

Keeping you up to date with the scheme to improve town's defences

Cleveleys sea of change

THINGS have certainly changed on the seafront at Cleveleys. Less than a year ago, construction work began to rebuild the crumbling sea defences and facelift a tired and worn-out area. Now, a major phase of the new-look sea defences could be completed by Christmas. Jubilee Gardens has been transformed from a sterile desert to a green oasis by the shore.

And the private sector has completed a development to provide popular leisure facilities including a pub, cinema and restaurant. A request to create a bingo hall there was due to be considered by the Planning Applications Committee as *Wyre Voice* went to press.

Finally, the Promenade itself will be re-vamped.

There's a lot more to do and many more changes to make before the finished butterfly finally emerges from the chrysalis in a £20 million scheme that will take to 2008 to finish.

But there is an exciting, futuristic feel about the area already.

The Mayor of Wyre, Councillor Peter Hawley, was involved with the Cleveleys seafront scheme from its earliest days. He had to put those responsibilities aside because of his duties as Wyre's first citizen.

And he unveiled a plaque to mark the completion of the Jubilee Gardens Restoration Project which cost more than £600,000. It includes a skatepark, grassed areas, children's playground, sports pitch and a bowling green.

The plaque is mounted on a 25-foot high obelisk which has lighting features which can shine up into the sky. Permission had to be given by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The Mayor thanked all those who had been involved in any way.

He said: "It was a derelict site but it has been transformed and we have opened it up – back to the public. But this is only the start. The whole promenade will look absolutely astounding when it is finished – right the way along to the town centre."

Phase 3 of seafront work is under way

WORK is already under way on the next major stage of the works at Cleveleys seafront.

Known as Phase Three, it runs between Beach Road and Victoria Road West.

The sea defences here will be built in a wave pattern with a large build out into the sea opposite the top of Victoria Road West. Piling work for this has already been done.

And it will be necessary to sink 1,000 support pillars into the beach to find a sure foundation beneath an area of soft ground.

On the advice of the Health and Safety Executive, North Promenade remains closed to vehicles between Carr Gate and Beach Road until Phase Two is finished. The road is closed Monday to Friday during the working day and open at other times.

The front line in the battle against the sea is a concrete rampart called a revetment. It is in a step formation and made up of hundreds of concrete blocks which have been pre-cast in a step shape at a plant on the Hillhouse industrial site in Thornton and brought to the coast by road.

They slot together like jigsaw pieces to replace nearly a kilometre of ageing seawall.

Behind that, a new middle and rear wall – also made from pre-cast concrete sections – will provide additional protection from storm spray and water over-topping the main defences.

Although it still looks like a building site behind its wooden safety fence, the old promenade will emerge as a very user-friendly feature with new shelters, seating and lighting.

There will be a new café and public toilets in a building at street level. The Promenade will be twice as wide as it used to be.

A water play area will be built in opposite Jubilee Gardens which should delight the children along with showers to sluice off the salt if you've been for a dip. The café will have dramatic views.

So far, the construction teams from Birse Civils have:

- Driven 1,100 metres of steel piling
- Placed 3,300 cubic metres of concrete on site
- Positioned 650 pre-cast concrete revetment units
- Put in 30,000 tons of stone of which 10,000 tonnes was recycled material.

On North Promenade, work to upgrade the finished highway has been carried out, including a new drainage system, paving and lighting. The new road surface will be the last job.

The council is committed to keep the public consulted and informed throughout the scheme.

Their views were taken into account before the project was designed by Wyre Borough experts working with Faber Maunsell to an overall design concept by Ferguson MacIvreen.

Regular newsletters, publicity in *Wyre Voice* and weekly reports available on site and on the council's website keep people up to date with progress.

There is a public information and viewing cabin on site at the top of Victoria Road.

Why not take time out to visit the People's Promenade and enjoy the new look Cleveleys seafront?



Protecting Cleveleys: The council is working hard to protect over 8,700 homes and businesses in Cleveleys from coastal flooding and climate change.



Extra cash for seafront scheme

A COMPLEX bid for cash to add extra features to the facelifting of Cleveleys seafront has paid off.

The Northwest Development Agency has awarded £560,000 to Wyre Borough Council after an application process which began a year ago.

The council's Head of Engineering, Rob Posner, said: "This is wonderful news.

"It gives us the icing on the cake for the Cleveleys project and means that the whole of the design will become reality, making the promenade a much more interesting place for the public than it might have been."

Mr Posner said the success of the bid was down to a team effort by council staff in preparing the complex documents and answering the many questions and queries involved.

The money will pay for benches and tables and for seating – some of it heated.

Now, there will be improved shelters on the Prom, an interactive water feature children will enjoy and atmospheric lighting.

The hot seats are for cold weather and will be controlled by timers and thermostats. They have been designed as vandal-proof.

There will be four heated seats per shelter (there are six shelters altogether throughout all the different phases of the development). All heated seats will face outwards to enable people to sit and brave the cold elements of the Irish Sea.

Another innovative feature are wind-driven turbines on the café roof which will generate electricity. But they are circular, not the usual windmill type.

The grant came from the European Regional Development Fund which seeks to maximise the economic potential of north west heritage sites.