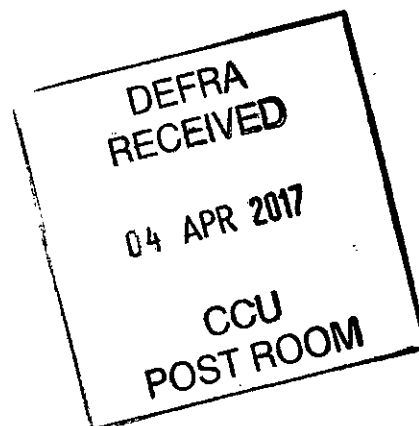


Mrs S Ayling
Barnyard Cottage
Houghton
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9LN

1 April 2017

FAO Dr Therese Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR



Dear Dr Coffey

Proposed Abolition of the Arun Internal Drainage Board

I write to lodge an objection to your proposal to conclude the Scheme of Abolition for the Arun Internal Drainage Board following the notice in the London Gazette dated 6 March 2017.

The Environment Agency has not reached any agreement with local parties as they were required to do by your predecessor. Local concerns have certainly not been addressed by the Environment Agency. This work and agreement with local parties was required to conclude the Scheme of Abolition as set out by Carol Tidmarsh, Defra in July 2016.

Stakeholders and others are working hard to set up the Arun Vision, supported by landowners, tenants, property owners, the local MP (Nick Herbert), EA, Water Companies, Local Authorities, RSPB, SWT, Forestry Commission, National Trust, NFU, South Downs National Park Authority and others. This Arun Vision is in its infancy and should be given your support to the benefit of the wider community and find a way to manage and protect the Arun Valley.

I trust you will review the current situation in the Arun Valley. The Environment Agency are not addressing local concerns and want to walk away from their IDB commitments. A new body must be set up before you can agree to conclude the Scheme of Abolition for the Arun Internal Drainage Board.

Yours sincerely

S Ayling