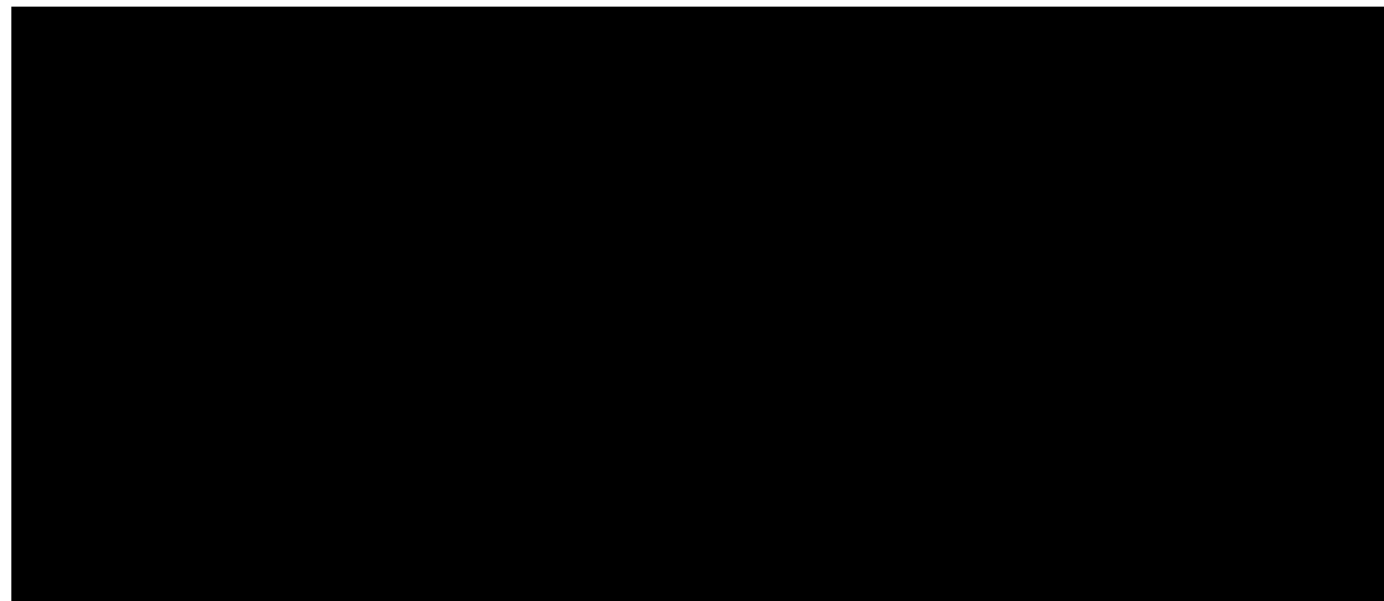
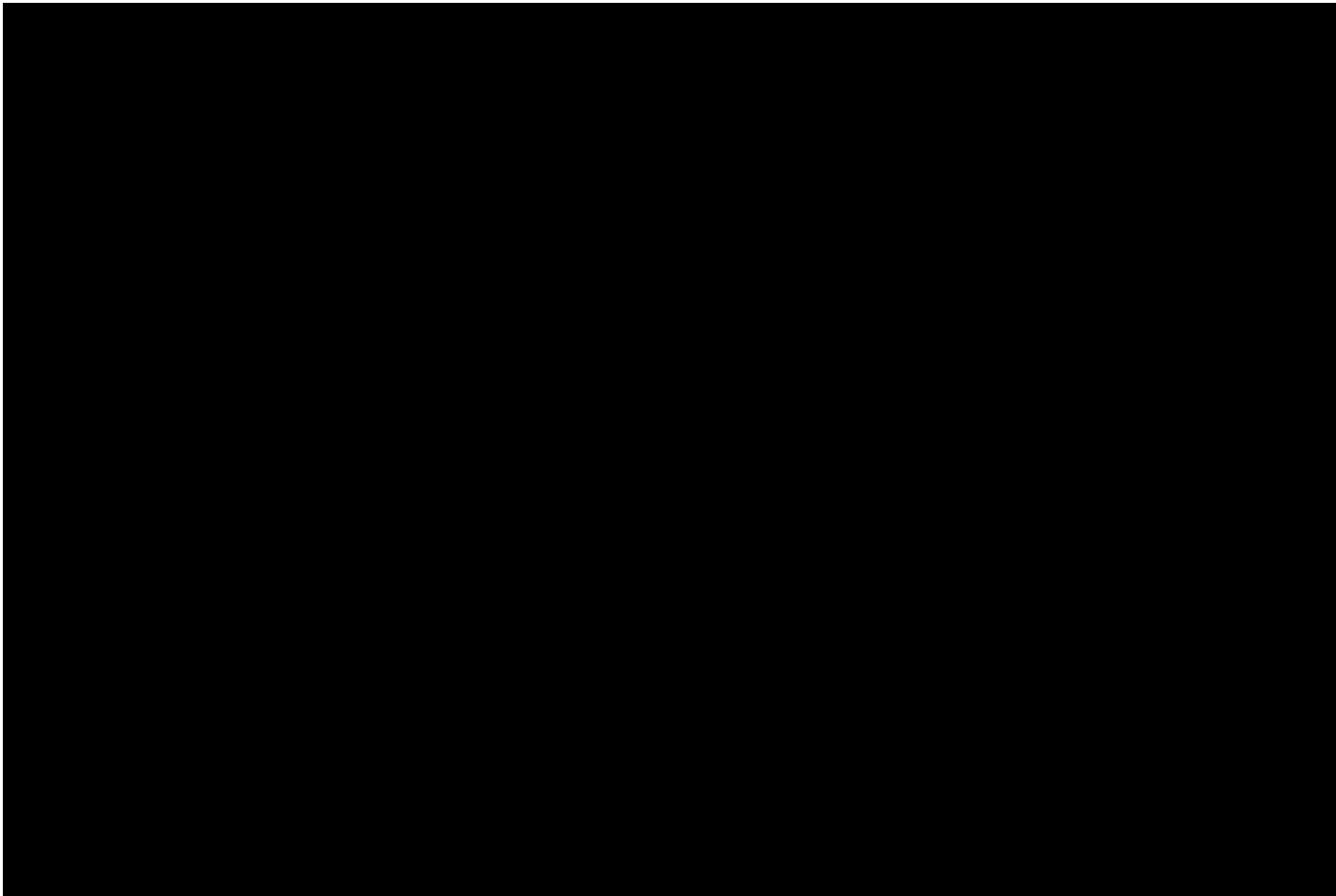




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From: Jim weston [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 January 2022 14:49

To: Planning <Planning@arun.gov.uk>

Cc: Cllr. David Huntley <Cllr.David.Huntley@arun.gov.uk>; Cllr. June Hamilton <Cllr.June.Hamilton@arun.gov.uk>;
Jane Weston [REDACTED]

Subject: Planning applications P/153/21/RES, P/158/21/RES, P/167/21/RES and P/155/21/RES

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Dear Sirs, I write to object to the above planning applications.

1. Rising sea levels. The Environment Agency advice document to local planning authorities dated 06/10/2021 clearly highlight the growing threat to coastal communities from rising sea levels. Pagham village is currently cursed by a plague of planning applications but the four listed above are the ones closest to the sea. The threat from the sea is compounded by the above application sites having high risk assessments from the West Sussex flood risk assessment team. On December 5th 2013 a North Sea surge took place which caused the sea to breach the shingle wall close to Pagham Yacht Club and flood down Sea Lane. This should have been a warning sign for planning officials at Arun. More recently the local Observer newspaper has highlighted the growing sea flood risk to communities in this area. The map accompanying this article shows that the sites covered by the above applications are at high risk.
2. Brent geese. All of the Pagham Road south site has/is a traditional foraging habitat for wintering brent geese. A protected species. When outline planning approval was granted to Hanbury Properties there were conditions set regarding the well being of brent geese. The developers were required to provide a like for like alternative site for the geese. This has not happened. Steps have been taken by persons unknown to ensure that the Pagham Road south site has remained inhospitable to the geese during the last two winters. The highly inappropriate mitigation site put forward by the developers
3. was barely used by the geese in 2020/21 and not at all so far this winter. For evidence see report dated December 2021 from Sussex Ornithological Society to David Easton at Arun. How has this been allowed to happen. Have the developers decided to ignore this condition or are Arun planning officials dilatory in enforcing their own conditions.
4. 3. Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve. Pagham Harbour is one of the very few undeveloped areas along The West Sussex coastline. It is a Ramsar site, a Special Protection Area and contains several sites of special scientific interest within its boundaries. Along with the South Downs and the Beaches it will feature as one of Arun's special assets. One would have hoped therefore that councillors and officials would seek to protect such an asset. The complete opposite of protection is to contemplate building a 375 housing estate close to the Reserve western boundary.
5. 4. Biodiversity. I understand, and approve, that all new developments should ensure that they ensure the biodiversity levels prior to development should be maintained and, where possible, enhanced. The fields to the west of Pagham Road are of high agricultural value and a habitat for thousands of wintering brent geese, lapwing and curlew. How on earth can this be replaced. Draft plans show that existing trees will be felled and hedgerows pulled out. How will Arun officials measure and ensure developers carry out their obligations. A few pretty flowering Japanese blossom trees is just not good enough. Progressive local authorities look to the future and ensure all new properties have solar panels, have trees in every garden, instal swift bricks and house sparrow boxes. What new developments regarding biodiversity can Arun demonstrate.
6. 5. the views of local people. IN 2016 When I first learnt of plans to build hundreds of houses in Pagham I wrote to the Minister for Local Government asking what rights I had and what duties did the local authority have. He sent me a very long and helpful letter. In it he stressed the importance of the Localities Act which aimed to help communities play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live. This policy does not seem to be very well in Arun. In July 2018 the Arun Local Plan was finally published, after a gap of 5 years. Hundreds and hundreds of local people raised objections and comments as they did to the various planning applications that were now mushrooming. Despite this surge of local views the Local Plan went through and all the planning

applications were granted outline approval. Remembering the Ministers comments I wrote to Gillian Brown (leader of Arun DC) in September 2018 asking what impact hundreds of local objections had had on the decision making processes at Arun. Her reply ended with this sentence 'All responses to consultation were considered but if comments could not be supported by evidence it is impossible to justify changes'. In the yellow planning notices that are put up regarding proposed developments there is advice on how to comment but nowhere does it say that comments/objections must be supported by evidence. Presumably this would have applied to hundreds of objections which would have been dismissed. So much for the Localities Act. From my own experience I know that I evidence I submitted was dismissed by one planning official as 'lacking scientific vigour'.

I feel very strongly that Arun have been less than open with local residents. Enquiries are usually directed to the Arun website. From an official point of view this is probably satisfactory. A prompt reply and directions to the answer. But it doesn't work. For an outsider it is so difficult to navigate the website let alone decipher planning documents. I am quite sure that residents along Pagham Road have no idea how many road side trees are to be felled or how much of the hedgerow is to be pulled out. If you feel that this letter needs more evidence to support my comments please let me know. Please ensure this letter is placed on the appropriate website/s. Yours faithfully, J.D. Weston