**ALDE-ORE ESTUARY PLAN: FUNDRAISING THROUGH ENABLING DEVELOPMENT**

**NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Introduction**

We are fortunate to live in an area that is enjoyed and loved by those who live here and by numerous visitors throughout the year, sustaining a strong local economy and high property values. Our generation now needs to play its role in that long unbroken chain of stewardship, ensuring that the landscape we love in this area is preserved, the sailing can continue, the 60 km of footpaths round the walls can still be walked, and the area will remain as popular for residents and visitors as it is now.

A key part of our programme is upgrading the estuary walls so that they will be able to withstand overtopping in a 1:200 year surge for three hours … a severe and rare event. It is estimated that we need a total of £12million to achieve this.

There are three broad strands to our fundraising: Public funds such as Environment Agency grants; donations from all other sources, charitable, public and private and £5m from farmers and other landowners. This £5m will be raised by applications for small residential developments on donated land. This would be ‘Enabling Development’ so that any uplift in value is used only by the Estuary Trust to fund the upgrading of the flood defences.

The District Council has agreed to consider development proposals submitted on this basis subject to compliance with strict criteria that can be seen here (<http://aoep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Appendix-10-Enabling-development-criteria.pdf>)

This first newsletter is intended to summarise progress on site selection and public engagement and to set out key contact information.

**Site Selection**

Phase 1 of the enabling development process started on site selection in June 2016 after the Estuary Plan was passed by all the statutory bodies. It is already agreed that we need many fewer plots than the 80-100 originally estimated in the Alde-Ore Estuary plan. There are currently 9 possible sites with a total of 15-17 houses being formally considered in the parishes of Iken, Sudbourne, Orford, Chillesford and Tunstall. **Provided** outline planning is agreed by SCDC, plots will be transferred to the Estuary Trust and sold with outline planning permission. The Estuary Trust will not be involved in building houses.

The potential sites are:-

1. **Orford**  Three x 1 acre sites each with a single house at Newton Broadway,

 Rayden Lane and Mill Broadway

One site with 2 starter homes (low cost) on Orford Road at start of village on the left

1. **Chillesford**  Single site, with 2 pairs of small semi detached houses

(4 x 3 bed houses in total) opposite The Froize Inn

1. **Sudbourne**  Single site in the village with two (or three) houses on south side of

 School Lane

1 acre site with one house on corner of Ferry Road and High House Farm Road

1. **Tunstall**  Single site on edge of village in School Road – House numbers still to be agreed
2. **Iken** Single 3 acre site with one house north of the left hand bend by

the High Street (discussions continuing on other sites)

We have taken immense care to appoint architects with a track record of good low energy design and careful and sensitive consultation; Wincer Keivenaar have a long standing reputation for bespoke projects of a practical nature, but with high quality design, while Charles Curry-Hyde specialises in sensitive sites, many of which are in Conservation Zones.

**Public Engagement**

There will be a number of opportunities for everyone to make comments, both before and after the submission of any formal application. The initial sketch plans have already been presented to Parish Councils and/or public meetings for open consultation.

So far we have met with Iken, Sudbourne, Orford, Tunstall and Chillesford Parish Councils. Issues raised have included the landscape, access, services, the impact on neighbours and the housing balance required by the local community. We have already amended several of our initial proposals in response and we have started a list of “frequently asked questions” which we will add to as comments are submitted. All sites will be marketed in the normal way by agents and when formal plans are drawn up they can be available on the website for everyone to see.

**Next Steps and contact details**

Formal submission of the first application is likely to be about November/December. The relevant Parish Councils are all aware of these sites so you can contact them instead if you prefer. We plan to issue regular updates every few months and comments can always be sent in via email to aoepcontact@gmail.com. Our website is [www.aoep.co.uk](http://www.aoep.co.uk) and you can follow us on Twitter: @SOSestuary

In October The Estuary Trust will be launching an appeal for funds to raise £5million over the next few years from all other sources than public funds and the farming community. They will be ‘telling the story’ of our estuary and how its flood defences came into being over the past 800 years. Over that period every generation has maintained and improved the clay walls, and rebuilt them when the elements have destroyed them. Comments, suggestions and offers of help for fund raising in cash or in kind, at any time can be sent to The Estuary Trust (aoetrust@gmail.com).

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