a) the legal status of the CMP b) Its relationship to other plans c) timetables / objectives of the CMP i.e. context, is it just an individual research document
- A well organised event that will have a definite impact on future decisions
 - More technical information e.g. costs and engineering approaches to coastal defence to be made more widely available to the public - not just on websites. Not everyone has the internet. 2) Each locality has different problems and solutions which might be possible. 3) Need funding to defend the coast. There must be engineering solutions
- Larger venue or less attendees
- Too many people - less would have provided a better working
- More context re. SMP
- More input from coastal engineers would have been useful - their comments were most useful
- We need more information about the issues of climate change and of erosion
- Only that it would have been useful to have a list of those who attended the workshop. Otherwise, very interesting and very useful
- A well organised, balanced program, Thank you
- I don't think this will be any good I don't think the person [ED: name removed] is good enough to do this job.
- Not sure if some of the statements made were based on accurate information - but glad to be invited, thank you, and felt that the membership did represent what local people were thinking

Further comments on the workshop received by email

- Well done today,
- I do hope you will find constructive help from the report.
- From the groups I was involved in, there seemed to be a consensus that the SMP should be a business plan for coastal communities to educate and sell the concept

that we are a national asset and should be designated as such and as the mining communities were given special treatment and access to funds so should we. A site specific realistic plan for our communities with specific costings would I am sure be welcomed.

- Could you please pass on my thanks to Bob Young and all of you who organised the Coastal Planning Workshop yesterday? Although I had to leave at lunch time I found it enlightening to hear the views and opinions of those literally on the front line. It reinforces my view that we must all work together to achieve the best possible future that will protect and enhance all aspects of life in this threatened area.
- I will certainly be giving some thought about how the County Council should approach the coastal erosion issues with DEFRA and the EA in the future.