

THE draft Coastal Partners' Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – Preparing for a resilient future (CP HICS) is now available on <https://coastalpartners.org.uk/authority/havant>, and we recommend that everyone reads it prior to making their response to the Draft Strategy.

Given the rules which define Coastal Partners' scope in this project, the Draft Strategy is a significant body of work, and clearly presents Havant Borough Council's position and high-level recommendations for each area of our Islands' coast.

However, there are some serious concerns relating to the data used and conclusions drawn. The key outstanding areas of concern are:

■ **Out of date Forecast Data**

The CP HICS is required by Government to be based on the Environment Agency's climate change predictions that were produced in 2016, with a minor update in 2018. These are based on a 1.5°C temperature increase, and were made long before the COP26 disaster.

The latest forecast from the UN Environment Programme reports that:

■ **The 1.5°C target will be exceeded at least once in the next five years.**

Pledges made by governments from around the World at COP26 would need to be four times higher to limit warming to 2°C, and seven times higher to limit it to 1.5°C.

As a consequence, the UN predict that temperature rise for the next 80 years could be approximately 2.8°C – almost double the original target. And there will be a subsequent huge increase in the tide height above the 1.8 mtrs used in the CP HICS.

Therefore, please read the Risk Analysis with caution as it is based on the most favourable circumstances which are almost certain to be exceeded.

■ **Project Funding**

As Coastal Partners clearly state that any funding is based on the cost/benefit ratio, only the Eastern Peninsula (see Option Development Units (ODUs) 7 & 8) and Newtown (ODU 13) have high benefit ratios which attracts central funding. Funding for the remaining areas will be subject to annual priority selection by one or more funding sources such as National and Local Governments, Environment Agency, Highways England, Natural England. In the final analysis, it is the land owners' responsibility to protect their property or not in those areas with low cost/benefit ratios.

■ **Do Nothing Areas**

There are a number of areas where Coastal Partners are recommending that the coast be allowed to naturally erode, and cite "making space for nature" as an objective.

We question this as these areas are already spaces for nature, so what kind of nature are they thinking of? If it is salt marsh, we disagree as huge areas of salt marsh in both harbours have been poisoned primarily by nitrate run-off, resulting in the vast vistas of green slime visible every time you leave the Island at low tide. Adding to this problem is not sustainable.

One of these areas (ODU 12) is an RSPB reserve, and a primary site for Brent Geese over-wintering. This has recently been expanded as development mitigation for the 190 Sinah Lane homes next door, and should be protected for its intended purpose.

■ **The Beach**

All of the recommendations for the beach (ODUs 8-10) are still subject to completion of the Bi-Modal Tidal Risk Analysis. This is now planned for 2024, assuming funding is available. This should be a primary determinant in any recommendations.

■ This *Coastal Partners Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – Preparing for a resilient future* will be seized upon by the housing development community at some point to justify increased house-building over the Island – that is why we must continue to work to ensure that the views of concerns of the residents are paramount, and that the latest climate change forecasts are recognised.

If you missed the October drop-in events, you can give your feedback on the Draft Strategy until 30 December 2022 via <https://coastalpartners.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/Hi-draft-strategy>.