*The Moors at Arne Coastal Management Project. – Arne Parish Policies.*

*Determined at the Parish Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018.*

*Whereas:*

(i)       The Environment Agency is working with the RSPB and Natural England to explore the possibilities of building a new tidal embankment closer to Arne Road and creating gaps in the existing bank;

And

(ii)      The Environment Agency states that any proposal developed by the project will have to demonstrate no adverse impact through a combination of its basic design/ and or parallel control measures;

And

(iii)     The Environment Agency states that this project will allow it and its partners to maintain defences to protect properties from flooding for the next 100 years;

And

(iv)     The Environment Agency states that it is aware that there are existing surface water drainage issues in Ridge;

And

(v)      The Environment Agency states that it will check that its design will not 'unduly' impact navigation in the River Frome channel due to silting.

*However:*

(i)       There is no mention of bringing the South bank from Wareham to Ridge Wharf up to the same standard as the proposed new bank or to its future maintenance; this will be critically important to residents;

And

(ii)      There are major concerns about construction traffic and the routes it may take;

And

(iii)     At the moment there is poor amenity access to the south side of the Wareham channel and although improvements have been mooted there is as yet no specific plan;

And

(iv)     The Moors holds SSSI, SPA, RAMSAR and SAC designations.  There are rare species of flora and fauna on the site in particular the Whorled Caraway (Carum Verticillatum) and Vipers Grass (Scorzonera Humilis) as well as Great Crested Newts and rare Damselflies plus a variety of other invertebrates which reside in the brackish pools on The Moors.

(v)      With the existing defences no longer viable *it is not known what the final proposal will be in terms of position and routing of the new bank, its proximity to Ridge, where the gaps in the old wall will be created, what the construction technique will be and what the solution to Ridge drainage issues will be.*

*And so:*

With so many stated  performance  commitments by the Environment Agency and yet so many 'known unknowns' listed above, Arne Parish Council together with local residents recognise that there is a **huge risk** attached to this project and therefore the onus is on the Environment Agency to *demonstrate*  that the scheme will work.

But as the existing defences are no longer viable, doing nothing is not an option either:

 *It is therefore Arne Parish Council's policy:*

1)      To press for a plan which keeps the new tidal embankment as far from Ridge as possible;

2)      To press for a plan which also safeguards the south bank from Wareham to Ridge Wharf;

3)      To ensure that all survey and modelling findings, interpretation and emerging options are made available to and *discussed with the community in a full and timely manner and in advance of further proposal;*

4)      Once the plan is known, to have it scrutinized by independent review prior to it going to planning to ensure it is fit for purpose;

5)      To hold The Environment Agency, the RSPB and Natural England to their statements that the Moors at Arne project will not be undertaken if there is *any risk* of adverse impact on properties in Ridge and that the project will reduce the risk of flooding.  This principle to apply to risks of flooding *from all causes* – sea level rise, surface water and confluence of river in flood and spring high tides – and to all aspects of options within the project;

6)      To ensure that the rare flora and fauna on The Moors are recognised and mitigated for in an appropriate manner on site.

7)      This plan to provide effective *long term* protection;

8)      In the event of any plan proceeding, the EA  will be held accountable and responsible  for any future failure of the project which has any adverse effect on local residents' properties or livelihoods.

9)      These policies to be under continuing review, especially once the EA's detailed proposals are known.