

The Foreshore and its place in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, Walberswick Proposed Terms of Reference for Establishment of a Working Group

Context

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group plans to include a chapter on "Environment and Sustainability". Whilst the content of that chapter is yet to be developed, it would seem probable that the Foreshore would be a crucial part of this. The Foreshore can be broadly described as that area of the Parish within its' boundary between low tide and development (ie housing or roadway).

Proposal

It is proposed to create a working group which would develop ideas for inclusion in the NDP with a focus on the foreshore. The Foreshore Working Group (FWG) would be a small group of representative Stakeholders or interested Parishioners who would develop ideas which would then be submitted to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) who would oversee how the ideas could best be consulted and whether they would fit in with the final NDP. The FWG would, as appropriate, seek input from landowners, NGOs and Government advisors as well as user groups and individuals.

Vision and Objectives

The Foreshore is one such area where a nature-led sustainable future should be secured with a 25 year perspective on how we want this area in Walberswick to thrive. As a highly significant nature - led area, it is its environmental sustainability that will be the focus.

The Working Group will consider 3 key questions:

Is the Foreshore appreciated? *Components, interactions, ecosystems, natural events, use by people, carbon sequestration*

Is the Foreshore protected? *Erosion, development, flooding, footsteps, biodiversity*

How can the Foreshore be enhanced? *User group, national status, working with coastal protection bodies, data collection, information sharing, carbon neutral*

Deliverables

The FWG would develop a series of aspirations and/or plans, to be part of the NDP consultation, with any successful outcomes being incorporated into the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Risks and Constraints

Constraints - natural events relating to climate change, finance, and sustainability tensions (environmental-social - economic)

Risks - scope creep, time scales, momentum.

Timescale

These Terms of Reference are to be agreed with the NDPSG in April, and the Working Group to be set up and begin meeting from May onwards.

The work will be completed to form part of the consultation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan which is expected to be put to referendum around the local elections of May 2023. In order to be incorporated into the consultation process, at least a set of first proposals from the FWG would need to be provided to the NDPSG by September/October 2022.

16/03/2022