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Vital coastal protection scheme is approved for holiday park

Coastal protection for a holiday park and the wider community has been secured after a council approved a £1m scheme.

Bunn Leisure has been given the go-ahead to stabilise a section of beach at Medmerry Beach, which will complete the link between their coastal works completed in 2012 and the Environment Agency's Medmerry Managed Realignment (MMR) Scheme.

The work, now approved by Chichester District Council, will include installing a 180m-long timber splash wall and the replacement of two dilapidated groynes with new 35m-long timber groynes.

There will be a 170m extension to the existing Environment Agency rock armour southeast along the beach frontage, which will offer greater stability for the beach which in turn will reduce erosion created by the MMR Scheme.

There will also be shingle replenishment to replace material that has been lost since 2012.

The section of beach at Toe End is known as WestPoint, and is located at the north western edge of the West Sands Holiday Village, one of four holiday villages run by Bunn Leisure in Selsey.

Four years ago Bunn Leisure spent £17m securing coastal protection at West Sands, building two L-shaped offshore rock breakwaters at either end of their beach frontage.

This scheme has been very successful and exceeded all expectations in the last 4 years, and these additional works will be the "final piece in the puzzle" so both schemes work together.

By stabilising this coastline for future generations, the approved work will facilitate the reinstatement of 72 static caravan pitches at WestPoint on West Sands Holiday Village which were functional up to the 2008 storm.

John Bunn, Managing Director of Bunn Leisure, said: "We are delighted this vital work has at last been given the go-ahead by the EA and the council.

"The scheme will further minimise the risk of overtopping and ensure the coastline is better protected against climate change.

"We intend to start the work this autumn and are expecting it to take around four months.

"Bunn Leisure has a history of investing in successful coastal protection schemes and we intend this scheme to further enhance protection for static caravans, holiday homes and recreational facilities within the Bunn Leisure Parks.

"The scheme completes the missing link between existing defence schemes and, as a result, will safeguard the Toe End beach, which is currently affected by overtopping and erosion.

“Impact on the holiday park and the surrounding area will be minimal while we carry out this important work.”

Notes to editors:

- Construction of the scheme intends to minimise effects on the local tourism economy. Access to the site will be via the main highway routes into Bunn Leisure. Construction vehicles coming from the A27 (Chichester Bypass) will use the B2145 running south into Selsey, turning right onto West Street, then right onto Crablands, continuing onto Mill Lane and then entering the West Sands site. Within the site, construction traffic will be routed along the seafront and past the leisure complex to reach the Toe End area. The majority of the construction material (rock and shingle) will be delivered to the site by sea, although the timber required for the splash wall and groyne replacement will be delivered by lorry.
- Bunn Leisure is one of the largest tourist facilities in the district of Chichester and it provides a significant contribution to the local economy of Selsey, both through tourism and the provision of employment. Today, Bunn Leisure can accommodate in excess of 12,500 customers over a peak-season weekend, employing approximately 300 full time staff and up to 300 additional staff during peak season. The entire operation contributes in excess of £60m into the local economy.



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