

Sea Defences

Most residents think of the beach as a pile of stones but actually it consists of a lot more than that as ours was created in its present form to protect us from flooding.

Elmer Sands was originally a beach of sand and then the sea started rising, flooding occurred and sea defences were needed. The first sea defences were those sharp sticks, bavins, that poke out of the beach in grids. Then over time they started building a sea wall. Various papers have it that underneath that early sea wall were original tank blocks, gabions or cages of rock and layers of various other materials.

Then finally, in the early 1990s, they built the eight rock islands and a sea wall with mountains of shingle which were the foundations of our sea wall today. Slowly over time that sea wall has been rebuilt higher and stronger leaving only the final bit of the original wall at the eastern end of the beach at the centre of which are still gabions which are now leaning at an unacceptable angle, having disintegrated with age.

Hence why works are being carried out by the EA commencing in August...there will then be another large replenishment of shingle. At the same time for greater protection they will also be extending one of the rock islands, something that was recommended by one of their experts many years ago. We also have a damaged Outfall pipe which will be mended sometime in advance of the main sea defence work.