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The sea defences between Rossall Hospital and Fleetwood Golf Course are being rebuilt.

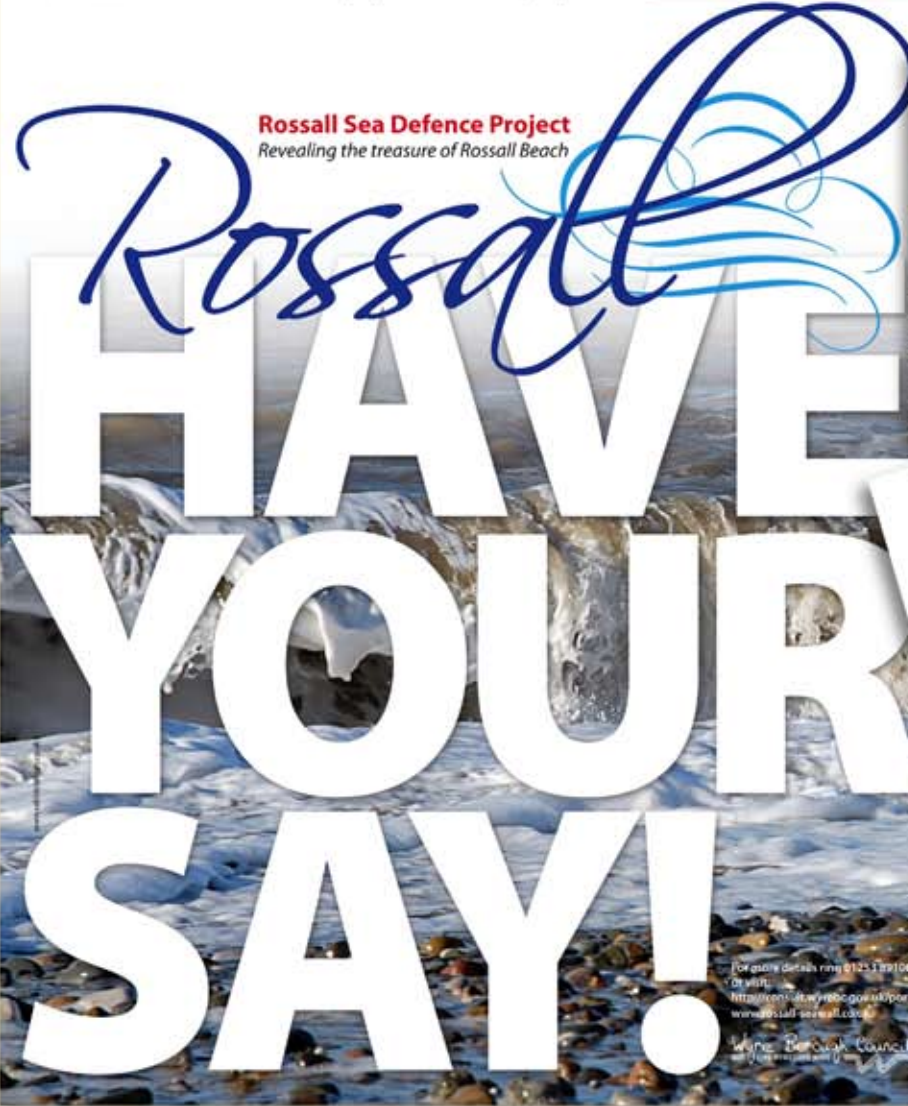
Your views are important, so come along to the touring exhibition and say what you'd like to see!

- How would you like to use this public open space?
- How important is beach access?
- What type of construction would you prefer?
- Would you like to get more involved?

There will be lots of information available, a questionnaire to collect your opinions, and people on hand to answer your questions.

Venues	
2009	
14 Dec - 4 Jan	Chatsworth Library
2010	
5 Jan - 17 Jan	Marine Hall, Fleetwood
26 Jan - 7 Feb	Frank Townsend Centre, Beach Road, Cleveleys
8 Feb - 28 Feb	Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton.

Rossall Sea Defence Project
Revealing the treasure of Rossall Beach



For more details ring 01253 881000
Or visit:
<http://www.wyre.gov.uk/portal>
www.rossall-sea-defence.co.uk
Wyre Borough Council



The project

This project was to engage the general public in a consultation process, to collect their thoughts and preferences to feed into the design stage of a major sea defence project at Rossall.

The logo which signifies the sea was to become a constant element of all the work.

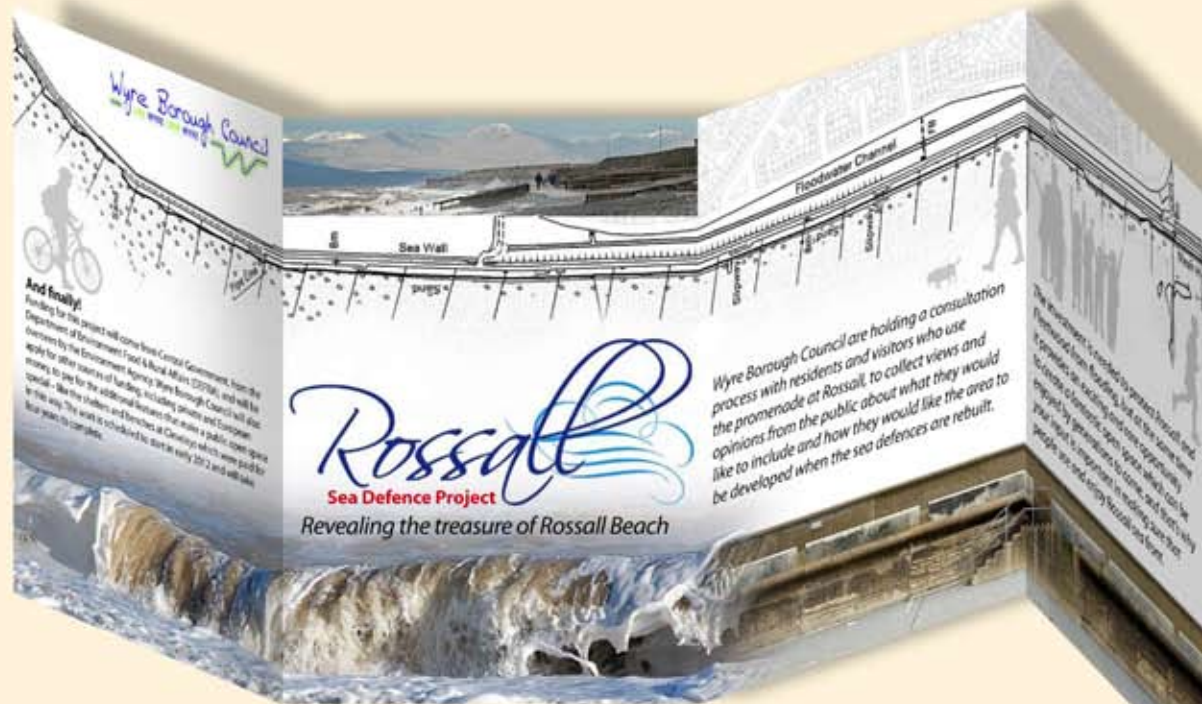
The first stage was to communicate with the public through posters and postcards that gave the times and location of the consultation exhibition.



Information graphics

To be used in the consultation process the client required a leaflet that would get a considerable amount of information into a manageable space - something that the general public could fit into a pocket or bag and read at a later stage.

Through a selection of photographs the options were demonstrated.



Which areas are included?

The proposed area stretches from Rossall Hospital round to the golf course - the area where currently there is the huge concrete expanse. It's a big area that covers approximately 2300m, but not only is it a long stretch of coast, it is also wide from front to back, and quite tall, making it a significant civil engineering project. The work will include the whole of the inner sea wall down to the beach, the walkways, promenade and high wall on top, and include works to the lagoon and gully on the land side which stores water during storms.

Why do the defences need rebuilding?

The existing wall has been rebuilt over a number of years - the oldest parts date back to the 1930s. In 1977, over 2000 properties were flooded in the Rossall area and this is when the recent upper parts were built.

Cleweleys setting an example

The £26 million Cleweleys scheme will be complete in 2010, this innovative design and construction has won over 20 awards. The experience gained in the Cleweleys project will be used and built on during the Rossall works.

However, at Rossall there are a number of significantly different elements which will have to be reflected in the finished design, in particular:

- The beaches at Rossall are lower, so the defences need to be much higher, and the stronger forces from the tide will create much greater abrasion on the defences.
- Cleweleys is a tourist destination so there has been a lot of attention paid to the number of people who will use the promenade, whereas Rossall is currently a much quieter and less populated beach.
- The landscape around the Rossall area is more natural and wild, leading on to sand dunes at the far end near the golf course.
- The lagoon area at Rossall is an important buffer between the sea defences and the properties, it stores water that overtops the sea wall during storms and is a green public area.

Your views are important!

The main purpose of the sea defences is to keep the sea out and to provide protection to over 6,400 properties. Decisions regarding the design and construction of the sea defences will have to be made based on the lie of the land and on engineering principles, in order that the defences are effective and do their job. However, some aspects of their design, how the land is used, and features that are added, are wide open to suggestion and can very much be affected by the community who uses them - so it's important that you voice your thoughts!

Tell us what you think!

A series of events are going to be held where you can pass on your thoughts and comments, and they will be advertised locally and through the press. You'll see examples of how defences have been built in other parts of the world, you can mark up a map of the area, complete a questionnaire and discuss what you think with project officers. You might want to comment on things like:

- The sort of construction you would like for these defences. Maybe Spanish Steps similar to Cleweleys, natural rock boulders which would encourage wildlife and create a natural environment, or concrete honeycomb shapes (called Sea Bees)?
- How important is beach access? For example, do you want more access points to the promenade, ramps to the beach for wheelchairs and prams, or stepped access like at Cleweleys?
- How do you use the beach now, or would you like to use the beach if facilities were better? Do you enjoy horse riding, sailing, boating, bird watching, beach walks etc.
- What do you like about the defences and the lagoon area? What would you like to keep/develop, what do you dislike and want to see the back of? What would improve the area for you?
- Would you like to get involved and be part of the process of developing the sea front area?
- Do you think better facilities would encourage people to use the promenade more? For example, play facilities, parking, lighting, signage, better seating, cycle racks, public artworks, viewing platforms, shelters, information points - the possibilities are endless!



The exhibition

The public exhibition required a large 6 drop pop-up exhibition stand measuring about 2.5m x 4m. This contained a mixture of photographs specially taken of the location and stock images that presented the variety of solutions available.

Public response to the consultation has been very encouraging, so the style and design of the material obviously hit the mark.

