

Snape Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Report on behalf of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership - The AOCPP has representatives from every parish which borders on or contains part of the Alde and Ore Estuary including Snape and has been run by volunteers from each of the communities since inception in 2012.

The AOCPP is the guardian of the Estuary Plan to safeguard the area from extreme flooding and provides, via its representatives, a route to communicate plans and views about them. It meets quarterly and members of the public are always welcome to attend. *(for details see www.aocp.co.uk)*

The Alde and Ore Estuary is central to life in Snape and its surrounding area, its residents, businesses and the wonderful natural surroundings. The river wall embankments have to be improved every 70 years or so. A major open day for the public was held at Snape Maltings last October setting out the plans and why they are needed: more details can be found on the Virtual Visitor Centre icon on the AOCPP website.

Now after 10 years hard work, the vital plans to improve the river walls are coming into operation to bring these to a standard to withstand sea surges, our greatest threat, until at least the year 2050 and beyond. The approval of the plans to do Phase 1 in the upper estuary (Snape down river to Aldeburgh) and the substantial government grant to go with it, £11 million, was announced a year ago. After a huge amount of essential preparatory work, this autumn should see the start of wall improvements at Tunstall and Snape Maltings, in 2025 Snape Village and in 2026 moving the upper part of the Aldeburgh marshes near Brick Dock, with the lower part near Slaughden in 2027 and also it is hoped in 2027 the upper end of Flood Cell 4, which runs for 15 miles from Ferry Point into the north to the southern part of Gedgrave.

The work to complete preparing the plans for Phase 2, the Lower Estuary which includes Orford and Gedgrave Parish, is in hand to secure technical approval for what is proposed. The aim is for these embankment improvement works to begin towards the end of 2027 taking 3- 4 years to complete. The technical approval opens the way to securing more funding. It is hoped to get another £10 million from the government for the lower estuary, but in these times of reduced government funding the whole estuary community needs to find around £20 million. The Alde and Ore Estuary Trust is leading on this. Much of the funding will hopefully come from trusts, foundations, the Heritage Lottery Fund, philanthropists and donors but this summer you will see the third fund raising flotilla from Aldeburgh arriving around mid-day at Orford Quay on 28 July -do join in or come and see it. (www.aoetrust.org for details)

Alison Andrews Hon Secretary 8 May 2024