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To: [Planning \(Isles of Scilly\)](#); [Lisa Walton](#)
Subject: Planning Objection to Bryher Sea Defences
Date: 23 May 2023 15:51:13

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Good Morning

I sadly find myself writing yet another email to try to draw attention to the potentially devastating sea defence project that is planned for Bryher.

Not only have the opinions and knowledge of local residents been ignored in this process but we have been threatened with the potential loss of business income as if this is something we should accept gratefully in exchange for the sea defences.

This massive building project will permanently alter the coastline on the West side of Bryher which will discourage visitors for years to come leading potentially to the loss of livelihoods for many local people.

The only reason Bryher is visited by so many people each year, in spite of the rising costs to get here, is that we have unspoilt beaches and a stunning coastline. We have ancient monuments, burial chambers, rare species of plants and animals and unique rock formations.

If the sea defence project goes ahead a third of our beaches will have a structured industrial bank of imported grey granite with a flattened walkway on top and a 3 metre slope of granite encroaching across the sand. This will affect the views, the access to the beaches, the desire to even go on to these beaches, the places where birds nest, the plant life and the natural landscape.

I am astounded that the plans have got to this stage, with funding and contractors in place and ready to go without any major objections from the bodies who are there to protect places such as this. Why is it now down to the few residents of Bryher to fight to preserve this beautiful place when the plans should have been stopped so much earlier in the process by the Duchy of Cornwall, The Wildlife Trust, Natural England and others. This a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and should therefore automatically receive protection from anyone with suggestions of changing it, regardless of when their funding deadline expires or whether their contractors already have accommodation.

I would also like to question why 4.5 million pounds is available for this remote corner of Bryher when surely Hugh Town on St Mary's potentially stands to lose hundreds of businesses were the sea to rise to the levels that Mr Swabey is suggesting that it will here. The only reason I can see for any funding to have been targeted at this site would be if misinformation had been presented suggesting that our fresh water supply was at risk by salt water contaminating the Hell Bay pond. The Hell Bay pond is brackish and is tidal.

I am requesting that the sea defence project is scrapped and a proper consultation is held with local people whose families have lived here and managed the sea defences themselves for centuries, through drainage ditches and the minor shoring up of the current banks using local stone. This will not require 350 ton barges coming in to Great Par and offloading rock from April to September. Nor will it involve moving 14,000 tons of granite across the island in 30 ton diggers, which we would all like to avoid.

Yours Sincerely

Alex Bagnall

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