

Dear council!

I am writing this letter from Lymington. This small town lies on the south of England. The town is spreading out on the coast of the Lymington River. The area of Lymington River is low-lying and that is why the soil here is not really fertile because it is salty and sodden. But the nature value here is really important because in the marshes nest a lot of different types of birds.

But I am not writing letter because we have a lot of nice birds and because of all the beauty which we have it here. I am writing because I want to inform you about our fear and I am asking you to do something.

Because Lymington River is low-lying it is often flooded. This wouldn't be a problem if in last years wouldn't those huge floods start to destroying our area. In the past there were some floods but not so strong and not so often. But nowadays this happens really frequently because of the global warming and changing of the climate.

It is shame to lose such a land as the Lymington River is. First of all it is quite populated and the estuary is a home and life of a lot of people. Every year there are more people who buy a new weekend house there, also myself I bought house here last year, and we are all trying finding a place for relaxing.

Also the recreational sailing is developing. The tourism grows faster. Young people see a lot of opportunities to provide a lot of money and they are trying to provide as much money as possible. Here is also a port where the boats are built and repaired. They bring a jobs and money to a lot of people. Also fishing is quit popular.

All people here are afraid that they will one day wake up sunken. That the storm surges will destroy all their effort and it will take everything.

People are afraid and it is time to do something. Why we should protect the Lymington River? All inhabitants in Lymington River know that dykes and flood walls are really expensive and they are ugly but if the strong storm surges come, how will people protect themselves? What we will do with all destroyed nests of birds and wildlife? And where will all those people who work in port and in tourism get the jobs and money? And where I will get a new home if my will be destroyed?

I think that we should allow nature to go own way but we can not forget on the people. In our case is much more than nature. In name of all residents of Lymington River I am asking you and suggesting that you do something for our protection. We know that is expensive but in couple of years all investigate money will come back with developing tourism and ports activities.

We don't know what kind of protection would be the best so we also need some experts who will find out the best solutions.

We know we can not defeat nature but we can somehow protect ourselves of it. Not only may house, everything can sea destroy.

We are begging you for your help and we hope that it won't arrive too late.

Best regards,

Lymington River 21.3.2007