

Conwy & Denbighshire Public Services Board
Old Colwyn Coastal Defences – August 2020 Update

Since the last update provided in February of this year, work has been completed on the far eastern section of the promenade in Old Colwyn, with rock armour placed in front of the existing seawall to provide improved protection to one of the most vulnerable sections the promenade. Improvements have also been made to the Active Travel route in this section, with new surfacing, signage, street lighting and a bike servicing station installed. Some images are included at the end of this update.

Whilst these works targeted one of the most vulnerable sections of the promenade, there still remains significant sections where the defences are at high risk of failure. Notably a 400m stretch of seawall which currently has no rock armour protecting the toe of the seawall, which we know has previously been undermined. There are further sections which only have low level rock armour in front of them, whilst this offers some protection to the toe of the wall, it is not sufficient to prevent significant overtopping during high tides.

The funding which was secured for the latest works to be undertaken has also allowed us to commission the detailed design of the full 1200m stretch of coastline, from Porth Eirias to Beach Road. This commenced in February and is now significantly completed. The scheme will see a rock revetment constructed in front of the entire length of the promenade and the narrowest, easterly (from Rotary Way to Beach Road) section of highway and promenade raised to provide the required resilience to predicted climate change levels. Improvements to the Active Travel route and public realm have also been incorporated into the design.

A cost estimate for these works has been produced which put the construction cost of the scheme at circa £34m. To date, we have secured £6.075m from WG Transport, CCBC have allocated £2m and we are close to reaching agreement with Welsh Water for a contribution towards the work. We are still liaising with Network Rail to try and secure a funding contribution. Both Welsh Water and Network rail have significant infrastructure which will benefit directly from the improved defences and therefore WG have requested that they contribute to the cost of any future scheme.

We are currently in discussions with WG over the use of the £6.075m funding, at present, it is proposed that this will fund the construction of a rock revetment in front of the most vulnerable sections of seawall. This will reduce the risk of failure of the defences whilst funding is secured to implement the raising of the highway and promenade and the public realm works. Until the full scheme is implemented the risk of catastrophic failure of the current defences remains significant. To this end, we are continuing to discuss potential funding options with WG to secure the funding for the full scheme.