

Arun District Council
Development Control
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Our ref: HA/2021/123283/02-L01
Your ref: P/68/21/PL
Date: 19 July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

UPDATED FRA - PART CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING AMUSEMENT ARCADE TO MANAGERS ACCOMMODATION (RESUBMISSION FOLLOWING P/48/20/PL). PAGHAM BEACH AMUSEMENT ARCADE 129 EAST FRONT ROAD PAGHAM PO21 4SX

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application.

We have reviewed the information as submitted and set out our position and comments below.

Environment Agency Position

In the absence of an acceptable flood risk assessment (FRA) we **maintain our objection** to this application and recommend that planning permission is refused.

Reasons

The submitted FRA does not comply with the requirements for site-specific flood risk assessments, as set out in paragraphs 30 to 32 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change section of the planning practice guidance. The FRA does not therefore adequately assess the flood risks posed by the development. In particular, the FRA fails to:

- Take the impacts of climate change into account and provide a comparison between finished floor levels and modelled flood levels
- Consider how a range of flooding events (including extreme events) will affect people and property
- Consider the requirement for flood emergency planning including flood warning and evacuation of people for a range of flooding events up to and including the extreme event

Overcoming our objection

To overcome our objection, the applicant should submit a revised FRA and amended

Environment Agency
Guildbourne House Chatsworth Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1LD.
Customer services line: [REDACTED]
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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plans which addresses the points highlighted above.

We would recommend that sleeping accommodation is placed at least 300mm above the modelled flood levels (0.5% plus climate change allowances 2125), reducing the risk to occupants for the lifetime of the development.

If this cannot be achieved, we are likely to maintain our objection. Please re-consult us on any revised FRA submitted and we'll respond within 21 days of receiving it.

Advice to Applicant

FRA sources of information

We do not prepare or provide FRAs. However, our Customers and Engagement teams can provide any relevant flood risk information that we have available. Please contact [REDACTED]. Your local planning authority should have undertaken a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which will also include local flood risk information to inform your FRA. Please contact your local planning authority to determine what information is available. Further advice on what to include in an FRA can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#site-specific-flood-risk-assessment-all>

Advice to LPA/Applicant

Flood resistance and resilience

We strongly recommend the use of flood resistance and resilience measures. Physical barriers, raised electrical fittings and special construction materials are just some of the ways you can help reduce flood damage.

To find out which measures will be effective for this development, please contact your building control department. In the meantime, if you'd like to find out more about reducing flood damage, visit the Flood Risk and Coastal Change pages of the planning practice guidance. The following documents may also be useful:

Department for Communities and Local Government: Preparing for floods

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/odpm/4000000009282.pdf>

Department for Communities and Local Government: Improving the flood performance of new buildings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilient-construction-of-new-buildings>

Flood warning and emergency response

We do not normally comment on or approve the adequacy of flood emergency response procedures accompanying development proposals, as we do not carry out these roles during a flood. Our involvement with this development during an emergency will be limited to delivering flood warnings to occupants/users covered by our flood warning network.

The [planning practice guidance](#) (PPG) to the National Planning Policy Framework states that, in determining whether a development is safe, the ability of residents and users to safely access and exit a building during a [design flood](#) and to evacuate before an extreme flood needs to be considered. One of the key considerations to ensure that any new development is safe is whether adequate flood warnings would be available to people using the development.

In all circumstances where warning and emergency response is fundamental to

managing flood risk, we advise local planning authorities to formally consider the emergency planning and rescue implications of new development in making their decisions. As such, we recommend you consult with your emergency planners and the emergency services to determine whether the proposals are safe in accordance with the guiding principles of the PPG.

The applicant/occupants should phone Floodline on [REDACTED] to register for a flood warning, or visit <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. It's a free service that provides warnings of flooding from rivers, the sea and groundwater, direct by telephone, email or text message. Anyone can sign up.

Flood warnings can give people valuable time to prepare for flooding – time that allows them to move themselves, their families and precious items to safety. Flood warnings can also save lives and enable the emergency services to prepare and help communities.

For practical advice on preparing for a flood, visit <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>.

To get help during a flood, visit <https://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood>.

For advice on what do after a flood, visit <https://www.gov.uk/after-flood>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details shown below should you have any queries regarding the above information.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sophie Brown
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

[REDACTED]