

## *Appendix 3*

### **A12 Improvement Meeting**

Held 30 September in Southwold.

Councillor Guy Macgregor, Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Transport, chaired the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two options for protection from sea flooding of the A12 trunk road at Blythburgh.

The two options are:

Option 1 (proposed by SCC) – to raise the A12 by 3 feet and build a small bund on either side.

Option 2 (proposed by Blyth Estuary Group) – to build a larger protective bank (bund) on the seaward side of the road and a sluice in the river Blyth to prevent flood water progressing to the western side of the road.

Option 1 will provide 1 in 50-year protection with little effect on other water levels. Option 2 will provide 1 in 50 year protection from sea flooding but only 1 in 10 for fluvial flooding.

Further disadvantages for Option 2 are that it will have higher on going maintenance costs than option 1 and a number of potentially expensive investigations would have to be made to obtain necessary approvals from the likes of Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Suffolk County Council has a sum of £1.8 million set aside for option 1 and construction work for this option could commence in September 2011 (to complete in December 2011). Work would be done so that one carriageway of the road would remain open, controlled by traffic lights.

Because of the additional approvals needed for option 2 work could not commence as early as option 1 and the estimated cost of the option is £2.3 million and SCC would have to find the additional half million from somewhere.

Although option 2 has merit it is expected that the County Council will decide to proceed with Option 1.