



Save Our Shore



Newsletter
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It's good to talk...

On Monday 27th January a positive and productive meeting between ESCP's senior officers and the SOS group took place at the Civic offices in Havant.

The meeting was chaired by Harbour-side resident Mark Effenberg and it was quickly established that the overriding objectives of both groups are very much aligned ie: reducing Langstone flooding with all the disasters that entails.

Lyll Cairns for ESCP explained that their mandate was simply to initiate and develop a plan that would safeguard Langstone from serious flooding and erosion for the next 30 to 50 years – their mandate was not to safeguard the heritage or environment – but needless to say they would take both into account.

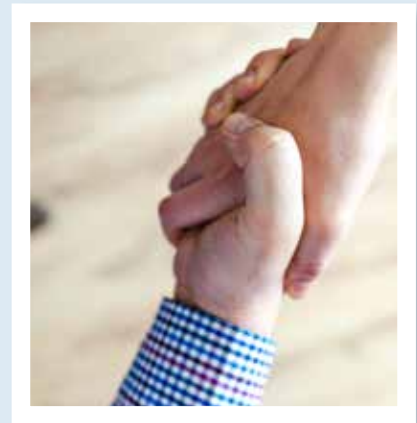
They welcomed the involvement of the SOS group in keeping Langstone residents abreast of developments and expressed disappointment that their communication had not had the same effect. Martin Murphy for SOS explained that communications had to be for all Langstone residents not just those directly affected as a result of their properties' locations'.

The feedback ESCP received from their 2 recent drop-ins (The Ship, The Sailing Club) has given

an opportunity for them to look again at a more satisfactory way to handle the situation of the Royal Oak. They are currently examining several options other than the "wall" and will advise shortly.

It was agreed by all concerned that the way forward was to develop workshops involving stakeholders from both sides - ESCP actively seek input from the community – they accept that they do not have all the answers.

For these workshops to be successful we need several more participants from community groups or organisations, who are committed to working in an open unbiased way to reach solutions that satisfy all concerned. So if you are genuinely interested in your local community and wish to get involved please email your intent to: bishopsprinters@btclick.com It is likely that you will be required to attend approx. 4 workshops lasting 4/6 hours over the next 12 months. ESCP stress that all options are "on the table" so this could be your chance to influence the future of Langstone over the next 30/50 years. The date for the



first workshop is targeted to be the middle of March or early April.

Also in attendance was local ward councillor Tim Pike who stressed that the project should not be delayed, as to do so could well see the funds re-allocated by Havant BC to be spent elsewhere in the Borough. He emphasized that the pressure on local funding was extremely high at the moment.

Once all necessary funding is in place ESCP will commence detailed designs and then apply for planning. This process is likely to take approx. 18/24 months with work commencing in roughly 2 years.

It was considered by all who attended to be a very positive and satisfactory meeting that will improve considerably the communication between Langstone residents, through SOS, and Havant BC through ESCP.

As matters progress we will keep you informed.

Spreading *the word* ...

In the summer of 2018 a small group of local residents (4 to be exact, now 6) felt that the views/opinions of locals were not being taken into account in the proposed flood defences planned by ESCP acting on behalf of Havant BC.

The backing of the vast number of residents resulted in the birth of the SOS (Save Our Shore) Group, whose sole mission is to safeguard Langstone from flooding and erosion and to preserve the unique Heritage and Environmental status of the entire Langstone area.

It is our intention to be totally open with all concerned and to this end we have:

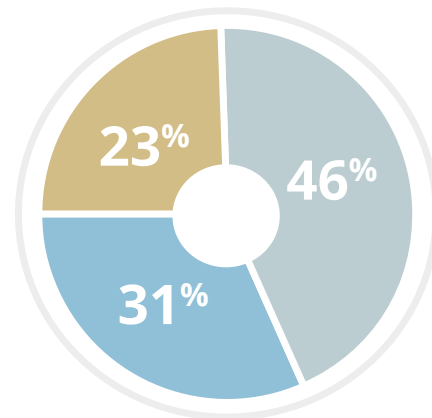
- 1) Produced and delivered a very informative brochure. To all Langstone homes.
- 2) Held a residents meeting at the Sailing Club. Largest attendance ever.
- 3) Obtained editorial and pictures in **Portsmouth Evening News**.

- 4) Obtained editorial and pictures in Hayling Trader.
- 5) SOS member interviewed by Radio Solent.
- 6) Created a SOS website **www.soslangstone.org**
- 7) Produced and delivered our first newsletter.
- 8) Obtained first meeting with senior ESCP officers 27/1/2020.
- 9) Most importantly we believe we have got ESCP to "think again".
- 10) Produced and delivered our second newsletter (this one!).

Thanks for your support so far, we will keep you informed.



Misleading to say the least!



The brochure produced and delivered by ESCP, (prior to the drop-ins) shows several pie charts that exclude some very important facts.

They omit to state that their stats are based on a survey of approx. **52 people** whereas approx. **1000 residents** live in Langstone.

So when they say that **45%** of those surveyed support a choice this **45%** represents just **22 residents** – approx. just over **1%** of all residents!

Hardly a basis to claim public support for such controversial works.

Proper consultation needs to take place, and hopefully this will commence starting with SOS's meeting with ESCP on the 27th.

As always our advice is to question the numbers, don't always take them for the Gospel!

The *path* no one wants!

Except local residents and visitors... One of the very interesting facts established at ESCP's drop-ins was that no one owns or wants to own the footpath between the Ship and the Royal Oak. This also applies to the Royal Oak quay.

Neither ESCP, Havant BC, Chichester Harbour Conservancy or Hampshire CC claim ownership rights as this would imply that they as owner would be responsible for repairing and maintaining the footpath.

Whereas the Royal Oak quay is in a reasonable state of repair the section between Green Cottage and the Winkle Market.

A brief inspection would reveal several holes in the top service under which numerous cavities are developing – in many sections there is only a thin surface supporting users of the path. In addition the wall of the path has a considerable number of bricks missing which allows tidal movements to slowly increase the cavities, thus undermining the path. There are also vast areas where the pointing is non-existing.

With ESCP not planning to start work until 2022 its doubtful if the path will survive till then, the only conclusion is that very soon, early spring/summer 2020, the path will have to be closed on Health and Safety grounds.

The wheels of a push chair, or an invalids wheelchair, could easily become trapped in the ever widening surface cracks, tipping the occupant either into the sea or onto the hard shingle beach.



There is also the possibility of the surface collapsing with resultant ankle/leg injuries.

What's confusing is that should ESCP go ahead with their proposals for this stretch of coastline then they plan to basically demolish and rebuild the path, without any ownership rights,- yet use this lack of ownership argument to ignore the current state of the path. How can this be?

We are not asking for vast sums of money to be spent, but surely Havant BC through ESCP or Hampshire CC, should take responsibility and repair the path so that between now and when ESCP commence work we will be able to enjoy the path without worrying about possible hospital treatment!

It just cannot be right that the four organisations mentioned above adopt a "it's not our responsibility" attitude, they just need to cut through the red tape before any one gets injured.

Take care!



Living at the *Old Mill*

Many of you may think about what life is like living at The Old Mill.

Sally and I have lived here for twenty years and have loved being here - the beauty of water/foreshore with everyone enjoying themselves - walking, bird watching, taking photographs, sketching and painting, families enjoying the unique environment with their dogs and children, mostly dogs, and lovely Langstone village which attracts those who want an aesthetic environment. So, wonderful neighbours: most of these have come to Langstone to be by the sea, knowing, and coping with, the flood risk.

Yes, we have tides, and we have to watch out for these as every day there are different times we can get "in and out" along the foreshore. Sometimes the car must be in the High Street or we can go nowhere!

The Old Mill was designed by experts in 1730. Built on the Long Stone Rock (hence Langstone), and brought into modern living standards in the 1970s, it is carefully constructed to withstand flood tides. Floodboards, and various "coffer dams" mean that the main rooms have never been flooded.

We accept that some spaces will be under water — the garage (we move the cars out), the garden, and two lower rooms are rarely flooded, but this is a small price



to pay for the enjoyment throughout the rest of the year.

We have been disturbed by 'dire' warnings from the environment agency, especially this year, only to find that nothing 'dire' happened! The last warning – a high tide plus a surge – just touched us, nothing!

Over the twenty years we have been here, the first two years were worse for floods than anything since then. Most years there has been nothing. We will keep you posted.

Richard and Sally

Two years of muck and bullets!

One of the questions most asked at the drop-ins was how long would the work proposed by ESCP take.

To everyone's disappointment the answer was "approx. two years" during which time the residents would have to suffer the usual noise, dust, and inconvenience that major construction work entails.

We were also told that Hampshire CC had given permission that the field behind The Royal Oak and High Street cottages could be used for



storage of heavy plant and building materials though this has not as yet been agreed. There was also the suggestion that the Ship car park or the layby on the A3023 may also be used.

Please note that although the field behind the High Street is a Local Green Space, only the footpath is legally open to the public.

