



NEWSLETTER

NORTH NORFOLK
PATHFINDER

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North Norfolk Pathfinder

Helping coastal communities adapt to coastal change

Welcome to the latest North Norfolk Pathfinder newsletter to update you on the latest.

Pathfinder - what it is?

In 2009 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) invited local authorities to apply to an £11 million funded Coastal Change Pathfinder Programme. The Pathfinder Programme is an 18 month 'road test' for local authorities to explore ways of helping coastal communities plan and adapt to coastal change.

NNDC was successful in securing the largest amount of funding (£3 million) to trial its projects from December 2009 to April 2011.



The Pathfinder Funding cannot be spent on coast defences but the projects are aimed at developing real solutions. They will not solve all the problems of coastal areas and can't meet everyone's needs. Even so, implementing the projects will raise issues and consequences that will need to be addressed on the way.

Beeston Regis Beach Debris

The first North Norfolk Pathfinder coastal adaptation project has been completed, with the removal of debris from the beach at Beeston Regis.



2009



May 2010

Some 800 tonnes of debris below the cliffs, left by the deterioration and destruction of redundant sea defences, has been taken away. This has

improved the beach environment and also means people can walk more easily between West Runton and Sheringham at high water.



2009



May 2010

The three week debris removal cost £15,000 and the rubble has been crushed for re-use in the construction industry.

Launch of the new Pathfinder Website



A new mini website has been created for the North Norfolk Pathfinder projects. Within the webpages you can access information about all of north Norfolk's Pathfinder projects, the aims and an outline of how and when they will be delivered.

We are adding information and photographs to the site as the projects progress. The website also links to other Pathfinders around the country which may be of interest.

Please visit: www.northnorfolk.org/pathfinder/

If you do not have access to the internet, you can receive further information from the Coastal Management Team via the contacts overleaf.

Action to help households at risk in Happisburgh

There are 11 houses predicted to be at risk of erosion up to 2025 on Beach Road in Happisburgh. The uncertainty created by this may have had a major impact on the ability of the owners of those properties to make decisions about their future and has led to a lack of investment in the physical fabric of the buildings. The deterioration of this prominent cliff top area has had a negative impact on the village as a whole.



The Pathfinder project seeks to find a solution which meets the needs of those residents who choose to take part, following which the buildings would then be removed. These residents will be able to regain confidence about their future and the environment of the coastal landscape of the village will be improved. Following this, the debris from the collapsed sea defences and buildings and structures already lost to erosion, can be removed to improve the amenity of the local beach.

Because this project has a direct impact on people's lives it is essential that a mutually acceptable solution is reached before any further action is taken. A third party (consultants Bruton Knowles) has been brought in to ensure that the property negotiations are undertaken fairly and objectively. It will take time to agree an amicable settlement; however it is critical that we get it right, both for those people who are directly affected and in order to pass on lessons to the Government.

The approach to implementing this project is due to be agreed by the Council's Cabinet on 26 July and it is hoped that further progress will be made over the summer; however the timescale for completing the project successfully will have to be sensitive to the individual needs of property owners.

The Pathfinder is also exploring methods of preventing blight and dereliction for those areas affected by predicted erosion in the medium to long-term (beyond 2025). This will involve evaluating the possibility of purchasing properties to be subsequently leased on.

Contact with the local community

Happisburgh Parish Council has set up a group in Happisburgh to help liaise between the local community and the Pathfinder Team. They are an important link, already reporting on local feeling about the development and implementation of projects in the village. Anyone who has questions about any of the Pathfinder projects is encouraged to contact the Council at the address below.

How to keep up to date with what's happening

NNDC's Coastal Website has pages specifically dedicated to the North Norfolk Pathfinder. Please visit

www.northnorfolk.org/pathfinder/

This Newsletter is produced monthly to help keep you up to date with the Pathfinder Programme. It is available at local libraries, on our Coastal Website and at our offices. It can be emailed or posted directly to you by contacting:

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If you would like to receive this newsletter in large print, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please telephone 01263 516004 and we will do our best to help.



The Latest

- The first stages of the East Coast Marketing Project have begun with the appointment of Blue Sail to deliver the first stages. More information on this will be provided in the next newsletter.
- The Business Advice Project has been launched and the first businesses have signed up and begun to take advantage of the support on offer.
- Norfolk & Waveney Enterprise Services (NWES) have begun to advise and help businesses impacted by coastal change.
- North Norfolk Business Forum, an organisation set up by local businesses, is co-coordinating and promoting the Business Advice Project. For more information please visit: www.nnbf.co.uk or phone: 01263 510709
- The Happisburgh Heritage Open Day was a great success with over 100 people attending. A site visit of the annual archaeological dig at Happisburgh beach took place on 5 June. If you would like to volunteer to take part in archaeological monitoring of cliffs and beaches, archaeological fieldwalking, historic building recording, oral history interviews or the archiving of old photographs associated with the project, check out the Coastal Heritage Project's website at

www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/coast.html

Alternatively, phone Richard Hoggett, the Coastal Project Officer on 01362 869277