

Ralph and Sarah Handy
Katie's Pride Fishing
6 Barnes Acre,
Normandy,
St Mary's,
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TR210AB

2nd September 2021

Dear Ms Walton

Planning Reference: P/21/051/FUL

Location: Porth Hellick

We are writing to make a representation about certain aspects of the proposed planning application at Porth Hellick.

We have been fishing out of Porth Hellick for several years; our fishing boat is moored in the bay, with use of the shed at the east end. We also use the beach regularly throughout the year for leisure activities and spend a large proportion of our time at Porth Hellick all year round. During this time, we have only ever seen the sea breach the bank on one occasion.

- **Boardwalk (Salakee end) and concrete ramp (Carn Friars end)**

The proposed wooden walkway at the Salakee end does not look like it would survive a winter storm in its present proposed form, also the materials proposed do not look suitable for the horses or wheelchair/pushchair access.

We are concerned that the proposed concrete ramp at the Carn Friars end will cause a "funnelling effect" during a high spring tide especially if this is in conjunction with a south easterly storm forcing the sea water into the leat and across the bank.

- **Leat and Outflow Pipe**

We feel that better management of the leat is needed, this is essential to improve the freshwater in the pool, as currently, the main saline intrusion is via percolation through the sand dune and through the outflow pipe to the leat and not from waves over topping the bank.

Who is responsible for maintaining the leat and outflow pipe and would a return valve and boards be used to better manage this?

We feel that the grant money would be better spent fixing these problems to reduce saline intrusion rather than digging out an already healthy dune and replanting!

- **The Bank**

The main bank at Porth Hellick has never looked healthier especially in recent years, the photographs that have been submitted for the proposed plans do not truly represent what is there today. However, we do agree with just filling in the gaps along the bank using the current vegetation; this does a brilliant job of binding the dune. We are concerned that the proposed raising of the bank at the east end of the bay by the shed may lead to erosion further round the bay.

- **Habitat**

We have concerns over a lack of information with regards to the eels and the recently returned nesting plovers, as we understand both to be protected species.

The eels require access into the leat from the sea and we are concerned that raising the bank and building a concrete ramp will prevent this.

The plovers have only recently returned to nest on this site within the dunes, we assume that this is due to the natural regeneration of the dune. We have concerns that the proposed work will impact this, particularly if the proposed works should overrun into early spring.

- **Construction and Maintenance**

We want clarity over the dates of the proposed works as our fishing season starts in early March, finishing mid-November and during these times we need constant access to the beach. If the work is not completed on time this will have a large financial impact to our business. What contingency plans are in place for this, and would we be recompensed should construction times run over. Maybe introduce a time penalty clause into the planning agreement?

Access to the shed on the east bank is also needed throughout the winter to enable us to prepare for the coming season (mending pots, nets, boats etc.)

The proposed hard-core track through the gateway at the east end of the shed will not withstand the amounts of peat and soil that are washed from the Downs during the wet winter months, the whole area becomes a mud bath. Raising the bank and building a raised concrete slip at the west end could potentially force the mud to enter the leat. No amount of improvement to the track will stop this.

Has this project considered the impact of all the heavy plant machinery to the site, this will surely create further damage to the access track?

Once all this work is completed who will be responsible for maintaining it, for example, maintaining the board walk and the access track etc.?

We would ask that these concerns are taken into consideration whilst making your decision with regards to this planning application.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any clarification on our views.

Kind Regards

Ralph and Sarah Handy
Katie's Pride Fishing