



Winter Greetings!

The DEP Steering Group met on 21Sep23, and (after formally confirming Colin and myself as Vice Chair and Chair) we discussed the proposed scope, structure, and [geographic boundaries](#) of a revised and improved Estuary Plan. We agreed [ten main areas of focus](#) ('chapter headings') and identified potential contributors (individuals and organisations) for each chapter based upon their expertise and interests.

Since that meeting, each 'chapter lead' has been contacted and they have started working with their teams to document issues and concerns, gather ideas and reference material, and to plan how the team would work together to develop 'their' chapter.

We are all working together towards publication of the new Estuary Plan in December 2024. The next Steering Group meeting (which will be open to the public and include an update from the Environment Agency on flood management as well as brief progress updates from each of the chapter teams) will take place in [January 2024](#), and approximately quarterly thereafter.

Recognising that young people are often under-represented in community organisations and their views / concerns are sometimes unrecognised, we have met with teachers and pupils from Woodbridge, Farlingaye, and Felixstowe schools to share our ideas and to hear first-hand what young people think about the river, what they like, and what could be improved. As well as participating in cross-curricular school activities such as 'One World Week', we now have a nominated 'Youth Representative' on the Steering Group.

Thomas Yeung, DEP Chair

Deben Marine Centre and the 3Cs Project "Championing Coastal Coordination"

In the previous newsletter, I drew attention to the surprising amount of research activity that the Deben Estuary has attracted, which probably reflects how proactive the Deben community has been over the past 20 years. In 2015, with the blessing of the Environment Agency, it was one of the first organisations, to publish its own estuary management plan. Since then, the enthusiasm of the community for playing an active part in the decision-making process for the estuary continues unabated.

Prompted by the alarming loss of shingle from the Bawdsey coastal frontage, in 2013 the Bawdsey community started an initiative to regularly measure beach levels, and with support from coastal scientist, Helene Burningham, assemble their recordings as reliable and referrable data. Now ten years later their operation and archive are housed in the repurposed ferry waiting room on Bawdsey Quay. It is now known as the [Deben Marine Centre](#).

In 2021 this citizen science initiative, guided by Helene Burningham but coordinated by community volunteers, became a pilot project for the Environment Agency 3Cs funding. It's title indicates an intention to foster broader understanding of coastal systems and their management.

At present we await the outcome of a further application for 2024 to be able to build upon the success of the project by applying lessons learned to other locations in the estuary.

Simon Read, DEP Trustee



A Partnership of Equals - continued

What a complex organisation is The Deben Estuary Partnership! I am often asked the difference between the DEP and the River Deben Association and one of the differences is the hugely greater number of “moving parts” involved in the DEP.

Whereas the RDA works on behalf of its 850 individual members on issues source to mouth, the DEP works as a partnership of existing organisations, of which there are 76 and counting (see below,) with interests that include the estuary.

Working in partnership with these organisations and a further widespread set of specialists who are giving their time willingly, it is hoped that the next iteration of the Deben Estuary Plan can be a worthy successor to the previous 2015 Plan.

Steering Group Organisations		
Adeane Estates Alderton Parish Council Deben Yacht Club DEP Trustees Felixstowe Ferry Residents	Kyson Fairways Committee Martlesham Parish Council Melton Parish Council National Trust PGL	River Deben Association Suffolk & Essex Coasts & Heaths National Landscape Transition Woodbridge University of London Waldringfield Parish Council
Institutional Representatives		
Anglian Water Crown Estate East Suffolk Council Planning Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Marine Management Organisation Natural England NFU East Anglia SCC Head of Economic Development and Regeneration	SCC Rights of Way Team Water Management Alliance
Advisors		
Essex University Suffolk	Suffolk Wildlife Trust RSPB	Save the Deben Woodbridge Boatyard
Interested Parties		
Alde & Ore Association Bawdsey Ferry Boatyard-Felixstowe Ferry Boatyard-Larkmans Boatyard-Martlesham Creek Boatyard-Melton Boatyard-Robertsons Boatyard-Tide Mill Yacht Harbour Boatyard-Waldringfield Club-Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club-Deben Rowing Club-Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club-Waldringfield Sailing Club-Waterski Group (Felixstowe) Club-Woodbridge Cruising Coastal Partnership East	Deben Leisure Cruises Deben Marine Centre Bawdsey ESC Climate Change & Env. ESC Coastal Management ESC Greenprint Forum Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group Felixstowe Fairways Assoc Harbourmaster-Felixstowe Ferry Harbourmaster-Ramsholt Harbourmaster-Waldringfield Miles Water Engineering Parish Council-Bromeswell Parish Council-Bawdsey Parish Council-Butley & Wantisden Parish Council-Kirton	Parish Council-Melton Parish Council- Sutton Pub-Ferry Boat Inn Pub-Maybush Inn Pub-Ramsholt Arms SCC Flood Risk Committee School-Farlingaye High School-Felixstowe High School-Woodbridge Waldringfield Fairways Committee Waldringfield Flood Defence Group Waldringfield Wildlife Group Woodbridge Library Woodbridge Quay Woodbridge Riverside Trust

Colin Nicholson, DEP Vice Chair