

Cuckmere Pathfinder Project

Summary of Findings for the Options Identification Workshop Held on 14 December 2010

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Cuckmere Pathfinder Project is for East Sussex County Council to work together with the local community to reach consensus on how best to manage change at the Cuckmere Estuary. Some change at the Estuary is inevitable over the long term, and it is important to start planning for that change now. The County Council wants to make sure that everyone's views have been taken into account and all the options have been carefully considered in making decisions about the future of the Cuckmere. The £250,000 Pathfinder Project is being funded by DEFRA and will run until June 2011.

1.2 Engagement Plan

[Hopkins Van Mil: Creating Connections](#) with [Rhoden Green Marketing and Communications](#), was commissioned by East Sussex County Council to work with them on the design and implementation of the engagement and communication elements of the Pathfinder project. The workshop held on the 14 December was the first in a series of workshops and events leading up to a final major public event to be held on 7 June. At this event the short-listed options for the future will be presented and everyone will have a chance to share their views on the best approach. The full programme of intensive workshops and public events is given at Appendix 1.

2. Workshop content

2.1 The Community Forum

Since earlier in 2010 and intensively since September, the Options, Landscape, Geomorphology and Tourism Sub-Groups of the Community Forum have been working on a full report on seven options to submit to the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership. A version of the report, edited to focus on the summary Option descriptions, was circulated to all participants prior to the event and the report was used as the basis for all discussions. The programme for the workshop is included for information at Appendix 2. The full report produced by the Community Forum was not circulated to participants at this stage. It is expected that this will be brought in to the discussions when the wider public have had an opportunity to hear and understand the results of the Pathfinder commissioned focus studies on Landscape, Visitors, Heritage and the Cuckmere Economy at the event on 9 February; and the participants in the intensive workshops are in a position to discuss the criteria for selecting options on 8 March. We would like to thank the Community Forum for their hard work on this report, all done on a voluntary basis. The report provides a summary of the options which participants welcomed at the workshop.

Richard Mann, Chairman of the Community Forum presented a review of the first year of operation for the Community Forum. He stressed the danger in not protecting the shingle beach and highlighted the Environment Agency's existing commitment to maintenance. He stated, 'we need a different way of funding the valley if you can't raise money from government sources'. He thanked all the members of the Community Forum for working so hard to produce the report being used at the workshop.

2.2 The Proposed Options

In brief, the options under discussion at the workshop were as follows:

- Option A: Partial breach managed realignment (EA)
- Option B: Full breach managed realignment (EA)
- Option C: Engineered reactivation of meanders & meandering creeks
- Option D: Maintain the existing defences (EA Option 2a)
- Option E: Sustain the existing defences (EA Option 2b)
- Option F: Sustain the existing defences
- Option G: Tidal flood barrier
- West Beach revetment (Proposal)

2.3 Workshop Purpose and Outcomes

The workshop was divided into three main parts. The first introductory session explained the purpose of the Cuckmere Pathfinder Project and this particular workshop. The second took the form of 3 small facilitated working groups; and the third a final plenary session to summarise the group findings and discuss the final list options to go forward for technical and visual modelling.

The expected outcomes of the workshop were described as follows:

- To agree on a short-list of Options to take forward for visual / technical modelling
- To agree on an accurate description of each of those Options.

In the introductory plenary session, Andy Arnold, Team Manager for Environmental Advice, East Sussex County Council explained the background to the Pathfinder Project. He described the role of the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership, the Community Forum, the Cuckmere Pathfinder Project Board and East Sussex County Council. He explained that the current community engagement programme aimed to lead to a process through which some kind of consensus could be reached on the future management of the Cuckmere Estuary. Andy referred to the current issue of the Cuckmere Estuary Pathfinder Project Newsletter which was distributed to all participants and the wider community.

Henrietta Hopkins, the lead Facilitator, explained the purpose of the workshop and described how it fits into the programme of workshops and events leading up to the final public event on 7 June 2011. She described the process leading from option identification through hearing and understanding additional evidence; deciding on the criteria through which options should be assessed; the testing of the modelling which will support the community in making their decisions; and the final event.

Both Andy and Henrietta emphasised to participants that it would not be necessary to eliminate options from the short-list if it was felt by the group that each had valid issues to test through the modelling process.

2.4 Workshop Evaluation

Each participant in the workshop was asked to complete an evaluation form to assess whether the session had met people's needs. The full results of the evaluation are included in Appendix 4. In summary:

- 90% of respondents found booking their place at the workshop either good or excellent;
- 81% of respondents found the information given prior to the event either good or excellent
- 65% found the event environment good or excellent, and 35% satisfactory

- 95% found the introductory facilitator good or excellent and 100% found their round table discussion facilitator good or excellent.
- 95% of participants said the workshop met it's objectives in their view
- 100% said that they had enough opportunity to express their views

Participants made the following comments on the workshop:

'The level of understanding and appreciation of other people's points of view was pleasantly surprising. I think the Forum has been successful - at least to this extent!'

'Good way of getting people to take part.'

'Weaving various arguments & viewpoints into a workable central direction - well done!!'

Participants made additional comments on the content of the workshop discussions which are included in the following section of this summary report.

3. Workshop findings

In the summary which follows the discussions of each group are written up in relation to the main discussion points; agreement on which options should be taken forward for modelling; and any outstanding issues which were drawn out of the discussion. The full transcripts of the discussion are included in Appendix 3.

Two of the three groups specifically mentioned how they had discussed the short-listing of options for the future management of the Cuckmere. Both of these groups recorded that they included options which presented sufficiently different key issues, or important technical issues, which should be taken forward for modelling. The third group said,

'it is better to put all options through for modelling for the benefit of the public - they need to know that all options have been considered equally.'

3.1 Option A: Partial breach managed realignment (EA)

There was a wish expressed for clarification on the purpose of the path included on the map describing Option A. Participants felt it was not clear how a circular route would be created under this option. The issue of planning permission in relation to the path was also raised,

'If the footpath needs to be closed we'd need a public enquiry.'

Another participant stressed the importance of planning requirements in general,

'PPS5, PPS7, PPS9 and PPS25 as part of any development will cause problems for all the options.'

A concern was also expressed that Option A did not say anything about access to the beach or protecting the Coastguard Cottages. As one participant said,

'Why less maintenance? We would still need to clear the shingle at the river mouth.'

and another stressed the importance of access to the beach,

'As long as access to the beach is assured there will be continued tourism.'

A participant wished to challenge whether or not the siltation described in Option A would happen and requested that the modelling particularly look at that issue. It was also felt by some that clarification should be given on why Cell A was being left alone.

Some questions were asked by participants in relation to Option A:

'Do we need detailed modelling for warping up? Will it take place? What is the timeline with sea level rise?'

'How well will saltmarsh develop?'

All of the small groups agreed that this option should go through for technical and visual modelling.

3.2 Option B: Full breach managed realignment (EA)

One group discussed whether or not Options A and B could be merged. After discussion it was agreed that they shouldn't be as they have different outcomes,

'Option A keeps the path; Option B doesn't and you would lose access for the canoeists.'

One group felt the description for this option would benefit from details on how high and how long the embankment will be. Again planning and legal issues were raised as an issue which would need careful exploration if this option were to be taken further. Some particular challenges were made in relation to Option B:

'I challenge whether this is possible [Diversion of valley-side rights of way]. Concrete road on the East side, maintaining access to foxhole and to the East Beach.'

'I challenge whether this is sustainable in the medium to long-term - it's about maintenance versus non maintenance.'

Some participants felt the description for this option did not make it clear enough what provision would be made for maintenance.

There were a number of questions raised by participants in relation to Option B:

'What happens to the bridge if the road is unstable?'

'How is the reservoir going to be part of the option? Will it always silt up and need clearing?'

'Please clarify if Foxhole valley is intended to flood'

'Instead of breaches what happens if you pave / covers slightly lower points and protect them from erosion?'

All groups came to the view that Option B should be included in the list of options to go forward for technical and visual modelling.

3.3 Option C: Engineered reactivation of meanders & meandering creeks

There were two main views about this option. Some of the groups emphasised community support for the option,

'The community out there loves this idea as it would restore the meanders to a healthy situation.'

They saw the appeal of the scheme as being economic, ecological and allowing access.

Others felt they need further detail on the Option to understand it properly. In particular a request was made for more information provided in the modelling detail on the flow of the river and effect up stream north of the bridge. Some participants discussed the sharp left bend shown in the illustration of the option and suggested,

'I would question [the sharp left bend]. Allow the river to naturally bend and join the meanders lower down would mean there would be no need for the revetment'.

Others questioned the statement made in the description that access would be improved if the central pathways were lost.

One group commented that the description of this option included judgements such as, 'It would be geomorphologically, hydrologically and ecologically diverse – and therefore of great tourist and educational interest.' They asked for this sentence to be removed from the description to keep them focused on the facts.

Each of the groups agreed that Option C should remain on the short-list for modelling.

3.4 Option D: Maintain the existing defences (EA Option 2a)

For one group Option D sparked a discussion on the role of the riparian landowners. As one participant put it,

'Do riparian owners do what they are meant to do or do we ask the government'

to which another participant replied,

'There is a difference between customary and statutory. In the former they have no legal obligation to act. If there is flooding to property or infrastructure there is a clear obligation to act; but action is not so clear in this situation.'

The groups all felt Option D should go forward for modelling as it wasn't comparable with the others. One group pointed out that,

'People less involved in these discussions will have this option as their starting point.'

There were issues though in taking the option forward as people discussed the fact that maintenance of the groynes and the training wall would be vital for this option. They discussed the point that under this option,

'You'd end up being in the same situation in a number of years.'

which for one participant meant being absolutely certain of what would follow,

'What is the trigger for moving on from this option? 6mm sea level rise a year? Sea level doesn't change gradually. We need to decide / know what would be the next step.'

One group asked that all 'cost' statements were taken out of the descriptions as cost should be considered for all options as part of modelling.

3.5 Option E: Sustain the existing defences (EA Option 2b)

A discussion was held under Option E of visual impact. One participant pointed out the difference between the visual impact whilst engineering work is carried out and the impact an option would have once engineering work is completed. Some participants asked that the editing of Option E should be looked at again to ensure that all the detail required to understand the option effectively should be re-instated, particularly in relation to the floodplain beyond the revetment.

A question was raised as to whether the option would preserve the flood plain in its present state as put forward in the description. As one participant put it,

'Rising sea level means rising water table.'

One participant also challenged the inclusion of the word, 'sustain' in the title for the Option description as under the description provided they believe that,

'this option will mean the banks will get higher and bigger and it is this that should be reflected in the title'.

In the summary plenary session one group wished to take Option E out of the short-list as it would create an unattractive landscape. In discussion however it was agreed to retain it and take it forward for modelling as it was an option which included some key issues which did need to be modelled further.

The titles of the options were discussed at this point in the workshop. One participant raised the issue about the title of both option E and F as it was felt that neither of these options are about sustaining the existing defences they are about improving them. The discussion focussed on the view that people would be misled by the word "sustain" in both options E and F.

3.6 Option F: Sustain the existing defences

There was some debate about option F being considered by some as,

'A single intervention'

'A breathing space'

'A stitch in time'

'We're maintaining the grassland'.

Other participants views are summed up in the following comment,

I believe in leaving your heirs something worth having. WE have to spend the money now'.

and another,

'All we're doing with Option F is putting off a decision for 50 years.'

A question for clarification was raised by one participant,

'In 50 years time what do we do? Raising the banks further can only be done by complete re-engineering which is hugely expensive.'

Another group asked that further detail should be provided on this option in relation to:

- Raising banks
- Making the banks wider in certain areas
- Implications for the beach.

It was agreed that this option should go forward for modelling as it generates important discussion around factors which are important to put through the modelling process.

3.7 Option G: Tidal flood barrier

Participants raised issues of practicality, cost and maintenance when discussing the description of this option. People discussed this proposal in the light of other tidal flood barriers, but as one participant pointed out,

'We can't make a parallel with this and the London barrier, people won't die here if the flood waters come'.

Others commented on the impact they saw the proposed flood barrier having visually on the Cuckmere valley and for this reason were not keen for it to be taken forward for modelling. They also asked questions such as,

'How would we get adequate power to operate a barrier?'

'What if the system fails? What if shingle gets stuck [in the mechanism]? Who will operate the barrier? How is maintenance carried out?'

There was some discussion in the plenary session about the decisions of two of the three small working groups who both had felt that Option G should not go forward to the modelling stage. As one participant asked,

'Are we removing it from the short-list on the basis of aesthetics or because it won't work?'

The group then summarised the reasons for not including it as:

- The lack of power for its operation
- An inappropriate option as the protection of a major city is not involved
- It prevents natural processes
- It is not attractive for the valley

The view was summarised as follows,

'Aesthetically and practically we don't wish to take this forward'.

3.8 West Beach revetment (Proposal)

The workshop was asked to examine a proposal for a West Beach revetment, not as a separate option, but as a proposal which could be applied to any of the options selected. There were a range of views expressed on this issue. One participant felt,

'The West Beach revetment is tied in to defending the Estuary, beach and all that goes with it - part of a scheme to defend; part of a proper plan. But if we have a storm it could take away all of that.'

Others felt that, whilst welcoming the Environment Agency's proposal for a short revetment, a long revetment would have too much of a visual impact on the Cuckmere,

'If we're trying to do our best for the Estuary by enhancing its aesthetical qualities then this isn't the answer.'

There was also concern that such a revetment would prevent access to the beach for both maintenance and the public and conflict with the natural appearance of the coastline. Views are summarised by these comments,

'We need planning and consultation on some sort of West Beach defence - but this is not the answer, we must maintain access to the beach.'

'This is a mix of coastal protection and flood defence, I'm not sure it sits comfortably with the other options.'

3.9 Discussion of a 'do nothing' option

One of the three groups felt it would be important to include an additional 'do nothing' option in the short-list.

The full discussion held in the plenary session is included in the transcript write-up provided in Appendix 3. A strong word of caution was raised by one participant,

'Beware - what if you model it as an example of the consequences, but everyone thinks it is great? It is very dangerous to say we are going to do nothing'

This was countered by another who said,

'It highlights the consequences of doing nothing, if there is no cash this is what will happen'

At the end of the discussion it was agreed that 'do nothing' should not be included as a separate option, but rather used as a filter through which the other options should be considered. Therefore this would become an important part of the session held in March where the intensive group consider the criteria through which the options should be assessed in order to reach consensus on the future management of the Estuary.

4. Next steps

4.1 Options for Modelling

As a result of the discussions held during the workshop it was that the following options should be taken forward for modelling:

- Option A: Partial breach managed realignment (EA)
- Option B: Full breach managed realignment (EA)
- Option C: Engineered reactivation of meanders & meandering creeks
- Option D: Maintain the existing defences (EA Option 2a)
- Option E: Sustain the existing defences (EA Option 2b)
- Option F: Sustain the existing defences

Option G: Tidal flood barrier was not taken further due to the visual impact it would have on the valley and the practical aspects of its implementation. The group consensus was that some defence mechanism for the West Beach was important for which ever option was taken further for the future management of the Estuary, but that the proposal in the report was not perhaps the right one.

4.2 Further comments

The comments made in the evaluation form (all comments are included at the end of Appendix 3) suggest that participants felt the workshop to have been a useful exercise

'Enlightening day'

'All groups still open-minded about each option, in need of further extensive information'

Participants also raised some issues in relation to what they had heard during the discussion:

'Options could have been more consistently presented. It will be impossible to predict exactly what might happen - some uncertainty will have to be accepted & embraced'

'I was surprised at the strength of feeling that 'do nothing' was not an option. The reality is that there is no money for anything other than withdrawing maintenance. WE need to be honest and clear with public about what might realistically happen'

'1. Complexity of issues. 2. Lack of clarity of the political process once recommendations are made'

'Don't ignore public & private rights of way. Save the iconic cottages'

'Surprisingly no surprises from other groups. Remember that upstream effects for all options have to be taken into account'

'Would be helpful to know if car parking is for participants and if you are looking to widen members for next events'

'I would hope that a media press release on this event would help to counter any perceptions raised in the media that a decision has already been taken over the option to be chosen over the future of the lower Cuckmere valley'

We include these comments in this part of the report so that they can be considered in the preparation for the next events (timetable at Appendix 1) and considered for the technical and visual modelling. The modelling is being taken forward immediately to inform the work which follows.

4.3 Function of this report

This report is a summary of the discussion on 14 December. It will be sent to the Project Board for comment and assessment and then distributed to all those who attended the workshop as well as being published on the Cuckmere Pathfinder Project's website. The media will be informed of the report via a press release and follow up telephone calls.

Hopkins Van Mil would like to thank all those who took part in the workshop; the Community Forum for producing the report which so helpfully informed the participants' discussion; the Pathfinder Project Board for guiding the process; and the team at East Sussex County Council for ensuring that all the arrangements were in place.

Project Board approved version 7th January 2011

Hopkins Van Mil
Old Lodge,
Vincent Square
London SW1P 2PW
www.hopkinsvanmil.co.uk
T: 020 7821 6500

Appendix 1

Timeline for intensive workshops and public events

14 December 2010	Options Identification (Intensive Workshop)
8 February 2011	Landscape, Visitors, Heritage and Economy of the Cuckmere: Evidence Presentation Stage 1 (Public Event)
8 March 2011	Assessment criteria agreement (Intensive Workshop)
5 April 2011	Landscape, Visitors, Heritage and Economy of the Cuckmere: Evidence Presentation Stage 2 (Public Event)
12 April 2011	Options Assessment Pilot (Intensive Workshop)
7 June 2011	Planning for Change at the Cuckmere (Public Event)

Appendix 2

Programme

(Please note that timings are approximate)

11.00-11.10

1. Introductory remarks

- A short welcome by Hopkins Van Mil
- An overview of the Pathfinder Project, Andy Arnold, Team Manager, Environmental Advice, East Sussex County Council
- An overview of the purpose of the workshop, Henrietta Hopkins, HVM
- An introduction to the facilitation team
- A review of the work of the Community Forum, Richard Mann, Chairman Community Forum (additional item)

11.10-11.45

2. Introduction to the Options Short-listing tool

- Demonstrating the tool through which options will be short-listed
- Discussion on the process

11.45-12.15

3. Brief Overview Presentation of the long-list of options

12.15-12.45

4. 1st part facilitated discussion on long-list of options

12.45 - 1.30 Lunch

1.30-2.45

5. 2nd part facilitated discussion on the long-list of options

2.45-3.15

5. Round-up within small-group discussion

- Each group summarises their discussion
- Points are checked to ensure they have been recorded accurately
- Each group identifies their short-list of options

3.15-3.45

6. Plenary discussion

3.45-4.00

7. Close with brief summary of next steps

Appendix 3

Transcript: Options Identification Workshop

14 December 2010 - Pump Barn, Seven Sisters Country Park

1. Introductory remarks (Plenary Session)

Facilitator: Henrietta Hopkins, Hopkins Van Mil (HH)

Speakers: Andy Arnold, Team Manager, Environmental Advice, East Sussex County Council and Richard Mann, Chairman, Cuckmere Estuary Community Forum.

Andy Arnold

Introduction

Welcome and thank you for giving up your time to participate in today's workshop. Apologies offered on behalf of Adrian Davies, Pathfinder Project Officer, absent due to illness, and Andy Robertson, chair of the Pathfinder Project Board, absent due to a separate urgent work engagement.

Notes:

- Described the role of the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership, the Community Forum, the Cuckmere Pathfinder Project Board and East Sussex County Council.
- Explained that the current community engagement programme aimed to lead to a process through which consensus could be reached on the future management of the Cuckmere Estuary
- Referred to the current issue of the Cuckmere Estuary Pathfinder Project Newsletter which was distributed to all participants and wider community, and the programme of events and workshops, of which this was the 1st step.

Question from floor: How do we factor in the decision making process? Are all possibilities for the decision making process being reviewed? We could end up with an option chosen by the community and submitted to the decision making organisation, but they could totally disregard it. Over 10 years in Seaford we've had discussions about the health centre, and this is something we're used to. Other issue is how do we fund this?

Richard Mann

Review of the first year of the Community Forum (additional agenda item)

Introduction

Many thanks to members of the Community Forum and those who have taken an interest. The result of this hard work is a preliminary report. It doesn't come to any conclusions, but summarises our thinking.

Further points

- Danger of breach to shingle bank if it isn't protected
- If this happens we could have a flooded valley - out of control and some options couldn't be carried out

- During Lord Smith's visit in February he said that the Environment Agency work would be carried out on the shingle bank and there would be renovation of the banks. Neither of these things have been carried out to date.
- Question: How will future options be costed?
- There is the issue of cuts
- We need a different way of funding the valley if you can't raise money from government sources you have to do it in another way
- 'Friends of' could be established with possibly the Community Forum as the basis
- The Community Forum was formed by the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership (CEP) as a result of the open meetings in 2009, our report should therefore go to the CEP
- A short, medium and long-term approach has been suggested.

Comment from the floor: A point on the shingle beach. A short revetment has been suggested, but that option has been refused by the Environment Agency or DEFRA. In February we have to go back and ask what is happening about that as the proposal has now been put to the Regional Flood Forum and an answer will be given by early February.

Suggestion from the floor: reactivation of the sluices and / or introduction of another at the southern end of the meanders should be discussed alongside the proposal in the options paper for a West Beach revetment, it is the same type of issue.

Question: who has management of the sluices?

Group 1 (HH)

Discussion recorded by facilitator onto flip chart paper

Option A: Partial breach managed realignment AND Option B Full breach managed realignment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- We don't want both option A & B in the short-listing process as in effect you get the same sort of answers
- Option B makes it very unnatural
- I would almost go for A. B is additional - totally unnatural
- *Question on map at Appendix A* - circular route? There is a proposed new footpath. As the water levels rose the existing footpath would go. This proposal has been put in so that people can still walk
- Path could be put in the other way
- It is not suggesting that walkers cross the Estuary in some way.
- We could eliminate option B - it's very unnatural, at least Option A preserves the meanders
- *Question:* what keeps the meanders alive as the sluice is not activated?
- *Answer:* nothing
- If you stand on the sluice a considerable deposit of brown clay can be seen so river must be going through somehow
- *Question:* what is the natural life of the meanders?
- *Answer:* they would last a long time, no sedimentation, they will eventually silt up, but there will always be a little bit there
- 3.1.3 of the report - more self-clearing, more water can come in and out. Lots of assumptions here that beach and training wall will be maintained.

- Option B - the defences would eventually crumble and be lost and it could be that the river starts to shift
- We have no real idea what's going to happen
- It could be a great big water mess
- Creeks develop in to that area, there is a preferential flowpath
- Remember that citizens and residents have a right to know what's going to happen. If they thought they'd lose the Cuckmere Haven there would be a lot of anger
- *Question:* Instead of breaches, what happens if you pave / cover slightly lower points and protect them from erosion?
- There is a sill underneath at Abbots Hall Farm in Essex which breaks the force of the water and allows the development of saltmarsh
- Dropping one Option here is not helpful. From a wildlife point of view Option B is better as changing the whole Estuary would mean enhanced bird life.
- *Question:* Are we talking about mathematical or physical modelling?
- If we merge Options A and B it would have an effect on the modelling
- I can't imagine either of them having an impact upstream, but this has to come out in the modelling
- Concern - neither Option A or B says anything about:
 - access to the beach
 - Coastguard cottages
 - And in 3.1.4 what does short footbridges mean?
- Look at the pattern of use. Most people use the car park and down the concrete path. Option A would have least effect on them; whereas Option B would have a serious impact on them
- If there was a breach at shingle bank then this would be lost. Assumption is that we are keeping the beach
- A&B will be different in the end. Option A keeps the path; Option B doesn't and you lose access for the canoeists
- *Agreement:* the descriptions are fine given the points we've made and we should keep both A & B on the Options list for modelling.

Option C: Engineered reactivation of meanders and saltmarsh creeks

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- It's like a lung
- From a technical view there is a sharp left hand bend, I would question that. Allowing the river to naturally bend & join the meanders lower down. There would be no need for the revetment.
- *Question:* Was this not a natural bend?
- *Comment:* the road and bridge have had an impact on that sharp bend
- The bend is unnecessary in this particular option
- The heights of the river banks have changed over time
- The revetment is to divert it back; made it so it was below flood level so it could over top that
- None of this will form and stabilise if not below flood level
- So it won't stay like this. It will start to flood on a regular basis over time
- The bend in river by A259 is an issue - it's artificial
- It's Disney land - anything but natural; a free-for-all with water swooshing in and out
- Creeks could re-establish themselves with no artificial intervention
- *Question:* Option C assumes that we must dredge out the meanders?
- *Answer:* No, no intention that this should happen
- *Question:* If they dredge out the sluices at low tide would the meanders dry up?

- Answer: they would excavate themselves. Rising sea levels would speed things up. Initially they would silt up
- Option C implies no maintenance, except for training walls and beach (which is included in every option)
- The river mouth needs to be deeper and wider to make this work
- Question: why less maintenance? We would still need to clear shingle at river mouth.
- Improved access? This would have to be provided as the central path is lost
- Thick mud - could be addressed with board walks
- There is no silt coming down the river
- Visually speaking it would look like mud flats and saltmarsh
- Question: Suppose the next spring tides there was overtopping and cells B & C flooded - what would be the effect?
- Answer: salt water on grassland. It is resistant to a bit of salt, but it depends on how often, how much and state of banks if not maintained
- It's cheaper to keep it in good order
- Proper maintenance now is better than floods in 20 years time
- At spring tides the meanders become a bit deeper but otherwise it's a couple of inches of water
- Look at what happened historically
- You can tell a bit from that but we need to model it to find out more exactly what will happen in 20, 50 and 100 years from now
- Will saltmarsh form? What is unknown is the amount of sediment, but it will certainly form
- There is no longer an active harbour at Rye, suggests there is enough sediment in the English Channel
- Question: will there be a new access route if water levels rise?
- Agreement: Option C has to be included as it's sufficiently different from the others, but it does raise lots of questions

Option D: Maintain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Question: what's the difference between D & E
- Answer: D = maintain / E = sustain
- The cost would be more-or-less the same for both
- In D repair would have the least impact on visual aspects
- Para 5.1.3 - make riparian landowners do what they should do. This still draws on public funding, but a different pot
- It's one thing for owners to have to do what they must by law, but this is different. Do riparian owners do what they are meant to do or do we ask the government. Organisations do have obligations, but in this climate especially they are going to prioritise
- It's cheaper to up the banks as part of general maintenance, but we can just keep making them higher, they have to be wider.
- The government have already said that they won't fund this
- But we surely keep it in as an option because it is sufficiently different from the others
- People less involved will have this option as their starting point - there isn't a nothing option
- Option D may lead to Options A and B naturally and in an unplanned way
- Riparian landowners - apply pressure to do what landowners do
- There is a difference between customary and statutory, in the former they have no legal obligation to act. If there is flooding to property or infrastructure there is a clear obligation. Action is not so clear in this situation
- The landowner is not responsible for the surface of the Right of Way (the Highways are)

- *Agreement:* Option D should go forward for modelling

Option E: Sustain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- *Question:* are we sure that sea levels are going to rise? London sea defences are used very regularly, but here there is no evidence of a rise
- There are two things happening - 1) sea level rise; 2) the South East is dipping
- On a calm day we won't notice it, but it will show itself in events
- Strong view that raising banks is a minimalist intervention, but it does involve major engineering and this will have a major visual impact
- There are two elements - 1) work involved in doing it, but we should distinguish this from; 2) the eventual appearance once engineering work is complete
- But with this option there will be a landscape change between the two banks - salt marsh areas currently developing in the channel would be destroyed
- There is a contradiction here, the landscape won't stay the same if we lose important salt marsh
- Seepage through the banks, they won't be watertight, when water does flood what will happen?
- All these things need testing through modelling
- *Question:* will building up the banks imply the river bed will accrete?
- As you build the banks up you also increase at the bank at the base and top
- A decision has to be taken - do you want the banks to leach water in times of flooding
- Hard engineering will become more massive over time
- We have to test these through modelling
- *Question:* if you build the banks higher - would they not sink down?
- *Answer:* this is part of maintenance
- Please look at editing of options D & E, the description in the full report is more complete in relation to the floodplain beyond the revetment
- Discussion about whether to remove option E from the short - list - it's hard to see how anyone would commit to developing this option
- Option E could go forward, but it is not a long-term option
- It's a non-starter, waste of money to model it
- F could be translated in to E in time

Option F: Sustain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- It's a single intervention
- A breathing space
- Also a stitch in time
- Doing something now and then seeing if it's right
- I believe in leaving your heirs something worth having. We have to spend the money now
- *Question:* impermeable layer is mentioned but it's not clear how it would be done
- Top up to keep it going
- Important to stop pooling on the other side
- Salt marsh development needs to happen now (if you want it), if you wait 50 years and sea levels have risen it might be harder to take hold
- All we're doing with Option F is putting off a decision for 50 years
- We're also maintaining grassland
- *Agreement:* Option F needs to go forward for modelling
- It has planning permission

- It generates a discussion around evaluation of the options which would be important to model

Option G: Tidal flood barrier

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- This is different
- This is unlikely
- It isn't really talking about the valley
- Yes - the flooding will not be from the river, but from a tidal surge so the flood barrier closes at high tide to prevent inundation from the sea
- This has to be coupled with a decision on the banks
- If you got a southerly wind, a spring tide and a flood what would happen to Cuckmere Haven? This is the real danger - as in East Anglia when I was a boy
- Addendum option doesn't address:
 - banks
 - meanders
 - coastguard cottages
- We are missing the real danger here with the shingle banks
- This would fit with Option D, but it is not a stand-alone option
- I can't see how this works because of shingle blocking the mechanism
- We'll be left with a concrete case, it would only work with a wall each side
- Rocks and shingle moving constantly to the east as in Dungeness
- There is a lethargy
- We can't make a parallel with this and the London barrier - people won't die here
- But it would have an enormous impact visually
- If the barrier was sited under the bridge, so no effect upstream on what is happening downstream
- *Agreement:* This option should *not* go forward for modelling. Aesthetically and practically we are not short-listing this option

West Beach revetment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- *Question:* what is it? A pile of rocks?
- We already have one at the end of the sea wall
- They are Norwegian style boulders, they also have one at the entry to the marina at Eastbourne
- *Question:* where would it go?
- *Answer:* running from the end of the sea wall to training walls
- Would also need a structure put in to stabilise it at right angles to the waves coming in or curved back with rocks put in
- Shingle on seaward side of the training wall
- *Question:* how do you bring in shingle?
- Sea will develop its own natural profile to determine where the beach is
- Trying to push the sea where it doesn't want to go
- We have to replenish shingle and the sea will build it up, there will be accumulation like at any pier
- Tons of shingle at low tide delta - slightly taking the energy out of the waves
- The West Beach revetment is tied in to defending the Estuary, beach and all that goes with it - part of the scheme to defend; part of a proper plan - but if we have a storm it could take away all of that
- If we're trying to do our best for the Estuary by enhancing its aesthetical qualities then this isn't the answer

- We would lose access to the beach
- It would provide a hard man-made structure right at the heart of the beach
- The amount of shingle drifting along is insufficient to maintain the beaches we have at the moment
- We need the small revetment that EA is suggesting, otherwise we'll lose the cottages within five years
- We need ongoing access to the beach added to all the options, not necessarily clear how this will be carried out
- Revetment effects what happens to the eastern side
- Most rivers move to the eastern side and form a natural spit
- The short revetment proposed by EA is the answer - THIS is the wrong revetment because it's going east / west
- If we have a natural estuary we also have a natural coastline and take all the consequences of that - the implication is that we lost the Coastguard Cottages
- We need planning and consultation on some sort of West Beach defence - but this is not the answer we must:
 - Maintain access to the beach
 - Go with natural processes

Sluice management

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- The South Downs Joint Committee manages the sluices, we let water in, but we don't let it out so that the canoeists can canoe and walkers can enjoy it, so it drains out naturally on the other side
- The sluice water doesn't quite meet at Foxhole corner

Group 2 (AvM)

Discussion recorded by facilitator onto flip chart paper

Note: for all options Group 2 would:

- Like to know what will happen upstream
- What the costings are
- Need to know there will be ongoing maintenance at the mouth
- Need to know the effect on the water table for hold the line options
- *Comment:* If maintenance had been kept up we would be in a better position than we are now

Option A: Partial breach managed realignment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Actual breaching of the riverbank - will need strengthening
- *Question:* can modelling look at how big breaches need to be?
- Once you make holes it will sort itself out: example Lincolnshire
- If footpath needs to be closed we'd need a public enquiry
- Footbridges over breaches
- *Question:* How well will salt marsh develop?
- From ecological point of view development depends on how high the land is. Should be relatively quick to come up as there is salt marsh already evident
- We must be very careful about flooding risk
- *Question:* what is the effect of this option on the existing structure? On bird and wildlife, plants and therefore tourism?
- Visitor research being carried out

- As long as access to the beach is assured there will be continued tourism
- Issue: breaches western & eastern embankments at lower level than training wall. Water will go over. Flooding has got to be dealt with from valley mouth - include river flow in modelling
- Complicated to get permission from landowners
- Agreement: Option A - yes to include in short-list

Option B Full breach managed realignment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Same comments as Option A
- Issue A259 is very unstable cannot be built up
- Protecting A259 putting bank up is going to be very costly and might not be sufficient
- Value of road is county wide
- Question: what happens to bridge, if road is unstable, what is the condition of the bridge?
- Question: could we remodel rather than using wall on the map?
 - A. Protecting road
 - B. Bigger bridge
 - C. Diverting road
 - D. Rebuilding A259
- Question: Reservoir - how is that going to be part of the option? Will it always silt up and need cleaning?

Option C: Engineered reactivation of meanders and saltmarsh creeks

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Only one that revives meanders
- It would be fab!
- Community out there loves this idea (would restore meanders to healthy situation)
- Bridge is vulnerable, revetment would continue throughout bridge - needs to be added to the description
- Bridge shouldn't be threatened by water turning
- Road needs to be rebuilt, foundations are not found save enough to take build up
- From ecological point of view incredibly exciting - mosaic of habitats - international importance
- Funding opportunities; attractive option - would open doors
- Saltmarsh is natural protection as it absorbs the energy of the sea, slows water down once it pours onto the flood plain
- Modelling needs to look at whether this keeps mouth clean
- And whether saltmarsh would survive major storms and how it can be protected when vegetation is establishing itself in first 10 years
- The appeal is:
 - o economic
 - o access
 - o ecological
- Could this be the final scheme, perhaps have other options feeding in to it
- There is a risk to this option failing as saltmarsh develops over time and takes time to establish
- Factor in detail flow of river and effect up stream / north of bridge

Option D: Maintain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Lack of maintenance in recent years, if it had been done we wouldn't have had to spend time and money on consultation
- Might be attractive in current climate, but it is short-term
- *Question:* is there a way of developing more saltmarsh under this option?
- *Question:* what is the trigger for moving on from this option? 6mm sea level rise a year? Sea level doesn't change gradually. Need to decide / know what would be the next step
- No opportunities for wild life & habitat in this option
- Makes me quite nervous this one!
- You'd end up being in the same situation in a number of years
- River mouth needs to be kept clean
- Training walls and groynes need to be maintained - mustn't be allowed to collapse
- Not comparable with other options as short-term not long-term
- *Question:* is this a valid option as postponing decision making
- However losing saltmarsh habitat as sea level is rising
- *Agreement:* to keeping this option in

Option E: Sustain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Progressive raising banks everywhere
- This is a non-option - or at least less sustainable
- Concrete reinforcements of bank not attractive
- Holding the line = maintaining landscape as it is
- Would lead to massive pooling
- May not preserve flood plain in its present state: rising sea level means rising water table
- Containing water you have to go all the way up to Milton Lock
- Southern Water study needs to be published
- Need more accurate costings; more objective costings
- *Agreement:* to remove this option from the short-list

Option F: Sustain the existing defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Upriver implication
- Meanders will continue to silt up
- Costings: seem to oppose EA loop - is because they're looking at different bank crest width (1.5 / 3m)
- Halfway house of option E
- 1.5m seems quite unsafe to people with disabilities; can be resolved, can go to 3m but would have serious visual impacts
- Sustaining for short-term would allow for decision-making in 50 years time
- Comparing costings with previous model complicates as Option E is about 100 year time-scale and F is about 50 year timescale
- *Question:* In 50 years time what do we do? Raising banks further can only be done by complete re-engineering which is hugely expensive
- *Question:* assumption is that banks / training walls / mouth are maintained by EA?
- *Agreement:* Keep in the list as an extension of E

Option G: Tidal flood barrier

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- NO at river mouth
- YES as part of a solution if positioned south of the bridge

Issues:

- exposure to gales, shingle movement etc at the river mouth it's in a vulnerable position
- *Question:* how would we get adequate power to operate a barrier?
- Visual modelling should make it clear what it looks like from different view points
- *Question:* what if system fails? What if shingle gets stuck? Who will operate the barrier? how is maintenance carried out?
- It stops natural processes taking place between the beach and Estuary
- If south of bridge would limit storm damage, but expensive for raising the banks upstream
- It would keep the water levels higher upstream with tourism and boating benefits
- There are alternative solutions which would have this effect
- Investigate / model in combination with C
- *Agreement:* not to take this option forward for modelling

West Beach revetment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Access for EA maintenance
- Not stopping sea from breaching Cell B
- Vital to all options
- *Question:* what would happen to beach if big gap appeared? needs to be investigated in all options
- Semi-circular revetment seems much better
- With / without revetment & with / without beach should be worked through in all the options
- Conflicts with natural coastal appearance is an important counter-argument

Group 3 (HI)

Discussion recorded by facilitator onto flip chart paper

Option A – Partial Breach Managed Realignment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Historic environment in this area
- Planning requirements (e.g. PPS5, PPS7, PPS9, PPS25), development plan etc will cause problems for all the options
- Do we need detailing modelling for warping up
 - Will it take place?
 - What is the timeline with sea level rise?
- 2.1.2 Make it clearer on the map where the following area:
 - 1st sentence, the additional embankment
 - 2nd sentence, the East bank
- Issue – flood risk
- Option description - Clarify in description why Cell A is being left
- 2.1.1 3rd sentence "The purpose of this scheme..." Challenge whether siltation will happen
- This option is a very partial solution – will you have to go through the same decisions again in the future?
- Public rights of way, private rights of way – legal challenge
- Compromise between flooding and not flooding, therefore prefer it is kept as a half way option
- Eastern lagoon flooding issues, that will occur in other options too
- Example of mud flats in the Ouse [spelling?] estuary; it needs to rain to affect mud flats

- 2.1.1 Modelling must establish if the purpose is feasible

Option B - Full Breach Management Realignment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- 3.1.2 1st sentence - Need to include in the description how high and how long the embankment will be
- 2.9 million CEP cost estimate is from a few years ago
- Various issues/challenges with this option e.g. planning requirements, planning issues, legal issues
- 3.1.2 Question "inundation of Foxhole valley" – please clarify, will it flood
- 3.1.3 Reservoir – Question why this is necessary. What maintenance will then be needed? Please clarify
- General point that systems need to be kept as simple as possible
- Would the A259 need reinforcing and Cuckmere bridge?
- Concern – direction of outflow is pointing the West Beach, concern for cottages
- 3.1.4 Challenge whether this is possible. Concrete road on the East side, maintaining access to foxhole and to the East Beach
- Challenge whether this is sustainable in the medium to long term – maintenance vs. non maintenance
- Option description - Make it clear in the [option] description what maintenance there will be
- Costing needs to be considered in broad terms – what are the maintenance costs?
- Option B might end up looking like option C?

Option C – Engineered Reactivation of Meanders and Saltmarsh Creeks

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- 4.1.1 Take out the 3rd sentence – it is too much of a judgement, need to keep descriptions factual
- 4.1.1 4th sentence. What are the consequences of access? Not comfortable with word "improved"
- Issues relating to this option include planning, cost etc
- A thought... could this option be the long term solution; there are aspects we like
- 4.1.2 Challenge 2nd sentence - too much focus on pros and cons
- 4.1.3 – fine as it is, factual

Option D – Maintain the Existing Defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- 5.1.1 1st sentence, second half = take out
 - Take out all cost statements
 - Cost must be considered as part of modelling
- 5.1.2 Leave statement as it is. Modelling will be making explicit assumptions re: sea level rises
- 5.1.3 1st paragraph – why is this here? Financial responsibility statement
- Question difference between 5.1.1/5.1.2 and 5.1.3
 - Are there subtle differences between them?
 - What is the difference?
 - Two maintenance regimes?
 - Need detailed description of the Richard Mann option re: height of banks, timeframe (i.e. short term? 5, 10, 20 years?)

Option E – Sustain the Existing Defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- 6.1.1. 2nd paragraph. Take out cost
- Suggest a statement about cost is included at the beginning of the paper and mention of cost is taken out of each option
- Question use of the word “sustain” in title; this option means banks will get higher and bigger, this should be reflected in the title
- Flushing option through sluices – bolt on option
- 6.1.1. 1st paragraph, sentence in the middle. Question use of word “substantial”

Option F – Sustain Existing Defences

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Change the word “sustain” in the title of the option
- A lot of detail is available on this option e.g. studies, statements
- 7.1.2 – 2nd sentence, take out the second half of the sentence “but it is not clear how that will be done”
- Perhaps add further detail on this option, what is involved:
 - Raising banks
 - Making wider in certain areas (Western banks)
 - Beach? No work on this
 - Add to modelling West Beach revetment, training wall and sluices option for the meanders
 - It is a question of clarity and consistency, but need to avoid further work

Option G – Tidal Flood Barrier

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Could there be a green energy benefit?
- Issues – expense, maintenance etc
- Suggestion made to take names out of the options paper
 - check the people are comfortable with them being included
 - options need to stand alone without the personality
 - Rodney Castleton needs including if names are included
 - Take names out unless there is a clear/strong reason for including them

West Beach revetment

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- There may not be enough detail at the Eastern and Western ends – it should be in front of the existing sea wall [cottagers' perspective]
- Does the future of the cottages come out in this scheme/options paper?
- This [option] is a mix of coastal protection and flood defence – I'm not sure it sits comfortably with the other options
- Retention of West beach and implication for the cottages
- Retaining the river mouth where it is?
- It is fine to model [this option] but be aware there are issues relating to
 - coastal protection
 - flood defence
- The cottages are an important aspect of this project, but there is also an issue of coastal protection
- It is a last minute decision to include rock revetment... but pathfinder needs to consider
- The impact of rock revetment on other options needs to be considered
- We need to model 2 options for this:
 - rock revetment
 - maintain training wall and recycling (groynes)

Other issues [mentioned during the discussion]

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Do we need to model "do nothing"?
 - Because the EA are walking away?
- Models will look at short, medium and long term

General comments

Comments, questions and answers raised by participants:

- Cost will be a key factor, but not the only factor
- Funding – how about a charitable trust for the cottages?
- Need a map of land ownership in valley and key obligations
- What happens between the mouth and the Golden Galleon?
 - connectivity between West Beach option and this

Plenary Discussion

Group 1 summary of small group discussion:

- Agreement that all key issues should be taken forward for modelling
- Option A - to go forward
- Option B - to go forward
- Option C - to go forward as sufficiently different and the one option where there are real meanders
- Option D - to go forward as the natural starting point for people who are new to the issues
- Option E - to go forward
- Option F - to go forward
- Option G - aesthetically and practically we don't wish to take this forward
- West beach revetment - maintenance of the West Beach is a priority
- It's important to maintain access to the beach to:
 - clear the river mouth
 - allow public access
 - protect the cottages
- Question: does any revetment fit with all the options?
- Perhaps the EA's proposal for a short revetment is the right option; but the long east / west Beach revetment is not the right solution.

Group 2 - summary of small group discussion:

- Want to know the upstream implications
- Costings - cost / benefit
- Ongoing maintenance requirements
- Concerns about the effect on the water table (as sea level rises)
- Option A (keep in) - key technical issues to be looked at, modelling to show combined effects of river and sea
- Option B (keep in) -
 - concern about stability of A259
 - Raising bank might not be sufficient
 - Bigger bridge
 - Diverting road - or rebuilding road / bridge
- Option C (keep in)-
 - Only option where meanders are reactivated
 - Modelling needs to look at whether mouth kept clear
 - Concern on survival of saltmarsh in extreme events
- Option D (keep in)
 - As an interim view
 - Consider it as a baseline
 - Consider triggers for next steps
 - No opportunities for enhancement (wildlife)
- Option E (take out of Options short-list)
 - Unattractive landscape
- Option F (keep in)
 - Again - upriver implications
 - Half-way house (50 years)
 - 1.5 width of bank - unsafe
 - Extension of E
 - Assumes banks and walls are maintained by EA
- Option G (take out of options short-list)

Group 3 summary of small group discussion:

- Include a 'do nothing' option
- Option D - is it two different options? Two sorts of maintenance; need a better description for 5.1.3
- West Beach revetment - add training wall and recycling
- Better to put all through for modelling for the benefit of the public - they need to know all options have been considered equally
- Take out names and judgement statements from the report and the costs

Full group discussion

Facilitator - HH

- Group 1 and Group 2 do not wish to include **Option G** in the short-list to go forward for modelling - so there is a possibility to remove it from the list
- Group 2 - expressing reservations about removing it
- *Question:* do people need to see that we'd look carefully at all the options
- It's unwise not to refer to it as an option
- As long as it is made reference to in the report on this workshop and make it quite clear why it has been removed then that should be acceptable
- We could ask for CGI modelling of Option G
- *Question:* Are we removing it on the basis of aesthetics or because it won't work?
- It could effect and address issues north of the Golden Galleon
- There is no power for one of the options for Option G
- This option is slightly inappropriate - we are not protecting a major city as is the case in London
- It prevents natural processes
- For **Option E** - it sounds like a serious option so keep it in for modelling now
- *Agreement:* Option G is removed from the short-list for aesthetic and practical reasons. A full explanation of this decision must be included in the summary report for the event
- *Agreement:* Option E remains in the short-list for modelling

Discussion on adding a 'Do Nothing' option

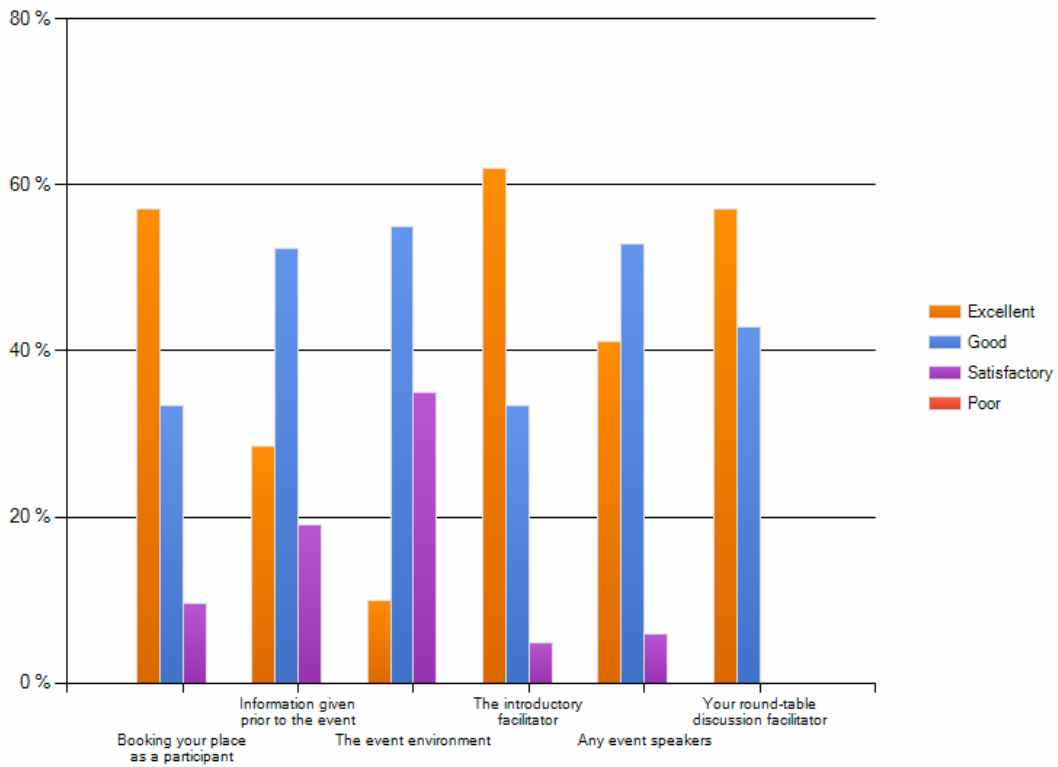
- Do nothing in reality leads to A & B
- There isn't funding from EA
- We have to explain that to the public - it's not an option its own
- Actually it's us walking away
- There are things we can't control like the shingle beach and massive unplanned flooding
- It's not an option
- It is 0 cost
- It highlights the consequences of doing nothing, if there is no cash this is what will happen
- Model 'do nothing' and cost it because there will be a cost due to the implications
- Beware - what if you model it as an example of the consequences, but everyone thinks it is great? It is very dangerous to say we are going to do nothing
- *Question:* does do nothing mean absolutely no maintenance?
- Keep shingle, river mouth and groyne maintenance - that's essential
- *Agreement:* don't have 'do nothing' as a separate option, but keep it as a criteria, a filter for all the other options.

Evaluation Form Additional Comments

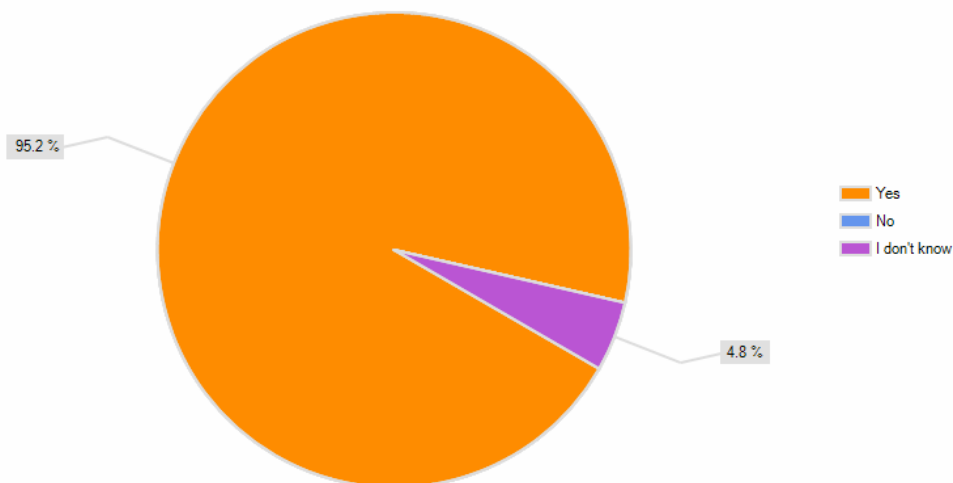
- Options should be considered in short, med & long term & if (all) options prejudice LT or are irreversible. West Beach option import. Need consider planning permission & PD55, 7, 9, 25 & SSI N Park & merit cases oblates
- Options could have been more consistently presented. It will be impossible to predict exactly what might happen - some uncertainty will have to be accepted & embraced.
- I was surprised at the strength of feeling that 'do nothing' was not an option. The reality is that there is no money for anything other than withdrawing maintenance. WE need to be honest and clear with public about what might realistically happen.
- Don't understand why leaving out names in judgement statements. What would be the advantage / purpose for barriers at the road bridge? Do nothing will lead to A and B at some stage. But is an option whether popular or not. What is the consequence of not maintaining the river mouth?
- The level of understanding and appreciation of other people's points of view was pleasantly surprising. I think the Forum has been successful - at least to this extent! River mouth - the discussion about maintaining the outfall is probably unnecessary. The EA is obliged by law to keep open the mouths of 'mark rivers' and the Cuckmere River is, according to the EA's own maps, a mark river.
- Very good
- All groups still open-minded about each option, in need of further extensive information.
- Good way of getting people to take part.
- Weaving various arguments & viewpoints into a workable central direction - well done!!
- Would be helpful to know if car parking is for participants and if you are looking to widen members for next events. 1. Complexity of issues. 2. Lack of clarity of the political process once recommendations are made.
- Don't ignore public & private rights of way. Save the iconic cottages.
- Surprisingly no surprises from other groups. Remember that upstream effects for all options have to be taken into account
- Do nothing - short term? Banks deteriorate & will need further expense in future. Be realistic - status quo, put in as current reality.
- I would hope that a media press release on this event would help to counter any perceptions raised in the media that a decision has already been taken over the option to be chosen over the future of the lower Cuckmere valley
- Worthwhile
- Could have done with a few more people
- Generally felt all issues aired well
- Looked at all options equally in the circumstances
- Enlightening day
- the hearing loop is contravening disability act
- Timing & discussion was good.
- Facilitator excellent, took all views

Appendix 4 Summary: Workshop Evaluation

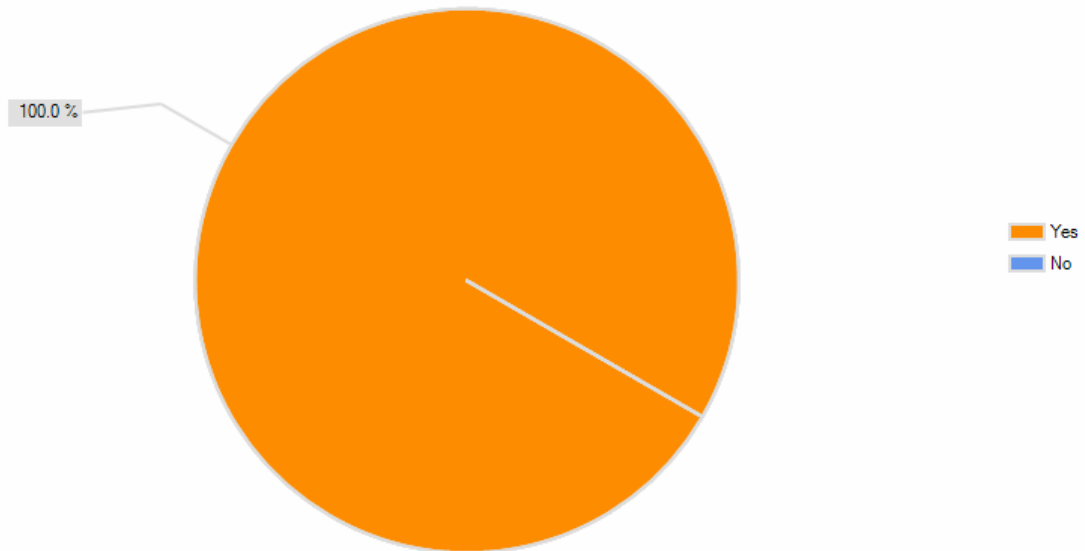
How did you find the following?



In your view did the workshop meet its objectives?



Did you have enough opportunity to express your views?



Note: the comments made on the evaluation forms are included at the end of Appendix 3.