

Expert meeting How Breda protect its inhabitants against the water?



21th and 22th November 2012



Provincie Noord-Brabant



Participants and place

Chelmsford Council, England

Participants: Andy Bestwick, Jenny Robinson, Neil Jordan and David Green

Gemeente Breda, Netherlands

Participants: Wouter Schuitema, Tom Rozendal

Water Board Brabantse Delta, Netherlands

Participants: Anke Dielissen en Karin Moll

State Forrest, Netherlands

Participant: Jan Janse

Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG), Netherlands

Participants: Hans van Engen, Gerrit Schouten, Alfons Keizer, Peter Buster en Monique van den Langenberg

Objective of the meeting

Experts from Chelmsford Council visited Dutch experts from the city of Breda on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd November 2012. The event was organised to share ideas and concepts, to help Chelmsford and Breda learn from each other's experiences and to spread these ideas throughout the European community.

The event included presentations, a visit to the Water Board Brabantse Delta, a walk along the Markdal (Bieberg) and an interactive discussion to generate ideas. The visit was organised as part of the Floodcom project – an EU funded scheme to develop partnership working with low lying countries in Europe affected by flood risk and climate change.



Program 20 and 21 November

Tuesday, November 20

Arrival and check in the guests - no program

Wednesday, November 21

09.30 - departure by car from Hotel to Waterschap Brabantse Delta

10.00 - Reception and welcome by Anke Dielissen
Anke Dielissen (Vice-Chairman of the Water Board Brantse Delta) welcomed us and informed us about the major task of the waterboard. A major task is control of prevention of flooding. In the Spinolaschans there will be build a retention basin for temporary storage of water during high water levels on the river Mark.

10:30 - Walk along the Markdal (Bieberg, Breda) (guided by Alfons Keizer)

12.00 - Walk to lunch location

12.30 - Lunch

13.30 - Transportation by car to Tilburg

14:00 - Reception Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) (interactive session, discussions)

17.00 - Toast

17:45 – Transport to restaurant in Tilburg

18:00 - Dinner

20.30 - Tansport to hotel Breda
end of the program

Thursday, November 22

09:00 - Departure form Hotel to Spinola Schans

09:30 - Walk Spinola Schans (guided by eter Buster and Hans Engen)

11.30 - Lunch

13:00 - Car back to the hotel

13:30 - Arrival at the hotel in Breda
end of the program





Key points

Water from all three of Chelmsford's rivers – Chelmer, Can and Wid – passes through one site on the eastern side of the city centre. The proposed solution is an 'online' defence of the River Wid at Margaretting. This involves an embankment to prevent water entering the city centre, and two properties would also need defending. Water would only be held here for a couple of days every 10 years.

There are fundamental differences between the Dutch and English approach to flood defence works.

Flood defences to the north of Breda provide 1:100 year protection, which is too low. Peak water could be 1.6 metres above sea level. Dykes are necessary, along with a new storage area which is able to fill quickly. The Spinola fort to the north of the city has a dry moat which, if deepened and with controlled inlets/outlets, could provide some of this extra storage.

The big difference between Chelmsford and DLG is that DLG several targets in a project combines. For that reason there is intensive contact with the partners concerned and innovative skills. DLG is the linking pin between the parties and looks after that all interests are taken into account in the process. The spatial design plays an essential role in territorial development and spatial planning.



Conclusion

All parties agreed that this was a successful meeting (to meet new colleagues and greet old friends). Some interested questions raised and useful ideas which will be investigated by Chelmsford Council to ensure it has the right approach to the Chelmsford scheme. Some Dutch colleagues offered to give expert advice.

The highlights were the visits to Bieberg and Spinola Schans where everybody could actually see things on site 'in action'.

