

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 17 November 2021

REPORT

SUBJECT: Bognor Regis Beach Access Working Party

REPORT AUTHOR: Roger Spencer – Engineering Services Manager
DATE: October 2021
EXTN: 37812

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

After considering a report on options for improving accessibility of the beach at Bognor Regis at its meeting of 23 September 2021, the Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee resolved that a report be brought back to the next Committee Meeting on 17 November 2021, where a Working Party be set up, with Membership and Terms of Reference provided by Group Leaders in advance. This report seeks authorisation to establish the Working Party, bringing together Group Leaders' recommendations for membership and proposed Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee is requested to resolve to:

- 1 support the establishment of a Bognor Regis Beach Access Working Party based on the following terms:
 - (a) Terms of Reference – to consider the issues surrounding the provision of an access to the beach for the disabled and elderly persons in Bognor Regis and to examine the options available for such an access
 - (b) To determine what part of the beach to improve access to (waterline or shingle etc) and to consider options for geographic location
 - (c) The Working Party will report to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee,
 - (d) Size of the Working Party – 6 Arun District Councillor seats with two further seats (without voting rights) to be offered to the Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group.
 - (e) Nominations to the seats – Cllrs Worne, Needs, Brooks, Staniforth, Edwards and English - to be confirmed by the relevant Group Leaders immediately if the proposal is accepted by Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee.
 - (f) Chair of the Working Party: Cllr Edwards
 - (g) Proposals for the allocation of seats if vacancies occur – to be for the relevant Group Leader / Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group to fill the vacant seat

as appropriate and this information to be reported this to the next Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting

- (h) The Working Party will take the form of a Task & Finish exercise and conclude in not more than 12 months from the date of the first meeting.
- (i) Timescale for the work to be undertaken – the first meeting of the Working Party will be in Spring 2022 with the site visit timed appropriately for sufficient daylight at around the time of Low Water.
- (j) Presentation(s) will be made by officers as soon as possible to enable the Council to progress with any recommendations it supports.

2 If established, the Working Party can then:

- (a) An invitation be extended to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group for two representatives to join the Working Party (without voting rights)
- (b) The suggestion be made to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group that Cllr Goodheart be one of the two Group representatives should they choose to accept the invitation – this and the second representative to be confirmed by Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group.
- (c) Review its terms of reference at its first meeting or thereafter and recommend any change back to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee
- (d) Make any recommendations to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee based on the Terms of Reference – it will have no decision-making authority
- (e) Meet in private unless it agrees that it will work to the Meeting Procedure Rules at Part 5 of the Council's Constitution. Meetings will be held virtually until such time as the Working Party considers that 'in person' meetings are appropriate and then they shall be held in Bognor Regis Town Hall; and

3 Give consideration as to how to approach similar issues in other locations if they have not already been resolved

1. **BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1. Following the Cabinet meeting of 16 November 2020, Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee on 23 September 2021 received a report from the Engineering Services Manager which examined the options short-listed by Cabinet and went on to recommend a sub-option (4a).
- 1.2. Members did not proceed with the Recommendation but instead Resolved to proceed with the process of setting up a Working Party to examine the matter in more detail and called for a report to do so.
- 1.3. This report accordingly sets out Terms of Reference of the Working Party and other pertinent matters.
 - 1.3.1. Terms of Reference:
 - 1.3.2. to consider the issues surrounding the provision of an access to the beach for the disabled and elderly persons in Bognor Regis
 - 1.3.3. to examine the options available for such an access.
 - 1.3.4. Membership of 6 Arun District Councillors with an invitation extended to

Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group for 2 further seats; nominations to the 6 Arun DC seats made by Group Leaders

- 1.3.5. Meetings in private (virtually) until such time as the Working Party considers that 'in person' meetings are appropriate and then they shall be held in Bognor Regis Town Hall; there shall be the provision to have a site meeting(s) to enable Members to view first-hand the pertinent issues, and to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the various geographic locations, along the Bognor Regis frontage.
- 1.3.6. It would be appropriate for only the six Arun District Councillor seats to have voting rights; the views of the 2 from the Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group should however be reported to the E&NS Committee as part of any recommendations.
- 1.3.7. Chair of the Working Party: Cllr Edwards
- 1.3.8. To be of a Task and Finish format, lasting not more than 12 months and with the first meeting in Spring of 2022 subject to Committee timetabling. Meeting frequency to be determined by the Working Party
- 1.3.9. Presentation(s) to be made by officers – see 1.4/5 below
- 1.3.10. To make any recommendations to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee
- 1.3.11. Terms of Reference would be subject to review
- 1.4. Previous reports have provided information on the constraints and potential adverse scenarios – these would be re-examined in greater detail through presentations by officers.
- 1.5. Eight options were originally examined and a short-list of three was developed – All 8 would be re-tabled and discussed together with any other options that might be identified.
- 1.6. Meetings would be virtual until such time that it was appropriate to have face to face meetings and then meetings would be held in Bognor Regis. Members were keen to have a site visit if practicable. The site meeting(s) would need to be timed to coincide with Low Water (or thereabouts) and when there was sufficient daylight, so that Members could gain an appreciation of the full site.
- 1.7. The Working Party meetings would be held in private but Members were also keen to ensure that stakeholders' views were taken into account. Hence it is proposed to extend an invitation to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group for two members of that Group to join the Working Party.
- 1.8. The Working Party would therefore consist of 6 Arun District Councillors and 2 from the Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group. Group Leaders have nominated Cllrs Worne, Needs, Brooks, Staniforth, Edwards and English – with the suggestion to be made to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group that Cllr Goodheart would attend representing the Access Group.
- 1.9. The Working Party would have no decision-making powers but would report back and recommend proposals or courses of action to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee
- 1.10. Similar issues i.e. access to the beach have arisen in other parts of the District, the

Committee may give consideration as to how to approach similar issues in other locations if they haven't already been resolved

2. PROPOSAL(S):

Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee is requested to resolve to:

(a) support the establishment of a Bognor Regis Beach Access Working Party based on the following terms:

- (a) Terms of Reference – to consider the issues surrounding the provision of an access to the beach for the disabled and elderly persons in Bognor Regis and to examine the options available for such an access
- (b) To determine what part of the beach to improve access to (waterline or shingle etc) and to consider options for geographic location,
- (c) The Working Party will report to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee,
- (d) Size of the Working Party – 6 Arun District Councillor seats with two further seats (without voting rights) to be offered to the Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group.
- (e) Nominations to the seats – Cllrs Worne, Needs, Brooks, Staniforth, Edwards and English - to be confirmed by the relevant Group Leaders immediately if the proposal is accepted by Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee.
- (f) Chair of the Working Party: Cllr Edwards
- (g) Proposals for the allocation of seats if vacancies occur – to be for the relevant Group Leader / Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group to fill the vacant seat as appropriate and this information to be reported this to the next Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee meeting
- (h) The Working Party will take the form of a Task & Finish exercise and conclude in not more than 12 months from the date of the first meeting.
- (i) Timescale for the work to be undertaken – the first meeting of the Working Party will be in Spring 2022 with the site visit timed appropriately for sufficient daylight at around the time of Low Water.
- (j) Presentation(s) will be made by officers as soon as possible to enable the Council to progress with any recommendations it supports.

2 If established, the Working Party can then:

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- (b) The suggestion be made to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group that Cllr Goodheart be one of the two Group representatives should they choose to accept the invitation – this and the second representative to be confirmed by Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group.
- (c) Review its terms of reference at its first meeting or thereafter and recommend any change back to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee
- (d) Make any recommendations to Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee based on the Terms of Reference – it will have no decision-making authority
- (e) Meet in private unless it agrees that it will work to the Meeting Procedure Rules

at Part 5 of the Council's Constitution. Meetings will be held virtually until such time as the Working Party considers that 'in person' meetings are appropriate and then they shall be held in Bognor Regis Town Hall; and

- 3 Give consideration as to how to approach similar issues in other locations if they have not already been resolved

3. OPTIONS:

Set up a Working Party (Recommendation)

To remain with the Committee considering the issue

NB The setting up of a Working Group or Panel would not be in accordance with the Constitution and still achieve what is understood to be the aims of the Committee.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)

	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To enable the Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee receive and consider proposals regarding better access to the foreshore in Bognor Regis for those with limited accessibility.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Equalities Impact Assessment – not required

Cabinet report in 16 November 2020 - ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Cabinet, 16/11/2020 17:00 \(arun.gov.uk\)](#) – Item 11

Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee on 23 September 2021
[https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g1487/Public_reports_pack_23rd-Sep-2021_18.00 Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee.pdf?T=10](https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/documents/g1487/Public_reports_pack_23rd-Sep-2021_18.00_Environment_and_Neighbourhood_Services_Committee.pdf?T=10) item 10