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The Letters Editor
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**Despite Public Objections Great Yarmouth Borough Council has agreed to Adopt the Anglian Coastal Authorities
Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)**

Dear Editor

At Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) meeting on 22 August 2007 the Councillor for Ormesby St. Margaret and Scratby J Shrimplin proposed that GYBC adopt the above SMP (disguised as SMP2 in the documentation), his recommendation was accepted and GYBC council will be advised to accept the SMP at their next full council meeting. There were no discussions, members of the public who attended the meeting were not allowed to ask any questions and J Shrimplin's proposal was accepted by the chairman as though a fore-gone conclusion.

When this plan was circulated for public consultation during 2006 there were more than 2,400 responses and only 10 of these responses found this SMP acceptable.

There were also public meetings in Hemsby and Ormesby St. Margaret during 2005 on the implications of this SMP after the draft document was introduced, which Mr. Shrimlin attended.

The venues for these meetings were packed and the overwhelming opinion was severe opposition to this plan which has a policy of allowing the Winterton to Scratby section of our coastline to erode and accepting land and property losses in this area without compensation.

There have been no changes to these policies in the final SMP document now accepted (in principal) by GYBC, so why did Councillor Shrimplin recommend its acceptance against the wishes of his constituents.

It appears that with Councillor Shrimplin's appointment as GYBC cabinet member for the environment he has forgotten the weight of public opinion against this plan by the people of Ormesby St. Margaret and Scratby who elected him.

It was stated that there will be public consultation and matters of concern will be referred to DEFRA (the government department responsible) prior to implementation, but by accepting the plan in principal GYBC will be accepted its policies for each unit.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency (the government department which will be responsible for all England's coastline management in 2008) may allow minor changes but they will not allow a change in policy for any unit in the SMP and the (now accepted) policy in this plan for the Winterton to Scratby unit is "**No Active Intervention**" i.e. do nothing and be allowed to erode.

The reason Councillor Shrimplin gave for recommending that GYBC accept the SMP was that they would not be able to obtain any grant money from the government for sea defences maintenance in their areas of responsibility if they did not accept the SMP, this could be defined as blackmail by DEFRA and (in my opinion) is an unacceptable high price to pay for the sacrifice of the Winterton to Scratby section of our coastline.

Yours sincerely

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