

East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board

(ESIDB)

- Ancient bodies. Some 100's of years old. East Suffolk IDB origins over 90 years.
- Based on principle of mutual interest and self-help. Statutory bodies, elected or appointed by their rate-payers.
- The rate-payers are the owners of property within the "Internal Drainage District". In coastal flood-plain, land below 3m above sea level. In other areas IDD is "land deriving benefit or avoiding danger as a result of drainage operations". (PLAN)
- Rateable values have not been re-assessed since 1991. They are based on the same principle as domestic rating used to be, i.e. the rental value of the property. Developed land of all sorts has a flat rateable value per acre.
- In past, each tiny parcel of land in IDD paid rates to IDB. For past 25 yrs or so, DC's and BC's pay on behalf of all developed land. So householders no longer pay directly.
- As ratepayers, DC's and BC's have right to appoint members to IDB's. (have just done so for first time in ESIDB). On ESIDB, 3 from Mid-Suffolk, 1 from Suffolk Coastal. Remaining members are elected by landowners.
- ESIDB funding is 44% from Councils, 36% from Landowners and 20% from EA (though ESIDB pays back a slightly larger sum to EA in precept each year).
- ESIDB newly formed from 8 predecessor Boards, 3 yrs ago. In all about 330 electors. Most pay quite small sums in rates, but some pay thousands.
- Because IDB's individually small, have formed consortium across East Anglia called the Water Management Alliance. (clause in Water Act 2010 included to give legal basis for this)
- The five IDB's that make up the "WMA" have combined turnover of c.£6 m. WMA has 54 employees. It provides administration, engineering, financial and environmental capability to the five member boards.
- ESIDB is smallest member of WMA. Turnover c.£250k.

- Some compartments in ESIDB (flood cells) have far bigger spend than others, especially where operating pumps. Therefore have different rates, 5 at present, varying from 4.6 p/£ to 70 p/£. (We would like to gradually amalgamate them if possible, but see on.) (PLAN)
- Powers and Duties of IDB's allow them to carry out maintenance of flood defences. Through the formation of the WMA, they have greater capacity to administer and carry out physical work on flood defences and water courses. They have always carried out clearing of their own "adopted main drains", but are now able to undertake more.
- IDB's can raise money through their rates outside the normal routes of EA and Council funding.
- If in future IDB's find themselves carrying out extensive flood defence work in a particular compartment, they can raise a "differential rate" so that only the direct beneficiaries pay.
- IDB's may have a role in future not only in raising money for flood defences equitably, but also in carrying out maintenance work. ESIDB would be keen to do this.

