

**Report to:** Charity Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 25 June 2018

**Report Title:** Beach Security – Barrier Replacement and Installation

**Report By:** Mike Hepworth  
Assistant Director Environment & Place

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### **Purpose of Report**

To request match funding for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funding to replace the existing RNLI Barrier and the East Hastings Sea Angling gate with two new electronic gate systems.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. That approval is given to an initial spend from the Foreshore Trust account of £25,128.52. The EMFF will refund 75% of this which will mean an outcome spend of £6,282.13.**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

It has been known for some time that the lifeboat barrier needs replacing, it is often faulty, the electrical box is corroded and we are not able to obtain new fobs that can be programmed onto the current system. These fobs themselves are also extremely expensive.

The barrier is included in the Foreshore Action Plan as needing to be replaced, the original estimated cost is around £5000 but this is an estimate and would not include a new fob system.

This is an excellent opportunity to make use of EMFF funding to not only replace a faulty barrier but also add another which will improve security to the area and control the number of vehicles using the Blue Stade area as a parking place.

By changing the fob system to a Paxton System, new fobs can be purchased cheaply, lost fobs can be deactivated, and it can be recorded who is passing through the barriers and at what time which adds to the security of the area.

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## Background

1. Hastings has the largest beach launched fleet in Europe. The Stade area where the fishing beach is located is already a popular tourist and visitor destination. It is the place where the historic Old Town, with its wonderful mixture of historic architecture, distinctive black wooden net-shops, fishing beach with its boats and gear, museums, aquarium, amusement arcades and fun-fair all come together. All against the backdrop of the East Hill cliffs of the Country Park and the ruins of Hastings Castle on the West Hill. It is a favourite with photographers, artists and film-makers.
2. Within its locality you will also find the fish market, wholesale and retail fishmongers, specialist fish restaurants, fish sales huts located directly on the fishing beach and retail outlets selling fishing equipment to the fishing industry and tourists.



3. The fishing beach is serviced by its own road, known as the winch hut road. The Hastings Life Boat, RNLI Station and the East Hastings Sea Angling Association (EHSAA) are both based in this area. Both organisations have car parks that are accessed through the Stade and the Winch Hut Road.
4. The RNLI has an electronic barrier which requires a fob to pass through. This has become corroded and is beyond economic repair. There is also an issue with the fob system, when the barrier was installed the fobs were handed out to the RNLI. Over the years these fobs have been lost or needed replacing, but the current system does not allow new fobs to be programmed to operate the barrier.



5. The EHSAA was formed over 100 years ago and has a club house with a large licensed bar, social area and function room. Members are anglers who can berth their boats in the compound. The club though is open to members and non-

members. The parking area is accessed through a lockable gate, parking is supposed to be for members only, so they can access and service their boats.



6. The current gate system is open to abuse of access and parking, so many non-member cars manage to get through and park on the members car park.

## Impact to Fishing industry

7. This area is a working fishing area, there needs to be management of the number of vehicles that can enter the area for security of the site and the health and safety of the walking visitors to the area.
8. Maintaining controlled and efficient access for the emergency services is also vital to the fishing fleet in the event of an emergency. Also, if too many cars pass through the EHSAA gate then the car park becomes full and often cars will then encroach on the Winch Hut Road, which has a negative impact on the fishing businesses as well as increasing the danger to pedestrians walking through.

## Project

9. We propose to replace the existing RNLI Barrier and the EHSAA gate with two new electronic gate systems. Both would need electronic fob access. The fobs would be allocated only to authorised vehicles. This would enable more effective control and management of the vehicles that can access the area, which will also reduce the amount of traffic through the working areas increasing the health and safety to visitors and improving the security to the area. This can be achieved by making use of an EMFF funding application.

## Financial Implications

10. It has long been known that the life boat barrier needs replacing, and it is in the Foreshore Action Plan with an expected cost to replace a like for like barrier at around £5000. But this is only to replace the electrical cabinet and the barrier.
11. This alone would not address the issue regarding the expensive fob system that would still be in use. By approving and using an EMFF grant an improved system can be implemented which has a total cost of £25,128.52.
12. The project has FLAG board approval. The offer letter and contract for European Maritime Fisheries Funding is ready to be signed. If we proceed the Council will be signing the contract on behalf of the Foreshore Trust. The quotes for the work have also gone through our tendering processes.

13. This full amount needs to be paid in advance and then 75% of the funding is returned to the EMFF applicant. This would mean that £6,282.13 needs to be covered by the Foreshore Trust.
14. If this request for extra funding is agreed then it also needs to be decided how the initial payment will be arranged (£25,128.52).

## Risk Management

15. There are clear safety benefits to installing the new barriers and fob access system. The areas concerned need to be accessible in emergency situations, and are also accessible to the general public on foot.

## Local people's views

16. The Hastings Fisherman's Protection Society supports these proposals.

## Consultation

17. This project has the full support of the Fisherman's Protection Society the EHSAA, and the RNLI. It has also been discussed at the Stade Management Meetings and is on the agenda for the Coastal User Group Meeting on the 19 June 2018. The Coastal User Group views will be verbally reported to Charity Committee at the meeting.

## Timetable of Next Steps

18. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Contract to be signed with EMFF		Subject to approval being granted by Charity Committee on 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Paul Cosson
Contact suppliers and raise purchase orders		By 02/07/18	Paul Cosson Mark Cayley
Works Complete	Barriers installed and working correctly	End of August 2018	

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## Wards Affected

Report Template v29.0



Insert the list of wards affected

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## Implications

Relevant project tools applied? Yes

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	No

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## Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

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## Officer to Contact

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