

Pawlett Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Miss Sam Warren
9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, TA9 3RJ
07887618248 clerk.pawlett@gmail.com

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To whom it may concern by email,

Prior to the recent Pawlett Parish Council meeting, members of the public were asked for their thoughts on the proposals by HPC/EDF to create a saltmarsh on the Pawlett Hams. After a debate the Parish Council voted to object to the proposal.

We set out below the Council's objections which are in two sections. First, the objections and second, without prejudice, comments on the draft scheme.

The Objection.

1. There is no detailed calculation of a correlation between the numbers of fish impacted if the AFD is not proceeded with, to the amount of land proposed for the saltmarsh.
2. The loss of 840 acres of what is described as "prime agricultural land" will significantly impact on those who have farmed/tenanted the Hams for generations.
3. It will contribute to the loss of food security which is of increasing concern to the population generally.
4. As outlined it will allow little public access either for pedestrian, dog walkers and horse riders.
5. It precludes any disabled public access to the river.
6. No consideration has been given to drainage from existing rhynes which will be cut off by the new flood defence embankment, (around the areas of Gaunts Farm/Gaunts Barn).
7. White House Road is of considerable historic interest, dating from Roman/Saxon periods (Herepath), being the main route to Devon and Cornwall.
8. It is not considered that the safety concerns about using divers to clean the AFD units has been sufficiently investigated, for example the use of robotic submersibles.
9. Part of the site already forms compensation land for the local landfill site, to use it for HPC compensation is double counting.
10. There would appear to be other sites nearer to HPC that could be used.

Comments

1. Public access should be provided through the two marsh areas, but not along the lines of high voltage pylons which has both high tension noise and static electricity.
2. Public footpaths should provide a circular route from which the river and saltmarsh can be seen. This is important from a physical and mental health perspective.
3. The embankment should retain it's public (albeit truncated) access as at Steart.
4. There should be provision for carparking, with the imposition of Traffic Regulation Orders to reduce traffic speeds.
5. Should it go ahead we would wish to insist the quality of the flood defence is sufficient to protect the low-lying land surrounding the area, not only from the estuary, but also from rainfall, as the Hams currently act as a drainage system for Stretcholt. This needs to have serious consideration.
6. Consideration should be given to the construction of a temporary landing stage on the riverbank (opposite Combwich) to import aggregate, thus avoiding use of local roads through Pawlett and Stretcholt.

For and on behalf of all Councillor's on Pawlett Parish Council.