

This is the response from the Friends of Old Portsmouth Association committee to the planning application below.

Flood and coastal erosion management scheme comprising a combination of vertical sea wall, raising and realignment of the promenade, construction of stepped revetment, rock armour revetments and groynes, secondary defence walls and bunds, beach widening and management, and all associated works, highway alterations, removal of trees and landscaping. Scheme includes the removal and repositioning of 34no. Grade II Listed lamp columns, 3no. Grade II Listed shelters and 6no. Grade II Listed monuments, works affecting the Grade II Listed South Parade Pier, regrading and works to the Grade II Listed Southsea Common and works to the Grade I Listed Naval Memorial. The proposal constitutes Environmental Impact Assessment development. Southsea Seafront From Long Curtain Moat In The West To Eastney Marine Barracks In The East Ref. No: 19/01097/FUL

We feel that you are missing a major opportunity to influence the City of Portsmouth. You are designing the scheme to provide protection from coastal erosion for the next 100 years but the proposal you are putting forward seem only to reflect how the City operates now. Your scheme takes no account of the other pressures on national and local government to make dramatic changes to manage and reduce the effects of climate change. Your proposals also contravene PCC's Seafront Masterplan, the Portsmouth Plan and the National Planning and Policy Framework. Nor do your proposals appear to acknowledge current and anticipated legislation in your designs. There is no evidence that the designers are aware of the constraints which are currently or about to be imposed on Portsmouth City Council which will inevitably influence and reduce car use and increase the importance of other modes of transport.

Having had limited opportunity to examine the considerable amount of information which accompanies this application, our comments are not as full as we would have wished but, with the time and resources available to us, we will address the more pressing issues. We also hope that we will have the opportunity to comment and influence many of the much more detailed design features as they are published by the Design Team, such as the detailed Landscape Design concepts.

To save duplication, the FOOPA committee fully support all the comments made by the Portsmouth Cycle Forum (PCF). The objections made in the PCF response highlight several areas where the designers have ignored the national design advice resulting in proposals which will be inherently dangerous for cyclists and will not encourage new cyclists to use the substandard new provision.

The seafront is our city's primary natural open space and recreation setting. There is no justification for re-designing our seafront infrastructure in such a way that puts polluting motor vehicles centre-stage between pedestrians and cyclists, compromising safety and well being in what should be a restful, inspiring, active, contemplative and clean environment.

Cyclists are the biggest losers in your scheme, and motorists take precedence. All in a place that we understand, continues to hold the record as the most dangerous city to cycle outside London. Staggeringly, this scheme does the opposite of reducing dependency on driving, and like elsewhere in the city where there are 20mph limits that are overwhelmingly ignored, unless there are significant road engineering interventions, speeding will be made even easier particularly along the one-way traffic sections.

Having attended the design and workshop meetings with the Southsea Coastal Scheme team, many aspects of the principle and details of design of the Long Curtain Moat section have yet to be produced and discussed with the local community. Can we urge you when producing options for this historic area that as much of the historic heritage of this area is left exposed,

but protected, and every effort is made to highlight the unique history of this historic site.

Can we also urge you to ensure you involve the community in any option appraisal? We understand that compromises will need to be made but we want to ensure we understand fully the rational and consequences of any compromise which may have to be made.

Yours sincerely,
Graeme Swinburne
Planning Rep
FOOPA Committee