

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP ON 27 NOVEMBER 2018

### PART A : REPORT

**SUBJECT: Foreshores Service – 2018 Season**

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**DATE:** 19 October 2018

**EXTN:** 37836

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Community Wellbeing, Services Directorate

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This report provides an overview of the Foreshores Service and a review of the 2018 season.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Environment and Leisure Working Group is requested to note the contents of the report.

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Foreshores Service covers the Arun District coastline from Pagham Harbour to Ferring and the River Arun, extending northwards as far as Arundel. Some of the foreshore/beach areas are privately owned but Arun controls the whole of the coastline from the Mean High Water Mark as far as 200m below of the Mean Low Water Mark.
- 1.2 The service deals with the functional day to day management of the coastal areas but not coastal erosion or maintenance of flood defences and groynes, these are managed by Arun's Coastal Engineers.
- 1.3 The service works in conjunction with a number of external agencies including, HM Coastguard, The Littlehampton Harbour Board, The Environment Agency, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Chichester District Council.
- 1.4 There is also regular liaison with other Arun District Council departments including, Licensing, Events, Property & Estates, Parks, Communications, Environmental Health, Cleansing and Car Parks.
- 1.5 The day to day operation of the Foreshore Service is managed by one full time Foreshore Officer with a number of seasonally employed Foreshores Inspectors. The Inspectors are employed between Easter and Early September with two members of staff based at the following locations daily:

**Bognor Regis (East Beach):**

Daily between Easter and Early September from 10am - 6pm.

**Littlehampton (East Beach):**

Daily between Easter and Early September from 10am - 6pm.

1.6 The Foreshore Service deals with many varied tasks throughout the year ranging from pollution monitoring, safety inspections of the promenades, railings and Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) and co-ordination of shingle removal from the promenades in the winter months. During the summer the Service also deals with dog control zone enforcement, lost & found children, administering first aid, patrolling the beaches and dealing with general enquiries. A full list of main duties can be found in Appendix 1.

1.7 Since 2013 the RNLI has been contracted to provide a Seasonal Lifeguarding Service on the beaches of Littlehampton and Bognor. The RNLI offer the only nationally resourced lifeguarding service capable of providing a seamless lifeguarding service throughout the summer months. The RNLI also provide, at no charge, safety awareness education both on the beach and in schools. This year their contract was renewed for three years with an option of a further two year extension.

1.8 The RNLI provide their lifeguard service over the following locations and time frame:

**Bognor Regis:**

07/07/18 - 02/09/18 seven days a week. 3 x lifeguards on duty at any given time. Supervision provided from 1000 – 1800

**Littlehampton (East):**

19/05/18 - 02/09/18 seven days a week. 3 x lifeguards on duty at any given time. Supervision provided from 1000 – 1800

**Littlehampton (West):**

05/05/18 - 13/05/18 weekends and bank holidays only. 19/05/18 - 09/09/18 seven days a week. 2 x lifeguards on duty at any given time. Supervision provided from 1000 – 1800

**2.0 Review of the 2018 Season**

2.1 2018 has been an extremely busy year for the service. During the winter months the Foreshores Officer and seasonal staff dealt with unprecedented levels of shingle which had 'over topped' onto the promenade. It was also one of the hottest and longest summers on record.

2.2 Foreshores Inspectors dealt with the following number of first aid incidents over the season:

**Littlehampton: 149**

**Bognor Regis: 20**

The disparity between the figures for Littlehampton and Bognor Regis is explained by

the RNLI First Aid station in Bognor Regis being sited immediately in front of the relocated Foreshores Office.

- 2.3 First Aid incidents ranged from bumps, grazes, slips, trips and falls, but occasionally they included more serious injuries such as suspected fractures, head injuries or heart conditions. The RNLI provide a report on the number of first aid incidents that they dealt with over the season but this was not available at the time of writing this report.
- 2.4 This season saw the introduction of tear drop flags along the promenade to enable the public to have a visual indication of where the dog free zones start and finish (1 May to 30 September). Staff often found that dog walkers accidentally strayed into the no dog zones and having a visual marker was extremely useful in controlling dog access on the beach.
- 2.5 The RNLI was commissioned to carry out a survey of the foreshore Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) and as a result of their recommendations all of the lifebuoy points will be upgraded. The existing 6mm blue polypropylene line will be replaced by 11mm orange/white polypropylene. These lines are intentionally made in this unique colour scheme to identify them as being used on rescue equipment. All non-encased lifebuoys will have revised information signs on their stands and all old encased cabinets will be replaced.
- 2.6 Over the summer there was an increase in the number of complaints regarding jet ski users, particularly those coming in too close to the shore or riding in areas that are not designated for Personal Water Craft (PWC). In order to reduce these incidences the Foreshores Officer has introduced a page on Arun's website which offers Jet ski and PWC users general advice and safety guidance and highlights the dedicated launching ramps at Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. The Foreshore Officer has also been working closely with both the launch ramp operators at Bognor Regis and the Harbour Board in Littlehampton to ensure that PWC users are launching correctly. The Foreshore Officer and Inspectors also try to identify and speak to users who are not adhering to the relevant guidance.
- 2.7 The Foreshores Officer is currently liaising with the Littlehampton Harbour Board about the possibility of introducing buoys at the Littlehampton harbour entrance that will run parallel to the beach (eastern side). This will allow Jet ski and PWC users have a visual marker clearly identifying the areas that they are not allowed to access as these are dedicated public bathing areas. This system is already successfully used in Bognor Regis in the area around the launch ramp with buoys clearly marking the bathing area.
- 2.8 During the winter and spring the combination of high tides, strong onshore winds and large sea swells often results in shingle deposits along the promenades. This mainly occurs at Felpham, Bognor Regis and Aldwick; Littlehampton is affected to a lesser degree.
- 2.9 At these times the Council maintains a useable footpath for pedestrians, disability vehicles and cyclists. During protracted periods of poor weather there may be a delay in clearance due to the frequency of deposits and/or the availability of contractors. A full clearance of the promenades always commences once the worst of the winter high tides have passed, normally around the Easter holiday period. This full pre-summer seasonal clearance can take up to two weeks to complete.

2.10 In order to improve the arrangements for shingle clearance, responsibility has passed to the Arun's Tree and Maintenance Team (TMT). This will provide a more coordinated approach and make the best use of resources.

**3.0 CONCLUSION**

3.1 The start of the year required the Foreshore Officer to respond to an unusually large quantity of shingle on the promenades. The Foreshore Office in Bognor Regis was successfully transferred to its new location before the start of the summer season which turned out to be one of the hottest and longest on record. Working with partners the Foreshore Service provided a valuable service, ensuring that the promenades and beaches were safe, clean and attractive venues for residents and visitors to the district.

**2. PROPOSAL(S):**

The Environment and Leisure Working Group is requested to note the contents of the report.

**3. OPTIONS:**

To note the report.

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
Other groups/persons (please specify)		X
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial		X
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		X
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability		X
Asset Management/Property/Land		X
Technology		X
Other (please explain)		X

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

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**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

Information paper.

**8. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION:**

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

Appendix 1

Routine tasks include:

- Pollution monitoring
- Enforcement of the Byelaws
- Removal of dead animals/mammals
- Removal of abandoned nets
- Safety inspections of proms, railings and Public Rescue Equipment (PRE)
- Risk Assessments
- Responding to queries and complaints from the public
- Co-ordination of seasonal shingle clearance
- Monitor seafront concessions
- Monitor beach huts
- Manage licenses with the Crown Estate, OFCOM and UKHO
- Arrange removal of graffiti

Summer only:

- Lost/found children
- First Aid
- Dog control zone enforcement on beaches
- Tourist information
- Lost/found property
- Event support
- Enhanced safety inspections
- Barrier control to seafront car parks (Travellers)
- Seaside Award compliance