



# BOGNOR REGIS BEACH ACCESS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Consultation Exercise

# Bognor Regis Beach Access, Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

---

## Session Description

Stakeholders will be invited to attend a workshop at The Shed, Bognor Regis on 18<sup>th</sup> April to co-collaborate on Beach Access initiatives.

The session will consist of an introduction, presentation and 3 tasks / stations where participants will be asked to share their views on; a vision statement, the challenges we face in accessing the beach, and, what proposals could help overcome some of the barriers we face when trying to access the beach.

## Background

Arun District Council have been working to improve beach access for all and we are seeking to better understand beach access limitations and what we can do to overcome these obstacles.

The council have been engaged in increasing accessibility to the beach for several years with the most recent report illustrating how we have met our short-term objectives. This piece of work primarily focused on surveying, cataloguing and assessing the ramps that are currently available to the public. Of the assets, two ramps have been shortlisted for seasonal clearance as they met a large portion of the criteria to warrant further investment. The ramps are far from ideal but both offerings have access to good quality basic facilities and can be modified further to increase the value of each offering. Full details of the report can be found here: - ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Environment Committee, 21/11/2023 18:00 \(arun.gov.uk\)](#) – See Pages 241 – 263.

As part our journey with the local community, we are actively seeking to create a better all-round dialogue by investing in positive engagement, increasing participation in decision-making. We hope that by doing so, we can deliver fit-for-purpose initiatives that have the buy in of local people.

## The Challenges

Presentation to be given by Coastal Partners

## Scope

The purpose of this exercise is to gain a broader understanding of what challenges the community face and to co-produce proposals that improve beach access. The engagement group will be asked to specifically consider proposals that improve pedestrian access through inclusive design. This will ensure that the needs of all disabled people are considered from the outset.

The group will also be asked to develop the vision statement so that we demonstrate what success looks like. The statement will be continually referred to when developing Beach Access initiatives serving as an aid memoire.

## Outside of the scope

Effective engagement is based on a set of principles to guide the conversation to achieve meaning full outcomes. One of these principles is that consultation should have a defined purpose and should not include topics on which a final view has already been established. For this reason, the following topics are outside the scope of this exercise;

- Improved access for those wishing to launch vessels and PWC. The council are working on this issue as part of a separate project.
- Major infrastructure is also outside of the scope of this project. For the purpose of this exercise major infrastructure is considered to be services or construction likely to exceed £50,000. The council will conduct further consultation when major infrastructure opportunities arise. These opportunities are likely to coincide with either regeneration projects or installation of new sea defences.
- Activities on the beach. We hope by improving the overall offering and accessibility business and concessions will follow suit ultimately delivering new / better activities.

Obviously, we are more than happy to discuss these topics but it should not detract from the main conversation.

## Tasks

---

### Draft Vision Statement

Participants asked to consider the following statement. The statement will be revisited at the end of the session where stakeholders will be given the opportunity to shape the statement.

*“Improve access to the beach giving everyone who chooses to access the beach the opportunity to do so. This is to include the provision of all facilities to make a visit the best experience they could expect, having access to parking, toilet provision and changing facilities where possible.”*

### Task 1, What are the challenges that we face in accessing the beach? (20 mins)

Ask participants to consider physical and mental barriers. Ideas to be written on post it notes.

Post-it-notes will then be collected by the facilitator and grouped on a central board to establish if themes exist.

## Task 2, What proposals could help overcome some of the barriers that we face when trying to access the beach? *(20 mins)*

Participants asked to consider initiatives such as;

- A service
- Modifications to infrastructure
- New offerings

## Task 3, Vision Statement *(15 mins)*

Participants will be asked to reflect on the vision statement and suggest improvements and amendments. The facilitator shall work with the group to see if a general consensus can be reached.

## Session Close

Thank members for attendance and input, describe how feedback is to be provided and when to expect it.