

Friends of Penzance Harbour

www.friendsofpzharbour.org

How to help

1. Object to the planning applications

The official "deadline" for objecting to the planning application to build on Battery Rocks beach passed on March 26th, but planning officers have told the Friends of Penzance Harbour that objections will be accepted up until a few days before the planning committee meets on July 7th.

The plans, which have not changed since the January pre-planning exhibition, are available for inspection at the Sustainable Development and Improvement Reception at the Council Offices at St Clare in Penzance. They can also be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2787>

Any member of the public can object and this can be done either in writing to:

Mr. D. Slatter
Planning Department, Cornwall Council
c/o Council Offices, St. Clare, Penzance, TR18 3QW

Or on-line at;

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=14945>

The on-line form asks you for an address: just put "Penzance Harbour".

The reference numbers for the planning applications, which must be quoted when objecting, are:

Penzance 09-0213-P (this is the major part of the scheme)
Penzance 09-0214-LBC (alterations to quayside and sea wall)
Penzance 09-0216-CAC (demolition of a section of wall)

If you object on-line these references should go in the "Application Reference Number" box of the on-line form; ignore the reference to the "weekly list". **If you use the on-line form be sure to change the "I wish to" tick box from the default "raise concerns" to "object".**

The development is in conflict with a number of policies and objectives contained in the *Local Plan* and *County Structure Plan*. More specifically:

- The development will damage the listed South Pier and have a serious adverse effect on the setting and character of the historic harbour and of Penzance as a whole.
- The development will obliterate Battery Rocks beach and seriously harm the landscape, amenity and natural values of the area.
- The development ignores traffic congestion problems in the harbour area and does nothing to reduce the adverse effects of this on health, the natural and built environment and public safety.

- The development's form, bulk and general design is not in keeping with the character of its surroundings.
- By damaging the natural environment and undermining the town's most important heritage assets, the development harms features that are essential to the long-term wellbeing of the tourism industry and local economy.
- Alternatives, and in particular the out-of-town freight depot proposal, would meet all the developer's objectives, make efficient use of existing sites and buildings, and remove over 250 cars, vans and lorries from the congested harbour area for each freight sailing.

For a more detailed consideration of the planning application and how it conflicts with the *Local Plan* and *County Structure Plan* see our "Key Objections" document on the web site.

A draft letter for you to customise and send to planning can be downloaded from our web site (see under "Materials" on the home page). If you have time a letter of your own will probably have more impact.

The planning application will be considered for the first time at a meeting of the new Cornwall Council's "west area" planning sub-committee on July 7th. The make up of this committee will only be known after the elections for the new unitary authority on June 4th. **Keep watching our website for details of the members of this new committee.**

As well as objecting in the manner described above you can, once the names of the members of the new planning sub-committee are known, make your feelings known directly to the Councillors involved. Do not expect them to express an opinion (that is called "pre-determination" and would debar them from subsequently voting on the application) but they can talk to you about it and should listen to your concerns.

2. Write to your County Councillors

This is important because the Liberal Democrat controlled County Council is the senior partner in the Route Partnership and the ones who are pushing the scheme against the wishes of local people.

You can find the names and addresses of your county councillors at:

http://mapping.cornwall.gov.uk/website/government/gov_search.asp

In addition to contacting your own councillor you should also write to the two "portfolio holders" (local "ministers") at County Hall that are responsible for the Route Partnership. Their contacts details are:

Transport Portfolio Holder
 Matt McTaggart (Lib Dem)
 Ward: Menheniot & St Germans
 3 Heskyn View, Tideford, Saltash,
 Cornwall, PL12 5JP
 Office Tel: 01872 322570
 Home Tel: 01752 851306
 Fax: 01872 322580
mmctaggart@cornwall.gov.uk

Economics Portfolio Holder
 Andrew Mitchell (Lib Dem)
 Ward: St Ives
 36 Parc-an-Creet, St Ives,
 Cornwall, TR26 2ES
 Office Tel: 01872 322570
 Home Tel: 01736 797538
 Fax: 01872 322580
andmitchell@cornwall.gov.uk

They attended the exhibition in January and saw the public opposition, but have chosen to push ahead with the Route Partnership's scheme.

Any correspondence to councillors should also be copied to the Chairman and Leader of the County Council, the Council's Chief Executive and the Council's Corporate Director

for environment, planning and economy (including transport). Their contact details are:

Mrs Doris Ansari Chair of Cornwall Council County Hall, Treyew Road Truro, TR1 3AY Tel: 01872 274846 dansari@cornwall.gov.uk	David Whalley Leader of Cornwall Council County Hall, Treyew Road Truro, TR1 3AY Tel: 01288 354329 dwhalley@cornwall.gov.uk
Kevin Lavery Chief Executive of Cornwall Council County Hall, Treyew Road Truro, TR1 3AY Tel: 01872 322000 klavery@cornwall.gov.uk	Tom Flanagan Cornwall Council Corporate Director for environment, planning & economy County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. Tel: 01872 322000 tflanagan@cornwall.gov.uk

3. Write to your MP

If you are in the St Ives constituency then you should write to Andrew George at:

Andrew George MP
18 Mennaye Road
Penzance, Cornwall
TR18 4NG
Tel: 01736 360020
Fax: 01736 332866

Andrew George has been instrumental in securing the funding for the harbour improvements but has had his request for a public meeting and for more time for the consideration of alternatives rejected by the Route Partnership. It is important that he continues to feel the strength of public opposition to the scheme.

If you are in Cornwall but outside Andrew George's constituency write to your own MP (they are all Liberal Democrats). You could include in your letter that you are disappointed that the Liberal Democrats at County Hall seem to have forgotten that Liberal Democrats are supposed to be the party of local democracy.

4. Write to the Department of Transport and South West RDA

It is the Department for Transport (DfT) that is providing the funding for the harbour works and they have stated that they are not bothered which scheme is chosen so long as it meets the objectives and is supported by the public locally. The DfT funding is being channelled through the South West Regional Development Agency (RDA). They can be contacted at:

Mrs Fozia Chughtai
Department for Transport
Regional & Local Major Projects Division
Zone 3/18
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DR
Fozia.chughtai@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Theo Leijser
South West RDA
Area Director for Cornwall & the IoS
Castle House, Pydar Street
Truro, Cornwall TR1 2UJ
Tel: 01872 243750
Fax: 01872 243799
theo.leijser@southwestrda.org.uk

You should tell them that the Route Partnership's scheme is not supported locally and that there are better, cheaper, less destructive alternatives that should be considered. Please refer to our "Lost Forever?" brochure for details.

5. Write to the Cornishman

To help keep the issue in the public eye think about writing a letter expressing your concerns to the *Cornishman* or other local media. Letters to the Cornishman should be sent to:

The Letters Page
The Cornishman
Harmsworth House
City Wharf, Malpas Road
Truro TR1 1QH
letters@cornishman.co.uk
fax: 01872 247435

6. Put a poster in your window

You can download and print off a poster from our web site. Just go to:

www.friendsofpzharbour.org/pdfs/A4poster21.pdf

Or contact us via the web site and we will send you one.

7. Sign the petition

This can be done on-line by going to:

www.thepetitionsite.com/2/save-the-holy-headland-penzance

8. 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.