

Rother District Council

Report to - Council
Date - 19 December 2022
Subject - Motion to Council – Operation RADCOTT

Motion submitted by Councillor P.N. Osborne

Background:

Rother District Council is the lead on this multi-agency operation named Operation RADCOTT, and the Council is directly responsible for the beach operations, car parks and toilets, all of which includes aspects of health and safety. The Council is not directly responsible for water safety, which falls to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution or traffic management, which falls to East Sussex County Council (ESCC), although on peak days staff become involved in supporting traffic flows from car park to car park. More details are set out at Appendix A.

Planning and working with our partner agencies is a year round, full time role, and much pre-planning work is completed during the winter in preparation for the summer season as once we are into the season it very much becomes a hands-on operational role with our partners to manage the high influx of visitors.

At the moment we are working closely with ESCC to review traffic management for the season just finished, 2022, and seek improvements for next season 2023, mainly around managing the diversion of traffic flow from one car park to the other and further deterrents to inconsiderate parking on peak visitor days.

Our much valued partners with whom we work cover critical roles including policing, paramedic support, RNLI, parking enforcement, etc.

Motion:

That this Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to all our valued partners involved in Operation RADCOTT which has resulted in the effective management of Camber Sands and its environs during the peak season summer months, and for their input during the off season into pre-planning and seeking improvements for the next season.

Roles of Operation RADCOTT partners at Camber Sands Beach and village summer season 2022

It is important that the partners to Operation RADCOTT , Councillors and members of the public have a clear understanding of the role that each partner plays in the operational management of the beaches, car parks and roads at Camber Sands and the surrounding area during the summer season that in general commences just before Easter and finishes in early October.

The below information will assist in educating the public to the various roles and who performs them, and also highlights the role members of the public should play when visiting the beaches.

This document can be used to promote a greater understanding of the different roles through the use of websites, social media and standard communications, and may also be used to emphasise the limitations in what can and can't be achieved by an individual partner.

Rother District Council Role 2022

Rother District Council employs Coastal Operations Officers all year round, and car park and beach patrol staff during the summer season. The coastal team works with our partners to make visitors experience at Camber Sands beach as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Coastal Operations Officers: -

- Act as a central hub on the beach to link with and support partner agencies.
- Work on the land only -they do not enter the water (the RNLI are employed to do this)
- Fly sea safety flags during the season from Easter – October only (no flags flown in the winter).
- Maintain beach life saving equipment (life buoys).
- Carry out daily beach patrols either on foot or by vehicle during the season from Easter – October
- Manage a children's wristband system during the season from Easter – October
- to help reunite lost children with their families
- Deliver beach/weather related 'on-arrival' information in the form of face to face interactions in the car park, and car park signage.
- Deliver pre-arrival education in the form of social media messages and website information.
- Deliver on the beach safety advice to visitors during the season from Easter – October.
- Administer basic first aid when necessary.
- Oversee the beach patrol staff and car park attendants
- Take the lead on missing person searches on the beach for up to 20 minutes in line with missing person protocol.
- Advise on dog restrictions, water sport restrictions and coastal Byelaws.
- Oversee various contractors working in Camber to ensure work is meeting requirements.
- Deal with general complaints from visitors.
- Arrange maintenance works including sand clearance, asset repairs etc.
- Work alongside the Film Office to arrange and oversee numerous photoshoots / filming events on the beach.

Beach Patrol staff: -

- Work in the summer season only
- Work on the land only -they do not enter the water (the RNLI are employed to do this)
- Fly sea safety flags from Easter – October only (no flags flown in the winter).
- Maintain beach life saving equipment (life buoys).
- Carry out daily beach patrols either on foot.
- Manage a children's wristband system during the summer to help reunite lost children with their families.
- Deliver beach/weather related 'on-arrival' information in the form of face to face interactions in the car park and on the beach.
- Administer basic first aid when necessary
- Assist in missing person searches.
- Advise visitors on dog restrictions, water sport restrictions and coastal Byelaws

Camber Car park attendants:

RDC manage three car parks in Camber, and the following work is carried out by car park attendants to use the car parks most effectively and to support the flow of traffic in and out of the car parks:

- Open and close the car park gates when required
- Manage traffic coming into and out of the car parks.
- Support correct use of payment machines
- Enforce incorrect/non-payment of car park charges by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices
- Provide face to face beach/weather related 'on-arrival' education to visitors
- Divert traffic away from central car park when full and towards western car park.
- Utilise VMS highway signs when available, to inform visitors when Camber is full.

Visitor Roles

RDC welcome all visitors to Camber Sands who act in a responsible way, with the safety and welfare of their children and families, fellow visitors and staff uppermost in their minds.

Visitors roles include:

- Before setting out for the beach check the tides times and weather forecast and traffic updates
- On-arrival read the beach signs; listen and follow advice to stay safe.
- Keep your children with you at all times when on the beach
- Do not let children swim in the sea outside the RNLI swim zones (during the summer season only)
- Do not enter the water if you cannot swim
- Do not swim fully clothed
- Do get a wristband for your child (during the summer season only)
- If you are unsure seek advice from Coastal Operations Officers or Beach Patrol

New additions for season 2022: -

- Disabled access matting in place
- More 1100 containers on beach earlier in the season
- New drop-down road diversion signs to be put in place to assist coastal team in diverting traffic when Camber Central car park is full.

- Following an update from ESCC, Johnsons Field overflow car park will be available for use when visitor numbers require and as the surface condition allows.

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Traffic Management/Highways Infrastructure Summer season 2022 update in conjunction with Rother District Council (RDC)

East Sussex County Council are responsible for managing the local road network and its infrastructure. RDC has been working closely with ESCC to identify methods that are within local government authority powers to mitigate congestion and illegal parking over and above the current on-street parking Civil Parking Enforcement team who are fulfilling this role.

The new methods on trial this season are:

- Temporary signage to be erected along the grass verges of Camber Road to say 'no parking' -to be in place with effect from the first predicted 'RED' day.
- 'No parking' cones to be placed along the grass verges of Camber Road in between the temporary signs -to be in place with effect from the first predicted 'RED' day.

Sussex Police Roles 2022

The role of the Police in Camber for Operation RADCOTT is:

- Officers are to perform High Visibility foot/mobile patrol in car parks/surrounding streets/beach, including joint patrols with partners, to deter crime and reduce fear of crime. Officers to respond robustly to alcohol related disorder.
- Police will deal with road traffic offences which include moving traffic offences i.e. driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and document offences i.e. no insurance.
- Liaise with Rother District Council Beach Patrol to formalise a joint patrol plan to address any known issues and monitor anticipated issues identified by coastal officer or partners.
- Assist with searches for missing children in line with the missing child protocol.
- Develop information and intelligence surrounding identified unauthorised and unlicensed music events to support Rother District Council with a partnership approach to managing these incidents and enforcing byelaws.
- To provide regular updates to duty supervision in relation to any significant incident or a need for enhanced police deployment.
- Continue to develop working relationships with Kent colleagues to share information and intelligence about risks – particularly those in relation to unlicensed music events.
- Support partners social media messaging.

Sussex Police will not:

1. Close roads except when dealing with an emergency or significant incident which requires a road closure i.e. road traffic collision, until such a time that Highways can take over the road closure.
2. Be the focal point for road related issues within Operation RADCOTT.
3. Be the lead agency for managing the disruption to the road network.

Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council, Rother district council and Highways England have access to legislation in managing the road networks:

Sussex Police powers to direct traffic are restricted to the following pieces of legislation:

1. Common Law (In response to an emergency)
2. S35 Road Traffic Act 1988 (Regulation of traffic or survey)
3. S163 Road Traffic Act 1988 (Routine traffic or crime check)

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust 2022

- Provision of a Single Responder Paramedic to either the Camber or Rye area (based on RAG rating and our own risk assessment), over and above the normal resourcing for Hastings & Rother areas.
- Provide emergency response to 999 calls in the Camber and Rye locality.
- Support partner agencies with beach medical/trauma incidents including remote triage and self-deployment to assist with clinical intervention where indicated.
- Liaise with Air Ambulance Kent Surrey & Sussex (AAKSS) and partner agencies to coordinate high-acuity patient treatment and transport.
- Support partner agencies with shared situational awareness of events, activities or incidents that may restrict either the inward or outward flow of visitors to Camber.
- Prioritise medical/trauma incidents to ensure maximum ability to prevent deterioration, preserve life and promote recovery of those requiring ambulance assistance.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) 2022

Roles with involvement in Operation RADCOTT;

Regional Lifeguard Lead-

- Providing leadership, guidance, and direction at a regional level for the operation of the RNLI Lifeguard Service in a safe, efficient, and effective manner. (Poole – Chichester-Hastings -Ramsgate)

Lead Lifeguard Supervisor-

- To deliver effective Lifeguarding Services to RNLI standards and contractual obligations, meeting organisational standards.

Seasonal Lifeguard Supervisor-

- To support the delivery of the operational lifeguard service.

Lifeguard Operations Assistant-

- Ensure the smooth running of a Support Centre to enable the efficient management of the local lifeguard Service.

Seasonal Senior Lifeguard-

- To Supervise the running of a beach lifeguard unit, ensuring effective provision of the lifeguard service. To give help and advice to beach and water users and to provide and/ co-ordinate rescue activities as and when required.

Seasonal Lifeguard-

- To monitor and advise beach and water users and to provide/ co-ordinate rescue activities under the supervision of a senior and or Lifeguard Supervisor.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service 2022

Community Safety Department – Education advice & Information

- When possible (due to staffing levels) ESFRS volunteers along with operational staff members from Rye Fire Station offer support by engaging with members of the public. We have a Water Safety Gazebo which is printed with messages regarding beach safety and beach flag meanings. This can be set up at the main entrance to the beach with volunteers and staff available to support the education of adults and parents around the risks associated with water and to educate children and young people about the dangers of entering open water. Ideally during peak times at Camber.
- Supply & distribute wrist bands for children and young people.
- Supply & distribute beach safety leaflets and educational resources for children such as water safety quizzes, word searches etc.
- Act as a support for other agencies, whilst in gazebo – not entering the sea or performing rescues.
- Support local partners to cascade safety messages and social media messaging.
- Act as support for other agencies on land only.

ESFRS Operational crews on receiving 999 call

- Incident response & rescue.

Her Majesty's Coastguard

HMCG is responsible for the initiation and co-ordination of all maritime search and rescue within the UK Maritime Search and Rescue Region. This includes the c221219 – Motion – Operation Radcott

mobilisation, organisation, and tasking of adequate resources to respond to persons either in distress at sea, or to persons at risk of injury or death on the cliffs or shoreline of the United Kingdom. It is also responsible for land-based search and rescue helicopter operations.

HM Coastguard provides a capability and supporting role to other responders under the Civil Contingencies Act for inland Search and Rescue.

HM Coastguard has the operational primacy for all Search and Rescue helicopters within the United Kingdom which are coordinated and deployed from Aeronautical Rescue located within the JRCC.

Coastguard Rescue Teams:

Coastguard Rescue Teams facilitate the shoreline and inland response, HM Coastguard has 345 Coastguard Rescue Teams located throughout the United Kingdom that are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. These Teams are comprised of up to 12 Coastguard Rescue Officers (CROs), who are voluntary members of the Coastguard Rescue Service (CRS).

The CRTs capabilities within the Op Radcott area include:

Romney March Coastguard Rescue Team:

- Water Rescue,
- Mud Rescue
- Casualty Care, Casualty Evacuation
- Lost and Missing Persons Search
- Helicopter Landing Support.

Rye Bay Coastguard Rescue Team:

- Water Rescue
- Rope Rescue
- Casualty Care, Casualty Evacuation
- Lost and Missing Persons Search
- Helicopter Landing Support.

East Sussex County Council Parking Team: -

- Regularly visit Camber to monitor and enforce parking restrictions
- Maintain a presence all day on days that Operation RADCOTT have risk assessed as red.
- Carry out enforcement of all parking restrictions by issuing Penalty Charge Notices to any vehicles in contravention of them.
- Consider any challenges made against PCNs by motorists that feel they have been wrongly issued.
- Respond to requests for parking enforcement from residents, businesses or other organisations. Enforcement can be requested by calling 01273 335500 (option 1) or email to parking.information@eastsussex.gov.uk

We can only enforce where there are parking restrictions on-street. In carrying out enforcement of parking restrictions civil enforcement officers will issue penalty charge notices to vehicles parked in contravention of a parking restriction.

We do not carry out enforcement in car parks or on private land.

Cars parked dangerously or blocking the highway, where there are no parking restrictions, can only be dealt with by the Police.

New additions for season 2022

- Trial extension to the double yellow road markings -ESCC Parking Team are applying for an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for a No Waiting at Any Time (double yellow line) restriction on Camber Road, Camber. To deter parking on the verges they are proposing to install double yellow lines along the Camber Road from the junction of Farm Lane, north towards the A259 for approximately 1500 meters. Double yellow lines are enforceable from the centre of the carriage way to the extent of the highway. This will allow civil enforcement officers to issue penalty charge notices to those vehicles in contravention along the verges.

A local Councillor has garnered support from various colleagues, including local MP and other Local Authorities, and sent a letter to the Department for Transport (DfT) requesting a review of on-street parking fines and if Local Authorities can have the ability to increase the level of fines locally to improved the deterrent against illegal parking. The DfT responded on the 4th May 2022 to say this was not possible as per a quote from the letter “Thus, while I can assure you that we will keep the issue of parking penalty levels under review, we are not able to commit for the time being to a review of the level of parking fines.”

Beach and car park litter management by waste contractor Biffa 2022

Biffa are responsible for cleansing the beaches, sand dunes and car park on behalf of Rother District Council.

Operations will be similar this season to last season with a waste compound cordoned off in a small section of Western car park to which litter from the beach is decanted ready for removal to the waste transfer station.

- They place the required number of 1,100 large containers onto the beach from the start of the season - 7 days prior to Good Friday- and remove them at the end of the season.
- They place increased numbers of bins in car parks as above.
- A Camber Task Force is instigated from 7 days prior to Good Friday until the first weekend in October, to complete the cleansing as required according to visitor numbers. The team has the ability to work later into the evening if safe to do so and visitor numbers allow, to remove as much litter from the beach 1100 containers as possible. They also have the ability to start earlier in the mornings to complete the litter clearance. The operatives will cover the litter with netting as best they can to deter seagull attack.
- The timing of the removal of the additional litter bins at the end of the season will be reviewed according to weather predictions for October. Biffa daily attendance at Camber will cease as usual in early October. This season will see all metal containers on the beach, rather than plastic, and new signage on each container.

...End...

[Master draft V10 -25.05.2022](#)