



Newsletter

August 2017



southsea
COASTAL SCHEME

The Southsea Coastal Scheme is responsible for delivering new flood defences along 4.5km of seafront, from Old Portsmouth to Eastney. Our aim is to create new defences that embrace everything we all love about the seafront. The work will transform the seafront for future generations, while protecting homes and the heritage that is so important to the people of Portsmouth. We also aim to stimulate further regeneration in Southsea and create a more vibrant place for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

This is the first of our newsletters aimed at keeping you updated on the plans and how you can engage with them. We're in the very early stages of developing our final designs, so wanted to take this opportunity to re-introduce the project.

Who we are

The Southsea Coastal Scheme is a Portsmouth City Council project being delivered through the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership. Our specialist team was responsible for the flood defence projects recently completed in Anchorage Park and Milton Common. We are passionate about Southsea seafront and want to protect and enhance its unique character.

Why we're doing this

The existing seafront defences in Southsea do not offer good enough protection and are nearing the end of their working life. In the last three years we have had a number of critical failures in the defences including by the Pyramids and Long Curtain Moat (between the Square Tower and Clarence Pier). We want to make sure that doesn't happen in the future and improve the protection the city has against extreme weather.

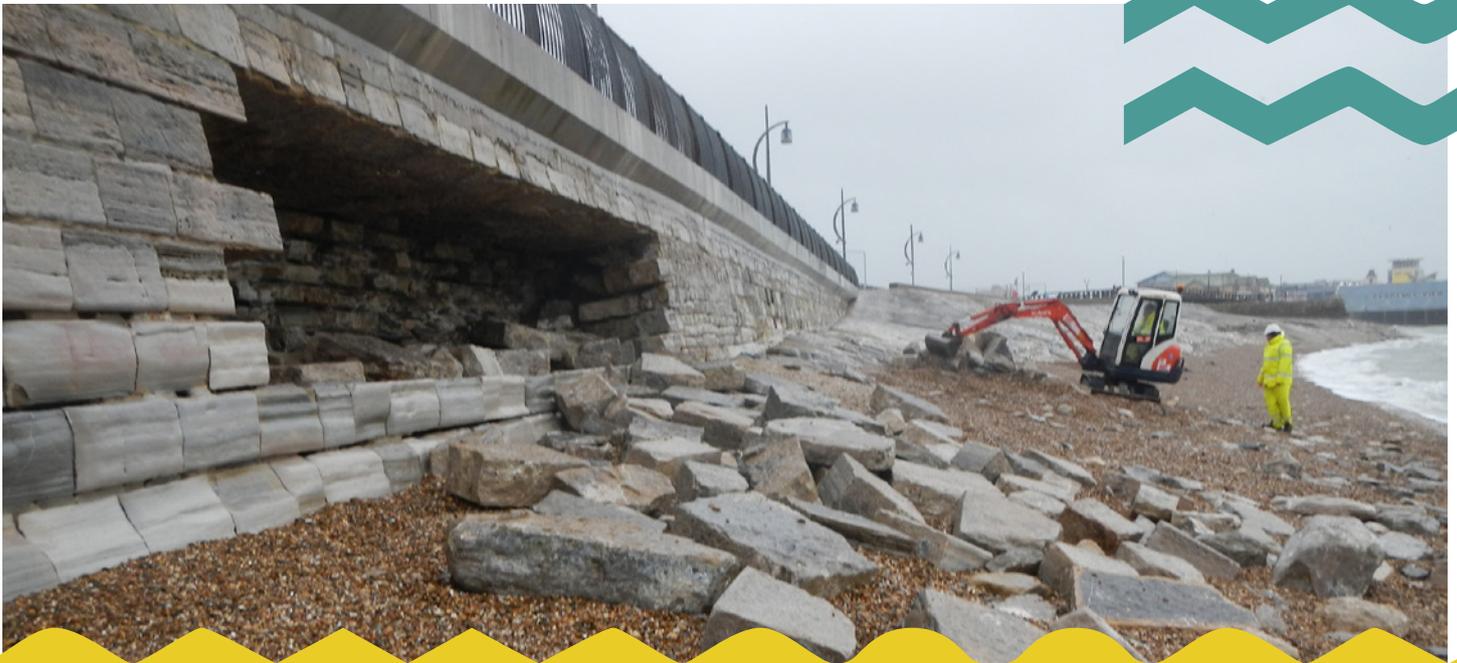
At the moment 8,077 homes and 704 commercial properties are at risk from significant flooding. Therefore as a city we need to be prepared for this by building coastal defences that protect us from these extreme storms.

What we will do

- ✓ We will do everything we can to retain the seafront's unique character
- ✓ We will look for ways to improve areas that could be made more vibrant
- ✓ We will provide flood defences to protect Southsea for the next 100 years
- ✓ We will keep you informed of our work as the project progresses
- ✓ We will build something sympathetic to the area, the same as we have done in Anchorage Park and Milton Common

What we won't do

- ✗ We won't build a 4m concrete wall along the seafront
- ✗ We won't start building anything before giving you a chance to see the plans and talk to us about them



The current position

Government has awarded us £5.9m to develop the designs for the project and we have now appointed our designers to take this scheme forward.

Once we have developed the design we will apply for more than £90m of government funding to deliver the scheme while Portsmouth City Council has currently set aside £6million to further contribute to the cost. We are now entering the detailed design stage, which will build on the concept design. We will be engaging with the public and businesses again to ensure we create a final proposal that takes into account their concerns and ideas, while still effectively defending our city from extreme weather events and flooding.

What it will look like

Currently there are no confirmed designs for how the seafront will look once the work has been completed. We do have basic sea defence concept styles that will help inform the design, which were chosen following a public consultation in 2014. The 471 people who took part helped us choose options that would enhance the existing seafront by combining new defences with continued access to the beach and improvements to the public space. We will soon be embarking on a new phase of consultation.

You may have seen designs showing a huge wall blocking out parts of the seafront or steps all the way down to the water. Some of these drawings were part of our funding bid to government, which were used to illustrate the concept in the simplest way possible. Unfortunately these concept drawings have been publicised misleadingly without this full context, but we can reassure you they are

absolutely not the final designs. The design development stage has only just begun, and there is a lot of work and consultation to be carried out before we will know exactly what the seafront will look like once the scheme is complete.

While some areas will need to be raised, we want to make sure this is done sympathetically in a way that enhances the seafront and the surrounding area.

What happens next?

We are in the process of planning a number of events where we want to gather your thoughts and ideas which will help inform the design development stage. We will come back to you again when we've got designs to show you, to get your feedback. We'll be in touch when we have more news.

In the meantime we will be doing a bit of work examining things, like the strength of the ground under the promenade. We'll begin doing this in September so you might see us working on the seafront – but don't worry, we're just doing some testing and not building anything yet.

More information:

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