

Torcross Sea Defence

The aim of the project was to identify the underlying issue with the existing sea defence in Torcross and rectify before the Winter 2016/17 storms. Funding was secured from the FDGiA and the £2.4m project was completed within 14 months of failure of the defence being identified. Throughout the duration of the works the Environment Agency and BMMJV worked to ensure effective community engagement and to minimise the impact on the local stakeholders.

We started by identifying a community representative, who helped us understand the concerns of affected residents and businesses. During the design development stage, a survey was put to the community to give their opinions on various options for repair. A public drop in session was held to present the chosen design before submitting for planning approval. We then used regular newsletters, site public meetings and our on-site Public Liaison Officer throughout the duration of the construction works, with the local MP and Slapton Line Partnership helping to share our messages.

When setting long working hours based around the tides, BMMJV connected with the local stakeholders, explaining how noise and disruption would be minimised and the resultant reduction in the overall duration of the contract. Residents were informed that reducing the overall duration of the contract protected their homes faster and reduced the risk of failure.