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The Letters Editor
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**Local Authorities are being Blackmailed into accepting the Anglian Coastal Authorities Group (ACAG)
Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)**

Dear Editor

Re Malcolm Kirby's letter in EDP 08/09/2007, his statement that so far as the Government (DEFRA) are concerned "the technical aspects of the SMP are written on tablets of stone" is absolutely correct and reinforces my statement (letter in EDP 28/08/2007) that the basic policy for each coastal unit will not be changed, irrespective of the conditions of acceptance requested by local authorities/councils or the amount of consultation with local groups and subsequent requests to DEFRA for amendments.

The DEFRA document "Making Space For Water" (the title betrays its intention) which was the for-runner to this SMP was widely circulated for consultation, as was its subsequent document the ACAG SMP; but this made no difference to the aim of, or policies in the final documents, because despite severe criticism and suggested alternatives no policy changes were made in the final documents.

Malcolm's other statement that "if responsible authorities do not accept the SMP they will be considered outside the system and not eligible to bid for sea defence funding and places like Sheringham, Cromer, Bacton Gas Site, and Gorleston would not be happy with this" is blackmail and may be true, but, except for these locations plus Mundesley, Great Yarmouth, California and Caister which will all become peninsulas, most of the remaining Norfolk coastline has a policy of "No Active Intervention" in this SPM for the next 100 years and will be doomed to persistent loss from coastal erosion and change the shape of the Norfolk shoreline for ever.

With exception of Eccles to Winterton Beach Road which is the responsibility of the Environment Agency all the remaining units along the Norfolk coastline are the responsibility of either NNDC or GYBC, both these authorities now recommend accepting this SMP (subject to consultation and conditions), but.

Because the policies (technical aspects) for each unit in this SMP are "written on tablets of stone" and will not be changed I can not understand his support for a SMP which advocates sacrificing most of Norfolk's coastline to the sea.

What happened to the proposed alternative to this SMP, a proactive document with input from local communities and action groups?

Yours sincerely
Mike King – Marinet Friends of the Earth Great Yarmouth