

Fairlight Preservation Trust

Press statement

“This has been a momentous summer in the history of Fairlight. We have at last witnessed the completion of the third stage of the coast protection works in Fairlight Cove. This is the culmination of a campaign that began in 1986 to secure the provision of coastal defences in the Cove to protect this village from erosion by the sea.

The completion of Stage 3 of the berm, which joins up the two existing defensive structures built in 1990 and 2007 and fills “the gap”, now provides a continuous defence for the cliff top village and should save upwards of 180 homes from possible destruction by sea erosion if nothing had been done.

The cost of the Stage 3 berm has been met by grant-in-aid from the Environment Agency and by £150,000 of “Partnership Funding” provided by the residents of Fairlight themselves. This has taken the form of individual donations to the Fairlight Preservation Trust, the active support of many local clubs and societies and the promise of matching funding from Fairlight Parish Council.

It is a tribute to Fairlight that so many people have contributed to the funding of the scheme. Thanks are also due to the Fairlight Parish Council for the strong leadership and financial support that they have given in relation to this project.

The Fairlight Preservation Trust has throughout worked closely with the East Kent Engineering Partnership, the designers of the Stage 3 berm, and would wish to thank them and the Environment Agency for all their hard work and support. We should also thank Amber Rudd MP for her support at certain crucial stages and Rother District Council, our coast protection authority, for their help in achieving this successful outcome.

This is indeed a triumph for community effort and co-operation. After some 30 years of campaigning we now have a coastal defence structure that will protect the vast majority of homes in Fairlight for many decades.”

November 2016