

Pagham and District Residents Association

SECRETARY

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CHAIRMAN

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Pagham Coastal Defence – The Community Scheme

Dear Sir

On behalf of Pagham and District Residents Association, I feel it appropriate to confirm our support for the “Community Scheme” to re-instate the 1961 shore-perpendicular position of the entrance to Pagham Harbour.

The research and planning for this “scheme” has involved extensive study and commitment on the part of some dedicated members of our community, and expenditure which has now exceeded £250k.

Our Association members and Parish Councillors have worked alongside five consultant companies and key personnel of the Environmental Agency since the implementation of the “Chichester Flood Relief Scheme” in the year 2000.

Our Councillors have attended SCOPAC Seminars and conferences in gaining deeper understanding of coastal processes.

The “scheme” to properly manage the Harbour entrance is accurately replicating the “preferred option” which was developed and costed by the former Chief Engineer of Arun District Council in 2007, and endorsed by the EA Technical Study of 2011.

Our members will continue to promote fundraising in order to complete initial “works” and future maintenance. We shall also contribute to monitoring the natural processes of our sea front in order to draw attention to any indications of a need for maintenance subsequent to the implementation of the “Community Scheme”.

It has become abundantly clear from observations conducted by our members in recent months that the “natural breach” of the Church Norton Spit has not fulfilled my expectation of significant improvement to the “flood resilience”. Indeed we have witnessed vast quantities of the shingle, which might have deposited on our protective beach, being transported instead offshore, where it has built many shallows and offshore shoals. These eventually are transported by the prevail west to east longshore drift, and are found to be building a growing foreshore and beach crest at Bognor Regis, much to the consternation of those people who see this former sandy beach being smothered and destroyed.

Large areas of Pagham's frontage are either past or very near the adopted Royal Haskoning "emergency level". The Emergency Planning Officer's "Evacuation plan for Pagham" has been upgraded and republished in 2015 as a result of his visit to view the situation.

The recent "International Conference" held at Selsey to discuss the effects of climate change on coastal defence revealed the National Flood / EA / government proposal that "Coastal Communities" shall be expected to take responsibility for their own defence, and that "funding streams will be made available in the future." Pagham has received commendation from the Southern Area Manager of the Environment Agency for being a "beacon community".

This "community scheme" is but the first step in beginning to build a sustainable future for the community of Pagham. The ADC (Capita Symonds) study – (SFRA of 2009) predicts a tidal breach adjacent to the yacht club, the loss of many properties adjacent to the East Front Road frontage, and a significant storm driven tidal incursion into the main built-up area of Pagham. The EA Coastal Strategy for Pagham to East Head 2008/09 claims 330 homes are at risk at that date, rising to 1350 homes.

This is the most important matter that our residents and our elected Parish Councillors will ever face. It is more essential than ever that we should all work together in this endeavour to begin the engineering process before the coming winter weather. We have great faith and trust in our currently contracted consultants, who are among the best and most experienced in the UK. We are also grateful for political support of our District Councillors and trust that timely planning consent will facilitate the proposed "intervention works".

Kind regards



Ann Rowles
Chair Pagham and District Resident Association (1,000 households)

Copy: Pagham Parish Council
ADC Planning Dept.