

Pathfinder - Outcomes and Lessons Learn



Pathfinder was set up by Defra in 2009 to enable local authorities to explore methods of assisting communities adapt to coastal change.

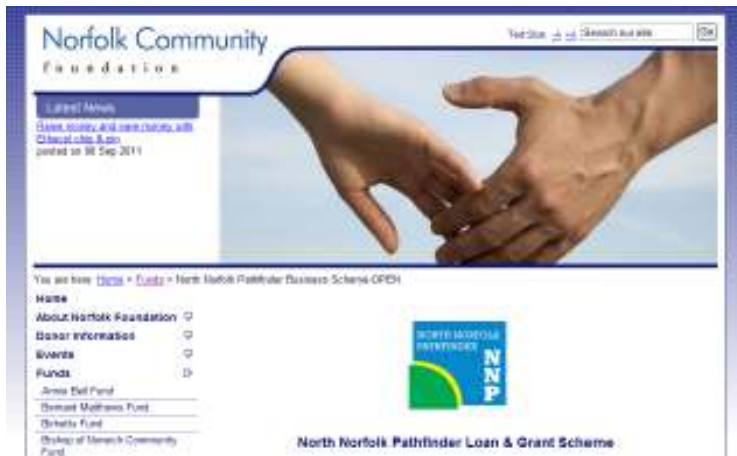
NNDC implemented a programme of projects which focused on:

1. Coastal Businesses
2. Coastal Infrastructure
3. A whole settlement approach at Happisburgh.

- The programme is now near completion.
- Lessons learned have been reported back to Defra
- NNDC are preparing to configure a new approach.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder - Coastal Businesses



Objective: Business in the East of the District are better able to continue to invest.

Outcomes - 90 businesses took advantage of developing business action plan, 35 taking advantage of a voucher to obtain further professional assistance and 34 obtaining specific business advice or developed a business plan, positioning the businesses in a better situation to improve and adapt.

Grants and Loans scheme set up for coastal businesses enabling investment opportunities.

Business able to research and understand investment sources though the development of a Business Investment toolkit developed



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Coastal Businesses



Objective: Better marketing and promotion of tourism for the east of the district

Outcome: Businesses more able to develop directed marketing activities by use of the Marketing toolkit.

Businesses able to access a free resource of high quality images which relate to the unique look and feel of the coast for use in promotional publications.

Establishment of further marketing activities and business networking opportunities for delivery over the next 2 years.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Coastal Businesses



Lessons learnt

The business support provided has helped smaller businesses take steps towards improvements which otherwise may not have been taken.

Many small businesses appear to be better able to adapt to coastal change or less worried out the prospect.

Larger businesses which rely on assets such as buildings and land are in a less favourable position to adapt to a changing coastline due to the complexity of relocating.

When engaging with businesses it is essential to get the first contact right.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Coastal Infrastructure



Objectives: To facilitate the replacement of community infrastructure at risk to give confidence and continuity to the community.

Outcome: Re-routed Cromer Marrams cliff top footpath provides a safe and simple connection to the town centre.

Through the provision of a grant the community of Trimingham are empowered and able to move forwards with the replacement of village hall facilities away from the risk of coastal erosion.

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Coastal Infrastructure



Objective: To explore mechanisms for private funding for the maintenance of flood defence where this is no longer possible for public funds.

Completion of an investigation and analysis of the potential for private contributions which is now being taken further forward.



Objective: Remove remains of defences destroyed by cliff falls and re-establish a safe high water beach access and improve the beach environment.

It is now possible for the beach to be accessed at high tide between West Runton and Sheringham.

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Coastal Infrastructure



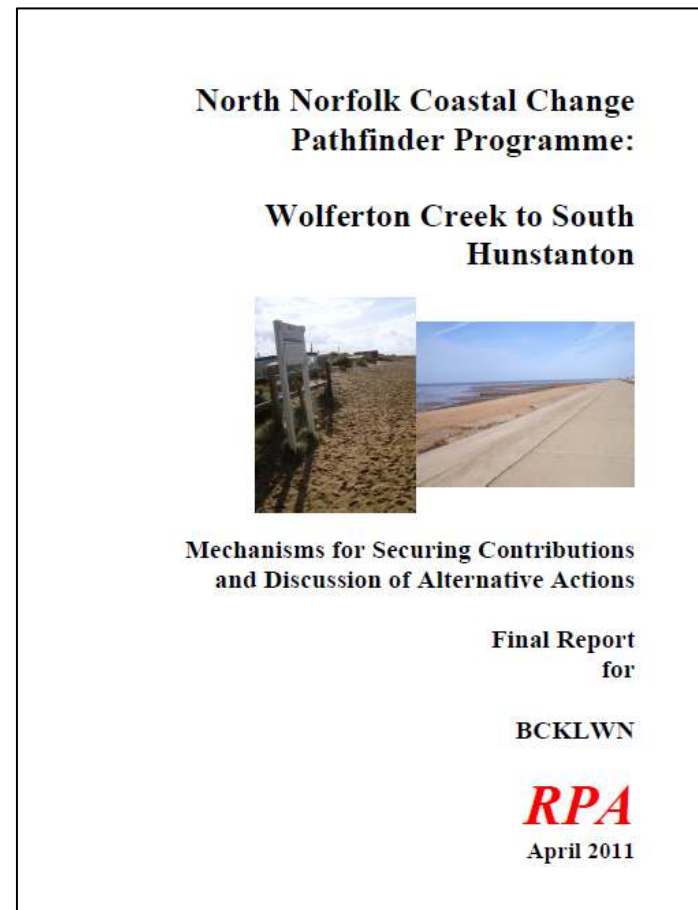
Lessons learnt

Relatively small amounts of funding can make a big difference.

There is scope to establish an acceptable methodology for private contributions to assist with appropriate flood defence measures.

There is a need to establish suitable policy and funding source to identify and remove redundant sea defences in a timely manner.

Re-enforces the importance of working with local communities and individuals to find solutions to local issues.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Objective: To assist with the relocation of the cliff top caravan site.

Outcome: With assistance through the Pathfinder business project and provision of grant assistance the caravan park are developing a relocation plan, obtaining planning advice and negotiating for land to enable a future relocation scheme.

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Objectives: To establish a methodology to relocate at risk houses at Beach Road and demolish them.

Undertake investigations to understand if properties at medium risk can be purchased and leased.

Outcomes: Successful development of a methodology to enable the purchase and replacement of cliff top houses.

Purchase of nine properties enabling previous owners to move on with their lives.

Reduced blight to the local area by the removal of deteriorating properties and an improvement to the cliff top landscape.

Improved understanding of coastal property issues.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Objective: Creation of an improved cliff top environment and prevention of the deposition of future debris. Roll back the car park and re-establish the lost public toilets.

Outcomes: Clearance of redundant cliff top structures (RNLI/Coastguard) and creation of an improved cliff top landscape (completion summer 2012).

The community are more in control of their own future through the management of the newly established car park and facilitates and ability to reinvest in their own parish.

Re-establishment of Happisburgh as a destination with iconic views, beautiful beach and coastal walks.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Objectives: Clearance of redundant defences and beach debris.

Create a new beach access ramp.

Outcomes

Reduced beach hazards and more attractive beach for residents and visitors.

Direct access from the cliff to the embayed area and improved access along the beach.

Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Objective: Enable the community to have a voice and tell their story for posterity.

Outcomes Community members are better equipped to continue to investigate and record the villages history.

Publication of a book detailing the history of Happisburgh and installation of a trail to enabling the village to share its story.

Improved appreciation and recognition of the heritage in Happisburgh and how it relates to the coast.



Outcomes and Lessons Learnt from Pathfinder – Happisburgh



Lessons learnt

Each project in the settlement complemented each other, but the key to being able to implement the schemes was finding an appropriate solution to relocating those homes most at risk.

The approach with working closely with the Parish Council and the creation of a local liaison group were essential to enable information to be shared, local comment to be incorporated and ultimately the ability for the community to take ownership of facilities for the future.

Further work is required at finding a way forward to prevent future scenarios of deteriorating cliff top properties and infrastructure.

Proposed sites for relocated properties as with many new developments are contentious, even though the demolition and replacement of dwellings will have a positive impact on the village.

The heritage project delivered more than heritage output as it enabled a wider engagement with the community, built links within the community and helped to raise community spirit.

Beyond the Pathfinder

It has been recognised that the Winnie the **Pooh** approach of “Don't underestimate the value of **Doing Nothing**” is not appropriate for the coast where policies are changing.

Pathfinder as the name suggests was about finding possible ways forward. Working with our coastal communities we have now put some **footprints in the sand** to follow.

The challenge now is to shod those feet with **robust equipment which will last**.

Questions?

