

Storm Repair Update February 2024

Main Wall

Marine Engineers have been working on a plan for the repair and have been to site to review the breach in detail. A repair plan has now been defined by the engineers and we are waiting to see the final details of that and then see quotes for the final repair costs. We are confident that repairs could start over early part of summer depending on contractor availability.

The wall has had a little bit further damage after the high tides and storm Henk in early January but luckily the latest storms are all westerly and had no further impacts.

The debris from the storm that is in the harbour was left there in order to give protection to the walkway to stop further deterioration which has worked, however it has now moved further into the harbour and is causing more of an obstruction so we will take some steps to remove a portion of that debris to ensure safe operating in the harbour and try to get the harbour fully functional as soon as possible.

Major funding is in the hands of ELC and that work is ongoing via a number of government and historic departments. It's a complicated repair and it's not causing any delay to works at present as the critical stage is the design of the repairs themselves to ensure it meets the required standards. Once that is complete, we will be able to firm up a time schedule and plan for the repair and share those details.

In addition a full survey and laser scan of the harbour is underway in order to create a clear record of the current condition and allow us to monitor any changes or deterioration.

We are optimistic that things will get underway but it's difficult to be specific on any dates just now as the work will need to be tendered to several contractors once all the financial constraints are resolved.

We have been checking all the wedges and doing any work required on maintaining the wedge wall in an attempt to make that as secure as possible however it has significant signs of loosening so we are looking at options to keep that secure as well from further deterioration.

We have been regularly inspecting and repairing that wall as required.

We are working on the plan to move boats around to allow the harbour to function during any repair work over the summer.

Esplanade

The rock armour on the North side of the wall was moved and re set before Christmas, we had a crane in and moved all the rocks to form the correct structure and have secured these using chains in an attempt to stop the rocks from moving.

It worked very well during the recent storm and allowed the drains to work again although we are waiting on metalwork to keep them free from small stones. The rock armour was very effective, and we saw virtually no overtopping of the wall which a big improvement and an initial success considering the wave size and tide height.

It's intended to be an experiment to see how well it performs and we will monitor closely and then decide if we need a more permanent solution or further rocks to be added. It was a huge effort from volunteers and a complex repair so a big thank you to everyone who helped out with that and to all those who donated to help us to be able to do that.

A huge thanks to all the helpers who cleaned and tidied the area up and it's looking significantly better. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Other works underway or planned;

Drains

New drains will also be engineered into the SW corner (next the old basket room/ SUP board hut) as the drainage there is insufficient and caused a number of problems when blocked. There are delays just now in getting contractors as everyone is very busy but we will make sure that is all concluded.

Metalwork

A whole range of new metalwork is being ordered and should be implemented in the coming months; covers to portholes on sea wall at changing rooms, guards for storm drains, filters to stop blockages and replacement hand rails damaged in the storm to name a few.

Surface repairs

Quotes are being requested for a large number of minor surface repairs where wash out has occurred. These are important to keep the main structure of the walkways intact and stop water damage in future storms.

Kayak Racks have all been rebuilt so can now be used by anyone with a space there.

Crane and Granary wall.

The Granary wall under the building is showing signs of damage and ELC have completed a temp repair to stabilise that. Full repairs to that are underway . Engineers confirmed that there is no risk to the buildings as the internal structure of the building is independent of the outer walls.

Galloway's Pier

The steps to Galloways pier are currently closed and this is mainly due the damage to the hand rails but there is also a significant amount of structural damage under the walk way where the waves have washed out large rocks and parts under the surface of the walkway. A repairs plan for that has been developed and we hope to start work on that as soon as weather permits.

Electrical work

There was a significant amount of storm damage to the electrics at the harbour and we are working to appoint contractors to update and make those more resilient for the future.

Harbour Operations

The harbour remains open but with some restriction in place. The walkway areas are still restricted due to trip hazards and structural concerns, please keep to the safe side of all barriers. Businesses around the harbour are all open as usual.

Slip way used by RNLI

Prior to the storm damage in Oct 2023 we had a range of storm damage to the slip way next to the RNLI boat station. We were just about to start that work when storm Babet hit and caused further damage to that area. We are delighted to announce that that work is now complete, and the slip way is looking great and in a fully functional and repaired condition and will be fully open in the next few weeks. A huge thanks to the RNLI for their support and joint funding of that work.