



Conservative Policy on Sea Defences

A joint statement by Iain Dale, Conservative Candidate for North Norfolk and Mark Fox, Conservative Candidate for Great Yarmouth and endorsed by Tim Yeo, Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment on behalf of the Shadow Cabinet

“We firmly oppose the Draft Shoreline Management Plan and in government we will withdraw it. We support North Norfolk District Council’s Position Paper.”

Conservative Policy on Dredging

“Within a month of coming to power we will commission a full geomorphological study into the effects of offshore dredging on coastal erosion as part of a wide-ranging review of dredging generally. Evidence will be sought from other countries, especially the Netherlands. If a link between dredging and coastal erosion on the Norfolk coast is established beyond reasonable doubt we will take immediate action.”

Iain Dale says: “If a link is established I will push for a dredging ban or to bring in a levy on the dredging companies which would pay for sea defences.”

Conservative Policy on Compensation

“We cannot write a blank cheque but we recognise the strength of local feeling on the issue of compensation. We will consult with insurers on the best way forward.”

Iain Dale says: “We must stop the property blight which is already affecting some coastal areas. Compensation is not the whole solution but it is part of it. It is wrong that people should lose their homes as a direct result of government policy and I will fight to ensure that this policy is changed.”

Who should Control our Coastline?

“We will abandon Labour’s unfair points system for allocating sea defence funds and take issues of social justice into account when deciding where funds should be directed. There will be far more consultation with local authorities and local people and more co-ordination between central government, local authorities, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority.”

Iain Dale says: “There is little co-ordination between the various government agencies at the moment and quite a bit of duplication of activity. Our policy will reverse that.”

Consultation

Labour Minister Elliott Morley refuses to come to North Norfolk or even talk to local representatives about coastal issues. Shadow Environment Secretary Tim Yeo has committed himself to coming to North Norfolk within four weeks of the election to talk to local groups and representatives about the way forward.

Planning

“We will give local authorities greater powers to stop development in areas prone to coastal erosion.”

Iain Dale says: “It is ridiculous that houses are still being built near the edge of the cliff.”

“Norman Lamb and I agree on many aspects of sea defences policy. But there is still a clear choice. My Party is developing clearly thought-out policies and after May 5th may be in a position to implement them. The Lib-Dems have admitted they have NO policy on sea defences (EDP, 3 March 2005) and will never be in a position to govern. We now need ACTION not words. The choice is yours!”

Iain Dale

Are you thinking what we’re thinking?

Conservatives