## SHOEBURY COMMON FLOOD DEFENCE

Southend Councils preferred scheme involves a 1km (0.65 miles) long secondary flood defence wall at 1.98 metres high, plus 1.4 metre high railings, starting from the MOD wall down to St Augustine Avenue and includes several floodgates from 2.5 to 8.0 metres wide.

Although the wall is only 400mm wide, it will have an additional 4 metre wide (13 feet) crest of soil with steep ramps & stairs for public access.

- Access for disabled & infirm will be restricted
- Emergency vehicle access also restricted
- Security risk / vandalism increased once enclosed
- Serious risk crossing road, flood gate & cycle path
- Sea views destroyed & resident's privacy lost
- Reduced car parking and loss of Leisure space

#### **OUR SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE INVOLVES:**

- Raising boat ramp by 900mm to match MOD wall
- Raising existing promenade / walkway by 550mm
- Soil used will strengthen existing sea wall
- Provide new 400mm high wall for added protection
- Raise promenade beach huts by 550mm to match
- Provide new secure beach huts on raised level
- Use existing huts if owners prefer this option
- Use free soil for promenade & low-level banks
- Surplus soil to be used on other high risk areas
- All other areas to remain including flood plain
- Beach re-charge / maintenance in separate budget
- This option would be considerably cheaper

#### SHOEBURY COMMON FLOOD DEFENCE

We URGENTLY Need your Support to STOP this wall Being built

If possible Please email us So we can add Your name to Our circulation List or we can Provide you With further Information If requested

Email: Peterlovett46@gmail.co

Or write to: **Ray Bailey 91 Parkanaur Avenue Thorpe Bay Southend-on-Sea** Essex **SS1 3JA** 

Tel: 01702-585332

# Shoebury Common is under threat of destruction by Southend Council.

West Shoebury Conservative Councillors Jarvis, Cox & Day are leading the charge.

They plan to ignore existing Covenants that protect Shoebury common as an open space for recreation, which benefits residents & visitors alike. It was hoped to rush through planning in 2012 to use the Cliffs soil as a second line of sea defence, in what is classified a "low risk" area. The existing sea wall should be their priority. No public consultation has taken place to date.

#### This preferred scheme is a luxury we cannot

**afford**. In May 2012 it was  $\pounds 2m$  but this has risen to  $\pounds 4.6m$  & the total cost could be up to  $\pounds 10m$  if you include rebuilding / maintenance costs for the existing sea wall & re-charging the beach with sand, which is still required.

#### The New Ranges, East Beach, Leigh & Westleiff are at greater risk of flooding. Urgent

improvements are required at New Ranges, but despite being at greater risk, it is not scheduled to start until 2018 – Why? They have several thousand tons of soil already stored nearby at Gunners Park

The council claim this scheme will protect 500 homes, which we dispute, but they cannot provide a list of the properties involved.

#### We have raised concerns about

- criminality once fully enclosed,
- the impact on the elderly & disabled gaining access to their beach huts & promenade,
- increased risk of flooding from storm water,
- loss of car parking spaces,

- loss of privacy to adjacent properties,
- health & safety issues when crossing the road or walking through the flood gates / cycle paths, to name but a few.

An alternative scheme has been submitted to the council, which we believe would be far cheaper and is detailed on the back page.

There are no services under the promenade & lifting the promenade will strengthen to existing sea wall.

Because the new wall is being built around 20 metres back from the existing, it needs to be 1.4m high to reach the top of the existing sea wall. The existing wall only needs to be 900mm high to offer the same protection. Walk from St Augustine Avenue to the Yacht Club and you will see the <u>existing</u> sea wall is between 3 metres to 1.4 metres above high sea levels now, so why do we need a secondary wall behind?

**Before it is too late (consultation closes at 5pm 10th May 2013), please support our campaign** and register your details with us now –

Southend Council have now agreed to a public meeting at

The Wendy Owen Hall at Shoeburyness High School (accessed through Caulfield Road) on

22<sup>nd</sup> April from 7.30pm.

Council staff and specialist advisors will be present to make a presentation and answer questions.

### PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ATTEND

Thank you for your support

