

Special Meeting – Fingal Coastal Liaison Group

21st March 2018

Room 3A6, County Hall

Minutes

Representatives Councillors	Present B. Dennehy B. Martin P. Mulville D. Smith A. Henchy	Apologies D. Butler J. Newman J. Sinnott
Representatives Community	H. Donovan P. O'Brien M. Deegan R. Brett F. Price M. Moynihan	C. Sargent
Council Officials	A.M. Farrelly K. Halpenny H. Visser S. Peppard	G. Clabby

Mr. K. Halpenny welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself and Ms. AnnMarie Farrelly, Director of Services to the members.

- 1. Update on Recent Storm Damage & Coastal Erosion in Portrane**
- 2. Update on Portrane Flood Management Works Project**

A presentation was made by Kevin Halpenny showing the Councils involvement since 1997. He showed options that had been presented and considered not to be viable. Due to climate change the level of erosion has reached what was expected in the year 2100.

R. Brett spoke in relation to the NPWS and their lack of input in this situation. A.M. Farrelly stated she agreed with the comments made and stated that the Council has spoken to OPW about the need for the NPWS to communicate with us.

K. Halpenny continued with the presentation and H. Visser spoke about soft solution and the cost implications.

A discussion took place in relation to how serious the situation is and that one more storm could be detrimental. A.M. Farrelly stated that this is a very serious situation. An expert was brought out to Portrane on 15/3/18 to assess the situation and give any option to delay/prevent further erosion. Some flood prevention works will delay erosion but putting down barriers now is not the solution as this would have an impact on another area. The discussion went back to the lack of involvement from the NPWS and A.M. Farrelly stated that they will engage in 2 weeks. H. Visser stated that the NPWS will want to know the impact, options and considerations. It was also stated that any works carried out now will cause further damage. This was disputed and K. Halpenny stated that this is what the experts have told Fingal County Council.

Cllr. D. Smith asked if the 5 options rejected previously could be looked at again. K. Halpenny stated that the Consultants were asked to consider these options considering the present situation. D. Smith then enquired about the NPWS – would they pick the least invasive? H. Visser stated that the NPWS will FCC re impact, probably decide on least environmentally sensitive option and we need to prove that there will be no impact, which is impossible.

M. Moynihan suggested that the Special Area of Conservation be reviewed due to the movement of the sand dunes.

K. Halpenny stated that there was no coherent way to deal with coastal erosion and that it is necessary to work through the audit. The immediate issue now is the one householder. A.M. Farrelly spoke in relation to this and stated the owner of this property has been advised by FCC not stay there. There are 13 houses in total more vulnerable than the rest and the future of these houses needs to be assessed.

Cllr. A Henchy spoke in relation to this property also. He stated that the expert who visited Portrane from RPS where the people who got it wrong, why use them again? What is the plan?

A.M. Farrelly stated that when RPS will complete their assessment in approx. 3 weeks, actions will be taken. Discussion followed as to how long this would take to be implemented and it was stated that the OPW stated that it works credible, they will go to NPWS. The focus is on 13 houses and work cannot be carried out that will impact elsewhere. A process has to be followed and the NPWS cannot be bypassed.

CLlr P. Mulville stated that a residents meeting took place the evening before (20/3/18) and the residents have requested a meeting with the Consultants. A.M. Farrelly stated that the Consultants are of the view that this present situation is due to climate change and they will show the reality of what is happening now.

A discussion then took place with regard to insurance on properties affected. It was stated that health & safety is utmost and if the boundary is damaged the residents need to retreat and secure onto sound ground. There is no point in placing fencing as this will not work. H. Visser discussed the process of erosion and stated that over a 3 year period there has been 5 storms which have had a major impact.

CLlr P. Mulville stated that he had 3 items that the residents asked him to bring to the meeting:

- Flooding Project is a waste of time
- Residents request to meet Consultants
- Unfair to raise planning issues in relation to property affected

A.M. Farrelly replied that:

- In relation to the flooding, technical advice received and is necessary
- The Consultants are working a very tight schedule in order to prevent and further problems
- Planning issues have been raised by 3rd parties rather than FCC.

F. Price asked if a temporary solution, 2 year time span could be used. It was stated that South Beach in Rush is suffering similar occurrences of erosion. Could a similar model be shown for Rush as Portrane - need to try other solutions. As this is a countrywide problem, can Fingal County Council become a leader of such a project.

Discussion again took place in relation to Special Area of Conservation and building back from this line with a hard standing solution.

To summarise:

Flood prevention works are key

Department on board & funds available

Remit to structure works within funding available from OPW

Solutions outside of Special Area of Conservation in order to avoid An Bord
Pleanála or other delays

Public Consultation to take place shortly in relation flooding works

Consultants will attend next meeting – approx. 3 weeks