

Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel have asked to monitor progress on the RNLI development in Cleethorpes. This briefing contains the latest position as at 5th November 2021.

Subject: Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Lifeboat Station

Background

The RNLI has planning permission in place to build a new £3 million Lifeboat Station in Cleethorpes, opposite the current lifeboat station near Brighton slipway. Dates have now been agreed between North East Lincolnshire Council (The Council) and the RNLI to commence the physical works of the main build of the boathouse, which is hoped to be completed by mid-2023.

The new station will be built on the beach in front of the current station and will have its own slipway for launch and recovery of the boats. Currently, the lifeboat must cross a public road near a blind bend. The new facility will provide the capability to position a second lifeboat at Cleethorpes and be able to respond more quickly, in a wider range of weather conditions, to a larger variety of incidents while keeping its volunteers safer. Changing and training facilities will also be improved, and the RNLI shop will move on site as well, giving shop volunteers access to running water and a toilet, neither of which are available in the current shop.

The Works

The commencement dates for the physical works have been agreed between the Council and the RNLI, in line with their requirement to comply with the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) licence arrangements. The statutory MMO licence includes a condition requested by Natural England relating to permitted working hours, which means that the piling works must take place between 1st May and 31st August to reduce the risk of disturbance to wintering birds.

- From 4th April 2022 - RNLI to set up site works (for 1 month).
- From 9th May 2022 - Piling works commence (10 weeks between May – Aug).

Regarding the type of piling installation selected, consultation and review took place between the RNLI and a piling contractor to determine the best method considering the following points:

- Geology of the beach strata varies (beach sands, clays and dense sand), and the pile design requiring 'end bearing resistance'.
- Construction of the lifeboat station.
- The location and practicability of the site, access to the working site and restricted site area limits the method of piling and the type/size of piling rigs that can be deployed.
- Working area of the site which is subject to all tidal ranges and therefore limits piling methods, along with the requirement to vacate the site during high tides.



During the works, there will be a partial footpath closure on the central promenade. It is not anticipated that there will be a full road closure on the central promenade, but any need for a partial closure will be confirmed. An area of the beach will also be cordoned off during the works for safety reasons. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Earlier in the year, the RNLI installed some new steps to ensure that there is public access onto the beach during the works and for when the new building is in place.

Council officers are currently looking into the reconfiguration of the required parking spaces to meet the RNLI's needs but also ensure that there is minimal impact on the central promenade.

Communications and Engagement

Supported by the Council, the RNLI will lead on a communications and engagement plan to ensure timely updates to the public, businesses, key stakeholders, and Council members. The RNLI are also aware of significant events to take place during the 2022 summer season and are very keen to work with organisers as it is mutually beneficial to them to minimise impact.

Contact Officer: Helen Thompson, Strategic Lead for Tourism

T: 01472 325722 E: Helen.Thompson1@nelincs.gov.uk

If you require any further information please contact the named officer or alternatively,

Laura Cowie

Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

Tel: 324139

If you would like to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

by email democracy@nelincs.gov.uk

on our website www.nelc.gov.uk/council/councillors-democracy-elections-/scrutiny/

or by post NELC Scrutiny Team,

Municipal Offices,

Town Hall Square,

GRIMSBY

DN31 1HU.

