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Pagham
West Sussex
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Your Ref: OWPC7773
Our Ref: P/97/15/PL 16-09-2015
Please ask for:
Mr S Davis

6th January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Managed breach of shingle spit & blocking of adjacent tidal inlet channel with shingle barrier. Formation of shingle island within Harbour following excavation of adjacent area of spit. This application is accompanied by an environmental statement

Church Norton Spit Pagham Beach Pagham

Thank you for your internet representation made on 5th January 2016 which has been recorded as '**support**' with the comments as follows:

This proposal goes to great lengths to minimise the impact on nature and mitigate any impact on habitat, it's aim is to prevent the SSSI beach at Pagham being further lost to the sea and protect the wildlife that relies upon it. The longer the solution is not implemented, the more emergency works are carried out which are detrimental to the natural environment of the beach. The project is expected to cost just £1.2m whilst the emergency repairs over recent years has totalled £2m. The project takes the harbour back to a point in history where it's stability was proven and allows onshore drift to replenish Pagham Beach, stopping the erosion moving on and engulfing Aldwick/Bognor.

This solution is not lightly proposed, alternative options have been fully investigated by respected marine engineering consultants ABP Mer. All parties required eg ADC, EA, RSPB, Natural England, have been consulted and involved in scoping the final solution. The proposed solution has been modelled and shown to be effective in protecting the community and empathic to the environment.

The implementation of the project is overridingly in the public interest. The community is currently at severe risk of flooding from the full force of the sea. Modelling shows that not carryout this solution will lead to a breach of the beach. There is NO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION, NO PLAN B. The beach is effectively the sea wall for Pagham Village, the subsequent flooding will affect homes, businesses and infrastructure such as power substation, sewage pumping station and vehicle access, partially cutting off homes.

Pagham Beach Estate has long been an accepted settlement, I understand granted ERA status in the 1970s several homes are of Significant Heritage Interest. Many homes are at risk of being washed away, yet more are at risk of flooding. 38% of the residents are at or above retirement age (national ave 16%). The detrimental effect on the health of living with this situation is evident.

As is outlined in the Pagham Village Design Statement, much of the Beach Estate is "From the metalled Beach Road with its largely holiday-oriented commercial activities". The effect on the public amenity of the beach has been decimating and a breach would lead to an end to the much needed tourist industry in Pagham. In direct line of the erosion are entertainments, eateries, car parking, yacht club, and holiday accommodation. Many businesses are already noting a downturn in takings. Already emergency works with heavy machinery has significantly impacted the natural beauty of the beach. Disabled access to the beach is no longer possible with the seating area having fallen into the sea.

Pagham Beach has a proud WWII history playing it's part in the "little ships" of Dunkirk, hosting troops and Mulberry Harbours one of which lays offshore, will homes join it? Pagham's Dunkirk memorial was removed to prevent it falling into the sea whilst barbed wire, pill box and old groynes of Pagham's past are being unburied by the scour providing more hazards and deterrents to beach users.

Also stated in the Pagham Village Design Statement "Flood risk is a major concern, highlighted by the recent dramatic erosion of the shingle bank at West Front. In the absence of a substantial new sea defence commitment, some flood-mapped zones may have a sustainable life of less than 50 years." With the current rate of erosion this is likely to now be less than 2.

I own a holiday-let bungalow on Pagham Beach and have to address questions on the erosion before people will consider booking a holiday. I dedicate days each week to working on the project to bring a solution affecting my family life. My health is suffering and I often experience insomnia worrying about the future for the area, my livelihood and my neighbours whose entire lives are close to falling into the sea.

After the Somerset Levels and Cumbria, the eyes of the nation will be on Pagham's fate.

Your views will be considered before the application is determined and I shall write to inform you of any decision made.

Please be aware that if the application is to be determined by the Council's Development Control committee and your letter has been received at a late stage after the Agenda has been published you will not receive a separate letter notifying you of the date of the meeting and procedures for public speaking. In such circumstances it is recommended that you track the progress of the application on the Council's website or telephone the Council for further information. Please be advised that any comments you make that are not included within the Committee Agenda will be reported to the Members of the Development Control committee. Please also be aware that only a small number of all planning applications received go the Development Control Committee. Most are determined under delegated powers by Officers in which case your comments will again be considered before the application is determined.

Please be aware that Planning Services operate an 'open file' policy and will publish details of your comments on the internet on the Arun District Council Planning section. Please ensure that you only provide information that you are happy will be made available in this way. If you supply information belonging to a third party, please ensure you have their permission to do so. If you do not wish your comments to appear on the 'open file' please confirm this in writing and I will arrange for it to be destroyed although this means that its contents will then be disregarded.

In the event of a subsequent written representations appeal, against a refusal of planning permission on a householder application, any representations made on the application will be automatically forwarded to the Secretary of State. Unlike all other types of appeal, there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.

Yours faithfully

Karl Roberts
Director Planning & Economic Regeneration