



Break through at last...

Our primary objective to slow the momentum propelling Coastal Partnerships “preferred options” irrespective of resident concerns has been achieved. It is now time to navigate a better more inclusive programme, the village working in partnership with HBC and Coastal Partnership.

As leader of HBC it was vitally important that Michael Wilson fully understood the genuine concerns of Langstone Residents regarding the proposed flood protections and the impact they would have on this most iconic area of Havant.

Michael's decision to meet with SOS members, Andy Lewis and Martin Murphy, together with front line resident Andrea Matthews (Winkle Market) allowed him to see at first-hand how Coastal Partners preferred options would negatively impact on the amenity value of the Langstone foreshore for the residents of Hampshire and its many visitors.

It was emphasised that building a wall on the Quay could possibly lead to the closure of the Royal Oak, which has been a major attraction over many years for both locals and visitors alike. Additionally, it was highlighted that building a

Boardwalk on top of the footpath between the High St. and the Ship P H was a totally unnecessary expense, the rebuilding of the footpath would suffice and save many thousands of taxpayer's funds. That not protecting the Spit and building a Bund on the Billy Line defied logic when a more suitable Bund could be built by the creek on South Moor allowing the additional bonus of protecting Mill Lane properties.

It was explained to Michael that Coastal Partners most recent survey was seriously flawed both in terms of content and distribution and their claimed mandate to proceed with their preferred options backed by residents was technically incorrect.

Over 100 residents voted against Coastal Partners preferred options at the Sailing Club meeting last December and this position was



Michael Wilson HBC Leader

again supported when this month a petition organised by a local resident secured approximately 300 signatures supporting SOS objectives.

Michael Wilson was left in no doubt Langstone residents want flood protection but it must achieve the twin objectives of asset protection and heritage management. After all, we have a heritage which has evolved over hundreds of years to become the “face” of Havant and the most photographed and painted area in Hampshire.

Having presented our concerns to Michael it was pleasing to note that at the HBC Cabinet meeting on the 28th October a vote of 6 to 2 for releasing funds to Coastal Partners to proceed to detailed design was achieved. Even more encouraging was Michael's amendment that the final designs must go back to Cabinet for approval. Thank you Michael for listening! And a thank you to Leah Turner and other cabinet members for supporting the project!

Coastal Partners will appoint a design consultant to take the project



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forward but it is the view of SOS that the selected consultants must involve a Langstone residents group from the beginning of their appointment. There is no point in them presenting designs that will be opposed by residents as is the current situation with Coastal Partners preferred options. It is also essential that any visuals produced to illustrate and help residents understand proposals are accurate and also show how one village zone interacts with the next.

It is now almost certain that flood defences will be built within the next few years and therefore the next 3 to 6 months are vitally important to ensure that the designs mirror the historical and environmental status of Langstone.

SOS are committed to the following:

- 1) That plans for the flood defence of Langstone should be inclusive rather than divided into wet and dry zones.
- 2) That Coastal partnership provide residents a "menu" of cost for protecting the whole village so that vital decisions on the planning and funding of zones can be made based upon their importance to residents.
- 3) That no wall be built on the Quay.
- 4) That no boardwalk will be constructed on the footpath between the High St and Ship PH.

- 5) That no bund will be built on the Billy Line, which will geographically divide the village in two and divide the defended from the non-defended.
- 6) A proper programme of appraisals be devised to evaluate the protection of the Spit.
- 7) Safe access for residents of Langstone Mill and West Mill.

Whether you can see the sea or not, everyone benefits from living in Langstone. It is arguable the responsibility of all residents to ensure the very best and most considered plans are implemented to protect what is merely on loan to us for future generations. It is everyone's concern and your views and design ideas have never been more important, especially now when we need a uniform interface with decision makers whose decisions could last decades or more.



The Royal Oak and cottages. If we lose this environment now it will never be replicated



Have your say...

We have achieved our first objective and it is vital you help SOS achieve a workable plan of flood defence. You are important, act before it's too late! Please make important comments to the SOS Group at:
martinmurphybishops@gmail.com



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