

# EASTOKE CORNER



Work is underway to update the Eastoke Corner play area with a new recreational space for all ages and abilities to enjoy. The £200k development includes the replacement of existing play equipment as well as the creation of three distinct zones suitable for children, teenagers and adults. In addition to a fenced play area, multi-use games area and exercise zone, there will be disabled parking, buggy parking and a cycle rack to encourage users to visit on foot or by bike. Planting and seating areas will complement the spaces for activity and is due to be finished in time for summer.





# HAYLING BILLY TRAIL



Havant Borough Council is working with Hampshire County Council to deliver a £600k improvement project to the Hayling Billy Trail. Work has started to resurface the section between the Trail's northern end at the car park by the 'Applegreen' garage and the car park on the shore behind the 'Esso' garage.

The new all-weather surface will make this 1.2km stretch of the Trail accessible to walkers, cyclists and horse riders all year and will also provide an improved off-route linking north Hayling Island and the rest of the borough.



# BOARDWALKS AT CHICHESTER AVENUE

Plans to improve safety and accessibility to the beach at Chichester Avenue are progressing. We are currently working to identify a suitable supplier of new, composite decking and plan to have a contractor in place by the end of March.

The new boardwalk will be wider to allow better access for wheelchair users and there will be a larger seating area for visitors to enjoy views of the beach. Work is due to start in spring 2024, subject to weather conditions.





# CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

As part of our work to make the seafront more accessible for everyone, the council has secured government funding to provide a Changing Places toilet at Chichester Avenue. These toilets have more space and additional equipment, including a height adjustable changing table and ceiling hoist, so that people who need assistance to use the facilities can use them in safety and comfort. Subject to planning permission, work on the toilet at Chichester Avenue should start in early summer.



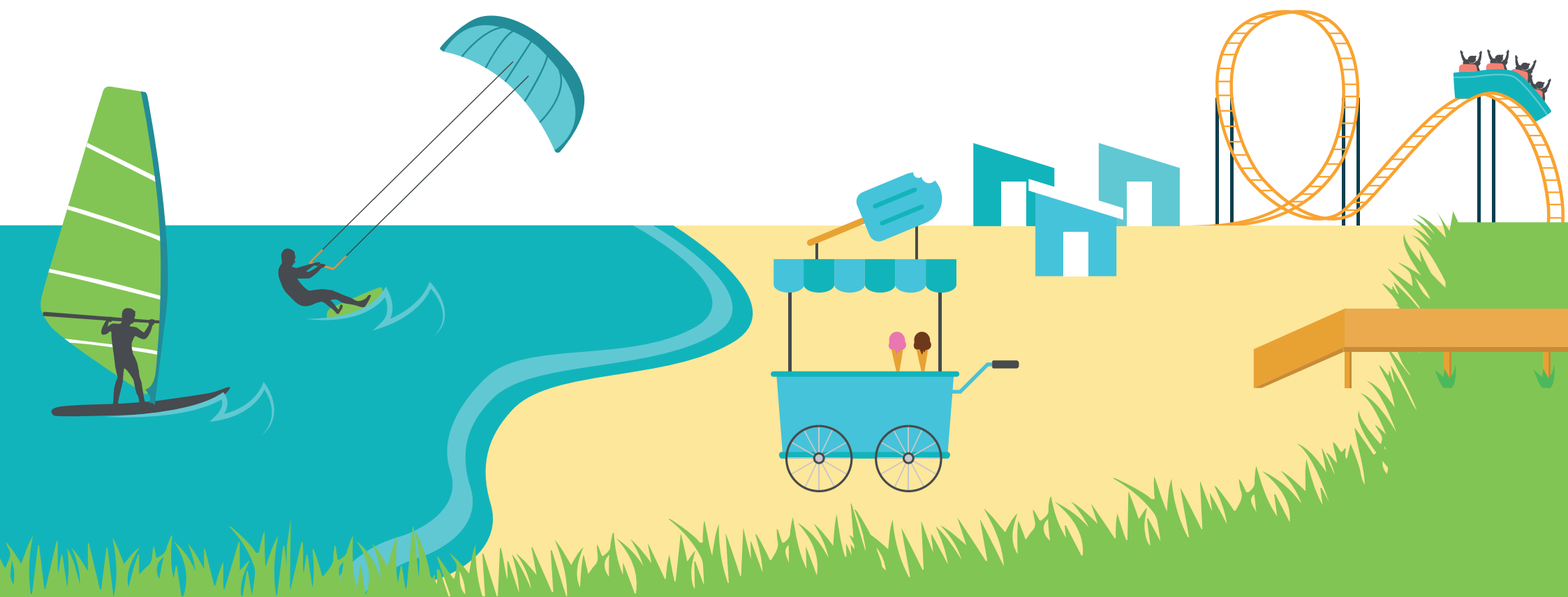
# BLUE FLAG STATUS

The council has applied for Hayling Island seafront to receive Blue Flag status once again this year. The Blue Flag is awarded by Keep Britain Tidy and is based on 33 criteria, including water quality, accessibility, facilities and safety. To make the beach as accessible and enjoyable to as many users as possible, the council has asked the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) to carry out a seafront risk assessment. This assessment will review the zoning system in place for swimmers and water sports users to ensure that everyone can enjoy the beach safely. Keep Britain Tidy announces which beaches have been given a Blue Flag in May.



# SIGNAGE

The existing signage along the whole of the seafront is old, out of date and, in some cases, confusing. We have carried out an audit of all the signs in the area and are currently costing a scheme to replace the signage, as well as talking to Natural England who own the land where many of the signs are located. The council recognises that better, clearer signage would be of benefit to the local community and visitors but must balance this against the likely costs of such a scheme.



# HAYLING ISLAND COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Shoreline Management Plan (2010) ([northsolentsmp.co.uk](http://northsolentsmp.co.uk)) along our coastline sets out high level coastal management policies and priorities. Havant Borough Council and partner agencies prioritise managing areas of high flood and erosion risks that could impact residential properties but otherwise allow natural coastal processes and evolution to take place. A draft coastal management strategy that breaks the coastline into smaller sections and provides a more detailed plan for each section is being produced. This is due to be completed by early autumn 2024.



# SOUTH EAST HAYLING ISLAND, EASTOKE BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-29

Eastoke has a long history of flooding and erosion and is a high flood risk area. The Shoreline Management Plan (2010) policy here is to 'hold the line' through sea defences. Havant Borough Council achieves this through funding from the Environment Agency to carry beach recycling works along the Eastoke frontage each spring and autumn. This involves moving shingle from areas of natural accretion back to Eastoke to maintain a wide beach in front of the 1950's seawall. The beach takes the brunt of storm waves and is vital to reduce the risk of coastal flooding and erosion to properties and infrastructure on this part of our coastline. The council has recently updated their Beach Management Plan to seek Environment Agency funding to continue these works for another five years to protect this portion of coastline.





# ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE FOR WATER QUALITY

Hayling Island's three designated bathing beaches have received a water quality rating of 'excellent' every season since 2001. Currently, the council signposts water quality information on its website, social media channels and signage. Several other agencies including the Environment Agency and Southern Water already publish water quality information online, including near real-time storm release activity information via Beachbuoy ([southernwater.co.uk](http://southernwater.co.uk)).

The council knows that water quality is important to residents and visitors and is currently scoping whether electronic signage at the seafront could be used to host data about water quality alongside other useful information such as weather conditions and tide times. Officers are working with industry to confirm options around electronic signs, an app or a website to host all available data in one place.

Any new technology has to be reliable, robust and accurate and must deliver a benefit to users that makes it sustainable and cost-efficient. This period of research and market testing will ensure that any money spent by the council represents the best possible value.



# BEACH HUTS

During December 2023 and February 2024, several beach huts were moved from their beach front location to the service road at West Beach due to their plots being damaged by coastal erosion. There are currently no unoccupied beach front locations available.

The council can only relocate beach huts within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) area with the consent of Natural England. We are working with them to find a long-term solution that balances the needs of beach hut users against the need to protect the ecology of the beach.

Officers are developing a beach hut management plan to agree suitable locations for Hayling Island's beach huts going forward. We will share these plans with the community as they take shape over the coming months. Until a permanent solution is found, we will continue daily inspections of beach huts to ensure they are safe and will temporarily move any that are a risk.



# SOUTH WEST HAYLING ISLAND, WEST BEACH

The coast here is dynamic and has changed shape through natural processes for many years and will continue to do so. The area is important for nature, conservation, recreation, and tourism. The Shoreline Management Plan (2010) policy here is to 'allow natural evolution'.

At West Beach the council is in discussions with the Hayling Golf Club and owners of Inn on the Beach to see if they will work with us and help fund adaptive rock defences. This would build resilience and find affordable ways forward to gain more certainty around how the coast will continue to evolve for the next 50 years.

The council has committed up to £900k in its capital budget toward this opportunity and is working to secure co-investment from partners to make the project possible. If this proactive collaborative opportunity is successful, then this initiative will support the Councils' beach management activities at Eastoke. If this plan is unsuccessful, the Council has no funding to do any major works, therefore there is a risk that further natural erosion of the beach will occur.

There are not enough residential properties at risk at West Beach to attract central government funding to undertake long term major engineering works. There would be difficulty securing the numerous consents in such an environmentally designated location. As such the council does not envisage being able to reinstate the previous West Beach sea defences, car park or beach huts as the land lost to the sea cannot be reclaimed.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development Team has been working with businesses on the Island to access resources and boost recruitment. As part of the Portsmouth and South Coast Business Week in February, the team met with business owners in Hayling Island to talk about networking, mentoring and other support available for small businesses and start-ups.

To help businesses recruit and retain the staff they need, the team offers a Youth Hub job matching scheme and is launching a new Youth Employment Scheme in Havant (YESH). As part of the offer around Skills, the team linked up Itchen College with the Sinah Warren Hotel to run a hospitality training week to help with recruitment for the coming summer season.



# CAR PARKING

The council is working with Natural England, who control all land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), to identify potential parking sites on Hayling Island. The site behind the Inn on the Beach that was used for seasonal parking last year will be assessed on April 1st to see if it can be used again this year. Long term, the council is in the final stages of a car parking review for the whole of West Beach. This review has been carried out with Natural England and seeks to provide sufficient, accessible parking for beach users within the conditions imposed by the SSSI. A plan containing options around designs and costings is due to be ready later in the spring. Additionally, the council has committed to spending £500k on a rolling programme of car park improvements across the borough over the next five years.

