

Friends of Penzance Harbour  
[www.friendsofpzharbour.org](http://www.friendsofpzharbour.org)

# How to help STOP Option A and get better alternatives for Penzance

Cornwall Council now has all the local authority planning consents that are needed for them to proceed with Option A. The deadline for objecting to the environment consents handled by the Marine & Fisheries Agency has past and we are waiting to hear if consents will be granted. The most important focus now is funding and in particular the close to £40m that the project is expecting from national government (Department for Transport) coffers (see 2 below).

## **1. Join our mailing list**

This is the best way of keeping informed of developments. We will let you know when there are major developments and when your help is needed. Please go to:  
[www.friendsofpzharbour.org/join\\_mailinglist.php](http://www.friendsofpzharbour.org/join_mailinglist.php)

## **2. Write to Norman Baker MP (very important)**

The upgrading of the South Pier's heritage status and the recent suspension of funding for the Isles of Scilly Link project while the government conducts an expenditure review greatly enhances our case against Cornwall Council's Option A plans for Penzance Harbour and for better, less destructive and more affordable alternatives.

Just to recap, the Option A scheme involves building on Battery Rocks beach and burying large parts of the historic South Pier under concrete and infill. It will result in an industrial estate style development in the middle of Penzance's seafront with associated heavy lorries and forklift trucks, and will scupper forever the longstanding ambition of the town to create a pedestrian-friendly seafront linked to the town centre.

Now is exactly the right time for national government to call a stop to the scheme and insist that Cornwall Council properly consider less destructive and cheaper alternatives. But those responsible need encouragement!

To this end we would like you to write to:

### **Norman Baker MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Department for Transport

Great Minster House

76 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DR

Email: [norman.baker@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:norman.baker@dft.gsi.gov.uk) and [info@normanbaker.org.uk](mailto:info@normanbaker.org.uk) (this second e-mail is his constituency office so good for a copy but the original should go to the ministry address)

He is responsible for identifying cuts within the Department for Transport budget.

Your letter should point out that, unlike many other projects, the Isles of Scilly Link scheme would actually **benefit** from a delay to its funding by allowing a proper review of alternative options.

Key points to make in your letter include the following:

- The Council's scheme is out-of-date, expensive, wasteful, risky for council tax payers and damaging to Penzance. It was conceived in a time of relative affluence and the Council has done nothing to adjust its plans to the realities of the Public Expenditure Review. You could mention that Graeme Hicks, the councillor responsible for the current scheme, is on record as saying that he was not concerned about the capital cost of the scheme because that was being covered by grant funding.
- The private sector operator of the sea link for the last ninety years, the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company, say they will continue to operate the service with or without public funding, so the link is not in any danger and prescriptive public-sector involvement in the purchase of a new boat is not necessary. Mention that the Company has recently celebrated their most successful financial result in 90 years of trading and have expanded their business by buying a new ship and taking over control of the town's dry dock. When the Council's scheme was conceived the situation was different but the Council have not adjusted their plans to take account of this new situation.
- The public consultation on the future development of the town recently commissioned by Cornwall Council and undertaken by AECOM highlighted the future economic importance of a pedestrian-friendly seafront well connected by pedestrian links to the town centre. The Council's Option A scheme for Penzance Harbour seriously undermines this objective and the Council has done nothing to adjust their plans to fit these findings.

You might also include one or more of the following supporting points:

- The recent upgrade to the South Pier's heritage status (see: [www.friendsofpzharbour.org/blog\\_more.php?b=92](http://www.friendsofpzharbour.org/blog_more.php?b=92)) and the damage that the currently proposed scheme would cause to this nationally important listed building. Mention in particular the burying of the historically most important parts of the pier.
- Public opinion in Penzance is supportive of the link but overwhelmingly against the currently proposed scheme. Mention turnout at the recent (October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010) public meeting attended by Andrew George MP.
- Local community and business interests have invested considerable time, effort and money in developing viable alternatives (you could mention Trythall Shipping's fast ferry proposal and the Penzance Business Network's "Option PZ").
- That there is no reliable evidence that the chosen scheme will deliver the promised economic benefits, and real concern that the town's future as a tourist destination will be seriously harmed by placing an industrial development and associated heavy goods traffic in the middle of the historic seafront. Less destructive and cheaper alternative approaches deliver the same or greater economic benefits.
- That environmental considerations have not been properly taken into account and consents under the Food & Environment Protection Act should be refused.
- That the chosen scheme appears to be an expensive "vanity project" driven by Cornwall Council (where there are critical reports of most services) and the Council of the Isles of Scilly (which is currently in turmoil over massive pay rises for Council officers). The project is currently being investigated by the District Auditor.

Please use the above information but put it in your own words. You can use the email address but a traditional letter in the post makes more of an impression. Copies of the letter/email should also be sent to:

**Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP**

Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DR  
Email: [philip.hammond@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:philip.hammond@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

**Andrew George MP**

Constituency Office  
Trewella  
18 Mennaye Road  
Penzance, Cornwall  
TR18 4NG  
Email: [georgea@parliament.uk](mailto:georgea@parliament.uk)

Philip Hammond is Norman Baker's boss and in charge at the Department for Transport, and it is important that Andrew George continues to be reminded of the strength of local feeling on this issue.

Cornwall Council will be lobbying hard to be allowed to proceed with their pet project so it's very important that Norman Baker, Philip Hammond and Eric Pickles hear from you too.

**5. Pledge financial support for possible legal work**

If funding is available and all other options for stopping the development have been exhausted we may still be able to challenge the legality of the decision to build on Battery Rocks beach. To do this we will need £50,000 or more for legal expenses. Many of you have already pledged support totalling several thousand pounds, and we thank you for that, but we are still a long way from what we will need. If you haven't made a pledge yet then please think about doing so (go to: [www.friendsofpzharbour.org/pledge\\_support.php](http://www.friendsofpzharbour.org/pledge_support.php)). If you think you might be one of the small number of people who are willing and able to provide very substantial support please call John Maggs on 01736 332741.

**6. Help with fundraising**

If you have a fundraising idea or would like to help us raise funds to cover the costs of legal work then please get in touch by emailing [jmaggs@gn.apc.org](mailto:jmaggs@gn.apc.org) or calling 01736 332741.

**7. Write to the *Cornishman* and *Western Morning News***

To help keep the issue in the public eye think about writing a letter expressing your concerns to the *Cornishman*, *Western Morning News* or other local media. Letters to *The Cornishman* and *WMN* should be sent to: [letters@cornishman.co.uk](mailto:letters@cornishman.co.uk) and [wmnletters@westernmorningnews.co.uk](mailto:wmnletters@westernmorningnews.co.uk) respectively.

**8. Write to a celebrity**

If you know one that's brilliant. If you don't just write to your favourite. A celebrity endorsement at this stage would help enormously.

**9. Put a poster in your window**

These are downloadable from the web site; alternatively contact us and we will send you one.

## 10. Write to your Cornwall Councillor and/or Cornwall Cabinet

A list of contact details can be found at Annex I. Writing to your local ward councillor is a good way of communicating your objection. The Cabinet is the main decision-making body at Cornwall Council and is the driving force behind the scheme. The Chairman and Transport Portfolio Holder are the individuals responsible.

## 11. Tell your friends

Word of mouth is vitally important to ensure that as many people as possible know about what is happening. The more that know the more that will object and the more difficult it is for Cornwall County Council, the Route Partnership and others to ignore us.

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### Annex I

#### **Contact details for Penzance area Cornwall Council Members**

##### *Gulval & Heamoor*

###### Mario Fonk

114 Roscadghill Parc, Heamoor,  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3QY  
01736 332720  
[mfonk@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:mfonk@cornwall.gov.uk)

##### *Ludgvan*

###### Irene Bailey

Praise Cottage, 4 Higher Eglos Cottages,  
Ludgvan, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8HQ  
01736 710278

##### *Marazion*

###### Sue Nicholas

Brigstock, 8 Bampfyld Way  
Perran Downs, Goldsithney  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 9JJ  
01736 711090  
[sunicholas@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sunicholas@cornwall.gov.uk)

##### *Newlyn & Mousehole*

###### Roger Harding

Trewoofe Farmhouse, Lamorna  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6PA  
01736 810336, 01736 361998  
[sales@rcharlingandson.co.uk](mailto:sales@rcharlingandson.co.uk)

##### *Penzance Central*

###### Tamsin Williams

Albert Cottage, Albert Terrace  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2DD  
01736 363008  
[healingcornwall@aol.com](mailto:healingcornwall@aol.com)

##### *Penzance East*

###### Ruth Lewarne

12 Roscadghill Parc  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3QX  
01736 361343  
[rlewarne@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:rlewarne@cornwall.gov.uk)

##### *Penzance Promenade*

###### Sue Pass

Tremhea Barn, Higher Tremenheere,  
Ludgvan, Penzance, TR20 8XG  
01736 364538  
[spass@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:spass@cornwall.gov.uk)

##### *St Buryan*

###### Bill Maddern

10 Bodinnar Close, Newbridge,  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8NN  
01736 364954  
[william.maddern@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:william.maddern@cornwall.gov.uk)

##### *St Just in Penwith*

###### Chris Goninan

11 South Place, St Just,  
Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7HW  
01736 788722  
[cgoninan@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cgoninan@cornwall.gov.uk)

You can find the names and addresses of all other Cornwall Council members at:

<http://democracy.cornwall.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

## Contact details for Cornwall Council Cabinet Members

### *Leader of Cornwall Council*

Alec Robertson

County Hall, Treyew Road  
Truro, TR1 3AY

Tel: 01326 572650

[arobertson@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:arobertson@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Children Portfolio Holder*

Sally Bain

Lawhyre Cottage, Rashleigh Lane  
Fowey, Cornwall, PL23 1HP

01726 833766

[sbain@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sbain@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Health Portfolio Holder*

Neil Burden

Trecarrell Manor, Trebulet  
Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 9QG

01566 782286, 07717 378507

[nburden@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:nburden@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Environment Portfolio Holder*

Julian German

Trevinnick Meadow, Lanhoose  
Gerrans, Truro, TR2 5EP

07528 983 379, 01872 322571

[jgerman@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:jgerman@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Communities Portfolio Holder*

Lance Kennedy

53 Athelstan Park, Bodmin  
Cornwall, PL31 1DT

01872 322571

[lkennedy@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:lkennedy@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Transport & Planning Portfolio Holder*

Graeme Hicks

County Hall, Treyew Road  
Truro, TR1 3AY

01209 217605

[ghicks@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:ghicks@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Economics Portfolio Holder*

Carolyn Rule

County Hall, Treyew Road  
Truro, TR1 3AY

07751 685733

[carorule@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:carorule@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Corporate Support Portfolio Holder*

Jim Currie

Colley Weston, Penelewey  
Feock, Truro, Cornwall, TR3 6QY

01872 865306, 01872 322571

[jcurrie@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:jcurrie@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Housing Portfolio Holder*

Mark Kaczmarek

Innsbruck, Pennance Road  
Lanner, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 5TF

01209 211366, 01872 322571

[mkaczmarek@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:mkaczmarek@cornwall.gov.uk)

### *Adults Portfolio Holder*

Armand Toms

36 Trenant Road, East Looe  
Cornwall, PL13 1EP

01503 264823, 01872 322571

[atoms@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:atoms@cornwall.gov.uk)