



Budleigh Salterton Beach & Cliff Management Plan

Findings from the 2025 public engagement survey 2026



Foreword

Budleigh Salterton has been experiencing increased cliff erosion and a shift in the pebble beach from west to east. Concerned over these events, the council has commissioned the development of a Beach & Cliff Management Plan to determine future management and whether intervention is needed. Following the first residents' meeting and a public information evening, a survey was launched in December 2025 to seek the public's views. This survey aimed to determine:

- what the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff
- why beach and cliff changes are happening
- what could be done about it
- how and why people are using the area.

Results of the survey indicated:

- residents enjoy their town and beach (including naturist area) and wish that the coastal access, town character, history and environment is maintained, whilst recognising maintenance of certain features are needed.
- erosion of the cliff and movement of the beach is a concern, especially for those living in properties affected
- there is concern and some confusion over what the Shoreline Management Plan represents and how it is being instigated
- public safety is important, especially along the cliffed frontage.

Survey respondents indicated:

- beach levels should ideally increase at the western end of town to reduce erosion
- possible hard defences may reduce flood and erosion risk
- drainage needs to be improved and potential restrictions on development need consideration.

Gratitude is given to those who attended the residents' group, advisory group, information evening and completed the survey. It is further extended those who shared information, including plans and photographs. The volunteers at the Fairlynch Museum were particularly helpful in finding historic data and media information about floods, erosion, defences and sewage. These findings will contribute to the Beach & Cliff Management Plan.

Sally Brown, Senior Coastal Scientist



Working with our communities and partners to address the challenges of flooding and coastal erosion in a changing climate while enhancing the environment.

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1. Overview

A Beach and Cliff management Plan is being developed for Budleigh Salterton. The town has seen a series of cliff falls in recent years and changes to the beach have been observed, especially since the 2013/14 storms. Having undertaken initial scientific analysis of cliff, coastal and environmental processes including site visits, consultation has occurred with the residents of Budleigh Salterton and those who use the area. The consultation had four strands:

- a residents group formed of councillors and residents who live near the cliff top.
- a public information evening on 5th December 2025.
- a public engagement survey open to all, opening on 5th December 2025 and closing on 30th January 2026 (originally mid January, then extended to late January due to the tragic event on Christmas Day).
- an email address where stakeholders were also welcome to share their views, provide photographs or other information.

The project also has an Advisory Board formed of residents, the town council and councillors. This report summarises the results from the public engagement survey and accompanying emails. The outcomes of this report will contribute to the Budleigh Salterton Beach & Cliff Management Plan.

2. Methods

A survey was designed to capture the views of residents and those who use the Budleigh Salterton area as part of the round 1 engagement activities. The objectives of the survey and how the information is used is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Objectives of the survey for engagement round 1

No	Objectives to determine:	Why this information is being collected and how it will be used
1	What the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff	The scientific records tell part of the story of the changes along the coast. Residents' views of what is changing provides a far richer picture and content. This will be used to inform and add to the description of the scientific problem.
2	Why beach and cliff changes are happening	The data used to analyse the beaches and cliffs provides a partial record in time and space. Local views are essential to add information and reinforce the findings of the scientific investigation. It is helpful to validate what is seen from the scientific analysis, particularly over decadal timescales, providing potential reasons as to why change has occurred. This can help manage the coast better and feed into the Beach & Cliff Management Plan.
3	What could be done about it	Providing suggestions allows the council to consider a wide range of options, which it can share with residents. These options are evaluated to determine whether different interventions are plausible, possible and economically viable.
4	How and why people are using the area	This allows for the Beach & Cliff Management Plan to take a wide account of people's needs so it can be considered in future management.

The survey was anonymous (note that some respondents provided identifiable information. Where possible, identifiable information has been removed from the analysis and responses combined to ensure anonymity). Any question could be left blank if the respondent was not happy to or did not want to answer that question. Questions asked in the survey and the structure of the answer are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Questions and structure of answers asked in the survey.

No	Question	Structure of the answers
1a	To what extent do you agree with developing a new Budleigh Salterton Beach & Cliff Management Plan to guide the management of coastal flood and erosion risk along the study area?	Likert scale. Select one: Strongly agree Agree Unsure Disagree Strongly disagree
1b	If you are unsure, disagree, or strongly disagree with the aim of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan, please tell us why below, including any negative impacts you feel may occur	Open ended text box.
2a	Which of the following flood and erosion issues are you most concerned about?	Ranking question (select as many as relevant): Accumulation of beach material by natural processes Cliff slips/falls Flooding from the sea Impact of waves on the coastline Impact on beach uses such as days out, beach hut use, beach sports, and watersports access Impact on infrastructure, e.g. transport links including roads and cycle routes Impact on property Impact on the historic environment Impact on the natural environment Increase in storm events caused by climate change Loss of beach material by natural processes Maintenance of coastal defences such as seawalls Maintenance of outfalls Sea level rise caused by climate change Other (please state) free text

No	Question	Structure of the answers
2b	Please explain why you are concerned about the issues that you selected. For each issue, please state whether this relates to a specific area along the coastline.	Free text box.
3	What activities do you use Budleigh Salterton's beach, cliffs and seafront area for?	Tick box (select as many as relevant): Spending time with friends / family Swimming Walking / dog-walking Watersports Other (please state)
4a	If you could improve anything about the beach, cliffs and seafront at Budleigh Salterton, what would that be and why?	Free ended text box.
4b	Any further additional comments on the plan	Free ended text box.
5	Do you have any old photographs, testimonials/stories or postcards from the Budleigh Salterton beach and cliff area that you would like to share with us to help with the development of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan?	Tick box (select one): Yes No
6a	Did you attend the drop-in event at Budleigh Salterton Town Hall?	Tick box (select one): Yes No
6b	If you attended, how did you find the information provided?	Tick box (select one): About right Not enough details Too detailed
7	How did you hear about the event?	Tick box (select as many as relevant): Community group East Devon District Council newsletter East Devon District Council social media channels East Devon District Council website

No	Question	Structure of the answers
		Newspaper or news website. Other (please state)
8	Any additional feedback on the event please let us know	Free ended text box.

Table 3 indicates the justification for inclusion of the questions.

Table 3. Justification for the questions asked in the survey.

No	Question	Reason for inclusion
1a	To what extent do you agree with developing a new Budleigh Salterton Beach & Cliff Management Plan to guide the management of coastal flood and erosion risk along the study area?	What the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff. What could be done about it.
1b	If you are unsure, disagree, or strongly disagree with the aim of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan, please tell us why below, including any negative impacts you feel may occur	What the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff. What could be done about it.
2a	Which of the following flood and erosion issues are you most concerned about?	What the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff. What could be done about it.
2b	Please explain why you are concerned about the issues that you selected. For each issue, please state whether this relates to a specific area along the coastline.	Why beach and cliff changes are happening. What could be done about it. How and why people are using the area.
3	What activities do you use Budleigh Salterton's beach, cliffs and seafront area for?	How and why people are using the area.
4a	If you could improve anything about the beach, cliffs and seafront at Budleigh Salterton, what would that be and why?	Why beach and cliff changes are happening. What could be done about it.
4b	Any further additional comments on the plan	Why beach and cliff changes are happening.

No	Question	Reason for inclusion
		What could be done about it.
5	Do you have any old photographs, testimonials/stories or postcards from the Budleigh Salterton beach and cliff area that you would like to share with us to help with the development of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan?	Why beach and cliff changes are happening.
6a	Did you attend the drop-in event at Budleigh Salterton Town Hall?	Determine reach of survey and communication.
6b	If you attended, how did you find the information provided?	Determine reach of survey and communication.
7	How did you hear about the event?	Determine reach of survey and communication.
8	Any additional feedback on the event please let us know	What the public views are as to what changes are happening on the beach and cliff. What could be done about it.

A screenshot of the [\(completed\) survey](#) is shown in Figure 1. This shows how long the survey was open for, who could answer it and a timeline of activities.

The survey was advertised and disseminated through the following channels:

- a launch email was sent to East Devon District Council's Commonplace (a digital citizen engagement platform) mailing list
- Budleigh Journal
- Budleigh tourism newsletter
- East Devon District Council website
- East Devon Residents' newsletter
- Local councillors
- meeting at the Public Hall on 5th December 2025
- residents group meeting in the Public Hall on 12th November 2025
- wider public through social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Town Council website.

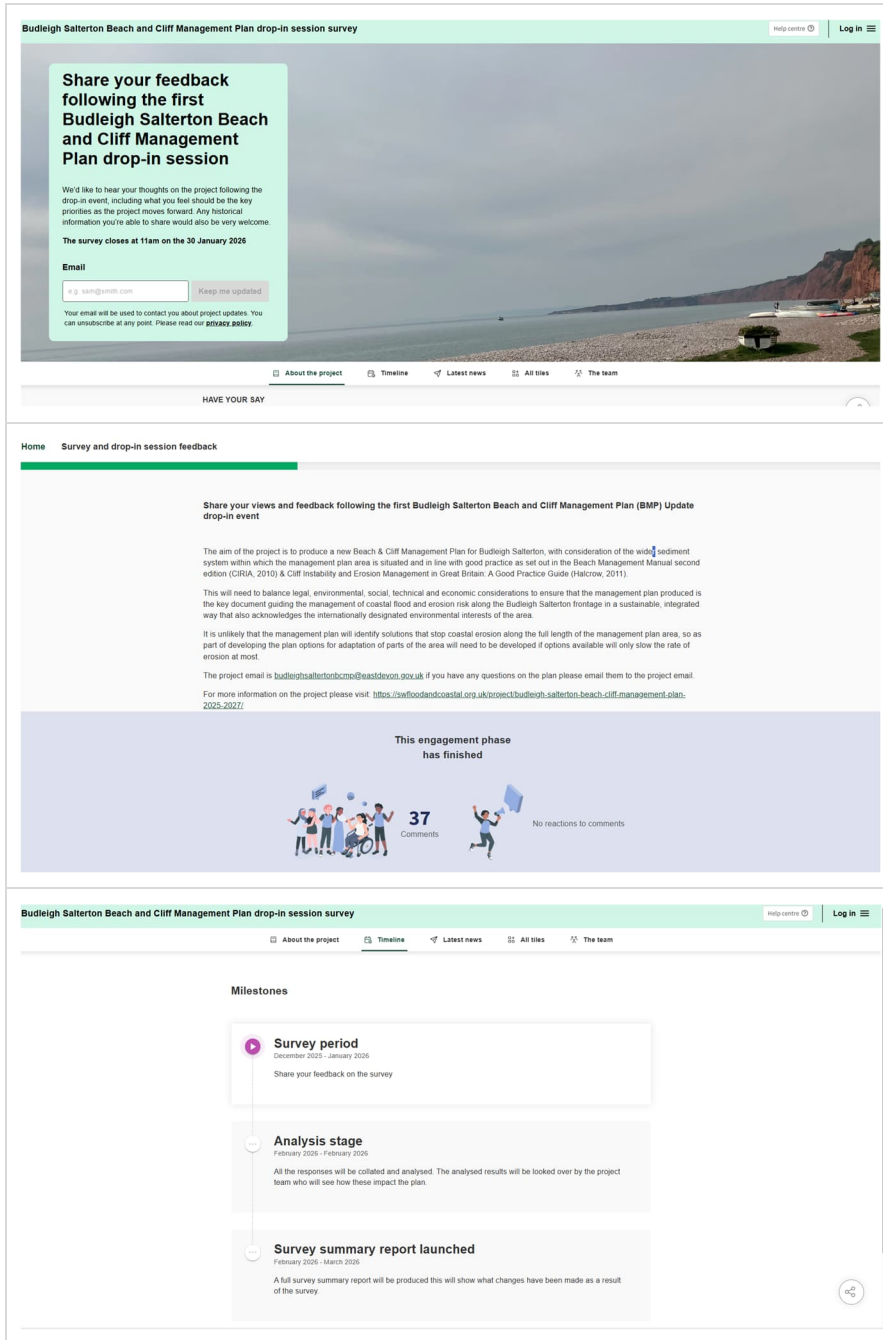


Figure 1. Screenshot of the survey.

Information about the project in general was displayed on the [East Devon District Council](#) website (26/9/25), noting that engagement will occur in December 2025. This was reported in [DevonLive](#) (30/9/25) and the [Exmouth Journal](#) (30/9/25), as shown in Figure 2.

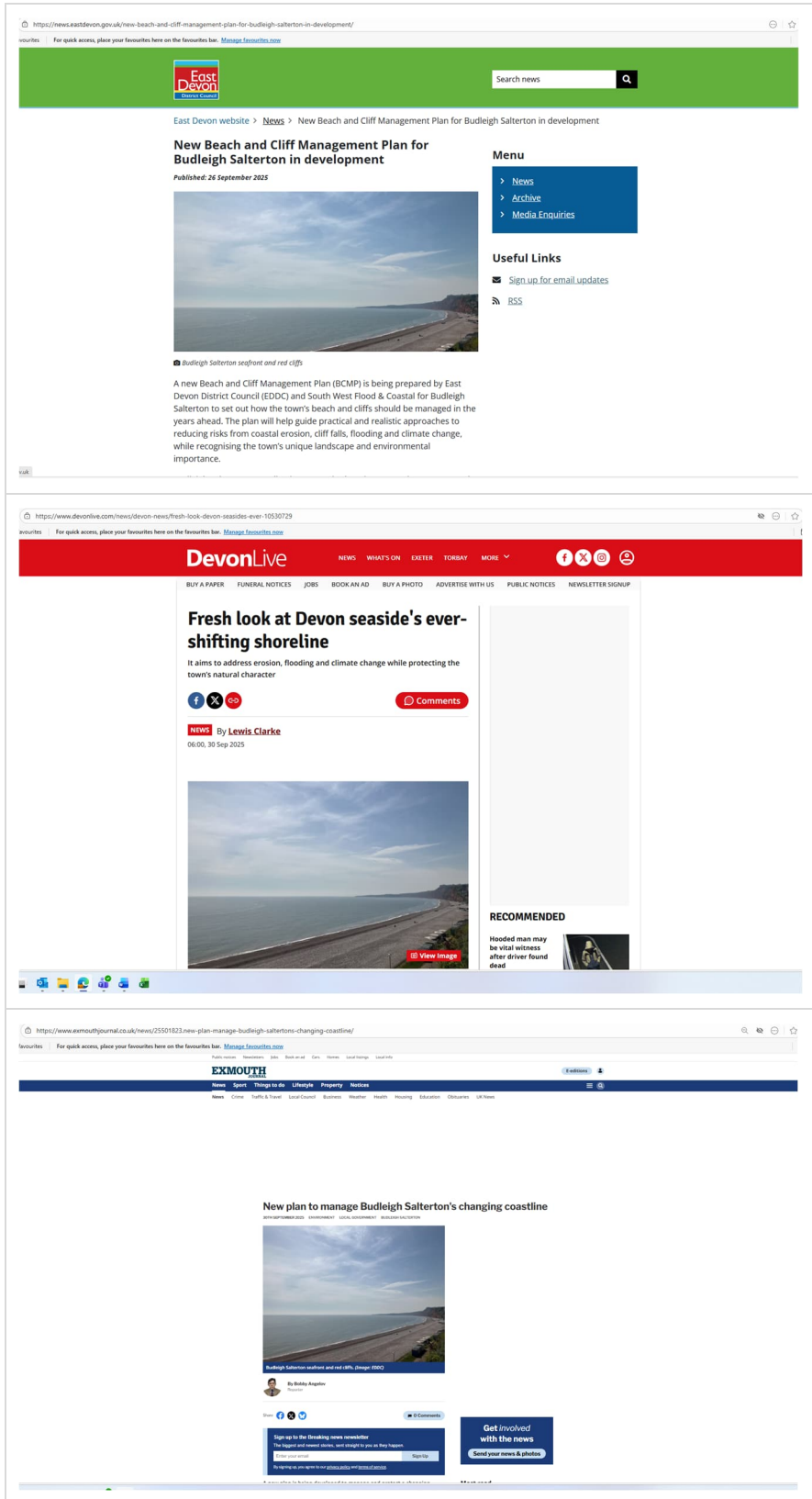


Figure 2. Information on the Cliff & Beach Management Plan displayed on the East Devon District Council and local media webpages.

Screenshots advertising the information day and survey are shown in Figure 3. This includes [East Devon District Council](#) (10/11/25 indicating the information event and link to survey),

reporting at [DevonLive](#) (22/11/25 indicating the information event and making readers aware of the forthcoming survey) and in the [Exmouth Journal](#) (12/11/25 indicating the information event and making readers aware of the forthcoming survey).

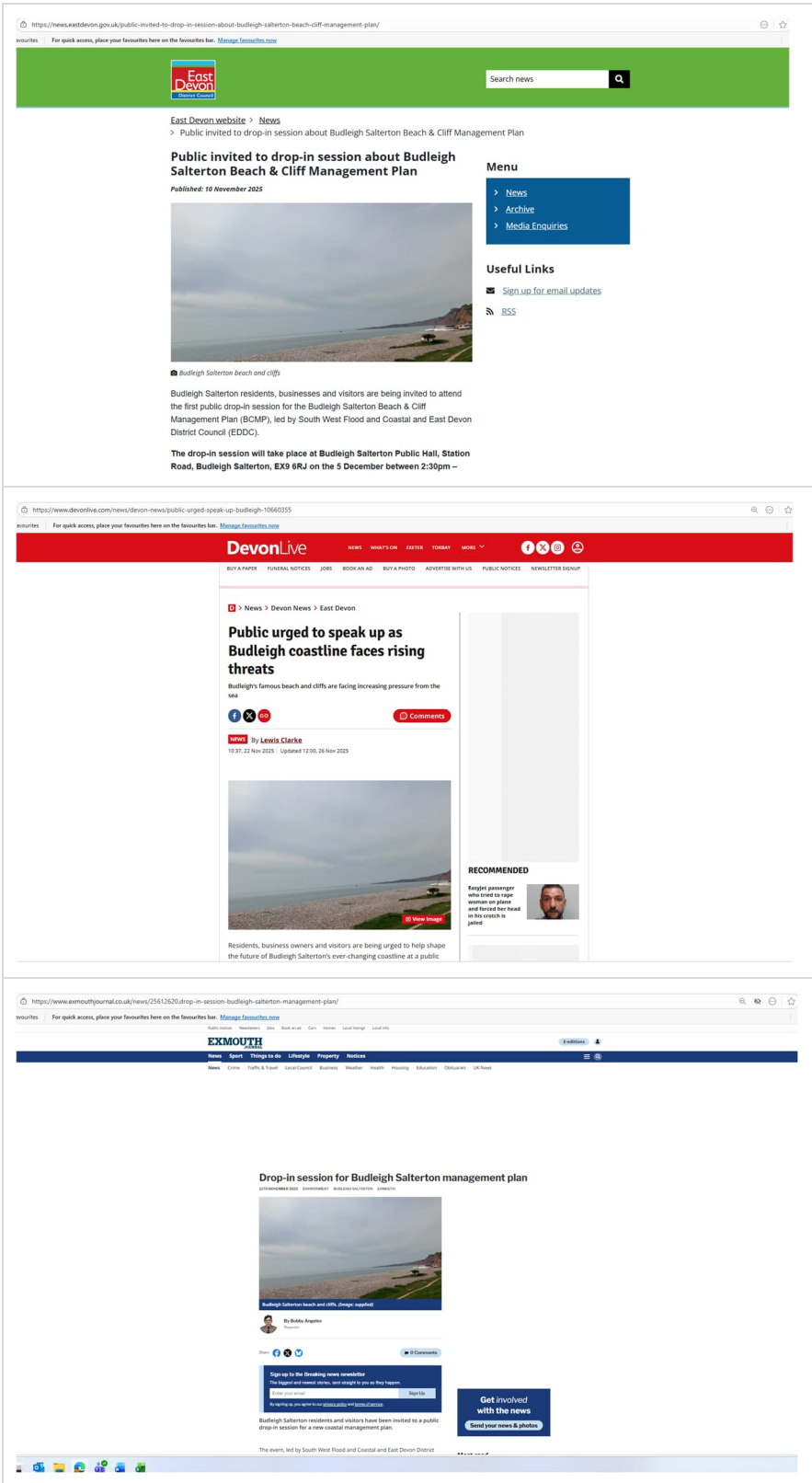


Figure 3. Material on the information event and survey displayed on East Devon District Council and local media websites.

3. Results

71 people completed the online survey via Commonplace (a digital citizen engagement platform) or on paper. Five emails were received with further informaton. In the results sections, respondents are noted throughout with 'R' and an identifying number.

3.1. Development of a new Beach & Cliff Management Plan

This referred to question 1a and question 1b:

- to what extent do you agree with developing a new Budleigh Salterton Beach & Cliff Management Plan to guide the management of coastal flood and erosion risk along the study area?
- if you are unsure, disagree, or strongly disagree with the aim of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan, please tell us why below, including any negative impacts you feel may occur

Results for question 1a regarding developing the plan are shown in Figure 4. It indicates that 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the plan's development. One respondent was keen due to factors of safety (R69), with another wanting the plan to extend west of Jubilee Park due to housing (R43). From the 9% (corresponding to 7 respondents) who were unsure, disagreed or strongly disagreed, one respondent (R28) confirmed they did not know what the plan was and another (R38) thought there are 'more important things to focus on and spend money on'.

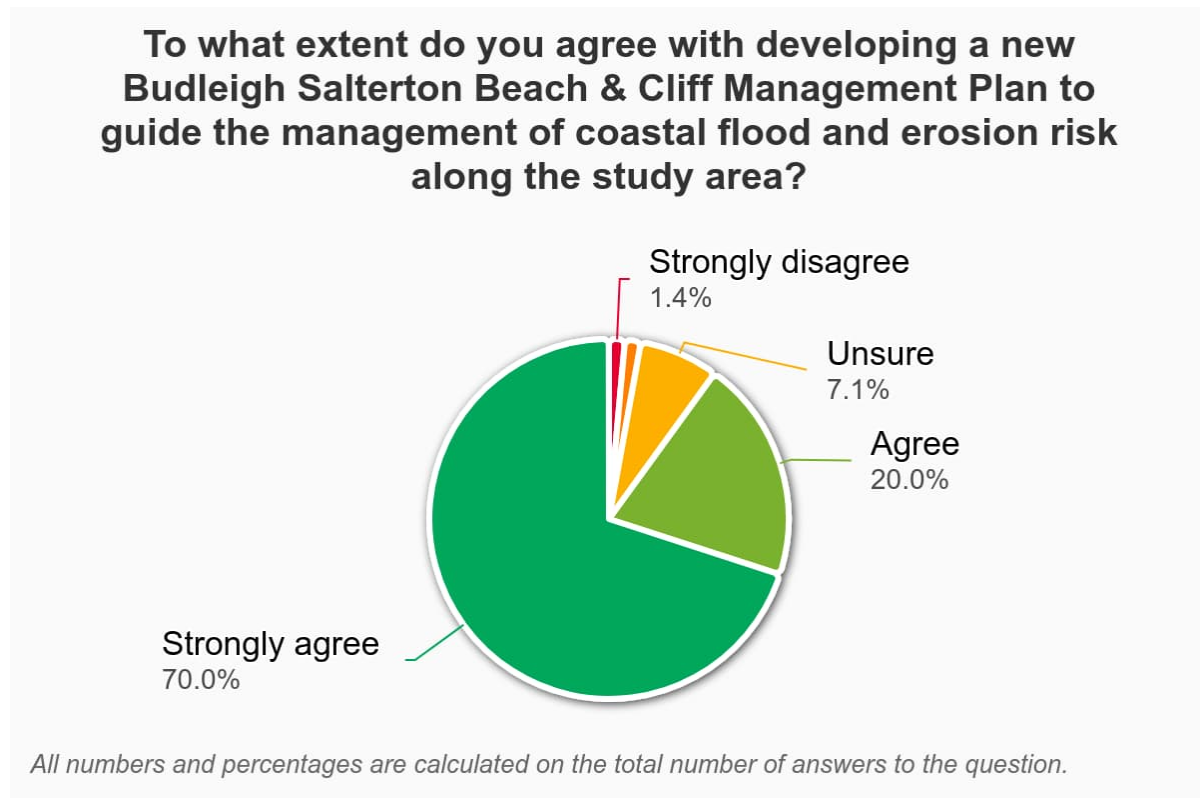


Figure 4. Response to question 1a: Development of a new Beach & Cliff Management Plan.

3.2. Flood and erosion concerns

This referred to question 2a and question 2b.

- which of the following flood and erosion issues are you most concerned about?
- please explain why you are concerned about the issues that you selected. For each issue, please state whether this relates to a specific area along the coastline

Results for question 2a are shown in Figure 5. This indicates that cliff slips are the primary concern of respondents with 10% indicating this as their first response (although 50% of respondents indicated that it was a concern overall). In contrast, sea flooding only concerned 4% of respondees as their first choice (although 20% were concerned overall). 9% of respondents also mentioned the impact of waves on the coast as their first concern (with 42% overall) or the maintenance of coastal defences as their first concern (with 44% overall). The least of concerns was the impact on beach users and those having a day out.

Respondents were invited to add other concerns. These included concerns on the impact on the golf course (R28), naturist beach (R30), homes and the ability to get mortgages (R43), actions of the council (R44), and accessing the coastal path including its drainage (R48, R51).

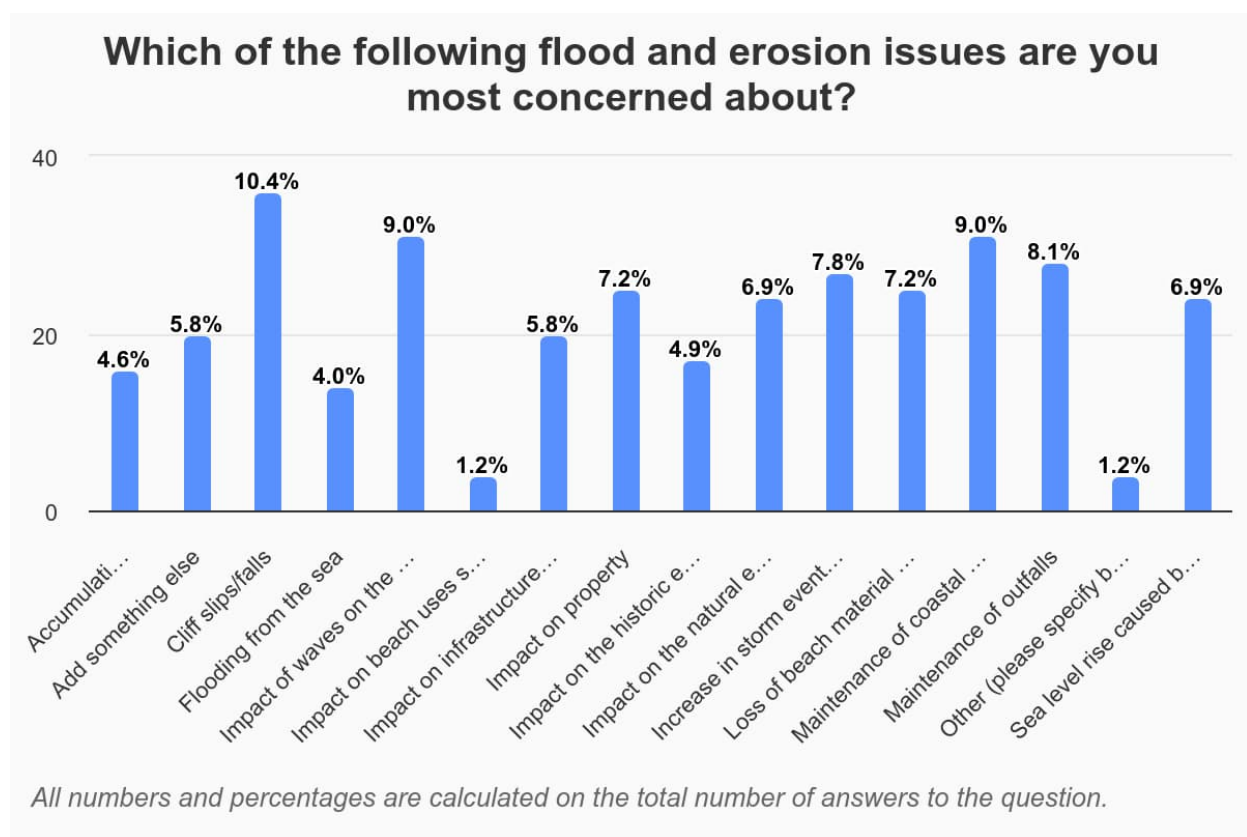


Figure 5. Response to question 2a: flooding and erosion concerns.

Respondees justified their choices in question 2b. These are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Responses to question 2b: Why respondents are concerned about issues stated in question 2a.

Theme	Issue	Respondent
Infrastructure	Lack of maintenance of infrastructure and defences	R38, R65
	Outfall, pollution and sewage	R37
Natural processes	Climate change and changing weather	R37, R59, R61, R65
	Seeing erosion of the cliff and beach, river mouth and flooding in front of seaside properties, drainage including rainwater from golf course to town	R43, R46, R49, R51, R54, R55, R56, R59, R61, R63, R65
Policy	Location of the SMP policy units: Concern the town is not being treated as a single system with respect to residential properties. Desire for all properties to have an equal chance of protection	R40, R43, R47, R48, R51, R53, R70
	Recognising the needs for a long-term plan and action	R68
Property	Properties, including ability to obtain a mortgage	R43, R51, R52, R55, R56, R63
Recreation and economy	Golf course	R28
	Launching and recovering of boats, including their safety in winds	R44
	Recreation and welfare	R65
	South West coastal path	R28, R48, R49, R50, R65, R71
	Well known naturist beach. Concerns as pebbles have moved, lowering the beach	R30, R47, R67
Other	Safety	R37, R44, R51, R61, R67
	Spirit of place / place making / fear of blight / impact of historic environment	R53, R61, R65

3.3. Activities and use of the sea front

This referred to question 3:

- what activities do you use Budleigh Salterton's beach, cliffs and seafront area for?

Figure 6 illustrates the activity types along Budleigh seafront in response to question 3. 33% of respondees use the frontage for spending time with friends and family as their first use (with 68% overall). 32% use it for walking, including dog walking as their first use (with 65% overall). Swimming and watersports are also popular activities. Other uses include the use of the naturism beach (R30, R46, R67, R68), picnics and cafés (R38, R43), work/leisure purposes, including fishing (R44, R52, R54) and golf (R28). It is noted that many enjoy the area as they live or have family who live on the seafront.

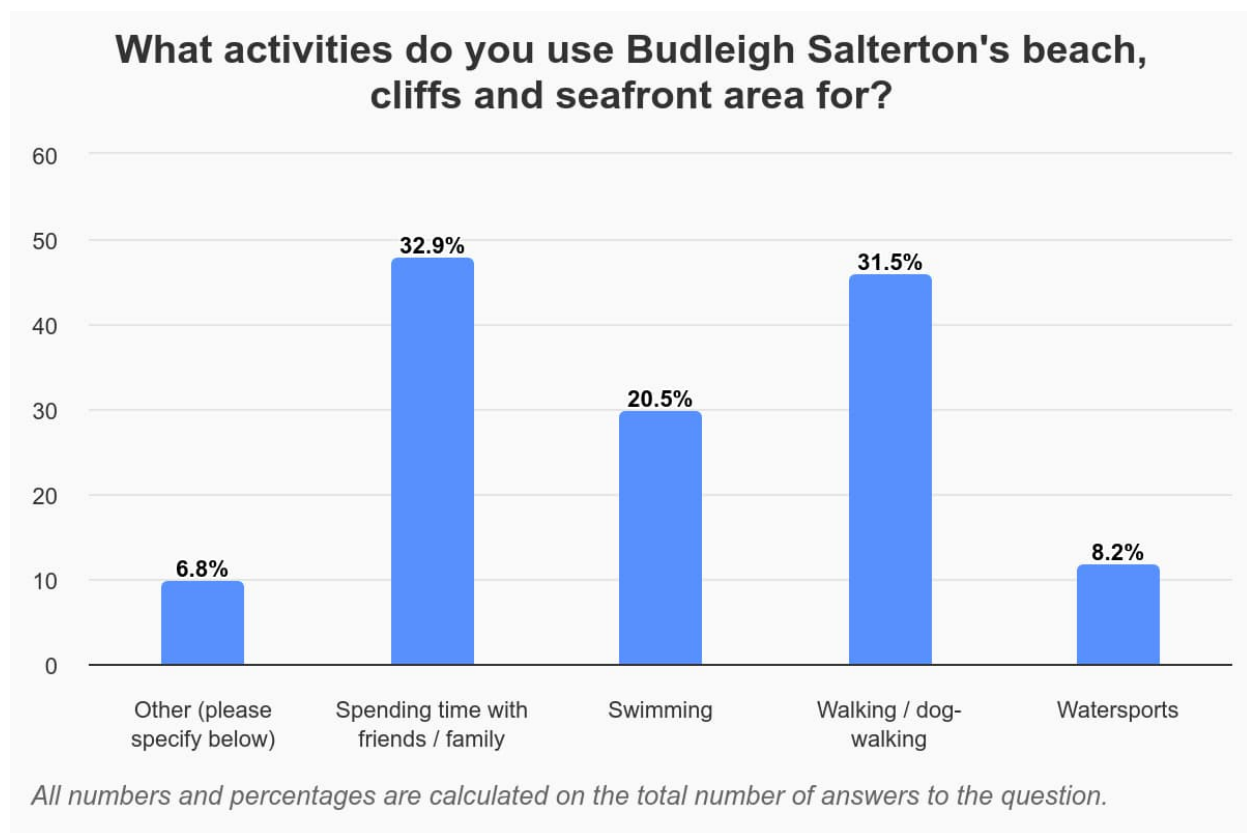


Figure 6. Responses to question 3: Activities and the use of the sea front.

3.4. Improvements to the area

This referred to question 4a and question 4b:

- if you could improve anything about the beach, cliffs and seafront at Budleigh Salterton, what would that be and why?
- any further additional comments on the plan.

This produced significant comments, as shown in Table 5. Note that some answers to question 4b are also included where there were relevant or overlapping issues. Many questioned whether defences would help with erosion and landsliding, similar to those in Exmouth, Seaton and Sidmouth.

Table 5. Responses to question 4a: Improvements to the area.

Theme	Issue	Respondent
Environmental quality	Better toilet facilities	R53
	Maintain coastal access, including South West coastal path	R39, R40, R62, R70, R71
	Maintenance and upgrades of shelters, benches, flora and fauna, fishing tackle bins, paving, children's play areas	R37, R45, R62
	Remove fencing that spoils the view	R41, R48
Geomorphic and fluvial processes	Control the movement of the pebbles / reverse the movement	R30, R48, R49, R56, R70
	Larger beach at western end of town	R40, R42, R48, R70
	Reduce flood risk	R62
	Slow down erosion of cliffs, beach and red-coloured sediment in the sea	R28, R30, R50, R51, R55, R59, R60
Information and safety	Cliff stability	R37, R39, R55
	Geology, the town and footpaths	R62
	Sea quality	R37
	Web cam	R68
	Work and bathing (including from swells)	R48
Infrastructure and defence	Boulders or sea walls in front on the cliff	R40, R43, R52, R71
	Diagonal offshore breakwater near Jubilee field	R40, R65, R70

Theme	Issue	Respondent
	Drain water directly onto the beach, not through the cliff. Upgrade and maintain soakaways and drainage of footpath so it does not drain through the cliff	R40, R41, R48, R55, R70
	Groynes	R43, R44, R48, R56
	Increase accountability and stopping the discharge of sewage	R57, R60, R65
	Integrate defences within the town's infrastructure (e.g. flood walls that are benches)	R62
	Outfall on beach – improve maintenance / relocate further out to sea / let it act as a groyne	R40, R44, R56, R70
	Rocks near Otter Head to slow drift and protect against easterly swells (in part due to safety)	R49
Management, development and economy	Ensure tourism and fisheries are maintained for livelihoods, including storage at back of beach	R48, R62
	Limit development in gardens fronting the sea and use of heavy machinery that could cause instability	R45
	Limit risk to property	R62
	No more cafés	R45
	Manage and maintain town for its heritage and natural values.	R46, R64
	Replace West End café / more cafés	R51, R53, R69
	Treat the town as one entity	R47, R48, R71

For question 4b, many were keen to promote the plan and ask for more feedback relating to the survey and future actions. Several noted that given the sad events of Christmas Day 2025 this is presently challenging (R30, R37, R40, R47, R68). Other points to note included:

- those who have properties at risk are particularly keen on interventions and management to reduce their risk
- progress is 'rather slow' (R59), but also it is recognised that 'detailed research and modelling is essential to retain what we have as explanations for future changes are sought' (R45) which takes time and cost.

- the character of the town is important to retain, such that commercial development is limited as the area is loved by many (R54, R69). If properties were lost, council tax could no longer be collected, indicating a loss of revenue potentially impacting on local services (R55)
- the costs of any potential future scheme were also noted, and that engineered actions by design are 'limited in extent' (R65)
- the work on the Otter Reach was also commended for its environmental benefits (R71).

3.5. Further information

Question 5 asked:

- do you have any old photographs, testimonials/stories or postcards from the Budleigh Salterton beach and cliff area that you would like to share with us to help with the development of the Beach & Cliff Management Plan?

Five respondents said that they have old photographs, testimonials, stories and postcards. These were uploaded or sent to the council via email. From the ten images sent in via the online survey, these comprised of images of the cliff and beach, particularly under storm conditions. Some indicated storm damage to footpaths and the gabion defence. Another three images were of a field, the front of a cookery book and an old postcard.

Data was sent by email included:

- photographs, including of storms and defences being constructed (2006, 2026 and other unknown dates)
- Redcliff Court drawings, with possible drainage
- YouTube video of the Budleigh storm in the 1980s (including screen grabs).

Question 6a and question 6b asked:

- did you attend the drop-in event at Budleigh Salterton Town Hall?
- if you attended, how did you find the information provided?

For question 6a, 38% of those who responded attended the December 2025 information event in the Public Hall. For question 6b, most respondents felt the information provided was at about the right level and with sufficient information. Only two respondents felt that further detail was needed.

Question 7 asked:

- how did you hear about the event?

Responses to question 7 are shown in Figure 7. This indicated that the most common form of communication was through the council's social media channels (35%) and newsletter (21%). Others found out from neighbours, those representing the council and through word-of-mouth. Some were concerned that they were not directly told, despite living in at-risk properties.

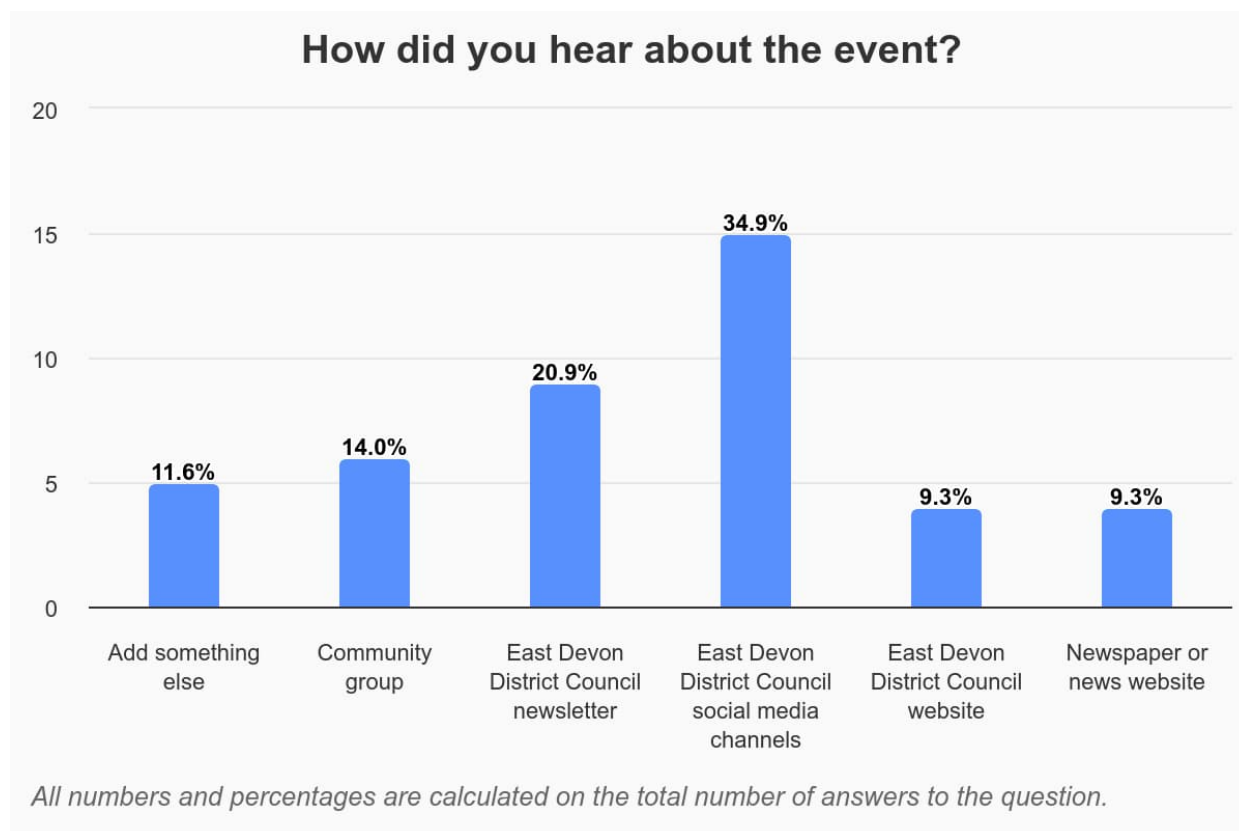


Figure 7. Responses to question 7: How those who responded heard about the drop-in event in December 2025.

Question 8 asked:

- any additional feedback on the event please let us know

Responses to question 8 are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Responses to question 8 on any additional feedback.

Theme	Issue	Respondent
Communication	Happy to pass information onto / represent views of others affected. Need clearer communication for the residents group and how to get involved.	R70
Further information	Try Fairlynch Museum for informaton	R41
	Residents finding further information that may be useful for the council	R43
	Would like to find out more information / limited information on the website	R63
Information event	December 2025 information event helpful. Good to discuss in-person and grateful for the interaction.	R37, R55, R63

Theme	Issue	Respondent
	Poor weather may have limited attendance for December 2025 information event.	R41, R45, R53, R65
	Residents unable to attend the December 2025 information event for other reasons	R62, R63
	Appreciative on those locals who shared information and photographs during the December 2025 information event	R45, R48

The council followed up on the suggestion of approaching Fairlynch Museum. This was extremely useful with many additional resources found. It helped identify when particularly large storms occurred, when defences were constructed and their damage following storms, information about the car park construction, sewer works, geological exposures, cliffs and beaches.

4. Analysis and issues identified

In more detailed comments, the additional information was noted on drainage:

- during wet weather, substantial volumes of water run down the coastal path from Jubilee Fields to Cliff Road. There are new kerbstones that stop at Cliff Road. This has caused concern as to whether this contributes to cliff erosion and whether drainage needs improving and managing (R55, R56)
- residents have been concerned at the western end of the town about erosion, with household level geotechnical assessments taking place. This suggested houses could be lost within 20 years (for a geotechnical surveyor) to 95 years (from another surveyor) on neighbouring properties
- the coastal path at Steamer Steps has been neglected, with water rushing down them (R41, R48)
- water percolates through the 'soft sandstone (exacerbated by surface cracking due to summer temperatures)', creating conditions for landsliding (R40, R70)
- water should not drain onto the footpath as it causes cliff falls (R40, R41, R70), including draining onto the beach, not over the cliff adjacent to Steamer Steps (R48).

Other issues noted include:

- a large groyne 'similar to the one which evidently used to exist should now be restored' (R40)
- many pebbles were lost in storms 'around 2011' (R59)
- the sea now regularly reaches Start [Straight?] Point, whereas previously people could walk around (R55)
- works needs to complement existing environmental and landscape considerations.

Following data collection, Table 7 lists the issues needing action or further analysis.

Table 7. Major issues and concerns that need consideration from the survey feedback

Theme	Issue	Response
Communication	Additional response and engagement time needed due to the tragic Christmas Day event	Extra time provided in January 2026. Additionally, encourage greater engagement in the next round so those that were not able to can still have their say
	Hard to find additional information on website	Check website, ensure visibility on how to find information about the plan. Add to frequently asked questions (FAQ) on website
	Residents not aware of survey and information evening	Consider targeted communication to those properties at-risk
	Some responded say they are happy to be part of the	Follow up on these to ensure they are included (R30, R70)

Theme	Issue	Response
	residents' group / would share views	
Policy	Location of SMP policy units and concern that the town will be divided in two. Further extension of policies to include the west of the town towards the golf course	The boundaries of the SMP are set, but the council are taking account of the whole town at the economic and options appraisal stage. Note that 'hold the line' does not guarantee funding. The government does not contribute to defences that affect private businesses. Add to FAQ on website
	Need to be clearer on what environmental issues and constraints there are in managing the cliff and beach	Make sure this is clear in reporting and future dissemination. Add to FAQ on website
	Recognition of the need for a long-term plan	The Beach & Cliff Management Plan aims to do this, considering what is viable within the government rules and funding. If needed and where there is funding to do so, it can be revisited at a later date
	The public think this is a new SMP and that the existing SMP has caused problems to date	Need to clarify in future communication that we are not re-writing the SMP. The SMP itself has not caused the problems as nothing has changed or caused a significant issue since its instigation in 2011. The survey relates to a new Beach & Cliff Management Plan. Add to FAQ on website
Safety	Safety issues on cliff stability, water quality, wave conditions, boat launching, winds	Although not under the remit of this project, awareness will be maintained. This has been passed to the relevant team at East Devon District Council

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) based on the issues raised in Table 7 will be added to the website and communicated to residents and at future meetings.

The overall desire for the plan is to reduce risk to property, take care of safety, whilst keeping the frontage open and maintaining spirit of place. Critically, these options need to be considered within the broader context of the economy, heritage and environmental values (including legal requirements), beach access, space for boats at the back of the beach, South West coastal path, sea views, paving, facilities, other amenities and tourism, including the naturist beach. The golf course is outside of the study area. As it is a business, following government rules, it is not strictly included in the wider economic appraisal and is not eligible for funding. The options shown in Table 8 have been extracted from the survey and will be taken through to the options appraisal round. Here they will be considered as part of the initial

long-list of options and assessed in terms of technical feasibility, environmental acceptability and economic viability.

Table 8. Suggestions to take forward in the options appraisal based on the survey responses.

Theme	Idea to consider in options appraisal
Drainage	Drain water directly onto the beach, not through the cliff. Upgrade and maintain soakaways and drainage of footpath so it does not drain through the cliff (e.g. from golf course to town).
Flooding	Integrate defences within the town's infrastructure (e.g. flood walls that are benches)
	Reduce flood risk
Hard defences	Boulder or sea walls in front on the cliff
	Diagonal offshore breakwater near Jubilee Field
	Groynes
	Rocks near Otter Head to slow drift and protect against easterly swells (in part due to safety)
Maintenance	Lack of maintenance of infrastructure and defences
Outfall	Outfall on beach – improve maintenance / relocate further out to sea / let it act as a groyne
Other actions	Control the movement of the pebbles / reverse the movement
	Increase accountability and stopping the discharge of sewage
	Information on impact on properties (e.g. mortgages)
	Larger beach at western end of town
	Limit development in gardens fronting the sea and use of heavy machinery that could cause instability
	Slow down erosion of cliffs, beach and red sediment in the sea

5. Conclusions

Budleigh Salterton has seen changes in the pattern of cliff falls and the behaviour of its beach in recent years. This survey aimed to capture the public's views in a Beach & Cliff Management Plan to help manage these changes. The following conclusions are drawn:

Results of the survey indicated:

- residents enjoy their town and beach (including naturist area) and wish that the coastal access, town character, history and environment is maintained, whilst recognising maintenance of certain features are needed.
- erosion of the cliff and movement of the beach is a concern, especially for those living in properties affected
- there is concern and some confusion over what the Shoreline Management Plan represents and how it is being instigated
- public safety is important, especially along the cliffed frontage.

Survey respondents indicated:

- beach levels should ideally increase at the western end of town to reduce erosion
- possible hard defences may reduce flood and erosion risk
- drainage needs to be improved and potential restrictions on development need consideration.

These issues will be considered at the options appraisal stage of the project. The survey also noted that residents wanted a greater time to respond due to the tragic events on Christmas Day 2025. The survey was extended until the end of January 2026 and further rounds of engagement will occur to allow residents to express their views. Additionally, we will develop a frequency asked questions (FAQ) section on the project website as there were common issues identified in the survey, such as:

- beach and water safety
- drainage, erosion and flooding
- paths
- policy and funding, including what the new Beach & Cliff Management Plan and the existing Shoreline Management Plan do
- the next steps.