

Climate Adaptation Scilly

St Mary's Community Feedback – Proposed Sea Defences on St Mary's

Seeking community feedback on the proposals for the three sites on St Mary's has been a key part of the design and planning process. In order to gather responses from the public an online survey was used that included high-level information about the proposals for each site.

The feedback we received was then used to help make adjustments to the planning application.

What questions did we ask?

To gather responses a template form was created using the website JotForm. Having a structured survey helped us to get focused answers to our questions. There was still a desire to keep the survey short and the following questions were used for each site:

- What parts of the proposals for [LOCATION] do you support?
- What concerns do you have about the proposals at [LOCATION]?
- What do you use this beach for? Eg dog walking, swimming, horse riding, business
- What time of year do you use this beach?
- Have you noticed the effects of coastal erosion at [LOCATION]?
- If yes, what can you tell us about what you've seen?

How did we publicise the proposals?

All site summaries were published on the Council of the Isles of Scilly website:

- [Porth Hellick](#)
- [Porthmellon](#)
- [Porthloo](#)

Each of these site summaries included information about the current issues with each site, what the proposed solution could be and images showing what the completed work is expected to look like.

Links to these summaries were sent out in an internal all staff email to council employees. All council members were also emailed the information.

[A news story](#) was also placed on the council website and posted on the council's Facebook page, which has 1,643 followers. This was also shared by email via the council's news subscription service. The Islands' Partnership also publicised the proposal in their newsletter which goes out to 300+ business on Scilly.

Personal emails about the proposals were also sent to specific stakeholders. These were businesses who were located close to a site, or would have an interest in the work being carried out:

- Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust
- Duchy of Cornwall
- Salakee Farm
- Lunnon Farm
- St Mary's Riding Centre
- St Mary's Gig Club
- The Sailing Centre
- The Beach BBQ Restaurant
- Island Carriers

- Scillonian Boat Building & Repairs

On-site discussions were undertaken with the following people:

- Ben & Debbie Edwards
- Ralph Handy
- Richard Mills (The Sailing Centre)

Telephone discussions were undertaken with the following people:

- Claire Rogers (St Mary's Riding Centre)

Outcome

The site proposals went live on the 28th May 2021 and the original deadline for feedback was the 10th June 2021. This deadline was subsequently extended to the 14th June 2021.

In total we had 20 responses for the three sites. Of these, 17 of were submitted through the online form and three were sent directly by email. Porth Hellick had seven responses, Porthmellon six and Porthloo also had seven.

Any specific questions that were asked by the respondents were collated and turned into a short Q&A document. This was then sent to everyone who took part in the survey and also published on the individual site summaries for the public to see.

Minor changes were made to the proposed works to reflect the feedback received, including varying the width of the access track through the dunes at the western end of Porth Hellick beach.

Respondents

The following people completed the survey. In some case they commented on more than one site.

- Penny Rogers
- Ruth Nicholls
- Duncan Nicholls
- David Mumford
- Sarah & Ralph Handy
- Alison King
- Claire Rogers
- Colin Jenkins
- Charles Johns
- Ann Pauline Mawer
- Robin Mawer
- Pete Hicks
- Stephen Morris
- Sourav Mishra
- Phil Woodcock
- Peter Corbett
- Ben & Debbie Edwards
- Janie Pender