

Julie Grieves

From: Sue Bowley on behalf of Planning
Sent: 07 January 2016 09:28
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: FW: Planning Application Pagham Harbour Managed Breach Ref: P/97/15/PL

Sue Bowley | PA to Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council | Location: First Floor, Arun Civic Centre,
Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 19:21
To: Planning
Subject: Fwd: Planning Application Pagham Harbour Managed Breach Ref: P/97/15/PL

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 5 January 2016 at 22:03:30 GMT
To: [REDACTED]
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.

I have 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 plenty of flora and fauna has become a dangerous and ugly eyesore, which I understand has occurred as a result of the harbour not being maintained which in turn created the spit which has forcibly changed the direction of water flowing out of the harbour to scour the beach.

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

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
S Fellick
PO21 4TE

A.L. Crossley
2, Staithe Cottage
Whittlingham Lane
Norwich
Norfolk
NR14 8TW

By email

7 January 2016

Dear Mr Davis,

Re: P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

I write in strong support of the above application.

The proposal for a managed breach of the shingle spit causing erosion of Pagham beach presents a viable and sustainable alternative to the unsustainable, costly and damaging approach to adaptive management of the eroding Pagham shorefront and SSSI that is currently being carried out.

It is of the utmost importance that the solution can be brought forward as soon as possible, through identifying an appropriate working window that will allow construction to go ahead this year. Time is of the essence given the serious risk to the Pagham community and remaining beachfront of another winter of erosion. The current application enables the Council to progress the granting of permission to allow commencement of works in 2016 - there are no matters that could not be resolved through attachment of appropriately worded planning conditions. I therefore strongly urge the Council to give this outcome its most urgent priority.

A summary of key considerations is as follows:

- The proposed solution presents a sustainable, integrated, cost-effective and community supported option that not only balances the needs of the local community with the special interests of the area but will improve its amenity, landscape and tourism value (through facilitating a gradual restoration of the shorefront).
- A sound means has been identified to ensure that requirements of the relevant nature conservation legislation can be met. (Chiefly, provision of compensatory habitat within the existing boundary of the designated site.)
- The proposed solution accords with all relevant legislation and planning policy and there can therefore be no reason for permission not to be granted (subject to relevant conditions, where needed).

An addendum to this letter provides further detail on the above considerations.

Yours sincerely,

A.L.Crossley



Addendum

Nature conservation legislation

The supporting documents to the planning application outline a sound option to ensure that the proposal will be in compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations). Provision of compensatory habitat to make good losses of habitat used by designated species of the Pagham Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) will ensure that the integrity of the SPA is maintained. With the solution of compensatory habitat agreed, appropriately worded planning conditions could secure the provision of the compensatory habitat and allow for final agreement on any outstanding detail to be agreed between the relevant parties, in advance of 2016 construction.

Granting permission to the proposal would also be in accordance with the duty on the Council to conserve and enhance the special interest features of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, in the exercise of its functions (as a Section 28G authority under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended). The proposal will prevent further destruction of the vegetated shingle habitat of the Pagham Harbour SSSI, thus ensuring this remaining habitat will be conserved.

Planning policy

The information presented in the application and supporting documents demonstrates that the proposed solution accords with all relevant national and local planning policy. There can therefore be no reason for planning permission (subject to relevant conditions, where needed) not to be granted. A consideration of the fit of the proposal with key local planning policies is set out below, to provide further detail.

The proposal is in accordance with relevant planning policies of the Arun District Local Plan (2003 Saved Policies) and the draft (pre-submission version) Arun District Local Plan 2011-2029. For example:

Saved Policy GEN19: Coast Protection and Sea Defence works states:

"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."

The proposal is in accordance with this policy, for the following reasons:

- (i) In line with the SMP and associated strategy.

- 6
- (ii) Will enable restoration of an attractive area of undeveloped coast that is currently made hazardous and blighted by the ongoing erosion, loss of foreshore and unsightly safety barriers, plastic membrane and imported rock.
 - (iii) ABPmer have rigorously demonstrated that the proposed managed breach is technically sound and appropriate to provide a sustainable solution to the protection of the shorefront, its communities and environmental interests.

For the same reasons as listed above, the proposal is also in line with Policy W DM4 - Coastal protection, of the Arun District Local Plan 2011-2029. Importantly, it also accords with the update to this policy, which is:

"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."

As detailed in the Environmental Statement that supports the application, the proposal will ensure further loss of vegetated shingle habitat is prevented, and will provide compensatory habitat to ensure that the integrity of the Pagham Harbour SPA is maintained.

The solution is also consistent with Policy TOU SP1 - Sustainable tourism and the visitor economy, which states that *"sustainable tourism growth for Arun requires the protection of features that make the District attractive to visitors..."*, as it will ensure safe recreational use of the beach can continue, bringing clear sustainable tourism benefits.

Julie Grieves

From: Sue Bowley on behalf of Planning
Sent: 07 January 2016 09:27
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: FW: Arun District Council Planning Application Ref: P/97/15/PL

Sue Bowley | PA to Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council | Location: First Floor, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 20:30
To: Planning
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Arun District Council Planning Application Ref: P/97/15/PL

Arun District Council Planning Application Ref: P/97/15/PL

I write to give my support for the proposed breach of the shingle spit at Pagham harbour.

The beach at Pagham has changed drastically over the last few years and the rate of erosion has been incredible. The harbour entrance now being parallel with the beach and therefore the tidal flow in the same direction has lead to the systematic destruction of the groyne along the beach and the scouring of the beach head.

Homes have been periously close to being taken by the sea and continue to be so. The occupants of these homes many of an older generation are faced with the continuous fear that their beloved homes may be swept away by the sea.

All the measures that have been put in place have only been temporary in effect. The revetment has provided some protection in its locality but only with constant maintenance and rebuilding which must be of great expenditure, it has not provided protection for the rest of the beach though and in reality all it has done is pushed the problem further along and onto the next sets of groyne.

The seating area outside the yacht club has been destroyed and been left in dangerous state and their is evidence of beach erosion much further eastwards along the beach.

There is also a larger implication in failure to resolve this problem, this being a total breach of the beach head leading to flooding of Pagham itself.

Pagham beach has become a more dangerous place for residents and the public, the constant maintenance has made the beach front look unattractive akin to a building site.

The community realises the importance of SSSI status but the continual engineering works and instability of the beach surely must be detrimental to the conservation of the natural environment, wildlife and fauna.

In short I ask with the greatest of respect that the breach of the spit is carried out swiftly and put an end to the continuous destruction of our beach and an end to fear in the residents situated on the beach head.

Yours faithfully

Rob Aldridge
40 Sea Lane
Pagham
PO21 4UJ

Julie Grieves

From: Sue Bowley on behalf of Planning
Sent: 07 January 2016 09:27
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: FW: Planning Application Ref: P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Sue Bowley | PA to Director of Planning & Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council | Location: First Floor, Arun Civic Centre,
Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 23:53
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application Ref. P/97/15/PL: Pagham Beach managed breach of spit

Dear Sir/Madam,

I 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
- Chichester District Council Planning Application Ref: 15/03053/FULEIA

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:

I understand that the environment must be protected but I do not feel it should be at the expense of the people who live here and their homes. We are not asking to eliminate a habitat to build hundreds of houses, we are asking to have a managed breach of the spit that has built up since the harbour mouth has not been maintained. When I moved in to my house here the harbour mouth had been maintained, there was no spit and no erosion. All we are asking for is a return to this situation. The habitats will not be lost they will rearrange themselves.

Our home is all my son and I have in the world, if we lose this we will be homeless and unable to ever afford another home. Instead of being independent we will be reliant on the state to support us. My son worries constantly that his security and home will be lost, but I am unable to do anything to allay this fear as our houses are pretty much unsaleable at a reasonable price to afford the next one. As a mother I hate seeing him worry himself like this, he has been through enough with the family splitting up. A managed breach of the spit and return to the way the beach used to be will mean that we can relax and enjoy living here once again.

The erosion on the beach has meant a huge loss of shingle resulting in dangerous structures being exposed and the lovely seating area in front of the yacht club being destroyed. There is little to attract visitors to the beach area any more as it has become ugly and dangerous.

The erosion of the beach is threatening the houses right on the seafront but this is not the only threat. Once the sea breaches these houses, a lot of the land behind is below or at sea level and will flood as a consequence. This has the potential to flood many houses and destroy lives in a huge area of Pagham. There is the sewage pumping station that will be flooded and thereby affecting much of the area

with sewage. The businesses by nature in a seaside village are all close to the seafront and could be lost as a result of flooding or will be forced to close if too many homes are permanently lost. This will devastate the local economy and the village totally.

This should be a fix to the situation that will need to be maintained on an ongoing basis but will cost the ratepayers of the area a lot less in the long run than the temporary fixes that have been put in place over the past couple of years. While we are grateful that there has been attempts to protect the houses, these temporary fixes with invasive diggers and dumper trucks along with the erosion have contributed to devastation of the shoreline which is an SSSI area. The fix should allow the area to rest and recover some of its natural beauty as the longshore drift deposits the shingle back where it was, which will again draw visitors to enjoy the area.

In summary I am asking for this managed breach of the spit to be passed as soon as possible, decades of managing the harbour mouth worked. It will not destroy longstanding habitats, they were not there less than 10 years ago while the houses were! They will be rearranged as the longshore drift deposits shingle once again and settle down again, it will allow residents to relax again and restore health to those of us stressing about loss of our homes, it will protect the local economy, it will preserve the village of Pagham, it will not flood the sewage pumping station, it will give our shoreline SSSI chance to recover its natural beauty. There is no downside only positives. Please help us.

I respectfully ask you to take these thoughts into consideration when looking at the planning application.

With kind regards

Sara Jenkyns (and my son Finlay Pearson)
1A Lagoon Road
Pagham
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 4TJ