Moncrieff, Evelyn

From: Gedney, David
Sent: 23 April 2015 14:06
To: _planningadvice
Subject: FW: Planning Ref: H18-1042-14

Please scan – supporting info from applicant's agent

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From: geoff beel [mailto:geoff.beel@tiscali.co.uk]
Sent: 23 April 2015 13:09
To: Gedney, David
Cc: clery@curlew.fsworld.co.uk; G R Merchant Ltd
Subject: Planning Ref: H18-1042-14

David

I refer to the latest response from the Environment Agency dated 10th April.

Whilst the Environment Agency maintains its objection to the proposed development; it is based on the **consequences** of a breach occurring to the River Nene tidal defences as required by the Technical Guidance to the NPPF.

However, what the Environment Agency are unable to consider in their assessment is the **probability** of such an event occurring which is a very low risk. The Environment Agency and Defra policy at present is to state that due to **"the permissive powers of the current legislation; there is no guarantee of funding being available to improve the tidal defences over the lifetime of the development i.e. 100 years".**

This policy puts at risk of flooding a very large area of the South Holland District with estimated floodwaters due to breaches of the defences extending as far inland as Long Sutton and Holbeach and consequently putting population and property at risk.

The last occasion such a similar event occurred was 1978 since when the tidal defences of the Rivers Welland and Nene together with the Wash frontage have been improved to required standard. The more recent tidal surge of December 2013 provided a reminder that the defences should be improved in future years due to the effects of climate change.

With this background to legislation and policy; Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to promote development in Flood Zone 1 which in South Holland would severely restrict any development between the route of the A17 road and the tidal defences. However, as stated previously, the probability of the risk of flooding is very low and subject to appropriate flood mitigation measures being incorporated the development is considered safe and should be again recommended for approval to the Chairman's Panel .

Geoff