

20/11/2014



## Tidal Defences Business Partnership: Newsletter

### BUSINESS BREAKFAST SUCCESS

A BUSINESS breakfast was held at Great Yarmouth Town Hall, on Tuesday, October 21, to explain more about the crucial tidal defences scheme, which is now underway in the Great Yarmouth borough.



The defences along the River Yare are vital to successful operations for thousands of businesses in the region and across the UK, enabling trade worth billions of pounds. These structures protect commercial buildings and assets, the homes of customers and staff and the key infrastructure upon which all businesses rely – regardless of their size, sector or proximity to the river.

The defences did hold during the historic tidal surge last December – but they are deteriorating and a failure of any section could result in flooding over a wide area. The Environment Agency has a robust, deliverable programme to renew the structures in phases over the coming decades.

The £28million first phase, now full-financed with construction underway, is mostly funded via DEFRA through Flood Defence Grant in Aid, plus some support from private quay owner Ventureforth. But national funding rules mean a greater proportion of investment in future phases must be partnership funds – i.e. funds from any source other than Grant in Aid.

Phase 2, estimated at £76m, is to replace 2,655 metres of defences over the period of 2016 to 2021. To ensure this phase can go ahead in time, both the public and private sectors must work together to secure an estimated £30m from other sources in order to attract the remainder through Grant in Aid.

The guest speakers at the business breakfast were Gordon Mitchell, the interim chief executive of Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Dr Charles Beardall, the area manager for the Environment Agency, Mike Futter, the managing director of Ventureforth, and June Clare, director at Tendring District Council.

### FIRST MEETING OF BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESSES have set up a Tidal Defences Business Partnership to work together and alongside others to secure the lynchpin partnership funds needed for the tidal defences scheme in Great Yarmouth.

The partnership will also represent the business community on this scheme, helping partners including potential funders and other businesses, to understand the business growth potential for the borough and the significance of effective tidal defences to the economy of the borough and region.

At the first meeting, held at the Town Hall, on Monday, November 17, the members chose Daniel Bycroft, of Bycroft Commercial, as chairman, and John Clare, of Technicus Consulting, as vice chairman.

The partnership, which is supported by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and the Environment Agency, also agreed the group's terms of reference (attached) and received an update on funding bids.

The next four meetings will be held at the Town Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, from 9.30am to 10.30am, with the next one on December 17.

For more information or to join the partnership, contact Bernard Harris, the borough council's coastal manager, on 01493 846512 or [bh@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:bh@great-yarmouth.gov.uk).



**New chairman, Daniel Bycroft, of Bycroft Commercial**