



PRESS RELEASE

16th December 2004

EAST HEAD PARTIES AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO EAST HEAD ISSUES

Representatives from Chichester District Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, West Sussex County Council, The National Trust, The West Wittering Estate, English Nature and the Environment Agency, met on 13th December 2004 and agreed to continue working together in order to ensure that the long term future of East Head was protected in a sustainable manner.

The meeting identified the various objectives of the group concerned, including the use of East Head as a tourism honeypot, the Harbour economy interests, the nature conservation interests and the coast protection interests, and to determine what was required to meet all of these objectives in a sustainable way.

All parties agreed that in the short term the rock berm installed in 1999 would remain in place providing protection from a tidal breach over the winter months. In the meantime, the Environment Agency and Chichester District Council will conclude the technical review of the Coastal Defence Strategy which is due to recommend short, medium and long term management strategies for the coastline from East Head to Pagham Harbour. These options will be presented to the public in Spring 2005. Monitoring of the coastal feature at East Head will continue and

this data will be used to inform the process. Should the rock berm be outflanked, English Nature have confirmed that they would support the importation of material to maintain the link between West Wittering Estates amenity car park and East Head in such a way that was consistent with any long term sustainable solution for the area. The group have agreed to meet again early in the New Year in order to review the current position and exchange potential ideas for future sustainable management.

Sam Howes, Deputy Chief Executive at Chichester District Council, commented, “the meeting was most productive with all points of view properly aired. All concerns and opinions were fully explained and understood by the parties involved and there is a growing confidence that a solution can be found which meets all the various objectives”.

John Davis, Manager and Harbour Master of Chichester Harbour said, “we welcome this positive approach from all agencies and land owners to develop a scheme to protect East Head and its associated interests in both the short and long term. Speed will be of the essence and the Conservancy will be working with them to find a sustainable and affordable solution”.