

Exe Estuary Management Partnership



Virtual Winter Forum 2022

Question Session Notes

15th February 2022

Devon Climate Emergency – presented by Emily Reed Devon Climate Emergency Project Manager

[Devon Climate Emergency – Creating a resilient, net-zero carbon Devon – where people and nature thrive.](#)

Nik Ward question to Emily Reed: Energy - nothing about marine turbines? on seabed or floating?

Emily Reed: It is not that they ruled out at all – citizen assembly focussing on shore wind, because it is one of the issues that is more controversial and needed more public input. Intra Devon carbon plan, does have action to develop an energy strategy.

You can view the action plan here [Action Summary Tables – Devon Climate Emergency](#)

Courtlands boardwalk James Leigh Devon County Council Engineer

Jeff Trail: We would like to have plenty of notice so we can inform the general public of what you are going to do, and I would like that to go through myself and Councillor Richard Scott, who are the ward members.

Towards Exmouth, the front gate as you come on to the trail, there is going to be some more work carried out after half term, which is to repair the fencing in the gabions. All the wood is rotten again, so the gabions need to be taken out, and replaced. There will be chicanes on the Exe trail, so people can still use it to get to work and recreation. Those people on bikes etc. will have to dismount to walk through in a safe manner. We need to give the public as much notice as possible, and a person to contact on a daily basis. I am willing to assist you.

Hilary: Please can you assess for bikes and dog walkers

Nick Ward: Where can you see the diversion map, please?

James Leigh: The engineers typically make a scheme website to keep everyone informed.

Martin Davies Environment Agency Update Dawlish Warren beach management scheme and post scheme review.

There will be a summary feedback document that Exe Estuary members can respond to in April/May.

Nick Ward: Have all the improvements in estuary been identified that need improvement or is there uncertainty in any other small communities that might need further improvements as climate change/sea level rise increases, which might impact on the removal of the geotubes.

Martin Davies: Our consultants have looked at sites that were identified in 2012, there are schemes that were identified as being later on later on (Topsham, Podwerham bank, Lypstone) it's an ongoing thing, smaller sites that do need to be looked at depending on the risk. Exeter city has concerns at the canal and the impacts thereof at Exminster. It isn't just the environment agency; it is all risk management authorities who have responsibilities. Network rail are big stakeholders, they have a strategic study as well looking at the resilience of the railway line, and we flagged this to them. Main line through could be vulnerable in the future, discussion of realignment at Powderham banks. More detail needed around the impact of removing the smaller geotube and how it will affect the larger geotube.

Nick: Important area for wading birds, high tide lot of birds go there. We need to continue to monitor as tubes are removed and if we need to put another roost in place.

Martin Davies: Advice so far, any disruption is short term, long term it could improve things.

Nick Ward: Need to monitor situations as it happens.

Jeff Trail: Normally when planning projects there are various plans made, to take into account things that might not happen but just in case, but it would only appear there is one plan. Apparent you are doing nothing for the Exe estuary. I work as a volunteer for Graham Foreshore. To hear you are doing nothing for the Exe estuary I find disturbing.

Martin Davies: When you normally do a scheme you have a long list and short list of options and impacts, if you apply that to Dawlish Warren there are so many uncertainties, you would have a very long list. We are trying to purpose is this list in draft form and waiting for feedback and challenges. People will look at it from an environmental, amenity, navigation side. We are trying to simplify the outputs to facilitate feedback. What do you mean by Exe estuary improvements?

Jeff Trail: Sand is going up the Exe, depth of channels are changing. Exmouth is a tourist town, we need to maintain tourism by allowing vessels up the Exe, that channel is getting narrower and narrower.

Martin Davies: This is a flood risk management project not a navigation project. The plan is to put Dawlish Warren back into favourable condition.

Graham Foreshore: When this scheme was initiated what important was navigation taken into account?

Martin Davies: Because it was big scheme it had to go through marine licencing regulation and as part of that there was consultation of different stakeholders. It went through normal regulatory process, and peer reviewed by HR Wallingford. There was no indication that anything from what was available would have any significant effect on navigation. There is so much natural change at Dawlish Warren, you can't unpick what erosion was caused by the scheme.

Graham Foreshore: I accept that. What people are saying is that they appreciate things change naturally, but what they are seeing is different then what they would ordinarily see. They believe the change has been exacerbated by Dawlish warren.

Martin Davies: That is difficult to pin down. There have been three to four times more storms than you would have normally. Nobody would be able to confidently unpick all of that.

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Maggie: An awful lot of the sediment will be coming from all the building work going on particularly Cranbrook, as the feeder streams for the Clyst frequently are full of red sediment. They actively pump people water into the small streams via the road gutters. Who is able to enforce the builders taking steps to mitigate this run-off?

Peter Chamberlain: It is undoubtedly true that development around the estuary is contributing to increased rates of sedimentation to the Exe estuary. The way that should be considered is through the planning process. Any plans for new developments should have considerations for pollution/erosion/drainage etc. and should put forward steps to ameliorate this. It is the role of the local planning authorities to use planning conditions to try and limit sedimentation going down stream.