

Settlements

Hello, I'm Jenny and I live in Bridlington. I've lived here all my life, and I love being by the sea. Throughout Britain, there are millions of people who live near the sea. Bridlington, on Yorkshire's east coast, is just one of the towns. It's not the biggest one, but there are still over 35 000 people living here. The coastal population of Britain is on the increase – in Bridlington, for example, the population in the 1960s was around 26 000 and in 2001 it was around 34 000.

Towns along the coast function just like any other town. They are thriving communities, full of homes, shops, banks, schools, hospitals, libraries and restaurants. People work here, providing goods and services to other residents and visitors. And people pay taxes here, that are then spent on roads, street lighting, health, education and parks.

My children love it here, too. They can go for walks on the beach, but the town also has plenty of facilities. They go swimming at weekends, attend a local youth group and they really like going to the cinema.

This is why sea defences are important. We have a sea wall at Bridlington and recently over £1.3million was spent on bringing in huge rocks to help it reduce the energy of the waves. Some people thought it was a waste of money, but you've just got to think about all the facilities that are behind that sea wall. If the wall saves just a few of the properties, it is worth the money.

