

Mr & Mrs G J Scotcher

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FAO Dr Thérèse Coffey MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

DEFRA

Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

28th March 2017

Dear Dr Coffey

Ref: LDC 2505: Proposed Abolition of the Arun IDB

We write in response to the draft notice of abolition of the River Arun IDD that appeared in the London Gazette of 6th March 2017 and also in response to your letter to The Rt Hon Nick Herbert MP of 15th February 2017 in which you state you have agreed to proceed to the second stage of the abolition process for the Arun Internal Drainage Board.

We have lived by the River Arun for 60 years plus. We were living in the Arun Valley when the river was dredged and the flood banks built and all the flood defence structures were put in place, ie pumps, tidal one way flaps, re-alignment of ditches and culverts.

These have been maintained for a good many years by the Environment Agency (EA), but in recent years, less and less maintenance has been carried out. We now have trees growing within the river boundaries, slowing the flow of water when in flood conditions, putting pressure on the up stream side to the extent that the water overtops the banks, flooding property, roads and land. The mowing of the banks has also been stopped. We were told by the EA representative that by not mowing the banks and leaving the grass long, would in a flood, tend to pull the grass out by its roots, exposing the banks to erosion and finally breaching the banks.

We are very aware of all these problems as having our house and land flooded twice, once in 2000 and again 2013, having to completely refurbish the lower half of the cottage on both occasions, as did our immediate neighbours.

Please could you stop the dissolution of the IDB until the outcome of the Arun Vision has run its course.

Yours sincerely

Mr G J Scotcher

Mrs M P Scotcher

cc Nick Herbert

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