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**From:** Giles Cherry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2016 16:51  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application P/97/15/PL

Giles Cherry  
65 West Front Road  
Pagham  
PO21 4TA

Atten Simon Davis  
Planning  
Arun District Council  
Maltravers Road  
Littlehampton  
BN17 5LF

4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
**Re: Planning Application P/97/15/PL**

**I am writing in support of the planning applications for the Managed breach of shingle spit & blocking of adjacent tidal inlet channel with shingle barrier - Planning Application P/97/15/PL.**

I feel it is of the utmost importance that this outcome is moved forward as soon as possible. I also feel that it is vital that Arun District Council and Chichester District Council, together with the Environment Agency, Natural England and RSPB work in a positive manner towards resolving the coastal erosion Pagham beach and harbour are experiencing.

While I acknowledge there are known ecological interests that need to be safeguarded, these should not be at the expense of people, their homes and their livelihoods. For some years now the health of numerous residents', their homes and businesses have suffered due to delays in key decisions. A solution is needed imminently.

The local economy is suffering as the activities and attractions provided by Pagham Beach and its facilities have been negatively impacted by the effects of coastal erosion. The 'temporary fixes' employed so far have proved very costly and their success mediocre, cutting the spit is the best course of action as it is cost effective and will also provide a long term solution.

The funds already raised by the local residents', businesses and visitors to Pagham are testament to the significant interest and support that exists for the proposal to cut the spit. This has to be done before there is a further decline in the value of people's property and businesses.

If the decision to cut the spit is not upheld I fear that beautiful and historic Pagham will continue to suffer from the negative effects of coastal erosion and consequently the local economy will not recover.

**Having considered the report and supporting documents submitted by ABPmer I wholeheartedly support the proposals and request that Arun District Council and Chichester District Council do the same.**

Best Regards,

Giles Cherry

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Russ & Terera [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 January 2016 20:51  
**To:** Planning [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Saving Pagham beach and surrounding area

Dear Sir,

We write in support of the proposal to undertake a managed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham harbour.

Arun District Council Planning Application Ref:P/97/15/PL ( Case officer Simon Davis)  
Chichester District Council Planning Application Ref : SY/15/03053/FULEIA ( Case officer Steve Harris)

It is now essential that this matter is moved forward without further delay. The fact that to date we have had a relatively mild winter has possibly already saved the beach and residents from disaster and we hope their luck holds for a few more months enabling you to make positive progress. We urge the local authorities together with the Environment agency, Natural England and RSPB to work as one in a constructive manner to achieve a positive outcome. Our main concerns and observations are as follows:

**Residents** – It is essential that the local homes and livelihoods are safeguarded and as much expense spared.

**Mitigation** – Whilst there are conservation interests conservation was in place before the spit was there and therefore an early and creative solution to the problem will safeguard the nature conservation interests in the long run.

**SSSI** – Much engineering work has already taken place. This could have been to the detriment of the Site of Special Scientific Interest. A quick solution will allow the SSSI to recover in the longer term.

**Health** – for many years now the health of numerous residents and businesses have undoubtedly suffered as a result of continued delays in key decisions. A solution followed by urgent action is now required. People need to be sure of their future in the area.

**Recreation** – The only attraction Pagham beach now provides to people is to view the ever increasing erosion of the site. The decline in the attractiveness of the beach and surrounding area must have a serious affect on businesses especially the holiday business provided by Haven holidays who have invested significantly. The area is now in fact a danger to local residents, holiday makers and disabled people.

**Cost and local economy** – Funds already raised by local residents, businesses and visitors to Pagham must indicate the significant interest, support and importance of the area and site. Property values have seriously been affected as well as businesses and the local economy .

**Expenditure** – Surely it is time to take definite action rather than quick fix measures which cannot compete with the power of the sea and currents.

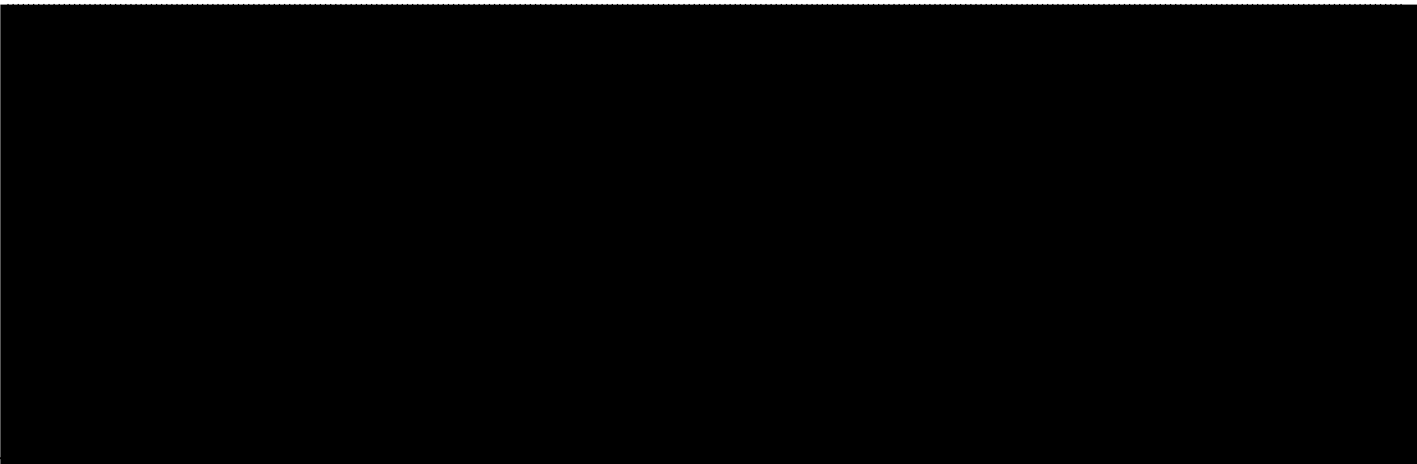
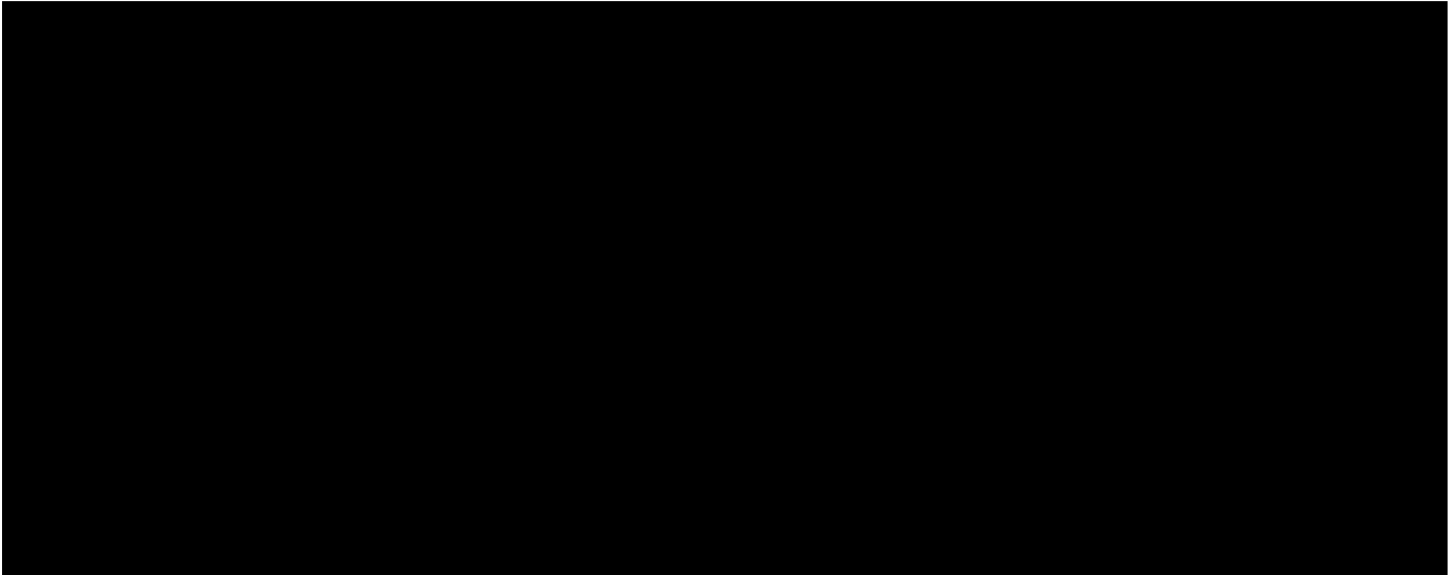
**Flood risk** – The loss of beach depth not only clearly threatens the loss of homes but also brings flood risks to the local community.

**Other impacts** – In our view the only sensible and necessary outcome is to cut through the spit. Please remember the spit has grown on its own accord over many years and the reasons for this are unclear to us, however this now threatens a great many people. Millions have been spent in other areas of the country and despite this their defences have been breached and immediate decisions has been made to spend more. Surely the decision makers have an opportunity to save the area before a major disaster occurs!

Please make the right decision by cutting through the spit without delay and save Pagham and its surrounding areas.

Thank you for listening.

Best regards  
Russell Stokes and Teresa Butters  
10, Harbour View Road, Pagham



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**From:** Julian and Lucy Home [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 04 January 2016 22:27

[REDACTED] Planning

**Subject:** Pagham Harbour spit

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in support of the planning application for a managed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham Harbour.

My support is based on the need for a long term solution rather than a quick fix, which will be of benefit to people (their homes, health, recreation), safeguarding conservation, and kickstarting a recovery for beautiful and historic Pagham.

I request that Arun DC and Chichester DC do the same.

Warm regards

*Lucy Bushill-Matthews*  
*31 Mount Hermon Road Woking Surrey*  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Christian Bennett [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 January 2016 16:35  
**To:** Planning; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pagham Beach managed breach of spit.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support of the managed breach of the spit at Pagham Harbour

- Arun District Council Planning Application Ref: P/97/15/PL
- Chichester District Council Planning Application Ref: 15/03053/FULEIA

And I urge you to make whatever decisions necessary in order that these works may be carried out without delay.

I have been visiting Pagham Beach for 44 years now (although I accept that I do not recall the first 4 or so years) and have seen the changing shape of the harbour entrance and the works which have been carried out over the years. What has been allowed to happen in the last 10 years however, has now put both Pagham beach and the village as a whole in real danger of complete flooding. It is clear that the problem is moving Eastwards as the spit grows and given that the low point of the beach crest is in that direction, I fear that a breach becomes ever more likely as each high tide arrives.

The cost of a breach to the community and region would be catastrophic as homes, businesses, sanitation and utilities would be overrun and the mess created would then likely end up in the sea causing further ecological damage.

In terms of financial costs, I believe that the continuous patching up of the beach over recent years would have been enough to cut the spit a number of times over and still left money spare to maintain the new channel for a further 25 years so I feel the longer the cut is delayed, the more the cost rises.

While I accept that there may well be nesting birds etc. on the spit at certain times of the year, the simple answer is that they nested elsewhere before the spit grew and I'm pretty confident that they will find somewhere new as the spit gradually dissipates following it's cutting!

I look forward to a sensible outcome.

Best regards

Christian Bennett

36, Sunyhill Burbage Leics 97/101 West Front Road  
c/o 97 & 101 West Front Road Pagham

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

From: Graham Reynolds [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 January 2016 09:19

To: Planning  
[REDACTED]

Subject: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Arun District Council planning application Ref.P/97/15/PL

Chichester District Council planning application Ref. SY/15/03053/FULEIA

With regard to the above planning applications I give my full support for the following reasons.

To at last provide proper support to the Pagham Residents and surrounding area by providing a long term solution / outcome providing ecological advantages to both people and wild life.

Serious damage has been done to Pagham Beach due to the continual management that has been necessary to provide the temporary protection to housing etc. With the planning applications above this will eventually bring the beach back to its original condition protecting wild life, people, housing and providing a much needed local amenity for the local population and holiday makers alike.

The cost so far to provide the emergency maintenance which has been necessary is unsustainable and on this basis alone the above applications to cut through the spit and provide a long term solution is vital.  
Having considered the report and proposals along with monies that have been raised locally to show and help support the above applications we recommend that Arun District Council and Chichester District Council do the same and initiate the works without delay.

Please cut the spit without delay

Yours faithfully

Graham & Mary Reynolds

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Robin Henderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2016 08:56  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Support for Planning Application: Pagham Harbour Managed breach of spit. Ref: 15/03053/FULEIA

FAO: Simon Davis

Planning,

Arun District Council,

Maltravers Road,

Littlehampton,

BN17, 5LF

4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Mr. Davis,

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

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Dear Mr Davis

I have been a Pagham Beach resident since 1998 and been visiting Pagham since the mid 1970's. I am Chairman of the Pagham Flood Defence Steering Group which is a sub committee of Pagham Parish Council leading the community initiative investigating a viable long term solution to the current problems experienced along Pagham Beach by the growth of the shingle spit. I have witnessed first hand the dramatic change over the past 6 years to this once beautiful vegetated SSSI site together with the significant loss in the resilience of the beach as a sea defence and increase in danger both on and off shore. I am also aware of the high level of support for this application throughout all area of the Pagham community and our neighbours.

I write in **support** of the proposal to undertake a managed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham Harbour. It is vital that this outcome is moved forward as soon as possible. It is also vital that the two relevant Local Planning Authorities, together with the Environment Agency, Natural England and RSPB, should all work together in a positive manner. My support is based on the following positive 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.

**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 appeal of Pagham Beach for residents', businesses, activity groups and visitors! Disabled people and those with limited mobility are now unable to enjoy the beach. The treacherous waters and fast flowing currents (up to 14 knots) have resulted in one near fatality and many rescues over the past 18 months. The RNLI are unable now to effect any rescues within this area. This situation 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 significant 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. Whereas, a decision in favour of cutting the spit will kick-start a recovery. Notably, today’s impacts at Pagham, will be tomorrow’s impact 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 comprehensive Environmental Statement and Design and Access Statement and supporting documents submitted by ABPmer (leading internationally renowned marine consultancy that has extensive knowledge of this area).

Their deep understanding of the challenges, with regard to the habitats and geomorphology of this site, backed up by both historic and empirical data and also re-enforced by data modelling from their flow measurements make this application viable and appropriate to the challenges experienced along Pagham Beach. Their proposals:

- are innovative and sensitive to geomorphology and the habitats regulations for this site
- address the needs and concerns of the Pagham community (which has existed adjacent to this site for nearly 100 years and which became an ERA in the 1970’s) by stopping the devastating scour current currently flowing along the beach. This will also allow the shingle beach to start regenerating naturally by the re-establishment of long shore drift, thus allowing Pagham Beach to accrete and provide better resilience against flooding. It would reset back to the situation which prevailed for 60 years, of relative stability, experienced from 1960’s up to 2004 when the management of the entrance to Pagham Harbour was ceased by the Environment Agency.
- help reduce the extreme stress, anxiety and the associated health issues experienced over the past seven years and allow the community to re-establish a normal life pattern. It should be noted that nearly 40% of Pagham’s population are at over 65 and have chosen Pagham as a place to spend their retirement.
- will regenerate the SSSI beach, reduce the dangers both along and off shore. This will re-establish the beach as a recreational and tourism destination. Tourism is vital for the socio-economics of Pagham where many businesses depend on a good flow of visitors. Those visitors and holidaymakers have significantly declined over the past 3 years impacting many local businesses.

- provide Pagham with a viable and cost effective solution for to improve its coastal and flood defences over the medium to long term

When considering this application in compliance with Local Planning Policy as reviewed in Volume 2: Appendix I of the **Managed Breach of Shingle Spit at Pagham: Environmental Statement**, this proposal encompasses the current Arun District Local Plan Policies as follows:

Policy GEN10: Tidal Flooding and Coastal Defence states that “*The risk to development in areas subject to flooding and coastal erosion is set out in the Coastal Defence Strategy. The Coastal Defence Strategy identifies standards of defence and future management*”.

Policy GEN19: Coast Protection and Sea Defence Works states that “*Proposals for coast protection and sea defence works or improvements to existing works will be considered in the light of the following: (i) the recommendations of the shoreline management plan and the coastal defence strategies in respect of the physical maintenance of the coastline and coastal defences; (ii) their impact on the visual character of the open, undeveloped coast and on the appearance and use of the coastline in the built-up areas; and (iii) that the proposed method of coastal defence is technically sound and appropriate to the task*”. The main aim of the policy is to maintain sea defences and protect the coast where necessary through the use of the best technically, economically and environmentally appropriate solutions.

When related to the proposed to the Arun Local Plan: Key Policies 2011-2029 Proposed Modifications the pertinent sections are:

Policy W DM4 Coastal protection states that “*Proposals for coast protection and sea defence works will be permitted if they:*

- Have been considered in light of their impact on the visual character and value of the open, undeveloped coast, protection and enhancement of coastal habitats and the provision of opportunities to complete the coastal footpath and improve the appearance and use of the coastline in the built-up areas.*
- Use methods of coastal defence that are technically sound and appropriate to the task and do not have a detrimental effect on other parts of the coastline; and*
- Are in accordance with the Shoreline Management Plan or Strategy for the particular frontage.*

*Proposals for development in coastal locations, including for example, sea defence works, will be permitted providing they protect and enhance coastal habitats such as vegetated shingle. Where habitats are lost through the provision of sea defence works, replacement habitats must be provided in a suitable location. Any works under this policy should take account of any local and/or interest features. Developments shall also be consistent with all other Local Plan policies.”*

Policy TOU SP1 Sustainable tourism and the visitor economy states that “sustainable tourism growth for Arun requires the protection of features that make the District attractive to visitors. Proposals for visitor related development will be determined by Arun's capacity to absorb such growth; for Arun this means tourism growth which:

- *Encourages long-term visitor interest / activity;*

- *Ensures a viable visitor economy;*
- *Provides benefit to local people;*
- *Extends the visitor season; and*
- *Protects and enhances the natural and built environment of Arun.”*

I therefore consider the managed breach of the spit is a matter of overriding public interest and needs to be implemented without delay to give the beach a chance to recover naturally. Time is not our friend and without urgent action, there is a real chance that, if the spit continues to grow, the resulting scour current (that runs at up to 14 knots) and the starvation of shingle\* along the beach towards Aldwick will cause the beach (which is Pagham’s seawall) to breach resulting in:

- Homes being lost due to erosion
- Parts of Pagham and beyond being flooded affecting homes, community resources, infrastructure and businesses

\* It should be noted that up to 5 metres ( approx. 20%) has been lost on the beach crest along nearly half of East Front Road Pagham towards Aldwick during December 2105

I commend the proposals and respectfully request Arun DC to do the same.

Thank you for taking into account my representations in support of the proposal of the managed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham Harbour and blocking of the adjacent tidal inlet channel with a shingle barrier by re-distribution of shingle within the application site.

Yours faithfully

Robin Henderson

45a, West Front Road,

Pagham,

West Sussex

PO21 4SZ

*Please find attached signed copy of this letter*

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Hannah Crossley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2016 14:00  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** FAO: Simon Davis: Planning Application Ref. P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Dear Simon,

As a former resident of 109 West Front Road, I am writing to you in firm support of the proposal to undertake a managed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham Harbour.

I was lucky enough to live on Pagham Beach from the age of two, and have been shocked and devastated by the damage caused in recent years to the area by the spit, not to mention the stress that my family members and friends have had to deal with because of it. It has made many residents, many of whom retired there to fulfill their dreams of living on the beach, physically ill.

My birthday is in June, and I used to love the sight of the bright pink carpet of Valerian that covered the hundreds of metres of gently sloping beach at that time of year. Pretty much the whole of that beach has gone, replaced by a looming, ugly, destructive, monstrous spit of shingle. The proposed works are absolutely essential, and must be moved forward as soon as possible.

To ensure the efficacy of the proposed works, the relevant Local Planning Authorities and the Environment Agency, Natural England and RSPB, must work together positively. My whole-hearted support is based on the following:

**People** - I am aware of and respect the ecological interests that need to be safeguarded in the area, but do not believe that these should be put before people, their homes, livelihoods or their mental health.

**Mitigation** - Of course, nature conservation interests should be protected, but 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!!!

**SSSI** - The 'fire fighting' engineering works that have been carried out to the beach have been to the detriment of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These too are nature conservation interests, however, the SSSI has been around a lot longer than the spit, and I believe that cutting the spit will allow the SSSI to recover.

**Health** – For some years now, the mental and physical health of numerous residents and businesses has suffered due to delays in key decisions.

**Recreation** – The beach has become extremely dangerous over the last three years, you can't windsurf there any more, you can't launch dinghies or fishing boats, the ridiculously strong current surging from the harbour has made it unsafe to swim, and there's barely even enough of it left to lie on in the summer. The vastly diminished beach front has also meant that there is less dog walking area available, so dog waste has become a problem, with what is left of the beach front gardens becoming a dumping ground for the stuff. I have sadly watched one of the most beautiful places in this area turn into a depressing, dog-feces ridden wasteland. Cutting the spit is the quickest solution to restore the area back to one of outstanding natural beauty.

**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** – Over the last three years, I have witnessed a 'sticking plaster' approach to dealing with the issue, at vast cost and with mixed success. Cutting the spit is the only long term solution, and doing so will save money.

**Increased 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 decision in favour of cutting the spit, this horrific situation at Pagham will continue. A decision in favour of cutting the spit will kick-start a recovery. If nothing is done, Pagham will be lost and then Aldwick and Bognor will be next on the spit's hit list.

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.

PLEASE cut the spit as soon as possible! We want our homes, our beach, and our sanity safe again!

Many thanks for taking my representations into account.

Yours faithfully,

Hannah Crossley

40 East Front Road,  
Pagham Beach,  
West Sussex,  
PO21 4SU

30<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Ref: Pagham Harbour Managed Breach of Spit.  
Arun District Council ref: P/97/15/PL  
Chichester District Council ref: 15/03053/FULEIA**

Dear Sir,

We would like to register our **strong support** for the work proposed in the application to cut through the spit at Pagham Harbour.

It has been alarming to see the growth of the spit over the last 15+ years, and it shows no sign of slowing down.

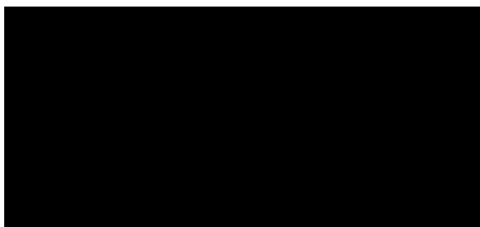
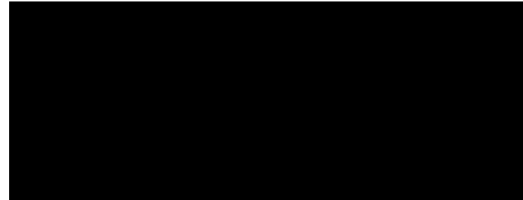
The damage to the beach caused by the scouring of the water diverted by this spit is very significant, endangering people's houses and livelihoods. This in turn has a big impact on the local economy and people's wellbeing.

Whilst the area is designated a SSSI and MCZ, the spit did not exist 15+ years ago, so protecting it at the expense of the significant impact on local people can not sensibly take priority. The SSSI can return to its previous state quickly once the work has been completed.

The various attempts at securing the beach with rocks, rearranging the heights of the breakwaters and emergency actions to add back shingle to the depleted areas only to see it washed away with the next strong wind must have cost a huge amount, and for no long term effect.

It is our view that the only sensible option is to cut through the spit in the way proposed. Indeed, if this solution had been pursued seriously by the various agencies 7+ years ago when first proposed, the cost of implementing it would have been significantly less as the spit was smaller.

Yours faithfully,

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To:

1. Arun District Council -- Planning Application: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Ref: P/97/15/PL Case officer: **Simon Davis**. Planning, Arun District Council, Maltravers Road,

Littlehampton, BN17, 5LF - Email: [planning@arun.gov.uk](mailto:planning@arun.gov.uk)

2. Chichester District Council - Planning Application: Pagham Harbour Managed breach of spit.

Ref: SY/15/03053/FULEIA - Case officer: **Steve Harris** - Planning, Chichester District Council, 1

East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY –

**Planning Application: Pagham Harbour Managed breach of spit.**

These are my comments of qualified support for the application. I am:-

Kirsten Lanchester. 137, Highfield Lane, Oving, Chichester, West Sussex. PO20 2NN.

My interest in this application is as a member of the public for whom, until very recently, Pagham Beach was my preferred recreational beach in the area. I have also taken a keen interest in the Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve over the past 10 years.

I wish to support the proposed project to make an artificial breach in Church Norton Spit in the expectation that it will offer protection to the community in the vicinity of Pagham Beach, and to its coastal amenities enjoyed by the wider community.

There are obviously some very complex natural processes involved, and therefore I add this proviso that my support is conditional on there being no reasonable, evidenced predictions of significant increased flood or erosion risk for other nearby human settlements, to be anticipated as a result of the proposed artificial breach to the Church Norton Spit.

In terms of the very comprehensive environmental protections which are in place at Pagham Harbour, I would urge both councils to put human interests before the environmental conservation interests, to the full extent that is allowed within the law. The Environmental Impact Assessment submitted with the application, I believe, demonstrates an approach which is in keeping with natural processes, as much as is possible with a project of this kind, as it is anticipated that the severed part of Church Norton Spit will be replaced within a few years with the re-growth of the Spit.

The proposal to artificially breach the spit, and block the existing channel are listed as one of several possible options within the Adaptive Management Plan, which was developed for Pagham within the context of The Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy, which is recognised within the planning and coastal protection policies of both Arun and Chichester District Councils. Therefore subject to the tests of the next paragraph being met, the proposals should be permissible.

In view of the environmental designations attached to Pagham Harbour/Pagham Beach, in my view, it is inevitable that an Appropriate Assessment will be required, necessitating a test of "Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest", and therefore I have set out my comments under headings with this in mind. My comments relate to issues arising from the growth of the Church Norton Spit in recent years, which it is anticipated will be ameliorated if the proposal goes ahead.

### **1). Human Health**

- ABP Mer in its documents submitted with the application has mentioned the negative influence of the coastal erosion on health of members of the Pagham Community. The Pagham Beach Estate does include a significant proportion of permanent residents (many of whom are older citizens), in addition to the properties owned as second homes/holiday lets. For the permanent residents close to the shore, there have been at least 2 years of constant anxiety and many sleepless nights, and this can be anticipated to have taken a toll on their health. As the whole estate and nearby areas at risk of flooding, have become blighted, there is also general anxiety concerning declining quality of life associated with living in Pagham.
- I am also concerned that there might be consequences for health if infrastructure fails, particularly sewage pumping and also electricity which may be necessary for medical equipment for use in people's homes.
- The well-being agenda encourages greater participation in outdoor activities. Pagham offered the most accessible beach (by local and 'B'

roads, by car or more sustainable means such as bicycle) for coastal recreation and low key water-sports, from the villages North of Pagham Harbour, in Chichester District, (for example Mundham, Merston, Oving, Shopwhyke, Tangmere, Boxgrove, Halnaker). It has not been available to use safely for past 2 years due to the consequences of the scour current and erosion. If re-instated then residents of these villages might once again avoid congested roads to alternative beaches in Arun and Chichester Districts. They will again have the added health benefits of using a beach that has scored 'excellent' under the Bathing Waters Directive for the 3 years 2012-14, and has the beauty of the vegetated shingle, once this has recovered.

## **2) Human Safety**

- ABPMer mentioned that the managed breach will allow the lifeboat to enter Pagham Harbour once more. Since the Harbour Entrance has become more dangerous to navigate there are few options for rescue if, for example, someone is swept into the harbour, or becomes stranded on mudflats.
- Since the scour current has run parallel to the shore, safety of the beach has been challenged by dangerous currents, hidden underwater hazards, steep unstable shingle etc. posing a risk to life and limb, for swimmers, walkers, boaters, windsurfers and paddlers. It is worth noting that as a tourist amenity, many visitors are unaware of all of these risks, and it is often commented upon locally that there is an accident waiting to happen. With the speed of the currents at the harbour entrance there might even be a fatality.
- There may be consequences to human safety if local infrastructure fails as a consequence of flood inundation.

## **3) Important environmental benefits**

- The consequences to the protected habitats of a managed artificial breach will be more predictable than those arising from a natural, unmanaged breach. A natural breach (in association with a natural closure further East) has been widely predicted, as part of the natural evolution of spit geomorphology, as described in several local public presentations by representatives of the Environment Agency and Natural England. Mitigation and compensation can be factored into the proposed breach, whereas, should a natural breach occur, the adverse effects may be more difficult and expensive to manage.

- I anticipate that regeneration of SSSI vegetated shingle beach will be a benefit arising from the proposals. The vegetated shingle which has been destroyed by erosion and resultant beach defence works, was not considered to be in good condition, due to garden escapes such as red valerian. A regenerated vegetated beach may have the opportunity to develop more naturally with careful management measures put in place.
- The Water Framework Directive requires improvements to the water body in Pagham Harbour (as referred to in the Pagham Harbour Adaptive Management Plan). ABPMer mentions that the proposed artificial breach will make slight improvements. Any improvement, however small, has to be welcomed.
- The opportunity for compensation habitat at a 'new tern island' may offer more protection to little terns than the exposed spit. The co-operation and input of the RSPB, bearing in mind its success at other locations with this species, may help to ensure the success of the proposed compensatory habitat for the little tern.
- The managers of the Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve (currently the RSPB), who have a volunteer warden scheme, may benefit from additional volunteers coming forward to join its team from the Pagham Community, thereby offering a greater resource not only to carry out warden duties, but also to undertake wildlife surveys, monitor conservation projects, and help with practical conservation works.

#### **4) Other matters of Public Interest**

- Damage to property and loss of homes will put a greater strain on public welfare resources such as emergency housing, and added pressure for scarce social housing resources in Arun District.
- Vulnerable business premises which are damaged or destroyed will have a negative effect on the local economy.
- Other detrimental effects to the local economy may include loss of council tax revenue, a tourist destination in decline, and continuing deterioration to the viability of a once vibrant community. (The recent closure of the King's Beach Hotel at Pagham is an example indicating a growing lack of confidence in the Pagham Economy and that the very fabric of the local community is under threat).

To conclude, it is also worth emphasising that the coastal works which have been undertaken by Arun District Council at Pagham, have thus far prevented loss of, and flood to properties and infrastructure. However, as the Council only has a power, not a duty, to protect homes from the sea, there is no guarantee that it will have the funding to continue this protection into the future, or that if it does that it will continue to succeed in preventing such loss or damage. Nor have the works they have undertaken thus far, provided the added benefits in terms of many of the public interest comments I have set out above. It is therefore doubtful that the money being expended on shingle recycling attains an acceptable value for money benchmark.

For these reasons I hope that it is possible to permit this proposal to proceed subject to the proviso in the last paragraph of page 1.