

■ COP26 has now finished without any cast iron commitment from the major polluting countries to achieve the objective of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The UN forecast of 2.4-2.8°C is still the most likely outcome.

Why is this so important to us here on Hayling? It is because at 2.4°C global warming, Hayling Island will be at or below the Ordnance Datum (Mean Sea Level) by 2115. This means that the existing Environment Agency tide rise forecast will further increase from 0.9-1.2 mtrs up to 1.5-1.9 mtrs, which would place all of the Island in the Cat 3 flood risk zone.

You can see a map showing flood risk details which compares the Island flood risk at 1.5°C and 2.4°C by visiting www.saveourisland.org.uk

But there is no need to panic – it does not mean the Island is going to flood any time soon, but what it does mean is that the harbour-facing coastal sea walls will need to be raised to well over 5 mtrs AOD and the beach to well over 6 mtrs AOD (from the existing 2-4 mtrs AOD and 3-5 mtrs AOD respectively.)

It also means that future developments on Hayling Island during the 100-year lifecycle period of the proposed houses will now be in the Cat 3 flood zone and will probably not comply with the Government recommendation that development in Cat 3 zones should be avoided, and only proposed where no satisfactory alternative is available. We have provided a detailed list of questions to Havant Borough Council (HBC) to clarify the risks over time and their proposal on risk acceptance and protection strategy. The Coastal Partners' latest publication does not answer any of our questions. <https://coastalpartners.org.uk/static/media/resources/web-presentation-july-update.pdf>

Only with the provision of a detailed analysis will the Island residents be in a position to evaluate the Coastal Partners' Hayling Island Coastal Strategy when published, and respond with their considered opinions.

■ The flooding on Tuesday 7 December was caused by a major fall in atmospheric pressure and an unusual wind direction.

The air pressure came down in 12 hours from 1010mb to 991mb. This, on its own, raised the sea level from the forecasted 4.9 mtrs to 5.6 mtrs, an increase of 0.7 mtrs. There was also an unusual wind direction (a force 8 gale from the south east) driving the waves at the east coast of Hayling and Langstone. We should be thankful that there were no bimodal wave forms present at the same time.

■ The Government Inspectors' report on the HBC Local Plan, published after the July 2021 hearing, strongly recommended that the Plan be withdrawn for re-evaluation, improvements and be re-presented for consultation. Since that time, HBC have rebutted the Inspectors' advice and called for the Plan to stand "with a few tweaks" (in the words of HBC.)

Since the Council's original letter was sent to the Inspectors, there have been two more letters sent by HBC.

Amidst the technical jargon of the letters, there are two items which stand out. HBC seem to be trying to keep the housing at Eastoke Corner and Beachlands in the Plan, based on the fact that these sites were allocated prior to an understanding of the real flood risks, and stating that the NPPF is not up to date with the latest Government recommendation "to not build in a Cat 3 flood zone." Exposing new residents to this (now known) flood risk is unacceptable.

There is also a grudging acceptance by HBC that the Transport Assessment for Hayling requires a revision to recognise the real traffic demands on the single access route to Hayling – the A3023 – on the flow/capacity of the bridge. It also recognises the need for meaningful Stakeholder Engagement. You know that Save Our Island, along with all your other representatives, have been recommending and committing support for this for over three years now.

We believe – following our detailed involvement in the examination process – that the Inspectors' critique of the Plan is accurate, and their recommendations should be accepted by HBC whatever process for resolving the numerous issues is finally agreed.