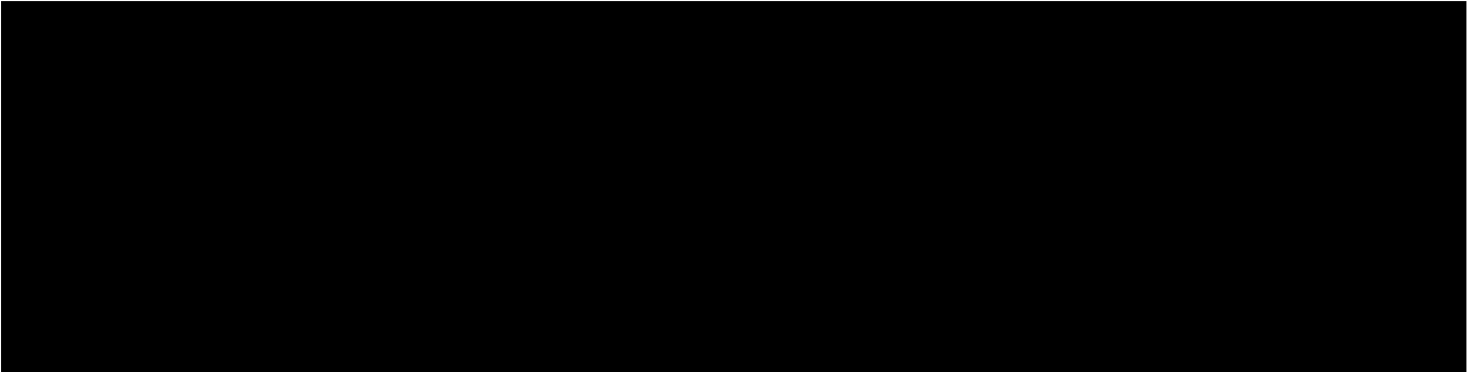






Sent: 25 October 2019 14:17

To: Simon Davis <Simon.Davis@arun.gov.uk>



Subject: P/87/19/DOC

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your time on the phone this morning.

Attached is my response to Natural England.

I have, as a courtesy copied it to our contacts in Natural England.

Best wishes,
Geoff

PAGHAM FLOOD DEFENCE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Acting for the Community and the Pagham Flood Defence Trust



25 October 2019

Dear Simon,

I have read the response from Natural England, and am concerned by the half truths and innuendo of what they say, and would like to make the following points.

1. We have met with Natural England and other stakeholders over the last three years. We believe passionately that an agreed Beach Action Plan is the best way forward for Pagham. The Action Plan is now in its draft form which I have not yet seen. As yet, there is no suggestion that there is an agreement to cut the spit as in this planning application when the people and property of Pagham are threatened.
2. The timing of work on the beach is strictly in accord with the application. There is a short window in the spring between the over-wintering birds leaving, and before the Little Terns and others arrive to breed. Also, a longer window in the Autumn when the reverse happens. These dates have been agreed with Natural England and RSPB, and we are more than happy to work within them. Contrary to what Natural England say, the conditions do not say that the spring window is only to be used for overrunning Autumn work.
3. We do not want to alter the compensation conditions of building and maintaining an Island for the Little Terns to nest on. We have been asked by the RSPB to make some changes and are happy to do so. If Natural England believes we invented these changes to get out of our responsibilities they only needed to phone the RSPB. These changes are not caused by changes in the site. They are caused by the greater understanding and skill gained by the RSPB. The RSPB have agreed to write a report underlining these changes.
4. We do not want to change the access route used on the beach. We just suggest that the Tern Island could be built with access from Church Norton. The previous Tern Island built by RSPB used this access. Our island will cause less disruption as we are using material from the spit, not bringing it in from outside. Natural England need to approve this change, if they are not happy with it, we will use the agreed access from Pagham.
5. There is no suggestion in the conditions that the cut in the spit and the build of the Tern Island had to be done at the same time. In fact, the opposite applies, as the conditions require that 'the Tern Island must be completed before the breeding season following the cut'.
6. The decision about how and when the closed harbour needs to be reopened is the responsibility of the Stakeholder group. Natural England will be part of that group and will have a say in their formation.
7. Natural England have been at our meetings and seen the results of the Tidal Gauge. They have heard the clear interpretation by the Environment Agency. What further information do they require?
8. Natural England suggest we wait, and make a fresh application so all the work could be done in September, or later. If Natural England are willing to give us a written guarantee that they will fully support a further application to do this work as in this application, so the work can all be done in September, we will be happy to consider the extra cost and effort

involved. In 2007 Arun DC wrote a report saying that if the spit were allowed to grow, we would lose houses. Natural England wanted to wait and see what happened. The result was that homes were threatened, people were terrified, Arun DC had to spend a lot of taxpayer's money protecting the homes, and still the beach is suffering from that delay. The spit has advanced further than it had in 2007. This planning permission and the IROPI that underpins it has shown that the need to protect the environment must be balanced by the need to protect people and their homes. We ask Natural England to work with us to get the spit cut in a way that will protect the people and property of Pagham and also maintain the incredible diversity of nature we have around Pagham Harbour.



Geoff Barter, Director, Pagham Flood Defence Community Interest Company. Co. no.10709825