

Langstone Residents Association

Langstone Mill Pond and sea wall status update. January 15th 2026.

The remedial work performed in August/September 2025 on the standing sea wall which forms part of the coastal footpath was completed by Havant Borough Council (HBC) and Coastal Partners (CP). The work included re pointing of brickwork and the addition of small retaining walls at either end of the existing wall. The collapsed section of the sea wall remains untouched and the Paddock and Mill pond continue to be unprotected from the sea.

As previously reported, Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) took responsibility for the Bridge/Boardwalk construction over the gap left by the collapsed wall, ignoring the need for a repaired section of sea wall. This work was started shortly after the remedial works above were completed by excavating a section of the footpath, first by removing an amount of Tarmac and then digging out the stone, clay and earth forming the basis of the footpath Bank. An electricity supply cable was discovered as this work was in progress and all work halted. There has been no more work carried out on this area since; apart from further excavation at the site of the Mill Pond Sluice gate under the footpath, further exposing the cable and weakening the defence of the Mill Pond. The area of the sluice gate excavation has recently been infilled.

The result of these latest works is that the footpath and bank where excavated, without any protective wall, are now severely weakened and noticeably sinking, losing height whilst material is continually lost due to the sea's erosion.

The leader of the HBC, Cllr Phil Munday has said that the Agencies would "look kindly on plans to rebuild the collapsed section of the wall". But that HBC would not fund that activity. LRA efforts have and are being made to obtain quotes and information on planning from appropriate sea wall Contractors to establish a way forward with the Councils and agencies involved to finally get the sea wall rebuilt. This has been challenging as there has been little engagement or openness shown from HCC or CHC on the subject of saving the Mill Pond. To aid our efforts we the LRA, together with the LVA met with the HBC/CP to meet with the new Chief Executive of the HBC, Matt Goodwin, to introduce him to our challenges.

Here, below is a summary of the meeting held on 27th November which was also attended by Cllr Phil Munday, Leader of the HBC.

1. History of the campaign to save the Millpond was provided by LVA/LRA
2. HBC stated that no further funds will be offered for the collapsed wall from the Mill Pond to Wade Lane, as the responsibility for that is with CHC/HCC, including planning and funding

3. CP reiterated that HBC are not liable for any costs should the Mill Pond wall fall as a result of the bridge building activity. HBC/CP stated that they agree that building the bridge is not the best option and they support rebuilding the wall, but not funding it!
4. None of the relevant authorities (HBC, HCC, CHC) will acknowledge any liability for ongoing costs to save this area once the bridge is built.
5. HBC are not able to exert pressure on CHC (despite being a funder).

Outcome of meeting:

6. Matt Goodwin, the new Chief Executive of HBC committed to call Lulu Bowerman – HCC, Matt Briers & Richard Austin – CHC to understand why they have not chosen to engage with LRA/LVA. The objective is to arrange a meeting between LRA/LVA, HCC and CHC. The latest information is that Hampshire County Council (HCC) have agreed to meet with the LRA/LVA, the date is to be decided. CHC has declined.
7. HBC/CP indicated that whilst they won't rebuild the collapsed wall, they will be able to steer us through planning & requirements process of rebuilding of the wall.

We as residents, continue to be very aware of the impending winter storms and spring tides that will hit our coast. How we fund and whether any finance will be forthcoming from our Councils etc. is not the only consideration; we need to remove any known obstacles to rebuilding the collapsed sea wall from the agencies. So, we aim to address our plans and wishes to HCC/CHC as soon as they are ready to hear them and, once we have clarity that there is acceptance on their part, the LVA and LRA can move forward to save an asset hugely valued by Langstone residents and thousands of visitors alike.

JW. 15.01.2026