

PLANNING APPLICATION COVER LETTER FOR CUTTING CHURCH NORTON SPIT

1. The enclosed planning application is submitted for consent to carry out works on Church Norton Spit to establish a channel through the spit as shown on Drawing A (attached to this letter and also included in the Pagham Harbour and Church Norton Spit Adaptive Management Report No. 1). The proposed works are in accordance with the approved Emergency Plan prepared by the Environment Agency and the Pagham Adaptive Management Plan prepared by Arun DC.
2. The works are required as a matter of urgency because of shoreline behaviour since 2016 which is now presenting a clear and present danger to the houses along Pagham Beach from erosion by the sea and to properties and the caravan park in Pagham from flooding by the sea. The forecast development of the shoreline over the next winter is shown on the attached figure 5 also taken from the report cited in 1 above. The only available 'window' for the proposed works is in September 2021 to minimise disturbance to wildlife using the area.
3. There was similar application made and consented in 2015 - this consent was not taken up due to natural processes breaching the spit. The investigations and studies supporting that application still apply for the present application (listed in section 5.3 of Report No. 1). The physical changes to the shoreline occurring between this previous application in 2015 and now have been reviewed in the enclosed Report No. 1 and reconciled with the aforementioned investigations and studies so that these investigations and studies can be transferred to support this application.
4. The present application involves a much smaller development than that proposed in 2015 but the nature and location of the works remain the same as shown on Drawing A. This results in a much reduced impact whilst still remaining the best option from the alternatives considered in 2015.
5. Discussions since 2015 have identified an alternative site for the proposed Tern Island which serves as compensation for the spit disturbance and this is shown on Drawing B also attached herewith and included in Report No. 1. This alternative location does not require any access works as applied to the location approved in 2015 however if selection of such an alternative renders the timescale for approval to be unattainable for the work window of September 2021 then the original approved location will be adopted.
6. The Report No. 1. provides the technical rationale for the proposed works extending the technical rationale contained in the previous application up to the present and examines how each of the impacts identified for the previous application are changed for the present application.
7. It is hoped that the Planning Authority will be able to accommodate this application within the short timescale available so that the high risk of erosion and flooding of properties next winter can be avoided.

28th May 2021