

[REDACTED]

From: Mandy Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 10:25
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit Ref: P/97/15/PL

45A West Front Rd, Pagham, West Sussex. PO21 4SZ
3/1/16

Planning,
Maltavers Road,
Littlehampton,
BN17 5LF

Arun District Council -- Planning Application: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit
Ref: P/97/15/PL

Dear Mr Davis,

I am writing in support of the above planning application for the managed breach of the Church Norton spit. I have been visiting Pagham since the mid70's and been a resident since 1998. After the first visit I fell in love with the unique character of Pagham beach.

I have Multiple Sclerosis and this had led to difficulties with mobility. For some time I have found it difficult to access the beach but was able to make use of the ramp near the yacht club and use the seating area there to enjoy the beach and sea views. However since the seating area has now vanished into the sea this is now impossible. So like all the other disabled residents and visitors, I find it very difficult to use the beach. Since I live on the beach I am able to observe from my windows the dramatic changes taking place on the beach, the stress of living with this threat has been extremely bad for my health, causing relapses of the MS. A large number of other residents are also having health problems relating to the erosion of the beach. A managed breach will allow the beach to regenerate, and then hopefully some sort of mobility access and seating area might be re-established so that anyone with mobility issues can once again enjoy the beach.

Due to it's special character a large number of people have been drawn to Pagham both as residents and as visitors. Unfortunately these people's interests, lives and livelihoods seem to be of secondary importance to

the claims of the local wildlife, which may come and go. The growth of the spit has left the residents of the beach in fear of losing their homes to the sea and the remainder of the village in fear of flooding if the sea wall (the beach) is breached, with all the subsequent problems associated with flooding. Although the wildlife is very important, it should co-exist with people not at the expense of people. A managed breach of the spit will allow the community to return to normal lives free from the threat of the loss of their homes or flooding.

This is a great opportunity to make a better place for people and for wildlife with the possibility of mitigating the wildlife habitat and providing a conservation solution for the future.

One of the things that have in the past made Pagham so special was the beautiful, vegetated SSSI beach, with its rare species of plants. Due to the scour current and the traffic of heavy machinery carrying out emergency work this beautiful beach has been decimated. A managed breach of the spit will allow the beach will regenerate and hopefully return to its former glory.

The local economy, much of it relying on the tourist industry has been hit by the reduced attractiveness of the beach and it's facilities. My family has told me that taking a walk along the beach is now fraught with danger from steep "cliffs", moving rocks and dangerous currents. A managed breach of the spit will allow the beach to regenerate and once again be a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

During the past few years there have been many costly quick fix endeavours in response to emergency situations that have only provided a temporary respite. All work has been done as a reaction to problems caused by the intense scour current and starvation of the beach. None of this work has been more than "sticking plaster" first and not provided any long-term answer to our problems. The solution offered by the consultants ABPmer seems to be the only way to safeguard the future of Pagham beach and village.

In 1999 I assisted our daughter prepare a project entitled – "What has been done and is being done to protect Pagham Harbour and Pagham Beach residents from coastal erosion?" The study incorporated numerous measurements and all the data, reports and policy statements available at the time. The conclusions of this study were that *"the beach was and would remain stable as long as the measures taken at that time were continued maintaining the position of the harbour entrance allowing perpendicular outflow to the sea. This would also be the most cost effective option for managing this area of coastline."*

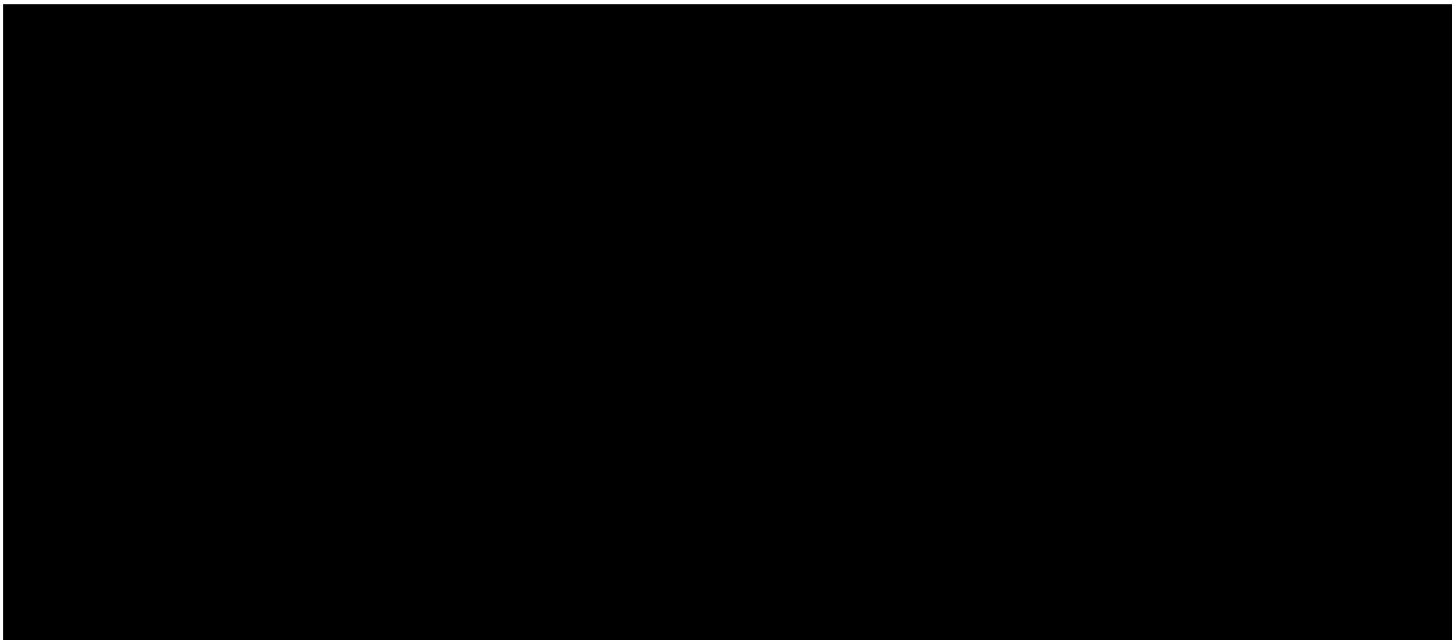
Having considered the report and supporting documents submitted by ABPmer I commend the proposals and respectfully request Arun District Council to do the same. I urge you to move this forward as soon as possible as it is vital for the future of Pagham and its community. It is also vital that the two local Authorities together with all the agencies including the Environment Agency, Natural England and the RSPB should all work together in a positive manner.

The managed breach of the spit is of Overriding Public Interest, the longer the desired outcome is delayed the more difficult and expensive it will become to secure Pagham's future.

Thank you for taking into account my representation.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Henderson



From: Gary Crossley [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 10:59
To: Planning
[REDACTED]
Subject: Support_letter_P_97_15_PL

Dear Simon Davis

Please find attached my letter of support for Planning Application Ref. 15/03053/FULEIA: Pagham Harbour Managed Breach of Spit.

I have also pasted the contents of the letter below, should a document attachment not be acceptable.

I would be grateful if you would be kind enough to acknowledge receipt of this email and its contents.

Yours sincerely

Gary Crossley

Gary Crossley
109 West Front Road
Pagham Beach
West Sussex
PO21 4TB

Simon Davis
Planning
Arun District Council
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton

5 January 2016

Dear Mr Davis

Re: Planning Application Ref. P/97/15/PL: Pagham Harbour Managed Breach of Spit

I write in support of the above application to undertake a managed breach of the shingle spit that has been allowed to grow unchecked across the mouth of Pagham Harbour.

It is vital that this planning application is approved as a matter of urgency to return the coastline towards a more sustainable morphology and address the coastal erosion, amenity and human health problems presently being experienced along Pagham Beach.¹

To date, all attempts to mitigate the devastating scour current caused by the spit displacing Pagham Harbour mouth have failed to do so. These short-term measures have proved to be detrimental to the established SSSI frontage, extremely expensive (over £1.5 million has been spent over the last six winters²), and are ultimately unsustainable. A managed breach of the spit, on the other hand, will create a sustainable flood and coastal erosion risk management scheme for the community at Pagham Beach and also improve its amenity and recreational value.

Having studied the detail of the proposals that make up the planning application in depth, it is my opinion that they meet not only the needs of the community in a proactive manner that works with natural coastal processes³, but also meet the requirements of the relevant key planning policies of Arun District Council and Chichester District Council.

I refer you to Appendix E of ABPmer's Report R.2446 – *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, and in particular the following sections:⁴

E.4.1 Chichester District Local Plan 1999 Saved Policies

- Policy C3: Managed Realignment
- Policy C9: Sea Defence and Coast Protection Works

E.4.2 Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 Proposed Modifications

- Policy 22 on 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management for the Manhood Peninsula'
- Policy 44, Development around the Coast
- Policy 48 Natural Environment

E.4.3 Arun District Local Plan 2003 Saved Policies

- Policy GEN10: Tidal Flooding and Coastal Defence
- Policy GEN19: Coast Protection and Sea Defence Works

E.4.4 Arun District Local Plan 2011-2029

- Policy W DM4 Coastal protection
- Policy TOU SP1 Sustainable tourism and the visitor economy

E.4.5 Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy

E.4.6 Shoreline Management Plan

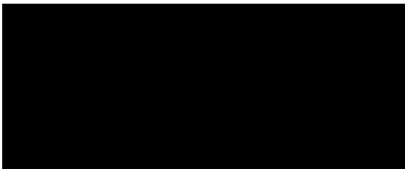
E.4.8 Other Plans

- Pagham Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Policy 8: Tourism Development
- Proposal 1: Coastal Protection

In addition to meeting the requirements of the relevant key planning policies of Arun District Council and Chichester District Council, as well as both saved Local Plan policies and new policies in emerging Local Plans, the managed breach of the spit is the most appropriate sustainable solution for the long term for the following reasons:⁵

- Breaching the spit is a more appropriate 'soft' solution that works with natural processes in view of Pagham's history and the dynamics of the environment;
- It emulates a natural process that has occurred in the past⁶ and will occur again in the much longer-term future, but imposes sensitive control rather than waiting for it to happen in an unknown form and location over unknown timescales;
- It creates minimal impact on designated interest features, and any impact that may be perceived to be of potentially greater significance will be mitigated by specifically designed measures and/or best practice working methods;
- The methodology has been informed by past case examples⁷ and underpinned by the large amount of research and management work that has been carried out on Pagham Harbour and Pagham Beach over many years;
- It provides a longer-term flood and coastal erosion risk management scheme by alleviating the pressure created by the tidal channel, and will allow a flux of shingle into the Pagham Beach shoreline to reverse recent beach erosion trends;
- It offers improved amenity and recreational value of Pagham Beach, as well as benefiting the human health of the local community;
- It provides greater assurance that the tidal functioning of Pagham Harbour will be maintained;
- It represents a more cost-effective use of public money (with local community funding support);
- It meets the requirements of the nature conservation legislation that protects the designated habitats and species of Pagham Harbour.⁸

Yours sincerely



Gary Crossley

References

1. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, p.5

2. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, p.13
3. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, p.5
4. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement* Vol. 2 – Appendices, E13
5. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, pp. 40-49
6. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, p. 12
7. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 1, pp. 39-46
8. Report R.2446: *Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement*, Vol. 2 – Appendices, C14

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Brackstone [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 January 2016 11:10

To: Planning

Subject: Planning Application Pagham Harbour Managed Breach Ref: P/97/15/PL

Dear Sirs

I am writing in support of the managed breach of the spit at Pagham harbour.

My Daughter has lived on Harbour Road since 1995 and, over the last 10 years or so, I have witnessed what was once a beautiful, safe beach with abundant flora and fauna become a dangerous and ugly eyesore. This, I understand, has occurred as a result of the harbour not being maintained, which in turn created the spit resulting in forcibly altered direction of water flowing from the harbour to scour the beach.

This has been detrimental not only to my daughter's health; owing to the worry of losing her house, being made to feel that wildlife is taking precedence over human life and not being able to sleep every time there is a strong wind with a high tide, but to the decreasing value in her property.

The spit was allowed to develop, initially supporting no flora and fauna, these have migrated from the pre-existing beach, whilst the established SSSI has been allowed to erode and deteriorate.

Therefore I feel very strongly that cutting through the spit is now the only option. My support is based on the following outcomes:

People - Whilst there are known ecological interests that will need to be safeguarded, these should not be at the expense of people, their homes and livelihoods.

Mitigation - Whilst nature conservation interests have a degree of protection, the opportunity exists to mitigate any harm that might arise by way of creative solutions that could better safeguard the nature conservation interests in the long run. Cut the spit without delay!

SSSI - Arising from the need to safeguard homes, much engineering work has been carried out to the beach, to the detriment of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These too are nature conservation interests. A quick solution will allow the SSSI to recover.

Health – For some years now the health of numerous residents and businesses has suffered due to delays in key decisions. They need a solution now!

Recreation –The activities and attractions provided by Pagham Beach and its facilities are both varied and significant. Through the period of coast erosion, which has brought with it damage, heavy machinery and barriers, there has been a decline in the attractiveness of Pagham Beach for residents, businesses, activity groups and visitors! Disabled people and those with limited mobility are now unable to enjoy the beach. This needs to be reversed.

Cost and local economy – The cost to people's lives, property and businesses has been significant. In fact, the ultimate cost will never be known, nor could it be calculated. To those that live with this reality, it is vast. The funds already raised by local residents, businesses and visitors to Pagham are testament to the significant interest and support that exists for the proposal to cut the spit. However, it is time to address the decline in property values, harm to businesses and activity groups, to help them address their financial losses and to help repair the harm to the local economy.

Expenditure – The cost of 'temporary fixes' is vast and their success mediocre. Cutting the spit will provide a longer-term solution and be more cost effective.

Increase flood risk – The loss of beach depth has increased the threat to loss of homes and increased the flood risk to the wider community by overtopping and potential breaching of this natural seawall that is defending Pagham. Cutting the spit will increase the resilience of the beach naturally by stopping the scour current and allowing the beach to accrete by re-establishing long shore drift

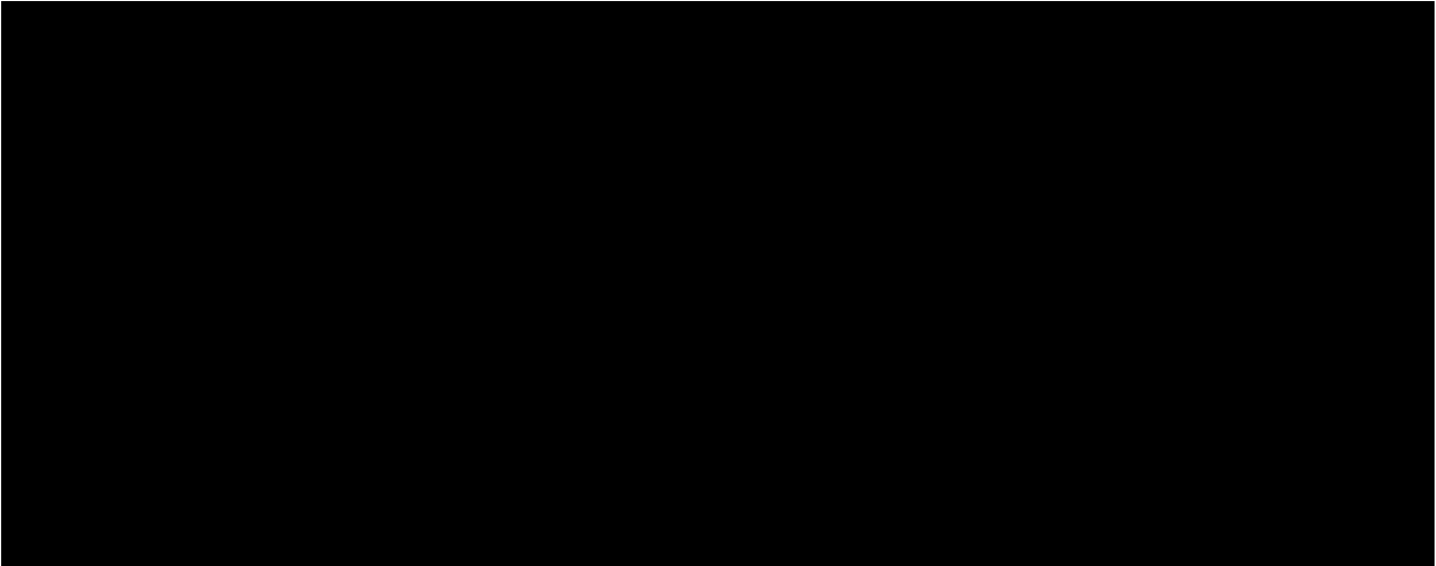
Other impacts – Without a favourable decision to cut the spit, beautiful and historic Pagham will continue to be blighted and will further decline. A decision in favour of cutting the spit will kick-start a recovery. Notably, today's impacts at Pagham will be tomorrow's at Aldwick and Bognor Regis.

The people of Pagham, and further afield, both local and visitors, acknowledge that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the managed breach of Pagham Harbour is a stage leading to an engineered solution.

Having considered the report and supporting documents submitted by ABPmer, I commend the proposals and respectfully request Arun District Council and Chichester District Council to do the same.

Yours faithfully

Chris Brackstone
BN17 6DT



Sent: 06 January 2016 12:07

To: Planning; [REDACTED]

Subject: Ref. P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Reference:

Arun District Council Planning Application Ref. P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Chichester District Council Planning Application Ref. 15/03053/FULEIA: Pagham Harbour Managed breach of spit.

I am writing in support of the above proposal to undertake a managed breach of the spit at Pagham Harbour.

I live on the beach with my husband and two young children and I have watched the shingle spit grow over the last 11 years and the erosion develop, accelerate and spread. This is despite short term emergency action to build revetments and replace shingle which has not proved to be a sustainable long term solution for homes or the environment. Prior to this a channel was maintained straight out from the harbour entrance similar to the breach proposed by this application. If no action is taken, the situation will continue to deteriorate and homes, livelihoods, lives and also the natural environment will be put at further risk.

This is a special place and is widely recognised and protected as such. It is vital that the Local Planning Authorities, together with the Environment Agency, Natural England and RSPB, should all work together in a positive manner to protect families, homes and the environment in a proportionate way.

Having reviewed the report and supporting documents submitted by ABPmer, I consider this to be the most balanced and responsible action to take to address the critical situation at Pagham to keep it a special place for families and nature alike. I ask that you approve this application and allow the work to start as soon as possible.

Thank you for taking into account my views.

Yours faithfully

Anne Harris
67 West Front Road
Pagham. PO21 4TA