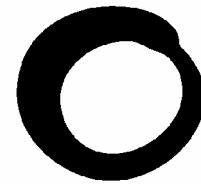




Marine Information Network
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**Friends of
the Earth**

Mr. Tony Wright - MP for Great Yarmouth
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NR30 1NE

79 California Avenue
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NR29 3NS

Our Ref. MJK/TW/P/081

30th April 2008

Government Policy for Provision of Sea Defences

Dear Tony

Many thanks for your letter dated 14 April regarding my letter ref. MJK/M/PW/1 to Phil Woolas on the above and the proposed option in the recent report by Natural England to allow a vast area of Norfolk to be flooded by the sea.

I understand your concern about the way in which Natural England and the media have reported this story, but my colleagues and I are more concerned that this option should be presented by Natural England as a serious consideration to combat rising sea levels, coastal erosion and neglected sea defences for this section of the Norfolk coastline.

If the UK is prepared to consider giving up a considerable section of its limited land mass which is under pressure due to our ever increasing population I suspect there must be a long term alternative motive: i.e. in a northerly storm surge this new open-to-the-sea wetland would act as a sink to protect the Thames Estuary and London.

Thank you also for your assurance that you are taking this issue very seriously and will be seeking meetings with Phil Woolas and Natural England to discuss the matter. I hope we will be able to have a continued liaison and your support for my campaign for the provision of and continued maintenance of sea defences from the California rock berm (where the extended Great Yarmouth & Caister sea defences end) along the coastline for the low-lying area which fronts the northern end of the Norfolk Broads to Seapalling.

When we consider that the current rate of sea rise due to global warming is 3.2mm/year and we add the 2.0mm/year of land sink for this coastline which gives us a total equivalent sea level rise of only 5.2mm/year for the Norfolk coastline due to global forces beyond our control; the UK is one of the most technically advanced nations in the world and our engineers would be more that capable of designing and constructing economic and viable sea defences for the above area to combat these sea level rises for the next 50 years to save lives and Norfolk's irreplaceable land.

I am pleased to inform you that I have recently received a detailed reply to my letter ref. MJK/M/PW/1 from Phil Woolas – copy enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Mike King - Great Yarmouth Resident & MARINET Great Yarmouth

Enc: copy of letter from Phil Woolas ref: PO79405/JD dated 23 April 2008