

# **CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY**

## **EAST HEAD STATEMENT No 1**

**5 NOVEMBER 2004**

At a meeting on 4th November 2004, the Conservancy resolved to seek planning permission for the retention of the rock berm at East Head and for a scheme for the longer term protection of East Head.

It is extremely unlikely that central government funding will be made available for the protection of East Head and any scheme will have to be funded from money raised by public subscription and from local authorities and organisations, most notably the Conservancy and Chichester District Council. It is too early to judge just how much money will be required but it likely to be a very considerable sum.

The challenge will be to find a scheme that protects East Head and the navigational, amenity and economic interests that it sustains, but which is also affordable in the long term and satisfies environmental interests, the owners of the site, The National Trust, and other statutory bodies. Importantly, it must be a scheme that potential donors are persuaded will work and which they are prepared to contribute towards financially. Balancing all of these requirements will not be easy; flexibility will need to be shown by all parties if an expensive Public Inquiry is to be avoided.

The Conservancy recognises that time is short and that, if at all possible, the works associated with a long term solution should be in place before the onset of winter 2005. In the meantime, it is important that a tidal channel should not be allowed to form through the Hinge and the existing rock berm should be retained.

In the coming months the Conservancy will be working with Chichester District Council, the Environment Agency, the National Trust and other agencies to develop a planning application that meets their requirements and those of the local and wider harbour community.

Steps are also being taken to ensure that the public are kept informed and that their opinion is mobilised where and when necessary. An organisation to raise funds will also be established to pay for the works.

John Q Davis  
Manager & Harbour Master