

## Newspaper Extracts

### ***Sea wall expected to collapse by 2006***

The Echo, Friday 21st Nov 2003. (Local Newspaper)

SWANAGE'S sea wall is expected to collapse in the next three years, exposing 84 houses, 15 hotels and Shore Road to the sea.

The stark warning was issued at a public meeting to inform residents of the dangers facing Swanage and the possible solutions.

Laurence Banyard, a civil engineer and coastal expert at Halcrow, said there was an 80 per cent probability that the seawall would collapse by 2006.

If this happens, the damage to the town would add up to an estimated £10.7 million over the next 50 years and Swanage's survival as a tourist resort would be threatened.

"Everyone is fairly certain that something needs to be done to address that," he said.

"Swanage beach is now lower than it has been in the past century."

To protect the coastline, Halcrow is recommending that Swanage's deteriorating wooden groynes are replaced with rock groynes.

The final decision will be made by Purbeck District councilors within the next couple of months but the public meeting at St Edward's Church Hall was an opportunity for Swanage residents to express their views.

Building 10 short rock groynes between the outfall jetty and Sheps Hollow and recharging the beach with 180,000 tonnes of sand would cost around £2.7 million, which should be funded by Defra.

The groynes would probably be around nine feet wide and built from Portland stone. Wooden walkways will be placed over every groyne to aid access along the beach.

A small majority of residents indicated that they would be in favour of the preferred option, although concerns were expressed about the visual impact, amenity value and safety of the rock groynes.

Swanage Mayor Cllr Tony Miller said it was important the town ended up with a suitable scheme and asked Halcrow to listen to the views of local fishermen and sailors who understood the tides and currents surrounding Swanage.

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The Echo, Friday 11 February, 2005

## ***Jurassic beach sea defence plan***

**New defences are being considered at a seaside town to stop its beach - part of the World Heritage Jurassic Coast - being washed away.**

Experts have estimated that since the mid-1980s Swanage Beach, Dorset, has narrowed by 20m (65ft).

Purbeck councilors want to build 19 timber groynes along the sand and to replenish the beach with 160,000 metric tons of sand.

A meeting to hear residents' views is due to be held on Friday evening.

The council hopes the groynes will stabilise the erosion and lead to a bigger beach.

### **'Vital scheme'**

As well as holding a public consultation on the proposals, councilors are also bidding for more government cash to strengthen sea walls and to protect local homes and shops from flooding.

Swanage town mayor, councilor Tony Miller, said it was important local residents backed the scheme.

He said: "This is a vitally important scheme for Swanage. It will secure the beach front for years to come."

The meeting is due to begin at 1930 GMT at St Edward's Catholic Hall.