

SAVE OUR ISLAND ARTICLE FOR APRIL HAYLING HERALD

THE Sinah Lane Development for 195 houses was passed by the newly-established Planning Committee on Wednesday 10 March. It was passed six votes for, with one abstention – against previously submitted objections made by 549 residents, and 13 written and verbal depositions against at the meeting, including two submitted by Hayling Island Councillors. It is important to recognise that there are no longer any Hayling Island Councillors involved in the HBC Planning Committee process at all.

This decision was based on the presumption in favour of development unless a serious negative impact to the community resulted, and the fact that HBC does not have a 5-year housing supply.

The decision was taken despite these facts:

- The road network situation remains highly contentious with unfunded mitigation projects - £10.5m required, £670k promised
- The Coastal Partners' Strategy for Hayling Island is still one year away from publication
- Pollution of our surrounding harbours continues unchecked, and HBC has yet to join the torrent of objections from many organisations, including Chichester and Portsmouth Councils
- Uncontrolled erosion of the beach will continue.

And to make matters worse the Hayling Island Infrastructure Advisory Group – which was set up specifically for this purpose – has not been called for over a year!

Be under no illusion that this will be considered a victory, and we predict that the other housing applications will now come forward rapidly, including the potential for 400 units at Rook Farm on St Mary's Road.

The 'soft' shingle sea defences at Eastoke were completed on 2 March 2021. Most people recognise this is not a long-term solution as climate change raises the sea level by a minimum of 1.4 mtrs over the next 80 years. The Coastal Partners' website indicates this work is to handle a "one in 200 years" storm event, but here we are only 12 days after the completion of the work, and the 'new' shingle bank has already experienced overtopping. The photos below show the level of erosion caused on the night of 11 March 2021.

On the Coastal Strategy, our HCC Councillor has previously invited more residents to get involved. We agree with this view; however, since the original workshops there has been little in the way of updates on the project. Surely there is an obligation on Coastal Partners to provide status updates and a process to ensure a continuing community involvement. There is still time to make your feelings about our beaches known visit

<https://coastalpartners.org.uk/authority/havant/> for more details, and email your comments to coastal.team@havant.gov.uk

