

Southwold Harbour

Notes on meeting by chair, Cllr Beavan

29 October 2018 – 11.00 am, G16 Riverside

Attendees: Kerry Blair and Andrew Jarvis of Waveney District Council, Southwold Haven Port Users Group, and a representative from Southwold Caravan Owners. Southwold Town Council sent their apologies.

1. **Waveney District Council's issues with the 2015 model** - The level of investment needed is too much for a trust (about £20m over the 20 years) and they worry about WDC being landed with it after insolvency.
2. **A revised proposal** – They recognise local objections to the LATCo. They are devising “another way” and producing a paper in 4 to 6 weeks for the JHC and STC
3. **Explanation as to Harbour Users view** - The Ore and Alde partnership is run as a charity raising considerable funds for their harbour, and gaining from the many advantages of being a charity. The original business and investment plan submitted for the 2015 Harbour Trust agreement is still valid. The outstanding investment needs – the south training arm and caravan site improvements - comes to £4.6m over the next 20 years, within the harbour's ability to pay with annual revenues of £250,000.

4. Discussion

Investment plan – A scoping document is being worked on to prepare an investment plan. Question – Should the harbour investment plan also include works to banks above the Bailey Bridge? The Harbour and coastal/flood defences are inextricably linked, but who pays?

Ring fenced funds – A need for complete transparency in the use of harbour funds was agreed

Possibility of sales to, or takeover by, commercial interests – WDC recognised that WDC control of the harbour by owning the one and only share was unacceptable to users. A possible governance compromise would be WDC 2, STC 2 and Independent 3, giving no group an absolute majority, but ensuring a democratic majority.

Trust – History was excluded from the discussions but it was recognised that WDC needed to build trust. It was admitted however that the harbour is being run better than it was. Full public consultation on the proposal is needed.

5. **Actions** - In about two months the new proposal will be put to the Joint Harbour Committee and the Southwold Town Council, with the investment and business plan, for public consultation. WDC still wish to have this wrapped up before the new Council in May.