

ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – REPORT FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 30 MARCH 2025

The Alde and Ore Community Partnership - has representatives from every parish which borders on or contains part of the Alde and Ore Estuary, including Snape. Tim Beach is the Snape representative.

The Partnership is the guardian of the Estuary Plan to safeguard the area from extreme flooding and provides, via its representatives of the community, 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 very important to the wellbeing of 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. An estuary Plan to achieve this was endorsed in 2016. Since then, further planning and extensive flood modelling has been undertaken. Flood modelling dictates that improving the river embankments requires the work to begin at the top of the estuary and works its way down to the estuary sea outlet.

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 in 2023. After a huge amount of essential preparatory work and updating of costings, given the unusually high increases in costs in 2023 and 2024 because of the world energy markets, the Ukraine war, other factors affecting the nation's economy and the work now going forward for Sizewell C, the plan has had to be revised. It is now hoped that construction work for the two of the four upper estuary flood cells containing Snape Maltings and Snape village will go ahead this autumn and be completed by the end of 2027. A public drop-in around these changes was held in Snape village hall on 7 April 2025.

While the construction work is going ahead at Snape, further work on exploring and developing alternative ways to complete delivering the flood protection outlined in the Estuary Plan for the rest of the estuary from Aldeburgh, Iken through Orford and below will be taking place. This may involve possibly one or more working groups. Further, the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust which seeks to fill the gap between government and other grants and the total cost of the works is developing a revised funding strategy to meet the new situation.

The next quarterly meeting of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership is expected to be on Thursday 26 June 2025, when further updates will be given.

Alison Andrews Hon Secretary 7 May 2025