

Lower Halstow Parish Council

C/o Parish Clerk Mrs Claire Fahy
44 Burntwick Drive, Lower Halstow
Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7DX
Tel: 01795 844884 email - claire.pariahclerk@fsmail.net

Cllr Ben Stokes
1 East Green
Kemsley
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 2SB

17 August 2008

Dear Ben

Re Lower Halstow Brickfields Amenity Area

I write further to the last meeting held by Lower Halstow Parish Council and in response to your suggestion.

The Brickfields currently has a problem with the existing sea defences being eroded by the sea. Part of the sea wall is maintained by the Environment Agency who have enforced the wall by lining it with blocks/bricks. However this does not cover the whole of the sea wall and has left a relatively small area between the dock and half way along the front wall, unprotected with exposed soil which is not maintained by the Environment Agency. Potentially without these defences a vast area of the village could be heavily flooded. There have been several floods in the last 100 years and with one very severe in 1953 which lead to the building of the current sea wall. With predicted sea level rises the exposed wall needs to be reinforced before it is eaten away by the sea.

I hope you will be able to assist us with our mission to repair the sea wall. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards

Yours faithfully



Claire Fahy
Clerk to the Council

SEA DEFENCES – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSES

Luddenham

Luddenham residents are happy with the current level of maintenance of, and repair to, the sea defences. What happens to the sea defences over the next decade if sea levels rise by more than the expected amount?

Eastchurch

Regarding the crumbling cliffs; Eastchurch has no sea defences.

Minster-On-Sea

Whilst Minster-on-Sea Parish Council acknowledges the efforts needed regarding sustainable long-term management policies for the coast, it has grave concerns that only the urban developments appear to be given priority for protection. If this plan is allowed in this form, the true identity of the Isle of Sheppey will be lost forever. It will be replaced by one large housing estate with little or no natural areas remaining.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council queries the E26 Sayes Court to North Elmley Island policy being MANAGED REALIGNMENT. The costs involved in realigning the sea defences can be better spent on raising the existing walls.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council agrees with the HOLD THE LINE POLICY in place for the C3 Minster Town area and would also want the beach to be maintained.

Minster-on-Sea Parish Council disagrees with the C4 Minster Slopes to Warden Bay policy of NO ACTIVE INTERVENTION. C4 – The Warden Bay end is already being defended – This should be continued along the whole length of the cliff. It will not stop the cliff falling but it will reduce the rate and gradually stop the fall.

Lower Halstow

Lower Halstow Parish Council are not happy with the proposals by the SMP to potentially allow areas of the Brickfields to flood and to become salt marshes. They want to be able to repair and maintain the existing defences in order to keep the whole amenity area and wildlife habitat.

Tonge

My Parish Council do not have any specific bullet points but are very concerned to hear that the sea walls in Tonge are not to be maintained to an standard that would protect from loss of land to the sea. Members would like to be involved in any discussion concerning this issue to put their views.

Teynham

Teynham Parish Council believes the sea defences must be maintained to existing heights

The sea wall from Conyer to Luddenham needs maintenance to the wall's facing.

This Parish Council appreciates that it is financially impossible for the sea defences to be raised to meet the threat of a surge tide due to climate change/global warming but strongly believes it is extremely important for the Environmental Agency to maintain the sea walls to their existing heights.

Leysdown-on-Sea

Cracks are appearing in the sea wall between the Promenade and Loves Beach.

Leysdown Councillors would like to be kept informed of developments regarding the managed realignment of defences and potential natural flooding of the protected wildlife habitat, and also the residences in Shellness Hamlet.

Warden

The concrete incline of the sea wall in Jetty Road just prior the hairpin bend into Imperial Way is being parked on by "beach fishermen" using various vehicle types. It is our belief this should be restricted / banned from happening, ideally by installing an Armco construction, or post along with double yellow lines detailing "no parking at any time".

28 August 2008

SHERNESS

PART OF THE SEA WALL OPPOSITE SEAGER ROAD HAS DROPPED.
ON THE ROAD SIDE OF THE SEA WALL DUE TO STRESS SMALL PARTS
OF THE SEA WALL ARE BREAKING UP.