

Yarmouth Area Committee – Tuesday 21st June 2016

#### BOARDWALK – Yarmouth North Beach

The PoNY (People of North Yarmouth) Community Association is seeking agreement in principle from the Borough Council for the installation of a Boardwalk from the Beaconsfield Road Ramp down to the high tide mark on North Beach to enable those with pushchairs, wheelchairs and those with mobility issues to use the beach to the full.

#### Background:

The North Beach is a quiet beach with extensive dune/marram grass cover adjacent to the Waterways, Boating Pool, Tea Huts and Public Toilets. It is an area for which the Borough Council and others are earmarking for a major regeneration scheme. The North Beach includes the important North Denes SSSI and will soon also be passed by the national coastal path.

The width of the Yarmouth Beach has doubled in the past 30 years and the Britannia Pier no longer extends into the sea. This has made it increasingly difficult for people to get to the waters' edge. The Seashore Holiday Park further north already benefits from a boardwalk.

Research by PoNY and North Beach businesses has indicated that local people and visitors to the town would strongly support the installation of a Boardwalk from the Beaconsfield Road Ramp to the high tide mark to assist families with pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with mobility issues to make the maximum use of this attractive beach.

Following the public consultation in the Waterways on Saturday 11th June 2016, PoNY received overwhelming support of such a project. We had 86 people sign in support of this accessible Boardwalk onto the beach. We intend to continue seeking support for this venture.

#### Cost:

An initial quote for installation of such a Boardwalk was in the region of £8,750 +VAT but it is hoped that more competitive quotes can be obtained. The quality and the length of the Boardwalk can be negotiated ensuring that the specification satisfies the needs of the disabled. Funding applications could be sought as appropriate. PoNY will work alongside council officers to seek and complete funding applications.

#### Recommendation:

That the Yarmouth Area Committee is asked to support this project and seek the necessary formal approval to proceed via the new Council Committee system.