

Selsey Haven – Background Briefing Paper

The construction of a small harbour for Selsey has been discussed many times in the past and was included in Selsey Neighbourhood Plan.

An initial technical feasibility study by Haskoning DHV examined various options and identified a preferred option along with estimated costs of construction. The report recommended further work to understand various technical issues relating to the preferred option and the wider local implications of such a project. In order for the project to progress it is vital to understand the potential income generation of the project and ongoing costs to see if it is financially viable and also to understand the various models of how a haven might be delivered and managed.

The Council's Economic Development Service support a haven to protect Selsey's fisheries in a similar manner achieved by ventures in Ventnor and Ryde, Isle of Wight.

A haven is likely to bring many direct and indirect benefits such as;

- **Fisheries protection** - providing safety, security and protection for the fishing community. Fishermen and their livelihoods will be protected from bad weather and poor working conditions by building a small harbour in which to moor boats in bad weather, and providing a place to unload catch easily and safely.
- **Fisheries economy**. Providing storage facilities for fish catch will allow greater flexibility for fish sales and allow more revenue from the valuable Selsey catch to be retailed and circulated in the local economy. A working haven will support a fishing industry worth £1,523,000 (MMO landings data 2014); lead to job creation, apprenticeship opportunities will encourage young people to take part in fisheries leading to a sustainable future.
- **Selsey economy**. The economy of Selsey will be improved, particularly in the maritime sector, by providing a platform that encourages improvements to the visitor economy and marine based businesses. These could include a destination point for tourism and business opportunities within the local economy such as a fish landing stage with fishery outlet; fish restaurant and harbour café; aquaculture; retail outlet; diving facilities and other initiatives. Property values in existing housing adjacent to the proposed site for the Haven are likely to increase.
- **Visitor economy**. A haven will provide a focus for tourism and visitors from across the Manhood Peninsula. By providing a new visitor attraction adjacent to coastal paths and environmental attractions such as Pagham Harbour, visitors to the peninsula will be encouraged to stay longer on the peninsula increasing cash flow in the local economy. Advantage can be taken of the economic opportunities provided by the small boat sailing community that currently bypasses Selsey. These include food and drink sales, accommodation, cycling and walking attractions on the peninsula and access to the wider attractions of Chichester and West Sussex.
- **Peninsula economy**. A haven will provide new business start-up opportunities for the marine, visitor economy and sailing sectors.

- **Visitor safety.** The safety of visitors to East Beach will be improved by eliminating winch wires and other working activities on the beach.
- **Coast protection.** Constructing a small harbour will improve coast protection for Selsey by protecting the current sea wall, and reducing costs associated with its maintenance. 388 properties in Selsey are at risk from flooding from the sea during a 1 in 75yr event. These properties are currently protected by a concrete sea wall and shingle beach. Sea levels are predicted to rise, which means the sea wall will need to be raised to maintain the current level of protection. The Haven will remove the need to raise approximately 100m of the existing sea wall, and the Haven walls will be designed in accordance with anticipated sea level rise. This will lead to a saving in maintenance costs of the sea wall. Alongside this the removal of 2 or 3 groynes will provide a maintenance saving and reduction in capital cost of future schemes to protect this area.