

**SITE VISIT REPORT: MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

*Committee Members: Alderman Boyle, Duddy, Finlay, S McKillop (Vice Chair), McKeown; Councillors Anderson, Baird, Dallat O'Driscoll (Chair), Hunter, McGurk, MA McKillop, McLaughlin, McMullan, P McShane, Nicholl, Scott*

**Time 10:30am**

**LA01/2017/0539/F**

**App Type: Full application**

**Proposal: Proposed 20m rock armour taper and associated sand trap fencing and planting**

**Present:** Councillors Boyle, Duddy, Baird, McGurk, MA McKillop, Hunter, Nicholl, S McKillop and Anderson.  
Officials D Dickson, J Lundy, S O'Neill.

**Comments:** The Officer showed the submitted plans and identified the site and boundaries. Officials outlined the proposal and its relationship with the existing rock armour and the dune system. The Officer advised of the designations in the area and in close proximity and highlighted the precautionary principle. The location of the golf course at the crest of the dune was pointed out. The importance of the economic value of golf tourism to the Borough was discussed. However, it was also pointed out that the two could co-exist with significant views of the beach and sea retained, without potential adverse impact on the dune system and the coastal asset which is an economic driver also. The officer pointed out the area of terminal erosion. Advised of concern of consultees in that the hard defence would create further erosion on the soft dune system. Officer advised that an Environmental Statement had been submitted that reviewed options to the development. Advised that the consultees have requested further modelling of the soft options. Members queried what other options were available. The Officer referred to the other options as set out in the Committee report, such as chestnut fencing to enable sand trapping, tapering of the existing structure and further modelling. Members asked if any other third party has details relating to erosion and coastal processes in this area. Officer advised that under the legacy Coleraine

Borough Council, a study of a number of beaches had been commissioned with the University of Ulster, Coleraine. We do not have that report or its findings. Members noted these points accordingly.

J Lundy 27/04/2021