

Deb Hotson
Clerk to Haxey Parish Council
Haxey Memorial Hall
High Street
Haxey
Doncaster
DN9 2HH

Our ref: immi000778
Your ref:
Date: 21 April 2009

Dear Ms Hotson

Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Management Strategy

I am writing to you following the recent meetings which Ian Cawsey MP chaired in Crowle and Haxey. Firstly I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend for your help which has been very useful in these early stages of the work we are doing. Secondly I'd like to give you an update on progress so far with the strategy.

As you know we are preparing a detailed strategy for the long term management of the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board defences and pumping stations in the Isle. The work will take around eighteen months to complete and is in a number of stages. The current stage is all about building up our understanding of the area and how the system of pumping stations and raised defences operates. From this we will be developing a series of options and eventually preparing a detailed plan in the summer of 2010. We know that it is absolutely vital that we have as wide an involvement as possible from local communities and other local bodies so we are delighted that Ian Cawsey MP has kindly agreed to lead a group of key organisations to advise the Agency on this work. However we also need to set up more local groups with the Isle community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to feed into the work. We will be contacting residents shortly to start this process.

The initial work which we have done has highlighted that the number of properties and the area of land which benefit from the current system of defences is potentially much larger than we had originally thought. This is good news in that it should give us a much stronger economic case as we start to look at options for the future.

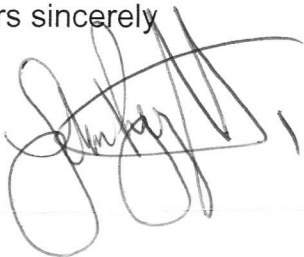
We are however seeking your help in continuing to look at the full range of assets which are protected by the defences. There are two significant gaps in our knowledge which I hope you can help to plug. As I mentioned at the meeting we rely to a large extent on databases to identify properties. Whilst this is quite accurate for residential properties the work we have done so far has identified a substantial number of buildings which cannot be identified as either houses or commercial premises. Most of these will be small agricultural buildings, sheds, garages and so

on but we hope that you may be able to help us to be more precise.

Secondly we are also keen to seek your help in identifying other features of the local area which are valuable to the local community but which do not generally come up on the type of searches which we would use. I am thinking of things such as amenity and recreation sites, footpaths which are not rights of way and historic or cultural sites. Identifying these will really help us to build up a full picture of the area and its value to the local community.

I hope that you will be able to help. If you can or if you would like any further information on the strategy then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Pygott', written over a horizontal line.

John Pygott
Project Manager

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