

**JOINT STATEMENT ON EAST HEAD
CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL AND
CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY
11 NOVEMBER 2004**

Chichester District Council and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy are working together to produce a long term solution to the problems caused by coastal erosion at East Head. Both organisations are concerned about the impacts that the loss of East Head may have on the socio-economic interests of the wider harbour community and, in the case of the Conservancy, on navigation in Chichester Harbour.

In the short term, it will be important that the rock berm that is currently preventing a tidal channel forming through the Hinge is retained. In the event that the berm is outflanked, further measures to hold the line will also be required so that a long term solution is not prejudiced. Chichester District Council are in discussion with English Nature to seek support for both these measures.

Also as a short term measure, the District Council will be seeking to reconfigure the groynes that lead up to East Head on the West Wittering frontage with a view to releasing more beach material to nourish the Hinge.

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy will submit to the District Council a planning application for a scheme that will provide the long term protection of East Head. The scheme must be sustainable, sympathetic to nature conservation interests in the harbour, compatible with coastal defence measures on adjoining frontages and economically viable.

The timetable for developing such a scheme is linked to the review of the coastal defence strategy for the Selsey peninsula due to be available for public consultation in early Spring 2005. Once its proposals for East Head are known, a detailed coastal defence proposal will be drawn up and submitted for planning approval.

The aim must be to have the works completed on site at the earliest opportunity, and it is hoped that this will be by the winter of 2005/06. However this will be contingent upon the planning application not being subject to a Public Inquiry and the necessary funds for the work being raised from public subscription and other sources.