

FAO: Simon Davis
Planning,
Arun District Council,
Maltravers Road,
Littlehampton,
BN17, 5LF

3 January 2016

Dear Mr Davis,

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

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:

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. A solution is needed 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. From the work that has been carried out cutting the spit appears to provide a longer-term solution and be more cost effective, which would providing better Value for Money to the Treasury in the long term.

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.

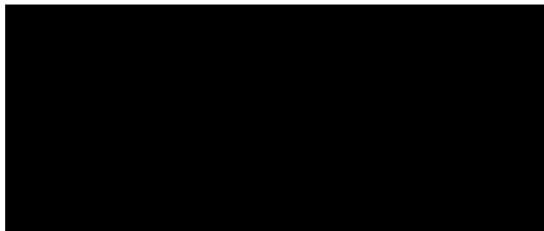
The people of Pagham, and further afield, both local and visitors, acknowledge that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the managed breach of Pagham Harbour is a stage leading to an engineered solution.

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.

Cut the spit without delay!

Thank you for taking into account my representations.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Henderson
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