

Domremy
Porthcressa
St. Mary's
TR21 0JQ

29 December 2016



Mr Andrew King
Planning and Development Department
Town Hall
St. Mary's
TR21 0LW

Dear Mr King,

Objection to Planning Application ref. P/16/129: Mr T Fletcher, Proposed Dwelling at Porthcressa, St. Mary's

Brief background notes

Way back in 1969 Mr Roland Philips, then Town Clerk, confirmed that the grass verges outside 'Domremy' round to what is now the RNLI lifeboat mechanic's house, belonged to the Council and would not be allowed to be built on. This included the area between Domremy boathouse and the existing stone boatshed/garage.

He also confirmed that any new or replacement building in this area was not to exceed the dimensions of the existing stone building. Your records will show the height of the stone wall to be about seven feet, and the total height from ground level to the peak of the sloping roof to be about thirteen feet.

This stone building has been neglected by Mr Roger Lorenz and subsequent owners, to present a neglected site and building to enhance their case.

In his letter to the Council the applicant states that he has consulted with the neighbours. This is the first I have heard of it.

Access by emergency vehicles, fire, ambulance, doctors, and vehicles delivering holiday makers and their luggage to holiday homes on the Buzza estate already find it almost impossible to access the road leading up to these houses. The above proposed building would make even the present access, as far as 'The Lookout', very difficult.

Even with the existing stone boathouse/garage it has been evident over the past 45 years that we have lived here, that gale force winds funnel up the present space between 'Monavean' and the above stone building causing roof-tile and greenhouse damage every year as can be observed from the repair and replacements to these items. The proposed new building would increase the already damaging effects of the 'wind-tunnel' gale force winds on this corner.

Porthcressa, especially the eastern end, still retains its longstanding charm for the visitors, mentioned in my letter to Mr Craig Dryden dated 23 September 2014, copy attached. The three old Scillonian cottages nearby are a popular attraction for the visitors, constantly photographed and painted by artists. This popular green, enhanced on one side by the sea, and on the other by the above three old cottages is a uniquely preserved corner of an almost bye-gone Scilly.

Let us hope that the Council continues its long standing reputation for diplomacy and quietly files this latest building application with all the others, thus protecting this unique area for future generations of visitors and locals alike.

With best wishes for 2017

Yours sincerely

Denver Childs

Mr. Denver Child,
' Domremy '
Porthcressa,
St. Mary's,
Isles of Scilly,
TR21 OJQ

23rd September, 2014

Mr. Craig Dryden,
Council of the Isles of Scilly,
Town Hall,
St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly,
TR21 OLW

Dear Mr Dryden

'Proposed Youth Shelter, Porthcressa'

We have been coming to the Scillies since 1956, and have lived here since 1970. During this time we have seen many proposed 'improvements' to the Porthcressa area by well intentioned people. Fortunately the Council has been overseen by people who appreciate the genuine and timelessness of the natural assets of this area, and diplomatically shelve the proposals.


During the past 40 years, here in 'Domremy', we are well aware of the beneficial effects the existing area brings to visitors. During the day it is well used by walkers and passengers from the 'Scillonian' who enjoy food from 'Dibble & Grub; by family groups who sit chatting on the grass while young children play around them; by an increasing number of weddings groups who have their photographs taken from this green with Porthcressa Bay as a background. In the evenings most of the wooden benches are occupied by holidaymakers who have dined well and come here to enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the evening sky and sea, watching the colours change as the sun sets.

Over the many years I have been lucky enough to have lived here, I have become aware of this unique , unspoilt asset that belongs to Scilly, a delicate asset which could be shattered if not protected. by a wise Council.

I will not comment on the well known evening misuse of this area, particularly in the Old Quarry, by some of these youngsters. However, it shows enterprise and initiative on their part to want a place of their own. But not at the long term expense of holidaymakers. Over many years of chatting to visitors, they all seem to have one thing in common. They find absolute peace and tranquility in the evenings, just sitting and absorbing the enchantment which still exists in this easily accessible part of St. Mary's.

Let us hope that the diplomacy shown by the Council on many previous occasions will resolve this matter to everyone's satisfaction. The one suggestion that comes to mind is the use of a section of the soon to be defunct Tourist Information building during the long winter months, and mingling with the rest of society during the warm summer evenings, as they do in Spain, France & Germany, and many other European countries.

Yours sincerely,


Denver Child

c.c. to Helen McGuinness.