

Liv Rickman

From: alex bagnall [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 March 2023 11:02
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] mer work

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Dear Sir

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the new proposals to commence sea defence work on Great Par on Bryher during the Summer season this year. The "consultation meeting" on March 24th appeared to be nothing of the sort as the contractor is in place with accommodation already secured on St Mary's and everything appears to be all set to go without any consultation to the island residents. We were told at the meeting that not only could work start as early as May this year but that if we objected to any proposals it would cost them time and money. The suggestion was also made that if we allowed the work to be more intensive, i.e. noisier, it would be "over sooner". When we raised concerns about our guests' holidays being affected the contractor suggested that we contact any holiday guests before any bookings are made just proving how little thought has gone into this process. We run 'The Moorings' holiday cottage which overlooks Great Par beach. All bookings were secured by the end of 2022 and all deposits have already been paid. Thus our guests have entered into a contract with us that we will provide the holiday that was offered. At this stage in the year it would be extremely distressing and unprofessional to tell our regular guests that their holidays are going to be severely affected by the noise of 14,000 tons of rock being offloaded into the bay in front of them.. followed by several huge diggers transferring the rock up and down the beach from 8am to 6pm. (At the meeting it was mentioned that guests might be "interested in watching the work"...) Should our guests (and the guests at Glenhope and Hell Bay hotel) choose to cancel their holidays, once they are made aware of the potential disruption and noise, who will compensate us for the refunds of deposits and loss of income? And how do we try to re-let cottages that are basically on a noisy building site for the Summer? The loss of this volume of guests will then also have a detrimental effect on the income of all the other businesses on Bryher too.. the shops, the cafes, the boatyards and the pub.

Aside from the financial implications and distress this will cause to guests and residents there will also be restrictions to access not only to the beach but to the path that circumnavigates the island which is one of the main attractions to day visitors. The path from Great Par round to Popplestones..which runs around Hell Bay pool, we have been told, will become a road for the diggers to transfer the boulders to the Popplestones and Stinking Par storage areas and will surely have to be sealed off for the safety of walkers.

In conclusion we feel that the only option, if work must commence this year, is that it starts in September. This would allow us time to warn September and October guests of the potential disruption .It would then allow them time to book an alternative holiday and we could re-let at a reduced rate for our final 6 to 8 weeks. Whilst this will undoubtedly cause us some problems it will be nothing compared to contacting a whole season of guests and any compensation offered for this later disruption would be less significant. I look forward to there being some sensible discussion amongst people who actually understand how critical the holiday season is to the survival of island businesses.

Best Wishes
Alex Bagnall
Bank Cottage
Bryher

Liv Rickman

From: alex bagnall
Sent: 26 March 202
To:
Subject: Sea defence design and planning on Bryher

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Good Morning

Following on from my previous objection to the start date for sea defence work to be carried out on Great Par, Bryher I also feel I must address the 'one size fits all ' approach to the creation of the sea defences themselves. As I understand it Bryher is a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. The Duchy limits the amount of buildings that can be constructed here...the Wildlife Trust monitor the amazing diverse ranges of flora and fauna found here..the unique and beautifully preserved history of the islands can be seen in the many untouched burial mounds and cysts that litter the headlands..the beaches are the cleanest in Europe and the sea is clear, clean and turquoise.

Visitors come here for these reasons and support the local economy so that they can sit on beautiful sandy beaches and enjoy the natural unspoilt coastline.

The introduction of these huge grey stone barriers, built from 14,000 tons of imported rock, will not blend in over time and will not weather. They will deny access to beaches for visitors and will create unnaturally shaped viewing platforms above each beach.They will in some places encroach far onto the beach destroying areas where sea birds usually lay their eggs above the tideline.

The unspoilt natural landscape will be changed forever and once in place this cannot easily be undone.I don't think that this is something that should be slotted into a time frame to suit budgets or the calendar of the contractors.Each beach should be studied in turn to see exactly where and how the sea erodes.The sea defences should be hidden and blend naturally and sympathetically with what is already here.There is no need for endless long walls of rock on beaches where there are only one or two vulnerable areas.

Whilst I agree that we do need sea defences there are less invasive ways of doing it than this.Islanders have always traditionally used local materials and ditches to prevent flooding and this could also be looked at again in places. A more detailed study is required.

Stormy seas and high tides are not a new thing here and there seems to be a sudden panic to solve this 'crisis' and in doing so our beautiful island might be changed by a reckless desire to spend funding as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Alex Bagnall
Bank Cottage
Bryher.