

**West Mersea Town Council at United Nations Climate Change Conference Sharm El-Sheikh,
Support for Essex University/Colchester Borough Council regarding measures to combat rise in sea levels
November 2022**

The Town Council made presentation by zoom on local coastal erosion. Cllr. John Akker represented the Council as part of a team from the University of Essex. This part of a plan by Colchester Borough Council to tackle climate related issues in the Borough.

Cllr. John Akker presented detailed evidence to the Conference on the extent of the coastal erosion so far. The material shown in the photographs. In part of his presentation, he said:

“We wish to draw attention of COP27 to the specific impact of sea erosion on our community and am very concerned by the speed that this is now taking place on Mersea and in the Colne and Blackwater Estuaries. Our detailed evidence to COP27 now shows the Sea Wall between East and West Mersea being allowed to crumble with many other examples. We wish to be part of the scientific investigation by Essex University, supported by Colchester Borough, on the need to improve sea defences. We have seen the incredible work undertaken in New York State where schemes involving oysters have been put forward. We want to build international links with others that are facing similar issues.”

Cllr. Akker urged that further work be supported by COP27, and the Town Council is continuing to work with CBC and Essex University. Further information will be given and likely that a meeting organised by Essex University will take place in West Mersea in the New Year.

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Cllr. John Akker promoting the Neighbourhood Plan for West Mersea document.



Cllr. John Akker showing an Oyster provided by Mr Tom Haward, Oysterman from West Mersea.

