

Bawdsey Parish Council

Response to DC/21/5480/FUL

Bawdsey Parish Council held a well-attended public meeting on Wednesday February 16th for Councillors and Parishioners to consider application DC/21/5480/FUL. It was recognised by all present that the coastal defences (and the cliffs to the north along the Bawdsey Manor estate frontage) are in a poor condition, and that work to rectify this situation and stabilise the area in front of the Pulhamite cliffs is urgently needed.

The application itself was felt to be sound and well argued, but several serious concerns were raised in the course of the discussion, and the final view taken by Councillors was approval, subject to East Suffolk Planning Authority and the members of the planning Committee being provided with clear and definitive information on a number of key issues. Bawdsey Parish Council believes that Enbe should provide a response on the following issues:

- What licences will be needed for this work, and when will they be available?
- Dividing the scheme into two phases seems sensible, but clarity is needed over exactly what monitoring would take place before the second phase, over what timescale, and thus what would trigger phase two? Depending on the findings of the Monitoring and Mitigation Review, it should be acknowledged that further hydraulic modelling will be required to support the phase 2 design.
- The application includes a detailed summary of many years of research work on the coast and estuary mouth. However, to complete this aspect of the work, some thorough modelling of the impact of the proposed scheme on the Knolls and the estuary mouth would have been extremely helpful. Equally, while the scheme includes a design for reinforcing the north end of the defences, no study has been made of the possible impact of these on the rapidly deteriorating cliffs along the front of the Manor estate further north, and whether defences there are necessary/appropriate. Assuming phase 1 is approved and constructed, the possible impact on the Knolls and estuary mouth to the south, and the soft cliffs to the north, must be the subject of continuing and serious research.

(Experience of the severe damage affecting the northern end of the East Lane rock armour – necessitating regular repairs over many years– does cause local concern.)

- Using beach nourishment because of the scouring that has already taken place makes good sense but a clear explanation of what suitable material will be used and where it will be sourced should be provided.
- Bawdsey residents and visitors alike have in the past been able to make their way on foot along the berm between the piling and the Pulhamite cliffs. In terms of public

Clerk: Mrs Jenny Webb

5 Fern Terrace, The Street, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3AH

Tel: 01394 410198 email: bawdsey-pc@hotmail.co.uk

access once the work has been completed, there are indications of steps at the north end of the berm but a clear indication of what overall access would be possible on foot would be very welcome.

- All present appreciated the intention spelt out in the application to bring in rock by barge and the explanation of what machinery would be needed, where it would be housed, and how brought to the site. While details of the transport and traffic generated by the scheme will inevitably be worked out at the contract stage, Bawdsey Parish Council would like to request at this stage that a clear commitment is made to working out a suitable scheme with County Council Highways and informing the neighbouring parishes of Alderton and Shottisham.
- Lastly, we would refer Committee members to the comments and points raised in the Deben Estuary Plan (2015) pages 24-25 beginning at 3.1.08 the Coastal frontage to the south of the Deben estuary.

Satisfactory responses to the above would make for a soundly based decision.