



Alde & Ore Futures

Welcome to the Alde and Ore Futures, autumn 2010 update. The project has been running for just over a year, so this is now an ideal time to review progress so far and to highlight some exciting developments that are underway.

Alde and Ore Futures has been focussing on how those who live and work around the estuary, the local councils and government agencies can work together to deal with the longer term issues that affect the area. There have been two excellent community conferences, each attended by over 100 people and five working groups (business; communities; art and culture; landowners; environment, recreation and access) made up of local people looking at both the issues and possible solutions for the area.

A huge thank you to everybody who has contributed to the work so far we have made great progress, but we still have a lot to do. I look forward to working with you all in future.

Bill

Bill Parker
Project Officer

Our Second Community Conference (March 2010) came to the following conclusions:

- Flood resilient estuary walls are essential for local communities.
- A co-ordinated estuary wide flood emergency plan is required.
- High speed broadband is vital for the future of the area.
- A comprehensive plan is needed for improving recreation opportunities.
- In future, funding for action will be from multiple sources so will need to deliver multiple benefits
- Communication with our wider communities has to improve
- Young people must be involved
- Agreed objectives for the area is key to good decision making about the future.

Work since the last conference has been to bring together the wide range of issues raised and agreed into one comprehensive document called a **Framework**. This will unite the wide range of locally important issues and for the first time provide a clear set of agreed community driven objectives for the area.

The Framework is made up of four strands:

- Managing the coast
- Viable and thriving communities
- Building the local economy
- Delivering action.



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The draft Framework, including the action plan, is being developed with the help of local working groups through the autumn.

Managing the coast

Clearly a fundamental part of the future of the area is a comprehensive flood and erosion risk management plan. This part of the overall Framework is being led by the Environment Agency (EA). Working with the Alde and Ore Association, the EA now has a better understanding of the economic value of the estuary. 'Drop-in surgeries' for landowners and property owners vulnerable to flooding are being held through November. For more information about where and when these are being held contact: **Amy Capon** on **01473 706836**.

Supporting change

An excellent new publication has been produced by the EA, working with the National Farmers Union, Countryside Landowners Association and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit to help landowners understand the choices they have maintaining their estuary walls. If you would like a copy of this please contact **Amy Capon** on **01473 706836**

Slaughden

A working meeting with representatives of the community was held in September to enable people to raise their concerns about the future of Slaughden. A site visit gave them the chance to explain the condition of the current

defences and voice their opinions about future options. We would like to thank all who gave up their time to come along. The results will feed into the work on the area to be included in a wider consultation in 2011.

Understanding the value of grazing marsh

Funding is being sought for research into the environmental value of the freshwater grazing marsh behind the sea wall this is an important feature of the landscape and also a valuable but un-designated habitat for wildlife.

Environment recreation and access

The National Trust has been awarded funding from the European Life+ Nature fund to aid work towards resolving the challenges and conflicts around access and its impact on the wildlife and habitats on the southern part of Orford Ness. Most of this work will be undertaken next year and there is a new website for this work. www.lifealdeore.org

Building the local economy

The Business group has been working on developing ideas about how to strengthen the local businesses including improving locally needed skills training. Broadband and mobile phone connection is a major problem for both businesses and for people keeping in touch. Work continues with Suffolk County Council to try and improve the situation. In the meantime the Shingle Street community is seeking funds to implement a local trial to resolve their very slow internet speeds.



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Can you help? You may have seen the adverts for the **race to BT Infinity** and wondered if you should vote for your exchange to be upgraded? The answer is yes! Even those exchanges with less than 1,000 subscribers (e.g. Orford) who are excluded from the competition should vote as this helps build a picture of demand in the area which will be important in future. So vote now at:

www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/

Viable and thriving communities

The Community Environmental Action Fund has up to £1,000 grants available to help communities come together, become more resilient and helps the environment. To take advantage of this opportunity more information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/2uday5c>

now on Twitter so you can keep up to date as things progress see:

<http://twitter.com/AldeOreFutures>

twitter - it's easy, try it.

Improving public transport – Great news - a new Demand Responsive Transport bus is being launched on 1st November – Simply call **0845 604 1802** and book the new Suffolk Link Alde bus. It can take you anywhere within an area from Thorpeness to Orford and as far west as Dallinghoo, including Wickham Market railway station. This is similar to the service running through the Bawdsey and Hollesley area. It works on a first come, first served basis from 0700 to 1900 Monday to Saturday, all at bus fare prices.



Celebrating the Suffolk coast, this new festival between 16 to 30th October has a number of exciting events,

workshops and activities in the Alde and Ore area – more information from

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/woodwose

Improving dialogue! The last Conference gave excellent advice on how to improve all forms of communication between the communities and with the project. Follow-up work by the **Community** group means we are





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Arts and cultural group has been awarded funding for a new website to bring together and share ideas about art based projects in the area. They are liaising with John Moore's University Liverpool who have been also been working with other coastal communities facing challenging futures

Delivering action

Funding of actions in the area is clearly becoming increasing difficult given the current national economic situation. An initial workshop was held in May and agreed actions from that meeting will lead to further activity during the autumn.

Bubbling under!!!

Talks with The Crown Estate are well underway to have an event in January to debate the role of art in the future of our changing coastline – look out for more details soon.



Estuary Planning Partnership for the Alde and Ore

The EPP AGM is on 10th December and will be addressed by Therese Coffey MP and will include update on the progress of Alde and Ore Futures. It starts at 6:30pm in Orford Town Hall and all are welcome.

The EPP is the forum to bring together the key organisations around the Alde and Ore to:

- To improve communication and understanding about the estuary

- To identify and implement improvements in the care of the estuary

<http://suffolkcoastandheaths.org/text.asp?PageId=94>

Alde and Ore Futures

Alde and Ore Futures is a pilot initiated by Suffolk Coast Futures¹ jointly working with the Chairs of the five working groups and the Estuary Planning Partnership for the Alde and Ore – more details on all of this are available on the website: www.suffolkcoastfutures.org.uk

How do I get involved?

The Framework will identify actions and volunteers, especially those with specific expertise will be needed to work on the finding the best way forward. More information about how you can get involved will be circulated in due course, until then if you have a question please contact:

Bill Parker, Project Officer:

Email - bill.parker@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

<http://twitter.com/AldeOreFutures>

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Background photo: Malcolm Farrow

¹ Suffolk Coast Futures partners – Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Unit and Waveney District Council.