

Swanage Sea Defences Role Play

As you have seen today the coastal processes occurring in Swanage Bay have resulted in a number of management implications and problems. It seems that the impacts caused by erosion are not set to end, in fact a recent article in the local Swanage newspaper revealed that the Swanage may be facing a threat that is more severe and more imminent than many people realised.

Read and highlight the article.

A public meeting is going to be held to enable everyone to have their say about what action should be taken. You are going to undertake a role play of this meeting, you must choose and adopt the role of one of the people listed below, and you will then represent them and their ideas for the duration of the meeting. You will need to prepare a short statement which highlights your views and reasons as to why or why not the proposed scheme should go ahead.

Chair person – You are the person is responsible for the smooth running of the meeting. You will need to introduce the meeting and the different parties present as well as organising a running order for the meeting. When everyone has had their say you must draw the meeting to its conclusion by summing up the key points raised at the meeting.

Councillor – You are responsible for the smooth running of the town. As part of your job you have a fixed financial budget for the year. This budget must be divided between a number of different services in Swanage including the local hospital and the fire service. Swanage town council is already in major financial debt and currently has loans of approximately £1.2 million.

Tourism Officer – It is your job to attract tourists to the area. Tourism is the main industry in Swanage, without it many restaurants, shops and hotel providers would not be able to support themselves or their families. Do you think that the proposed scheme will help to improve the aesthetics of the area?

Local Resident – You have lived in Swanage all your life. You are proud of the beautiful place in which you live and the way in which the community pulls together in times of crisis. Many of your friends and relatives live in Swanage. You would like to see the best possible solution for Swanage put into place, no matter what the cost, this may involve asking engineers to come up with new plans and ideas.

Owner of the Sewage Works – The sewage works in Swanage is on the sea front, if it should collapse into the sea the implications for tourism and wildlife within the area will be dramatic. It is possible that people will be able to sue you for the damage that would result.

Wealthy second home owner from London – You are a lawyer who is extremely aware of your rights. Despite the fact that you live in London and visit Swanage only occasionally, you see your house in Swanage as a financial investment and would hate to see it reduce in value. You are not bothered by the councils budget as any knock on effects will not effect you as you do not live their.

Engineer– You are an expert in coastal defences. People at the meeting will be looking to you to give them information about the best measures that could be out into practise. The solution that you have proposed, which was printed in the paper, was commissioned by the council. You are aware that there are other measures that could be implemented which would prove to be more successful however there options are also much more costly.

Environmentalist –You believe that environmental processes should be given the freedom to develop naturally without interference from humans. After all, if this scheme is put into place it is highly likely that the same amount of money will need to be reinvested every 20 years.

National trust representative – The national trust owns Brownsea Island, which is situated in the middle of Poole Harbour. Extremely close to where the sand dredging is planned to take place. Brownsea Island is a Nature Reserve which provides an important sanctuary for ducks, geese, waders, herons, black-headed gulls and common and sandwich turns. The sand dredging will cause noise pollution and vibrations on the island.

Owner of a tourist shop– Your shop is situated on the sea front. You and your family live above the shop. You and your partner both work in the shop. It is important to you that the sea front is protected to ensure that your business and home is not damaged or destroyed.

Owner of a green grocers in town – Your shop is in town, well away from the sea front. The majority of your business comes from local residents. Your business will be only minimally affected by anything that goes on at the sea front. If the council does invest its money in a scheme to protect the sea front other services and facilities in Swanage such as the police service, will be affected which will in turn affect you, after all you don't pay taxes for nothing!