

SAVE OUR ISLAND ARTICLE FOR MAY 2023 HAYLING HERALD

SAVE OUR ISLAND has now provided Secretary of State Coffey with a paper covering Flood Risk (supported by Havant Borough Council and Alan Mak MP) pointing out the deficiencies in the current legislation, and suggesting the changes required for a complete overhaul of the valuation and funding process for our flood defence.

Currently, vulnerable areas like Hayling Island attract little value in the eyes of our Government under the existing process. Dr Coffey's department have recently stated that (a) they are using the 2018 Environment Agency Flood Risk Forecast, and (b) the existing process will ensure that all development on Hayling Island will be safe from flooding across its lifetime. These statements are misleading and wrong.

The 2018 EA forecast is way lower than the latest UN IPCC analysis. The risks are growing exponentially now, and there's nothing the Government can do to stop it. Stating that this out of date forecast somehow presents a situation which will not get worse over time borders on criminal obfuscation.

Pic 1 Overtopping of waves refers.

Outsourcing our water and sewage utilities has been a disaster. These key elements of the Nation's infrastructure require a combined strategy to ensure sufficient sewage capacity and drinking water based on a national grid. Instead, we have any number of profit-driven companies doing whatever their individual economic plans demand. The number of water reservoirs has been reducing for years, and there are no plans for a national water grid.

Southern Water – one of the worst sewage-release offenders and has the lowest possible performance rating from the EA – had 200 sewage discharges in January 2023, and was a major contributor to the National 301,091 spills or 1.75 million hours of sewage discharges in 2022. This number is increasing every year. Southern Water, in their 2022 report to the EA, failed to explain the reason for its sewage spills last year. said they “did not know the reasons for any of the discharges in 2022.” Dr Coffey said she was “horrified” and that “this reinforced the need for the detailed action plans.” You bet it does!

Pic 2 of Sewage Leak at Pond Head refers.

Havant Borough Council are also concerned that Southern Water are not to be trusted, and are undertaking their own harbour water quality programme in Langstone Harbour. Hayling Island has one of the worst Blue Flag Beach pollution records at 102 spills for 793 hours.

Fining water companies clearly does not achieve the desired effect as the monies are not used to improve the situation. Secretary of State Coffey must get a firm grip on the throats of these companies and force urgent changes.

PIC 1 SHOWING OVERTOPPING OF WAVES ON THE BEACH



PIC 2 SHOWING SEWAGE LEAK WORKS AT POND HEAD

