



# Shanklin Coastal Defence Scheme: Short List Consultation

A summary of consultation responses

Date: March 2024

Version: ENV0003243C / V02

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

Published by:

Environment Agency  
Horizon House, Deanery Road,  
Bristol BS1 5AH

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

© Environment Agency 2020

All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced with prior permission of the Environment Agency.

Further copies of this report are available from our publications catalogue: [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications) or our National Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506

Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Contents

Introduction .....	4
How we ran the consultation .....	4
Summary of key findings and actions we will take .....	7
Responses to questions four to fourteen and our response to these.....	8
Next Steps .....	27
Would you like to find out more about us or your environment? .....	28
incident hotline.....	28
floodline .....	28
Environment first.....	28

# Introduction

The Environment Agency, in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, is planning to refurbish existing coastal defences at Shanklin Esplanade to reduce the impact of coastal erosion and flooding from the sea. The purpose of this consultation was to inform the community and key stakeholders about the options for refurbishing the coastal defences, how we arrived at the options and next steps for the project. This consultation provided the opportunity to feed into the prioritisation of the short list to help us understand which option achieves the best local outcomes. This is known as the local choice option.

The short list of options can be viewed [here](#).

## How we ran the consultation

We ran the consultation for 6 weeks from 23 October 2023 to 1 December 2023.

The consultation was launched on the scheme's online information page on 23 October 2023. Paper copies were available from the same date at Shanklin Community Library and the Isle of Wight Council help desk point. Large print copies were available on request. The Environment Agency's 'Working with Others' guidance and Governments [Consultation Principles](#) were followed in the production of the consultation.

## Public exhibitions

A series of public exhibitions were held to inform the local community about the reasons behind the project, update them on the findings of ground investigative works carried out in winter 2023 and share the short list of options compiled by the Shanklin Coastal Defence Scheme team. This was also an opportunity to talk to our engineers and technical advisors.

We held the exhibitions at The Clifton Hotel in Shanklin from 8 to 10 November 2023. Visitors welcomed the opportunity to escape the wet weather, sit down to complete the consultation with a warm drink in hand and have some time to enjoy the spectacular coastal views and meet other residents.



**Figure 1 – Project team member in discussion with a member of the public at the public exhibition**

The third day of the exhibition was a sensory sensitive session. This was to support anyone who wanted to attend the exhibition who may have had reservations about the sensory overload of the event. To do this we followed guidance from the National Autistic Society that included reducing the number of people at the exhibition, reducing overhead lighting and background noise where possible, and ensuring the project team did not directly approach people who were looking at the exhibition materials.



**Figure 2 - Public exhibition material on display at The Clifton**

The exhibitions were well supported by Shanklin residents and visitors from further afield as can be seen by the sticky dots placed on the below map indicating where visitors to the exhibitions had travelled from.



**Figure 3 - Map indicating where visitors to the exhibition travelled from**

## Promotion

Elected council members were made aware of the consultation and were encouraged to complete it and further publicise it amongst their colleagues and constituents at a webinar held for Shanklin Town Council on 16 October 2023.

During the week commencing 16 October, the third edition of the Shanklin Coastal Defence Scheme newsletter was sent by email to our mailing list. This publicised dates for the exhibitions to showcase the options for restoring the coastal defences.

A webinar held on 18 October 2023 provided the media with a preview of the exhibition material and sought their support with promoting the public consultation and exhibition dates. On 19 October 2023 a press release was issued to promote the consultation. This generated good coverage including On The Wight (120,000 visits per month), Isle of Wight

County Press (Opportunity To See 1,945), Wave FM (Opportunity To See 70.3k), BBC Radio Solent (Opportunity To See 46.3k).

The project team were invited to present the short list of options at Isle of Wight Council's [Environment and Sustainability forum](#) on 19 October 2023. This forum allows the council to discuss relevant issues with Island residents, town and parish councils, and other stakeholders.

During the consultation period we ran a social media campaign to promote the public exhibition material and consultation. The local library also displayed a condensed version of the public exhibition materials after the main exhibition closed, along with paper copies of the survey. During the consultation period the project team and colleagues at Isle of Wight Council had regular contact with local individuals, businesses, and councillors who were able to promote the consultation by word of mouth. Targeted invitations to attend the exhibitions and complete the consultation were sent to key stakeholders identified through stakeholder and beneficiary analysis.

## **Investment**

The principles and objectives of the [Procurement Act 2023](#) state that contracting authorities must have regard to delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, transparency and acting with integrity. The Act also includes a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the barriers facing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and to consider what can be done to overcome those barriers.

We were mindful of this throughout this consultation and invested over £4,000 in SMEs including independent Isle of Wight hotels, venues and suppliers. A conscious effort was also made to minimise expenditure through borrowing equipment and materials where possible. We are grateful to Shanklin and Sandown Libraries for lending us their supply of Lego and a selection of relevant children's books.

## **Summary of consultation responses**

We received 42 responses in total. Of the 42 responses, 36 people gave their permission for us to publish their response. The answers given by the respondent who did not want their responses published have been omitted from this report.

## **Summary of key findings and actions we will take**

Respondents told us that doing nothing or taking minimal action is not acceptable to them. Option 5 is the locally preferred option. With this option the sea defences would be adapted through raising the defence height to reduce the risk to Shanklin from rising sea level and coastal erosion. From the responses to the consultation, it was concluded that there is a need for more financial information regarding the short list of options to understand the cost effectiveness of taking each option forward. We are taking action to

address this and will share the outcomes of the financial analysis on our website in March 2024.

## Responses to questions four to fourteen and our response to these

A summary of responses to each consultation question and our response to these is provided below. Questions 1 to 3 recorded personal information such as names and email addresses. These questions have therefore been omitted from this report.

### Question 4: How did you find out about this consultation?



**Figure 4 - Response to Question 4**

Generating the most responses, at 8, was social media and press articles. The scheme newsletter also increased awareness about the consultation with 7 respondents finding out about the consultation through receipt of this.

Those who selected 'other' stated that they heard about the questionnaire through word of mouth including friends, neighbours and staff at the venues who were due to host the public exhibitions. Others heard about the consultation via an email sent to those signed up to receive updates via the Shanklin Coastal Defence Schemes mailing list. Respondents also stated that they had scanned the QR code on the signage for the Shanklin Coastal Defence Schemes located on the seafront. The recorded message encouraged listeners to share their views and directed them to the online consultation page.

### Our response to question 4

A webinar held on 18 October 2023 provided the media with a preview of the exhibition material and sought their support with promoting the public consultation and exhibition

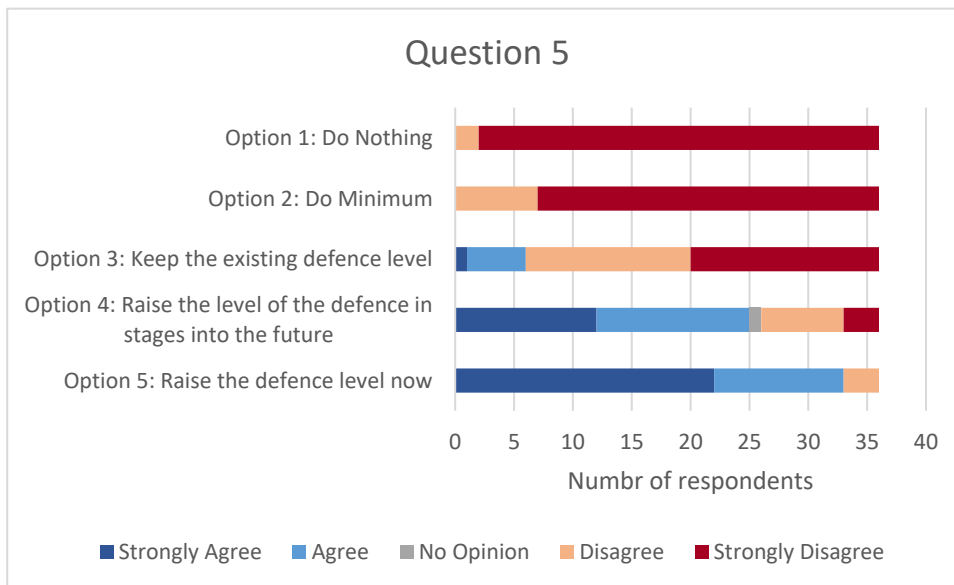


dates. This was well attended and resulted in good coverage. We plan to repeat this for the next round of public engagement for the scheme.

A total of 18 social media posts went out throughout October, November and December 2023 resulting in a total of 16,901 impressions (number of digital views). A series of short videos shared on the Environment Agency’s social media channels were the highest performing posts. The consultation also appeared as the Environment Agency’s headline story on Facebook. The videos introduced the challenges facing coastal communities and helped to highlight the need for the scheme. The videos promoted the exhibitions and advised people how to get involved. There is a positive correlation between the number of people signing up to the scheme newsletter and the days we posted on social media. We are producing videos in preparation for the next round of public engagement where the emerging outline design for the preferred option will be shared.

Visitors to the exhibitions took copies of our flyers home with them stating that they would share these with neighbours who were could not attend in person. We are thankful to the local community for helping to raise awareness about the consultation. Visitors to the exhibitions felt a letter drop could have further increased attendance at exhibitions and responses to the consultation. We were guided by the previous public consultation which told us that communication preferences were predominantly in favour of digital methods (question 11 which can be viewed here: [shanklin-summary-consultation-report.pdf \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/shanklin-summary-consultation-report.pdf)). This also aligns with the Environment Agency’s carbon targets. The project team plan to revisit community communication preferences and may include greater emphasis on non-digital methods in our next round of public engagement.

**Question 5: Please rate each of the short-listed options to show how strongly you agree or disagree with taking each option forward to the next stage of planning and design.**



**Figure 5 - Response to Question 5**

The five-point scale with choices ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree gave us a holistic view of people's opinions. The options to do nothing or minimal were least favourable with all respondents disagreeing with Option 1 and Option 2.

A range of views were expressed for Option 3 with 30 of the 36 responses in disagreement with this option to keep the existing defence level with no adaptation made for climate change and rising sea level. A total of 6 respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with taking option 3 forward.

Option 4 and 5 were most favourable, 25 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with taking Option 4 forward. A total of 33 of the 36 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with taking option 5 forward. Just 3 respondents disagreed with taking forward Option 5 and 10 disagreed with taking forward Option 4. One respondent held no opinion about Option 4.

### **Our response to question 5**

Respondents unanimously told us that doing nothing or taking minimal action is not acceptable to them. As part of the options appraisal, we are required to provide a baseline against which to assess the options. Option 1 and 2 are the baseline, however, they do not meet the project objectives. Options which meet the project objectives, and which are being investigated further are Option 3, 4 and 5. Responses to question 6 provide more insight into the reasoning behind how strongly respondents felt about each option.

### **Question 6: Thinking about how you rated each of the short-listed options, do you have any comments you would like to share with us now?**

The below word cloud has been created to help visualise some of the key words used in the responses to this question.



**Figure 6 - Word cloud visualising responses to question 6**

A selection of responses from those who strongly agreed with Option 5 is included below, chosen to represent the range of reasons raised for being in favour of Option 5.

The responses can be grouped into themes, consisting of:

- Concerns about work being done in stages
- The climate emergency
- Funding availability

Concerns about work being done in stages

One respondent said:

*"It is a disadvantage to Shanklin if work is done in stages and it increases the timeline of ongoing works. Since Shanklin depends on tourists then ongoing work makes the place look like it would always be undergoing work reducing the attractiveness of the area. No*

*one wants to have a holiday break on a building site, so this would have a negative financial impact on local businesses over many years.”*

### The climate emergency

One respondent said:

*“Sea levels are already rising and early attention to this issue will save significant amounts of work in the future. The sea front is the life blood of the Isle of Wight and it is critical to save businesses and individuals from damage and to preserve this feature and the tourism it attracts.”*

Another respondent said:

*“The existing defence is inadequate. During periods of strong winds, sea water, foam and sand wash over onto the road and footpath. With climate change and increasing sea levels, improvement of coastal defences is essential to mitigate more severe conditions.”*

### Funding availability

One respondent in favour of Option 5 said:

*“If the budget is available now, complete the work in one go rather than be held hostage to funding availability, or lack of it, in the future.”*

Another said:

*“From an economic point of view, providing that the full funding for this project is available immediately, it would probably be more cost effective that the full works of raising the defence level are undertaken now.”*

On a similar theme, some respondents considered that cost effectiveness would ultimately be the deciding factor.

One resident said:

*“It depends if it is more cost effective to raise the defence in one hit now (option 5) versus raising in stages (option 4).”*

Another respondent said:

*“Always going to be a cost vs benefit argument. If doing something make sure it’s something that can be added to and therefore incremental value for incremental budget.”*

One respondent who disagreed with taking Option 5 forward but agreed with Option 4 stated that *“Diverting so much funding to protect a few hotels and pubs should not be top priority. However, protecting the cliff face and saving the whole town may be necessary”*.

Another respondent who also disagreed with Option 5 but agreed with Option 4 said *“I think changing the wall too much could have more of an impact on the environment and view of the seafront”*.

**Other themes have been identified which do not relate specifically to a particular option but rather any works on the defences in general. These can be grouped into themes consisting of:**

- Timing of the works
- Aesthetics
- Accessibility
- Health and safety
- The positioning of groynes
- Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed

#### Timing of the work

A respondent stated that:

*“This work must only be undertaken outside of the tourist season.”*

Another respondent said:

*“When the work is carried out provision must be made for tourism and accessibility to the sea front. We do not want this to spoil and turn away visitors so must be done in a suitable way. Alternatively the major works are carried out in the quiet parts of the year.”*

#### Aesthetics

One respondent said:

*“It is vital that works incorporate accessibility and are aesthetically pleasing.”*

Another said:

*“The final look must be complimentary to the beach and seafront.”*

One respondent asked:

*“Would it be possible to have some sections of wall constructed from a transparent material?”*

#### Accessibility

One respondent said:

*“When the work is carried out provision must be made for tourism and accessibility to the sea front.”*

Another said:

*“It is vital that works incorporate accessibility.”*

### Health and Safety

*One respondent said:*

*“Higher defences will need improved barriers to improve safety - especially for small children and animals.”*

### The positioning of groynes

*A respondent said:*

*“The groyne near the rowing club should be moved closer to the club where about 4 foot of sand has been lost since the pier went and due to lack of maintenance on the existing groyne.”*

*Another said:*

*“One aspect that I feel has not been represented (I may well be wrong), is that the fixing of the groynes will result in shifting sand and beach sand level. For example, consider that if the concrete groyne opposite Sunny Beach apartments is removed and replaced with a traditional wooden groyne, this will mean the prevailing beach sand level will increase in height. This, I expect this will impact the selected Option accordingly.”*

### Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed

*A responded said:*

*“While understanding the need to act in order to ensure the long term future and mitigation against flooding in the two locations at Sandown and Shanklin, I would still have concerns about the 'bit in the middle' i.e. the revetment between the two and the fact that wear and tear in addition to increasing number of storm events and rising sea levels must be impacting negatively on this section, so would hope that plans can be sought to protect this very important stretch of our coastline in the bay.”*

## **Our response to question 6**

### Concerns about work being done in stages

We are currently planning for a 12-18month single linear construction phase for the work. The cost of doing the works in stages is prohibitively expensive. Business owners are entitled to submit claims for compensation for any loss of business incurred during construction. The project team will assess the constraints and develop an optimum construction programme as part of the detailed design stage in 2025.

### The climate emergency

We understand that the drive to increase the sea defence level in Shanklin is underpinned by the need to protect homes and businesses against the impact of coastal erosion and flooding. Many responses highlighted concerns about damage caused by increasingly frequent named storms and waves overtopping the defences. With this insight, detailed flood risk assessments and financial analysis we will be able to come to a decision that best suits the needs of Shanklin within the available budget for the project.

### Funding availability

The amount of funding a project can attract will depend on the benefits it provides. The benefits that determine the grant available are mainly the benefits to people and property that result from reduced flood and coastal erosion risk. Detailed funding analysis has been completed since the consultation closed. Details will be shared in March 2024 on our website. The most economically viable option that meets the scheme objectives when compared to the other Short List Options will also be shared through a press release at the same time. The option chosen will be designed in such a way to enable future works and interventions.

### Accessibility and Aesthetics

From the previous consultation conducted, you told us that these issues are important locally. We are aware that Shanklin is in a Conservation Area and have taken early steps to engage with the Isle of Wight Council's conservation officer who attended a workshop held to discuss the Short List of options. We will continue to consult them throughout outline and detailed design to help us achieve the following project objective:

*Design and deliver a scheme that will sustain and enhance characteristics that contribute to the historic character of the town and deliver outcomes as per the Isle of Wight Council's planning policies.*

In response to the question raised about whether a transparent material could be used; there are examples of schemes where this has been done such as the North Portsea Island Coastal Defence Scheme which uses a flood glass coastal defence wall. This scheme is larger in scale and will therefore be eligible for more grant in aid funding. The available budget for this scheme will need to be carefully considered when selecting materials during the design stage.

### Health and safety

The detailed design stage will look at requirements and considerations for health and safety. The scheme will be required to comply with [The Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#).

### The positioning of groynes

The existing groyne field configuration will be maintained with Options 3, 4 and 5. This is important for maintaining beach levels. A lack of information on beach profile in the past has led us to the conclusion that there is no argument in favour of changing the positioning

of the groynes. Our coastal processes assessment shows that the groynes are effective in their present form and so our engineering assumption is that this will continue. In addition, there is no justification for raising or lengthening the groynes because the future beach behaviour cannot be predicted with a sufficient level of certainty. No sediment modelling has been carried out for this scheme. This is because the output of this modelling has a low level of confidence.

#### Areas of Sandown Bay where a scheme is not currently being progressed.

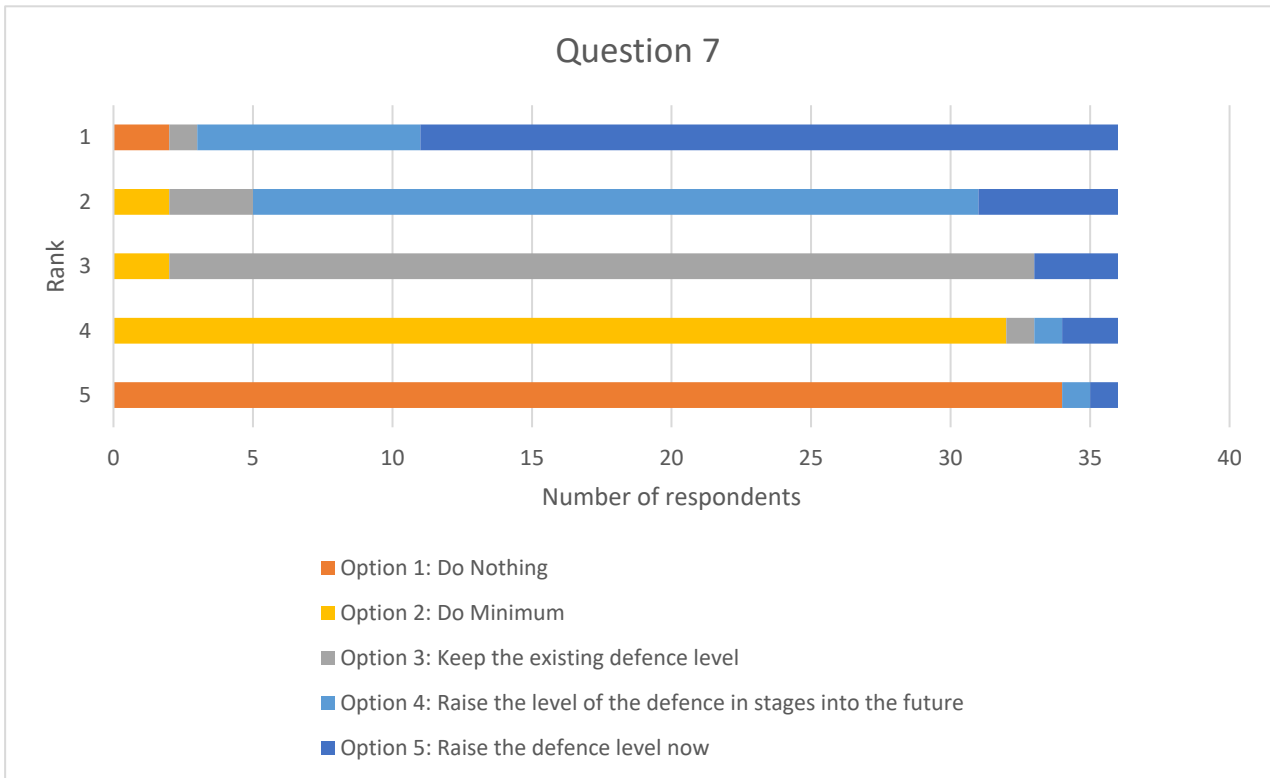
The Sandown Study (Isle of Wight Council, 2018) assessed the risks and potential consequences of flood and coastal erosion within Sandown Bay, including along the 1km Sandown Esplanade coastal frontage. The Sandown Esplanade defences are estimated to have between 10 and 35 years of life remaining before repair or refurbishment is needed. The recommendation of the Sandown Study is to undertake a refurbishment of the seawall between 2027-32. The Sandown Esplanade coastal frontage is not included in the priority schemes that the Environment Agency and Isle of Wight Council are currently developing. This is because the costs and benefits of a scheme to maintain the existing defence line do not currently enable us to justify a significant investment of government funding.

Extending the life of the ageing coastal assets on the Isle of Wight is a significant financial challenge. Currently, repairs are prioritised based on risk, and the existing defences will continue to be maintained where the Isle of Wight Council decide to commit resources.

Where the costs and benefits of a scheme do not currently enable us to justify a significant investment of government funding, both the Environment Agency and the Isle of Wight Council undertake routine monitoring and inspections of the structures within our respective ownership. This will continue with the aim of managing any health and safety risks, undertaking repairs where necessary and affordable, and maximising the life span of these structures.



**Question 7: Please use the table to rank the five options from most preferred (1) to least preferred (5)**



**Figure 7 - Response to Question 7**

A total of 25 of the 36 respondents chose option 5 as their most preferred option (rank 1) making this the locally preferred option. Based on the above results, the locally preferred ranking is shown in table 1.

**Table 1 - Options ranked in order of local preference (1 = most preferred and 5 = least preferred)**

Rank	Short List Option
1	Option 5: Raise the defence level now
2	Option 4: Raise the level of the defence in stages into the future
3	Option 3: Keep the existing defence level
4	Option 2: Do Minimum
5	Option 1: Do Nothing

## **Our response to question 7**

The majority of respondents told us that doing nothing or taking minimal action is their least preferred option. As part of the options appraisal, we are required to provide a baseline against which to assess the options. Option 1 and 2 are the baseline, however, they do not meet the project objectives. Options which meet the project objectives, and which are being investigated further are Option 3, 4 and 5. The majority of respondents chose option 5 as their most preferred option. Responses to question 8 provide more insight into the reasoning behind the option selected by respondents as their preferred option.

## **Question 8: Please let us know why you chose your preferred option**

The responses given here are reflective of the themes observed in question 6. Most used this space to reiterate and expand on their response to question 6. The additional theme of ageing assets was picked up by respondents who selected options 4 and 5 as their preferred options. A selection of responses on this topic are included below:

- *“The sea walls are not constructed to modern day standards, and I understand that there are voids behind the walls that could lead to significant deterioration in the short to mid term...The beach level at Shanklin has gone down over the years, average sand levels never quite returning to historic levels; in my opinion this is due to the deterioration of the groynes failing to slow drift across the Bay...”*
- *“The present groynes have not been maintained to reduce the loss of sand along the seafront. The existing wall is in a poor condition at the top and is getting close to the foundations at the arcade part.”*
- *“Shanklin's Esplanade is fundamental to the success of the Town. It is crumbling now, battered by recent storms, and could become partially unusable quite quickly - with more strong storms for instance.”*

The respondent who ranked Option 3 as their preferred option stated *“At least maintain what we have and then build to the future”*.

## **Our response to question 8**

Our visual assessment of the condition of the coastal defences used our rating system with 1 for Very Good to 5 for Very Poor. This assessment indicates an overall condition score of 3 for the sea walls and overall condition score of 3 for the groynes (except Hope groyne which scored 5). Ground Penetrating Radar surveys found voids located in the sea walls. Ground investigations found that the sea walls are thinner than expected. This is consistent with the observations made by respondents who are also concerned by the poor condition of the coastal defences here.

We were particularly interested in the reasoning provided by those who chose Option 1 as their most preferred option. Option 1 would result in a significant increase in flood and coastal erosion risk to Shanklin. Following review of the written comments, we consider

that those respondents used the ranking in reverse order in error. This can be inferred from their comments which do not correspond with their chosen preferred option. For example, one respondent who selected 'Option 1: Do Nothing' as their preferred option stated *"To do nothing would be catastrophic and not an option. The sea defences are old and are possible going to fail sometime soon"*.

As the responders were asked to rank the options using a scale of 1-5, it may have caused some confusion as to what the number represented.

To eliminate this issue in the future, different ranking scales may be used, such as the visual aids below:



Or



#### **Question 9: Please let us know why you chose your least preferred option**

The responses given here are reflective of the themes observed in question 6. Respondents used this space to reiterate and expand on their response to question 6.

#### **Question 10: Considering any experience or knowledge you have regarding Shanklin, are there any flood and coastal erosion improvements not included on the Short List of options that you think should be considered?**

The improvements suggested can be grouped into the following themes:

##### Cliff top erosion

Many of the responses focussed on the known issue of cliff top erosion in Shanklin, for example one respondent said *"invest in the crumbling coastal path also to stop cliff falls onto the sea defences below"*, another respondent said *"We are VERY concerned about the crumbling eroding cliff just behind the Shanklin harbour boat park.... Surely urgent restoration works are essential to prevent this part of Shanklin dissolving away, and seafront access to Sandown"*. In addition, one respondent asked whether the cliffs from Luccombe Road down to the Chine are monitored for excess surface/rain water and whether drainage can be improved.

##### Gabions

Gabions were suggested in a few of the responses with one respondent suggesting putting gabions on the road and pedestrianising it. Another respondent suggested putting gabions on top of the sea wall or using the existing boulders which have washed up and covered the once sandy beaches along the Fishermans beach towards Luccombe.

## Flooding from alternative sources

Flooding from alternative sources such as rivers and surface water was also discussed by respondents. Morton Common Road, Brook Road (by the British Legion Club) and Sandown Road (by Winchester House) were all mentioned specifically by respondents.

In addition, the following specific points were raised by individuals:

1. *"A programme of general maintenance rather than make do and mend when jobs become desperate would help but this is unlikely to happen in today's environment."*
2. *"Would immediate beach replenishment be an environmentally friendly, short-medium solution without hard engineering solutions?"*
3. *"You could build a bridge along the road and let the sea relood the valley as a tidal lagoon. This could be linked to a desalination plant to make the IW less dependent on mainland water supply."*
4. *"Prove the concept in Yaverland first, then re-assess before moving on to Shanklin. Lessons can be learned in this smaller / cheaper / less intrusive scheme, and if necessary, adjusted before being applied to the more commercial Shanklin area."*
5. *"I do urge caution with the proposals for artificial reefs and islands to be created offshore. Schemes of this nature can often have unintended consequences. For example the artificial rock islands created at Elmer beach near Bognor Regis had the effect of creating lagoons that filled at times with rotting seaweed, driven in from the sea with no means of escape. Not only was this unsightly but the smell and swarms of flies were an active deterrent to visit what was previously a popular area. The Island's tourist economy relies on attractive beaches, an outcome of this nature would be catastrophic for the Shanklin and Sandown areas. Kelp forests and seagrass beds sound more attractive but there might also be unintended consequences with these proposals - all angles need to be thoroughly investigated before any implementing any scheme that seeks to tamper with the natural environment."*
6. *"The springs at the rear left-hand corner of the Spa Car Park site should be addressed as part of any scheme as this erodes the cliff and the Cliff Path/Steps. I am led to believe that under the Esplanade is a tank/reservoir for storing excess rainwater; if this is true the operation and procedures for emptying this should be addressed to ensure that it does deliver its intended purpose."*
7. *"Banning any more sand extraction that took place some years ago offshore and probably helped remove sand from the beaches."*
8. *"Also create a harbour at Shanklin as part of the defences and provide additional amenities."*
9. *"Drainage needs to be improved in all areas and it would be helpful if the council actually cleaned the drains out which are always blocked and cause flooding."*

## **Our response to question 10**

### Cliff top erosion

- The current Shoreline Management Plan Policy (developed by EA and Isle of Wight Council) is to Hold the Line of the coastal defences along the Esplanade. This refers to the concrete/masonry sea wall and timber breastwork. The Shanklin Coastal Defence Scheme is required to comply with this policy. We are therefore looking at options to refurbish the existing sea wall to prolong its life. This refurbishment work will reduce the likelihood of erosion reaching the cliff foot. If nothing is done to repair the sea wall, it would deteriorate and fail.
- Isle of Wight Council, as the Coastal Protection Authority (CPA), are putting together a separate cliff management strategy for the cliffs and looking at ways to resource this.
- The Environment Agency and the Isle of Wight Council have the 'power to' carry out coastal protection works but are not duty bound to do so. The ability to exercise these powers is also constrained by the need to consider the costs and benefits (both tangible and intangible) of any investment, as set out in HM Treasury and Defra guidance. In general, CPAs and the Environment Agency will only act where there is a clear economic benefit to the local community/area and/or an appropriate engineering solution that is achievable, and where environmental legislation is not contravened.

### Gabions

Gabions are steel wire cages that are filled with stones and often placed at the cliff base. Gabions are an example of a permeable revetments. They reduce the erosive power of waves by dissipating their energy as they reach the shore. An impermeable revetment such as the capping stones shown in the short list poster for Options 4 and 5 would be needed to act as a barrier against wave overtopping.

The installation of gabion protection at the base of the cliff to minimise erosional impacts from wave overtopping of the existing wall was considered as part of the long list of options. Whilst cliff erosion would reduce, the significant economic damages associated with the front-line erosion are not reduced through this measure. This measure was not shortlisted as it is not considered to be necessary in the short term but may form part of a future management approach.

### Flooding from alternative sources

Morton Common Road cuts through the flood plain of the lower Eastern Yar and therefore floods annually when river levels are high. The scope of the Shanklin and Yaverland Coastal Defence Schemes is limited to managing the risk of coastal erosion and flooding from the sea. However, we will seek opportunities to design in drainage improvements where feasible and affordable. We are liaising with Island Roads regarding this.

Brook Road (by the British Legion Club) and Sandown Road (by Winchester House) are at risk from surface water flooding according to available flood risk mapping. Isle of Wight Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority have lead responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Isle of Wight Council are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management. Over the last year or so the Isle of Wight Council has been working with consultants to prepare a series of work streams to support the council's approach to flood risk. This includes an updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Public consultation dates are yet to be confirmed. Keep an eye on the council's website for further details.

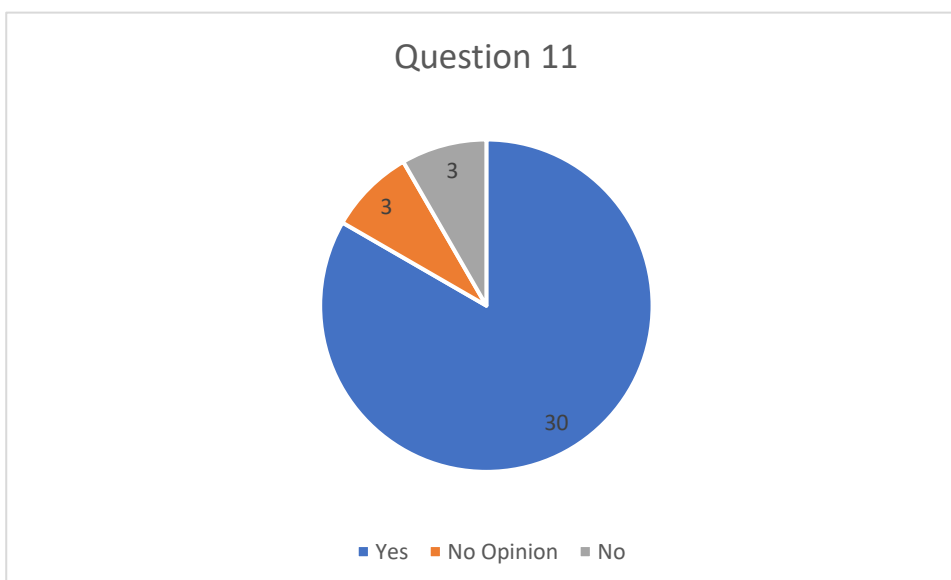
Our response to the specific points raised by individuals:

1. The Isle of Wight Council have the 'power to' carry out coastal protection works but is not duty bound to do so. The ability to exercise these powers is also constrained by the need to consider the costs and benefits (both tangible and intangible) of any investment, as set out in HM Treasury and Defra guidance. The Isle of Wight Council have an annual maintenance budget. This funding must be prioritised where there is the greatest need across its extensive coastline.
2. Beach recycling and beach nourishment maintains beach level therefore providing additional protection to coastal defences from wave attack. Although not considered to be necessary in short term this may form part of future management approach if maintenance budgets permit.
3. Letting the sea relood the valley does not meet the current Shoreline Management Plan policy of Hold the Line. A change in policy would be required to consider an alternative approach. Information on Southern Water's desalination plans can be found here: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/our-plans/water-for-life-hampshire/our-strategic-solutions/desalination>
4. From an asset management perspective, construction at Shanklin would be prioritised over Yaverland as the coastal defences at Shanklin are in a poorer condition compared to Yaverland and are at greater risk of failure. There may also be efficiencies from constructing the two schemes together or consecutively. The project team will assess the constraints and develop an optimum construction programme as part of the detailed design stage in 2025.
5. The acceptance of Nature Based Solutions within a designated Marine Conservation Zone is under discussion with Natural England, but other bodies will also have opinions on their use. Further assessment of potential impacts would be required.
6. The current Shoreline Management Plan Policy (developed by EA and Isle of Wight Council) is to Hold the Line of the existing coastal defences to manage the front-line erosion and prevent significant economic damages. Any issues related to the spring at Shanklin Spa car park would be the responsibility of the landowner and may need to be considered as part of the plans for the redevelopment of this site.
7. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) regulates development at sea under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This includes activity removing or

depositing items on the seabed. Dredging, and disposing of the dredged material, are some activities which may require a 'marine licence' from the MMO.

8. One of the objectives of the scheme is to design and deliver a scheme that will sustain and enhance characteristics that contribute to the historic character of the town and deliver outcomes as per the Isle of Wight Council's planning policies. The project team have been keeping a record of ideas suggested by stakeholders and the public as we've worked to raise awareness about the project to refurbish the coastal defences. Whilst we can enable and facilitate these other local opportunities our funding is for flood risk objectives only. We are not able to fund any regeneration or public realm work through the project, any additions to the scheme need to be funded and developed externally, though we can support other projects with bids for funding and review of designs to confirm they are technically viable from an engineering perspective. We are liaising with the Isle of Wight Council's regeneration team to develop a community feedback group that focuses on the development of the sea defences. We will ensure environment, heritage and landscape plans for the scheme align with the Sandown Bay Area Place Plan.
9. We will seek opportunities to design in drainage improvements where feasible and affordable. Our engineers are liaising with Island Roads to see if an improved drainage solution is feasible. Information on how to report blocked drains is provided here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-blocked-drain>

**Question 11: We have been looking into how we can positively impact the wildlife and ecosystems around Shanklin, ideas such as artificial reefs, kelp forests, seagrass beds, 3D ocean farms and native oyster reefs have been identified. Do you think we should invest in exploring this opportunity further?**



**Figure 8 - Response to Question 11**

A total of 30 of the 36 respondents agreed with exploring Nature Based Solutions further. A total of 3 respondents advised against this and 3 had no opinion.

## **Our response to question 11**

Nature Based Solutions (NBS) can work alongside all engineering options considered. Their acceptance within a designated Marine Conservation Zone is under discussion with Natural England, but other bodies will also have opinions on their use. Potential impacts include the loss of footprint and impacts on sedimentation, change of sediment type, hydrological changes and alteration of biological communities. Further assessment of potential impacts would be required. Only those options that are not technically feasible (due to lack of space; sand dunes, saltmarsh) or that we understand are already present (seagrass) have been eliminated to date.

## **Question 12 and 13 asked whether the respondent would like to sign up to our newsletter and whether we could publish their response to the consultation.**

We received 42 responses in total. Of the 45 responses, 36 people gave their permission for us to publish their response.

## **Our response to questions 12 and 13**

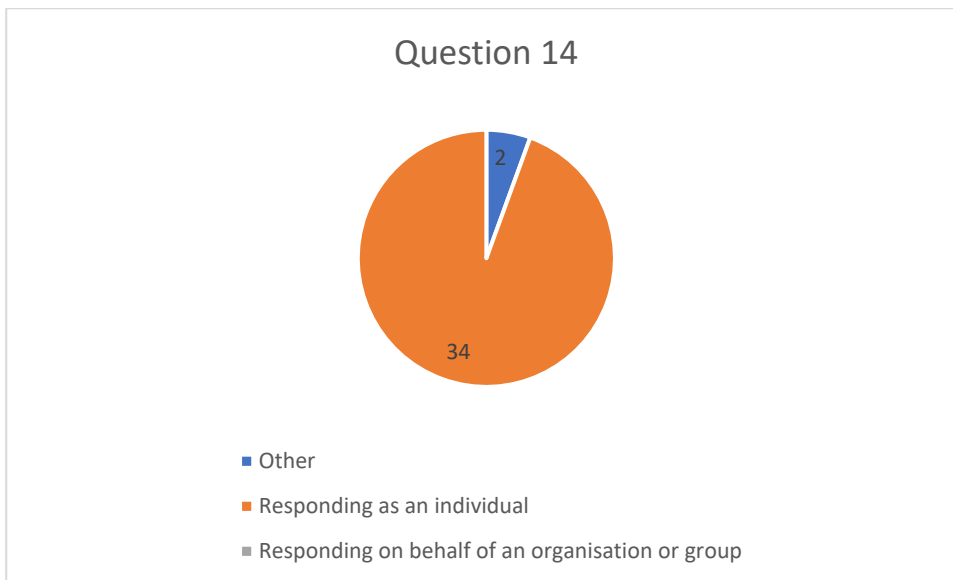
The answers of the respondents who requested not to have their response published have not been recorded in the findings of this report.

We have contacted those who asked to be signed up to our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive updates on this project or any other of the Isle of Wight coastal defence projects, please [email us](#) and let us know which projects you are interested in. Our email address is: IOW\_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk

## **Question 14: When we come to analyse the results of this consultation, it would help us to know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group.**

- **Responding as an individual**
- **Responding on behalf of an organisation or group**
- **Other**





**Figure 9 - Response to Question 14**

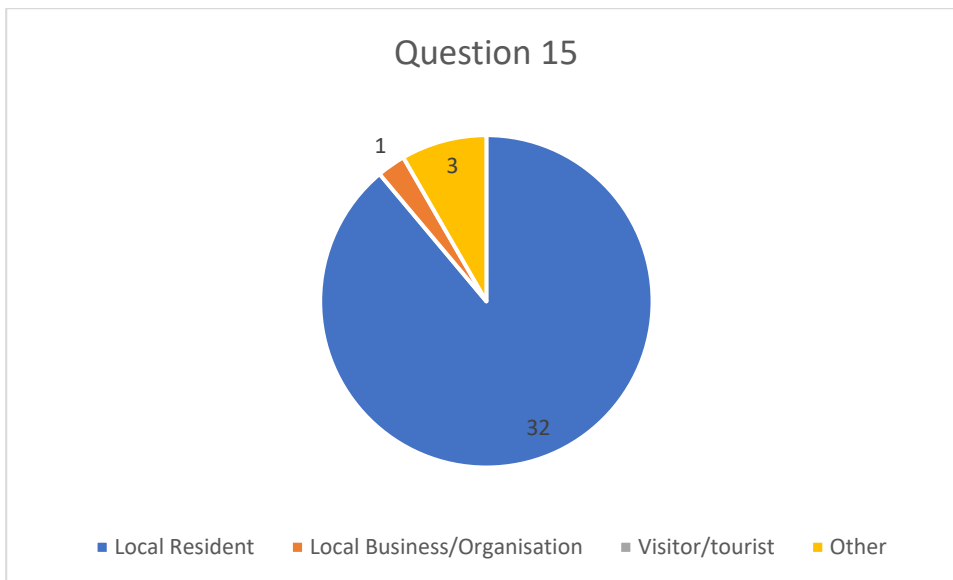
A total of 34 of the 36 responses received were from individuals. Two respondents selected 'other' and specified that they were a member of Shanklin Sandown Rowing Club and Shanklin History Society and an owner of a luxury self-catering holiday let.

#### **Our response to question 14**

We received good representation from individuals however organisations were not well represented. Question 15 provides more insight into the groups of individuals who responded.

#### **Question 15: In relation to Shanklin Coastal Defence Schemes, are you a:**

- **Local Resident**
- **Local Business/Organisation**
- **Visitor/tourist**
- **Other**



**Figure 10 - Response to Question 15**

A total of 32 of the 36 responses received were from residents and 1 from a local business/organisation. No tourists responded to this consultation. A total of 3 of the 36 respondents chose “other” and specified that they lived outside Shanklin but still had an interest in the area or they considered themselves both a resident and business owner and were unable to select both categories so chose the other category.

### **Our response to question 15**

We received good representation from residents however local businesses and organisations were not well represented. Sandown Bay is a popular destination for tourists however this group were not represented. We have reviewed our stakeholder engagement plan to consider how we can improve our engagement with those groups that were not well represented. Our next round of public engagement to share the initial design for preferred option is scheduled for summer 2024 which falls during the tourist season. We will consider how we can improve our engagement with visitors and tourists in our preparations for the consultation on the preferred option. Several tourist events over the summer have been suggested to us and we are currently investigating our suitability for attendance at those events. We are liaising with the Isle of Wight Council’s regeneration team to develop a community feedback group that focuses on the development of the sea defences.

## Next Steps

We thank everyone who took the time to respond formally.

The information obtained from the consultation, alongside detailed flood risk assessments and financial analysis will be used to reach a decision that best suits the needs of Shanklin within the available budget for the project. Responses from this consultation will be used to inform the development of the outline design.

An economic analysis has been completed since the consultation closed. Details will be shared on our website during the week commencing 11 March 2024. The most economically viable option that meets the scheme objectives when compared to the other Short List Options will also be shared week commencing 11 March 2024 through a press release.

Work will then start on the outlined design of the preferred option including indicative landscaping plans. We expect to present the emerging outline design for the preferred option to the public in summer 2024.

Individuals who wish to follow up their responses, or points made within this document, in more detail are welcome to contact us [IOW\\_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:IOW_FDschemes@environment-agency.gov.uk).

# Would you like to find out more about us or your environment?

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or visit our website

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

## incident hotline

0800 807060 **(24 hours)**

## floodline

0345 988 1188 **(24 hours)**

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

## Environment first

Are you viewing this onscreen? Please consider the environment and only print if absolutely necessary. If you are reading a paper copy, please don't forget to reuse and recycle.